

6 January 1903: THE MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

At a fully-attended meeting of the general committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club, held yesterday, the recommendation adopted at Lord's on December 8 by the captains of the first-class counties, on the proposal of Mr MacGregor, seconded by Mr Fry, was considered. It was to the effect that the wicket should be widened from 8 in. to 9 in. by increasing the thickness of the stumps. It was decided to recommend the adoption of the alteration.

A circular is to be issued to the first-class and second division counties, the Australian governing bodies, the Philadelphians, South Africa, Scotland and Ireland inviting their opinion on the proposed change. Their replies will then be considered at a further M.C.C. committee meeting, and the proposed alteration submitted to a special meeting of the M.C.C. If adopted, it is proposed that the change will take effect in the ensuing season of 1903.

OXFORD AUTHENTICS v GENTLEMEN OF INDIA

Delhi, Jan. 5

A cricket match between the visiting team of Oxford Authentics and the Gentlemen of India drew a large crowd of spectators. The Indian team went in first and ran up a total of 118. The best individual scores were Goldie, 37, and Hignell, 18. Troup retired hurt after making five. R A Williams took five of the wickets for the visitors.

A H Hornby and H B Chinnery opened the Authentics' first innings and were still at the wickets when play closed, Hornby having scored one and Chinnery two. - Reuter's Special Service.

Saturday 31 January, page 9: THE CRICKETERS' NATIONAL WAR FUND

The Cricketers' National War Fund in aid of Queen Alexandra's appeal for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association has now been closed, the total receipts adding to £2.284 19s 7d.

The Marylebone Club contributed £1,050; Yorkshire, £525, with the addition of £137 10s 4d collected on the various grounds in the county; Surrey, £52 10s; the Liverpool Cricket Club, £52 10s; Notts, £50; Staffordshire, £35; Kent, £26 5s; Wiltshire, £25; Middlesex, £25; Somerset, £10 10s; and Leicestershire, £10. The Sportsman gave £100 and collected £30 7s; Mr Abe Bailey gave £21; Lord Lichfield, £10; Lord Dartmouth, £5; Mr A H Heath, M.P., £5; Sir J D Llewelyn £5 5s; Lord Windsor, £5; Sir A Conan Doyle, £5 5s; and Mr J H J Hornsby, £10.

THE MATCHES AT LORD'S

Below will be found a list of the matches arranged to be played at Lord's in the forthcoming season. Where not otherwise specified the matches extend over three days: -

May 6, anniversary meeting of the M.C.C. at 5.30 p.m., and dinner at 7.15 p.m.

[Note: list of Lord's matches follows.]

HAMPSHIRE AND THE WIDER WICKET

The Hampshire Committee have decided not to support the proposal to widen the wicket from 8 in. to 9 in.

Wednesday 11 February, page 9: THE WIDER WICKET

At a meeting of the committee of the M.C.C. held on Monday afternoon at the Junior Carlton Club, it was decided that, in the event of the proposal to widen the wicket from eight to nine inches being carried at the annual meeting of the club in May, the alteration should come into force on June 1.

It may be added that, if the question be put to a vote, a two-thirds majority will be required to alter the law.

At a meeting of the committee of the Middlesex County Cricket Club yesterday the following resolution was adopted: - "The Middlesex County Cricket Club committee unanimously approve of the proposal to widen the wicket by one inch. In addition they would be prepared to support a proposal to add one inch to the height, as they are of opinion that too many matches are at present drawn. They strongly disapprove of the time for play being extended for more than three days in any match."

Thursday 12 February, page 10: DORSET COUNTY CLUB

At the annual meeting of the Dorset County Cricket Club, at Poole, yesterday, an important statement was made as to the future of the club and the arrangements made for establishing a new county ground at Poole.

The ground has been placed at the disposal of the club by the corporation at a nominal rent, and it is hoped, by a moderate expenditure, to provide a first-class pitch. An appeal has been made for funds, and has been liberally responded to by many of the leading people of the county. Though the present state of the finances shows a deficit, the outlook is distinctly hopeful.

Lord Ilchester was elected president and a strong list of officers was chosen. The agreement with the Poole corporation was approved and a vote of thanks to them was passed.

A discussion ensued as to the proposed widening of the wicket, and it was unanimously agreed that the alteration was not necessary for second-class cricket.

Saturday 14 February, page 13: THE WIDER WICKET

The Surrey committee have replied to the M.C.C. circular in connexion with the wider wicket, stating that they would like to see the wicket heightened an inch as well as widened an inch.

At a meeting held at Brighton on Thursday, the Sussex committee, by a very small majority, passed the following resolution: - "That the committee of the Sussex County Cricket Club approve of the alteration of the widening of the wicket from eight inches to nine inches."

Wednesday 18 February, page 12: TH WIDER WICKET

A meeting of representatives of clubs in the Yorkshire Cricket Council, presided over by Mr W Carr, of Barnsley, was held last night in Leeds, at the request of Lord Hawke, to discuss the question of the wider wicket. After a long discussion, it was decided, by a majority of 13 votes to five, not to support the proposal to widen the wicket. With one exception, the representatives in attendance were armed with full instructions from their clubs.

The chairman said that Lord Hawke felt that, if he had the majority of clubs in the council in favour of the suggested change, his position in the Yorkshire County club and with the M.C.C. would be strengthened. The chairman, in supporting the change, pointed out that his club last year had played 14 drawn games out of 30 matches. The general feeling was, as the result of the meeting showed, the change would not be beneficial.

Wednesday 25 February, page 11: NOTTS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The annual report of the Notts County Cricket Club, issued yesterday, showed that the match receipts last season were £1,337. The subscriptions amounted to £2,090 and the total income was £3,962. The match expenses were £2,100 and the general expenses amounted to £1,167, the total expenditure being £3,962.

On the Trent-bridge Ground extension and improvements account there is still a balance due to the bank of £4,380. Taking into consideration the bad weather and some unusual items of expenditure, the report is regarded as satisfactory.

THE WIDER WICKET

The committee of the Bedfordshire County Cricket Club have passed the following resolution: - "That the committee of the Bedfordshire County Cricket Club prefer that the wicket should be raised, rather than widened, or both raised and widened, but they deprecate any alteration in the rules of cricket without due experiment."

The committee of the Hertfordshire County Club met on Monday and passed the following resolution: - "That, if any change is considered necessary, an increase in the height of the wickets would be preferable to an increase in the width; but no alteration in so important a law of the game ought to be made until after a thorough trial."

Tuesday 3 March, page 6: THE WIDER WICKET

The committee of the M.C.C. met yesterday afternoon at the Junior Carlton Club, and after a long discussion determined to proceed with the proposal to widen the wickets from eight to nine inches, putting the question to the vote at the annual meeting of the club to be held at Lord's on the first Wednesday in May.

In order to alter the law, a two-third majority is required. From recent investigations it has been found that the wickets in first-class matches often exceed the legal measurement in width by a quarter or even half an inch.

LORD HAWKE'S TEAM v NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch, March 2

Lord Hawke's team to-day defeated New Zealand by seven wickets. The Colonial eleven in their second innings made 214, leaving the Englishmen to score 75 runs to win, which they accomplished for the loss of three wickets. - Reuter.

Wednesday 4 March, page 7: THE WIDER WICKET

In reference to the question of the wider wicket, the M.C.C. has issued a notice to the following effect that: -

"In compliance with rules 24 and 27, the general meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club on May 6 will be made special, and members will be asked to vote - (1) on the proposal to alter the width of the wickets from eight to nine inches. This proposal, if carried, will necessitate an alteration in Law 6, which would read as follows: -

"Law 6 . - 'The wickets shall be pitch opposite and parallel to each other at a distance of 22 yards. Each wicket shall be nine inches in width and consist of three stumps, with two bails upon the top. The stumps shall be of equal and sufficient size to prevent the ball from passing through, and shall be 27 inches out of the ground. The bails shall be each 4½ in. in length, and when in position on the top of the stumps shall not project more than half an inch above them. The wickets shall not be changed during a match, unless the ground between them becomes unfit for play, and then only by the consent of both sides."

Any amendment to this alteration must be advertised not less than one month before May 6, and must state distinctly the form which the amendment will take.

At a meeting of the committee of the Essex County Club, held yesterday, it was decided by a large majority to oppose the proposed widening of the wicket from 8 in. to 9 in.

The Extras Committee further decided to suggest to the committee of the M.C.C. that, with a view to diminishing the number of drawn games, all first-class county matches should begin at 11.30 o'clock on the first day and at 11 o'clock on the second and third days; that there should be no tea interval and that umpires should be empowered to enforce a stricter punctuality during the whole progress of the game. The resolution opposing the widening of the wicket was moved by Mr A P Lucas and seconded by Mr J J Read.

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The report of the committee of the Derbyshire County Cricket Club, to be submitted to the members at the annual meeting on the 13th inst., was published yesterday.

The accounts show the receipts during 1902 to have been £3,760, which included £1,040 "gate" money, £687 subscriptions, £559 donations and £1,319 the proceeds of a bazaar held last Easter. The match expenses were £1,549. A credit balance of £404 is shown, and is attributed to a special donation of 500 guineas from Mr Charles Arnold.

Last season's engagements have been renewed, and the home matches will be played at the following places: - Essex at Glossop, Surrey and Warwickshire at Chesterfield, and Hampshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Notts, Yorkshire and London County at Derby.

Hulme and Warren have been re-engaged as ground bowlers at Derby, where a new fast bowler named Foulkes, of Heanor, will also be employed, and Bestwick has again been engaged by Mr S H Wood at Glossop, and will be available for all the county matches. There has been a falling-off in the subscriptions, and a special appeal is now made for new members.

Thursday 5 March, page 10: THE NOTTS COUNTY CLUB

Mr Pearson Gregory presided over the annual meeting of the Notts County Cricket Club, at Nottingham yesterday, and moved the adoption of the report. Mr W E Denison, in seconding the motion, congratulated the older members of the team on the consistently good batting form they had shown, and was happy that they had discovered a fast bowler who could bowl on slow wickets.

The Marylebone Club would be wise if they subjected the proposal to widen the wickets to an extended trial and postponed the consideration of its adoption until they had received the views of cricketers upon it. The report was adopted.

The chairman nominated Lord Savile as president for the incoming year. Captain Tomasson, hon. secretary, submitted a report dealing with a testimonial to Arthur Shrewsbury in recognition of his having headed the batting averages for last season. A cheque for £177 14s had been sent, and Shrewsbury, who was prevented by illness from attending, wrote expressing his thanks.

THE KENT COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Kent County Club was held yesterday afternoon at the Golden-cross Hotel, Charing-cross. The report and accounts were adopted, some proposed changes in the rules of the club were passed, and certain regulations with regard to carriages in the Canterbury week were determined upon.

Mr Cornwallis, Mr Marsham, Mr M C Kemp, Mr J R Mason and Mr M J R Thomson, who retired by rotation from the committee, were re-elected, and Lord Darnley, the retiring president of the club, was elected to the committee in place of Lord Falmouth. Some little time back the Rev R G Hodgson was put on the committee in place of the late Captain Isaacke. The new president of the club is Admiral Rice.

In the course of the meeting Mr Cornwallis proposed, and Mr F A Mackinnon seconded, a resolution expressing regret at Mr J R Mason's retirement from the captaincy of the Kent eleven, and appreciation of his services to county cricket.

THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Warwickshire County Cricket Club was held at Birmingham yesterday, Alderman Beale presiding. The report stated that extremely bad weather had spoiled the majority of the matches, and the accounts showed a deficiency of £603. This was principally due to the expenditure of £1,480 in increasing the accommodation at the ground.

A serious financial crisis had arisen as the club started the year with a debt of £990, and the amount due to the bank at the close of the season was £1,740. An appeal had been made to the members for £3,000. It was recommended that the subscription should be reduced to one guinea for ordinary members and to half a guinea for members resident outside a 15 miles radius of the county ground. The balance-sheet showed that the liabilities at the close of the year amounted to £2,435, and the realizable assets to £118.

Mr G H Cartland said that there was only one match last year which was not interfered with by the weather. They had made a good start by electing 50 new members. Lord Warwick had consented to accept the presidency of the club. On the question of the wider wicket, he said the committee were not in favour of it.

The treasurer reported that at the present time they had over £3,000 in the bank, as the result of the special appeal, so that the club was now in a sound financial position.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The committee of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club have resolved to oppose the proposal to widen the wicket.

THE WIDER WICKET

We are asked by the M.C.C. to state with regard to the widening of the wicket that at the general meeting of the club on May 6 it will be moved from the chair that "if the alteration is passed it should come into operation the first Monday in June."

Friday 13 March, page 9: LORD HAWKE AND THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Responding to the toast of "The Yorkshire County Cricket Club and Eleven" at the Scarborough cricket dinner last evening, Lord Hawke declined to say anything definite upon the wider wicket question, but expressed the opinion that there was no need to a longer cricket day or for the tea interval to be done away with. Let a team work together and go into the field with the intention to try throughout the whole of the day. That had been the secret of the success of the Yorkshire eleven.

Referring to Tunnicliffe's benefit match at Bradford next August, Lord Hawke said that cricketers would be pleased to hear that the Yorkshire County Committee would in future guarantee that the professional whose excellent cricket had earned him a benefit match should receive at least £1,000 as the result of the gate and exclusive of subscriptions.

In proposing the toast of "The Scarborough Cricket Club," the Hon F S Jackson, referring to the proposed alteration in the size of the wickets, said that if any change were made he hoped a fair trial would be given before it was put on the statute-book.

Saturday 14 March, page 14: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

Notice has been given of an amendment to the proposal to widen the wicket from 8 in. to 9 in. At the annual meeting of the M.C.C. at Lord's, on May 6, Mr Denzil Onslow will move, if the proposed alteration be carried, "That the wickets shall at the same time be heightened by not more than 1 in., and that before becoming law an effective trial should be given to the alteration on more cricket grounds than one."

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Derbyshire County Club was held at Derby yesterday afternoon, under the presidency of Mr Unwin Sowter. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, which showed a balance to the club's credit of £400, congratulated the members on the improved state of the club's finances. There was, however, a great deal to be done if that position were to be maintained. The committee proposed to issue an appeal for new subscriptions. The report was adopted.

The retiring president, Sir Peter Walker, was thanked for his services and re-elected, and the vice-presidents were re-elected, with the exception of Mr William Arkwright, Mr W W Jendwino and Mr C E S Cockburn being also elected. It was announced that one of the vice-presidents, Mr H H Raphael, had forwarded a donation of £25 to the club funds. Mr Raphael was cordially thanked for his gift.

The retiring members of the committee, Mr R B Chambers, Mr W S Eadie, Mr T Goddard, Mr F E Leech and Mr G D Moon were re-elected, and Mr William Campion was appointed auditor. A sum of £10 was voted to George Hay's benefit fund.

Thursday 19 March, page 5: THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Leicestershire County Club was held at Leicester yesterday, Mr Holmes, vice-president, being in the chair.

The report stated that the membership had increased satisfactorily during last year, the number now standing at 1,702. Owing to bad weather, the gate receipts fell from £2,279 to £1,481, but a profit of £200 was made on the actual working of the club. Though a balance of £279 was owing to the bank, through the outlay on the new ground, the financial position of the club was satisfactory.

For the coming season all the old players were available, and the county would also have the help of Mr V F S Crawford - the new secretary - a G Gill, late of Somerset. Louis Hall had been appointed coach and ground superintendent. Woodcock's benefit would be on the occasion of the Essex match on July 18.

The report and balance-sheet were adopted and hearty thanks were accorded to the officers and committee for their services. Mr Charles Marriott was elected president of the club for the ensuing year, the vice-presidents including Lord Howe, Sir H de Trafford and Sir J Rolleston.

Tuesday 7 April, page 10: CRICKET

Negotiations have been opened, having for their object the visit of a native Indian cricket team to England in the season of 1904. The team will comprise Hindus, Mahomedans and Parsees, and will be fully representative of the best class of native cricket in India. The Parsees have played cricket in England before, but this is the first time that the appearance in this country of a team representing the various sections of native Indian cricketers has been found practicable.

The promotion of the tour is being conducted from Bombay, and communications have already been sent to Mr F E Lacey, secretary of the Marylebone Cricket Club, Mr C W Alcock, secretary of the Surrey Club, and others, with the view of a satisfactory list of fixtures being arranged. It is thought probable that a good programme can be compiled without difficulty. Another cricket scheme on foot for the season 1904 is a visit to England of a team of South African cricketers.

Wednesday 8 April, page 12: THE NOTTS COUNTY CLUB

An effort is being made to raise £4,300, on behalf of the Notts County Cricket Club, to defray the cost of the new stands at the Trent-bridge ground and other expenses. One thousand pounds has been already promised to meet the growing expenditure of the club on the county team and on the ground staff.

There is also an endeavour being made on the part of the committee to increase the number of annual subscribers from 2,000 to 2,500. An appeal is being made to existing members to increase their yearly contributions.

Thursday 9 April, page 5: CRICKET

Lord Hawke presided at a meeting of the Yorkshire County Committee held at Leeds yesterday. It was decided to give a trial to 43 colts, all of whom will be invited to take part in practice matches on the Headingley ground before the opening of the season.

These are in addition to the players who formed the second eleven last season, and seeing that neither Mr T L Taylor nor Washington will be available for the earlier matches of the county season, it is probable that several new players will be seen on the side during the county's opening tour in the South. Mr Taylor, it is said, will not play until August.

Mr F S Jackson, however, is expected to assist in the more important matches of the championship programme, and all the other old members of the team - namely, Lord Hawke, Tunnicliffe, Brown, Denton, Hirst, Haigh, Rhodes, Hunter and Whitehead - will again be available. In bowling the side promises to be as strong as ever.

The season's programme includes matches with the usual counties except Hampshire. The programme begins with the trial match at Rotherham on May 4 and finishes with the Scarborough carnival. The team will play 34 matches in all.

Friday 10 April, page 5: THE CRICKET SEASON

Although there cannot be a repetition this summer of such cricket as was seen in the last hours of the Manchester and Oval test matches last year, the coming season promises to be full of interest. There were to have been two foreign teams touring in England, but, unfortunately, the Fijis have found it impossible to come over, though it is to be hoped that their tour is only postponed until another season, as their visit has been looked forward to with considerable interest.

The Philadelphian team, who play their first match against Cambridge University on June 8, are said to be the strongest combination that has yet come over from America, and in Mr J Barton King they certainly possess one of the best fast bowlers of the present day.

There are practically no changes at Lord's this summer. First-class cricket begins there on May 6 with the match between the Marylebone Club and Nottinghamshire, and on the same day the annual general meeting will be held, when a decision will be come to on the vexed question of an alteration in the size of the wicket. The University match is fixed for July 2, 3 and 4, the Gentlemen and Players for July 6, 7 and 8, and the Eton and Harrow for July 10 and 11.

The County Championship will attract the greatest amount of attention throughout the season. It is not often that four counties have to seek new captains, as will be the case with Surrey, Kent, Essex and Hampshire this year. Mr Mason will be an almost irreparable loss to Kent, as besides captaining the team with great judgment he has been the mainstay of the side in batting, and during the last few seasons he has done a large part of the bowling as well. It is greatly to be hoped that such a fine all-round cricketer will not be entirely lost to first-class cricket. Mr Burnup has consented to take the captainship for this summer.

Mr Kortright succeeds Mr Owen as captain of Essex, and the latter will be presented with a testimonial at the annual general meeting of the Essex County Club, at Leyton, on April 23, in recognition of his valuable services to the side. Mr Sprot will take command of that rather unknown and variable quantity, the Hampshire eleven. The question of the captaincy of Surrey is not yet settled. It would be an excellent thing if such a good judge of the game as Mr Leveson Gower could find himself able to take in hand a side that needs a good deal of handling, and whose prospects at present look the reverse of bright.

It is idle to prophesy so early, but it seems hard to see any side who will be able to wrest the championship from Yorkshire. With the exception of Mr T L Taylor, very nearly the best bat in England on a slow wicket, who will only play occasionally, if at all, and whose loss will be a

serious one, all the old members will be available, though Washington is not expected to play in the earlier matches. Yorkshire have proved themselves a fine, whole-hearted side in past seasons; they can all bat, and with their great bowling strength it does not seem likely that they will lose many matches. Hirst, it is true, lost his bowling in a great degree last summer, but Haigh was in magnificent form, and these two seem to take turns to share the brunt of the attack with Rhodes.

The prospects in most of the other counties are promising. Sussex will have the same side as last year, while Essex will be materially strengthened by the return of Mr A J Turner. Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and Kent should all have successful seasons, and Mr Woods and his "team of surprises" are capable of anything.

Middlesex will probably not be a very strong combination until August, and in Surrey, as already mentioned, the outlook is rather gloomy. The bowling is the chief difficulty. Lockwood on his day is still as good as any one in England, and no one who saw it will easily forget his eight wickets for 25 runs against Middlesex at Lord's last July. Richardson, however, is past his prime, and none of the younger bowlers have come up to expectations. In batting, too, the side will be weakened by the loss of Mr Crawford, who will play for Leicestershire.

Eton and Harrow supply the captains at the Universities. At Oxford Mr Findlay has five, and if Mr Dillon comes up six, old choices besides himself. The side will be strong in batting, and last year Mr Evans gave promise of becoming a really brilliant player. He hits the ball hard and possesses a variety of strokes. The bowling will probably be somewhat of the same character as last year - varied, but moderate; but Mr J P Winterbotham, a freshman from Cheltenham, if he fulfils expectations, should be a valuable acquisition to the side.

At Cambridge Mr Dowson, Mr Harper, Mr Ebden and Mr F B Wilson are alone left of the eleven that played at Lord's last summer. Mr Dowson and Mr E R Wilson practically did the whole of the bowling for Cambridge then, and it will be found difficult to fill the latter's place. Mr H C McDonell, a freshman from Winchester last year, who bowls at about the same pace as Mr Wilson, may partly make up for the loss, though he is more steady than difficult. Mr Dowson, Mr Harper and Mr Ebden are all good bats, and Mr F B Wilson, though unorthodox, at times hits brilliantly, but his value to the side chiefly lies in his fine fielding at short-slip. A successor to Mr C E Winter will have to be found to keep wicket.

Eton are expected to have a good team, and in Mr K J Nicholl they possess a batsman decidedly above the average. Mr Baily will captain the Harrow side, and Mr Wright that of Winchester.

The chief fixtures for the summer are as follows: -

[Note: fixture list follows, as from
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1903_f_Match_List.html]

THE PHILADELPHIAN TEAM

(From an American correspondent)

For the fourth time in the history of the game Philadelphia will send a cricket eleven to England to take part in first-class cricket during the coming season. The members of the team are all chosen from the four big Philadelphia cricket clubs - Belmont, Germantown, Merion and Philadelphia - yet had the committee decided to make the eleven representative of all America, it would have been virtually the same as the eleven which will represent Philadelphia.

Cricket is by no means a popular game in America; and even in Philadelphia, the centre of American cricket, the game is only played by the upper classes on one hand and English mill hands on the other. In other towns cricket is almost entirely confined to English residents, and Philadelphia is almost the only place where cricket is played to any extent by native Americans.

The associated cricket clubs of Philadelphia for a long time had been considering the subject of sending a team to England, and when they failed to get an English team to come to America last autumn, they at once made arrangements for a tour in England in 1903. Mr F H Bohlen, who was in England last summer, was asked by the associated cricket clubs to make arrangements with Mr C W Alcock, secretary of the Surrey County Cricket Club, who in past years has very kindly arranged the fixtures for the Philadelphians on like tours.

Philadelphians have visited England on three previous occasions. Every trip was more successful than the one before it, and it is hoped and expected by Americans that this team will be even more successful.

In the year 1884 Philadelphia sent her first cricket team to England. The teams which they played against were composed wholly of gentlemen, and no professionals were allowed to play. This weakened the English teams in a great degree; however, they were much superior to the American eleven. The trip as a whole from the Philadelphia standpoint was satisfactory. The most decisive defeat was administered by the Marylebone Cricket Club, which won the game by an innings and 171 runs. But, to offset this, the visitors defeated the Gentlemen of Cheshire by an innings and 292 runs.

The team which represented Philadelphia in 1889 on its tour in England was more successful than the eleven of 1884. Out of 12 games played four were won, three lost and five drawn.

The only members of the 1889 team who will play next season are Mr R D Brown and Mr G S Patterson. Mr Patterson headed the batting averages of the eleven, while Mr Brown was third in bowling and fourth in batting.

The most recent tour which any Philadelphia eleven has made was in 1897, when many of this year's team distinguished themselves. On the two previous tours the Philadelphians played against gentlemen only. In 1897, however, as will be the case this year, they were opposed by some of the best teams that England could produce. During the 1897 tour Messrs J A Lester, G S Patterson, A M Wood and J B King all created a favourable impression. Although nine games were lost and only two won, the visiting team were successful in keeping down the totals of their opponents.

The 1903 tour opens on June 8 at Cambridge, and the 13 succeeding matches are fixed to begin on the following dates at the places mentioned; but there is a chance of one or two extra matches being added, as there will be vacant dates to permit it . . .

[Note: the fixture list can be found at
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/1/Gentlemen_of_Philadelphia_in_British_Isles_1903.html]

Although many of the players of the eleven have never visited England before, yet the style of cricket which they will encounter will not be altogether new to them, for they have all played against the English elevens of Messrs P F Warner, K S Ranjitsinhji and B J T Bosanquet.

The eleven will be the strongest team ever sent to England by America. In former years the teams have generally been handicapped by poor fielding and by a weak tail. This year's team, however, will have absolutely no tail, and will be composed of an exceptional number of smart fielders. In fact every man who is included in the eleven for his bowling is also a batsman of high standing, and there are not more than two men who would not pass for first-class fielders.

The team is composed of 15 men, all of whom are considered to be on an equal footing; that is to say that there are not 11 regular players and four reserves, but there are 15 regular players, 11 of which will be chosen by a committee before each game.

When arrangements were first made it was unanimously decided that Mr George S Patterson should be captain of the eleven. Mr Patterson has been the most prominent American cricketer for some time. Unfortunately, however, he has been compelled to resign his position owing to business engagements. But it is hoped that he will be able to spend a few weeks, at any rate, with the eleven.

Although no captain has yet been chosen to fill Mr Patterson's place, it is almost certain that Mr John A Lester will be elected. Mr Lester is an Englishman by birth, having begun his cricket at Ackworth School, in Yorkshire. Upon going to America he attended Haverford College, where he was captain of the cricket eleven. He made cricket tours in England in 1896 with the Haverford College eleven, and in 1897 with the Philadelphian team; and on both occasions he headed the batting averages. He is a very good slow bowler and an excellent judge of the game.

The greater part of the bowling will be done by Mr King, Mr Clark, Mr Cregar and Mr Lester, with Mr J E Morton, Mr F H Bates and Mr P N Le Roy as change bowlers. Messrs T C Jordon and J H Scattergood will keep wicket. The former is very light but exceedingly quick; the latter is a thickset man and better able to stand the wear and tear of a long campaign.

Mr J Barton King is generally considered to be the finest all-round player of the team. Last summer he accomplished the remarkable feat of winning both cups for the best average in batting and bowling in Philadelphian first-class cricket. He is one of the fastest bowlers in the world and has a wonderful command over the ball, being able to make it break both ways and swerve in the air.

Mr Morris, Mr Haines, Mr Graves, Mr Morton and Mr Le Roy form a group of younger cricketers, all of whom are almost equally promising batsmen, and all fine fielders. Mr F H Bohlen, Mr R D Brown and Mr A M Wood are all veterans who have earned their places on account of their batting.

Should the eleven fail to come up to expectations, it must be remembered that after all it is only a team from one town, where cricket is not the national game and where the lack of twilight prevents hundreds of men from taking part in the sport. It must also be remembered that the team is not going to England merely for pleasure, nor is it going merely for the honour and glory of playing in first-class cricket; but it is going for the good of cricket in America. If the team is at all successful, cricket in America will be stimulated enormously. The news of victory will lead to increased club membership, and this may lead to international contests between England and America.

The following men will compose the team: - Messrs F H Bates, M H Bohlen, R D Brown, P H Clark, E M Cregar, N Z Graves, T C Jordon, J B King, H A Haines, J A Lester, C C Morris, G S Patterson, P N Le Roy, J H Scattergood and A M Wood.

13 April: SURREY v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6143.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 April, page 4)

The cricket season began yesterday in very unfavourable weather, which made the play at the Oval unenjoyable to the elevens and to the crowd of four or five thousand people who watched the game.

In the cricket itself there was plenty of merit. Dr Grace had got together a good side for London County, although K S Ranjitsinhji did not turn out at the last moment, owing to the bad weather. Surrey tried three new men in Mr Hadfield, a promising slow bowler; Mr K Wiltshire, a left-hand bat, and Davis, a slow bowler from the second eleven.

It was an easy wicket and the London County innings lasted from mid-day until about a quarter to 5. The score would not have been 267 had all the catches been held; but there were extenuating circumstances for the fieldsmen who were at fault, in the matter of cold hands. Mr Jephson tried his new bowler, Mr Hadfield, at first with a fair measure of success; for, while Dr Grace batted well, Mr Murdoch and Jaya Ram were out to catches at the wicket and short slip, the first two wickets going down for 34 runs. Dr Grace was bowled at 74 in trying to hit a good ball, and Davis got both Braund and Mr Norman well caught in the deep field. The catch that sent the latter back was a particularly good one, the fieldsmen taking the ball high up close to the boundary at square leg.

With half the side out for 71 there seemed little prospect of London County's making a big score. It was about this time that Titchmarsh, the umpire, had to send several bats back that would not take the gauge. Sewell submitted three bats before one would pass muster and he could begin his innings, and Board, too, had to change his. The cause of this was that the Oval gauge, which Dr Grace had, and that of the umpires slightly differed.

After these delays Sewell and Board settled down to a forcing game and the score rose very quickly. All sorts of bowling changes were resorted to, but 126 runs were added in 90 minutes for the sixth wicket before Board skied the ball midway on the pitch and was easily caught. This was at 201. Sewell slowed down as he passed into the eighties and left Vine to do most of the scoring. Hayward was tried for the first time, when the score was 230, and he rapidly finished off the innings; Sewell was cleverly caught by Davis, who had to run a long way from third man; and the last three men were bowled.

Sewell hit very hard for his first 60 runs and his driving on the off side was particularly good. He had some luck in being beaten without the ball hitting the wicket, and was let off by Hayes in the slips when he had made 75. Lees bowled with bad luck, and three wickets were dropped from him, the most serious being a mistake by Hayward and second slip, when Board ought to have been out for only four runs. Lockwood bowled early in the innings, but never found his length.

In the last three-quarters of an hour of the day Surrey lost Mr Wiltshire's wicket for 32 runs. Stumps were drawn at a quarter to 6, and play will be continued this morning at half-past 11.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 April, page 9)

There was an improvement in the weather for the second stage of this match at the Oval yesterday, but the wind still blew strongly from through west, and in the morning a shower delayed the play for a quarter of an hour.

The day was mostly occupied with the Surrey innings, and the foundation for a big score was laid in the morning by Hayward and Hayes. These batsmen had got together overnight, and yesterday they were not separated until the score had reached 156. Hayward's driving and cutting were particularly fine, and getting most of the bowling he scored rapidly. Dr Grace tried Braund at first, and afterwards he gave Mr Odell, Mr May and Vine plenty of work; but the ball came along at a nice easy pace and the batsmen never looked like getting out. In the first hour's play 100 runs were put on.

Subsequently Hayes gave an easy catch to short slip, having contributed 51 to the 147 added for the second wicket. He showed plenty of freedom in his off-side play, although his cricket suffered by comparison with that of Hayward. Hayward had one piece of good luck when his figures were 63, for Sewell then dropped an easy catch off Mr Odell's bowling, the fieldsman losing the ball after three attempts to hold it. Hayward momentarily lost his form as he neared his 100, but afterwards made one very fine off-drive. He is a great player to watch, and his many strokes were all strongly brought out in the two hours that he was in.

After he was out at 236 the batting became very commonplace. Mr Odell bowled well and the fielding generally was good. With four men left to go in Surrey were equal with the London County total. These last four bats, however, made 118 runs, the innings closing in time for Surrey to give London County the best part of an hour's batting in the second innings. Mr Walker played very steadily for his 54; he is not a batsman of many strokes, but he is difficult to get out, and had been at the wickets a couple of hours when in attempting to hit he gave third man an easy catch. Indeed, after Hayward had gone the one thing interesting in Surrey's batting was the lively innings played by Mr Jephson. Mr Odell's bowling figures were very good considering the length of the Surrey innings.

Mr Jephson again started his bowling from the pavilion end with Mr Hadfield, who quickly found a length and got plenty of spin on the ball. He bowled Mr Murdoch at 14 and got Dr Grace and Jaya Ram more than once in two minds. The latter was out to a tame hit to mid-off, after which Dr Grace and Vine played out time, the finish leaving London 90 runs behind with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 April, page 5)

The Surrey eleven won the match at the Oval, yesterday afternoon, by eight wickets; a victory in which the chief honours both in batting and bowling were borne off by Hayward, whose one-hand catch in the slips before luncheon yesterday got out Dr Grace, and decided, at once, against the chance of London County's saving the game.

It was Dr Grace's batting that was the chief feature of the play in the last stage of the game. He had gone in on Tuesday evening, and yesterday he was at the wickets another two hours and a half, scoring perhaps for him less quickly than usual, but placing and driving with all his well-known power. London County were one man short, as Braund, who had contracted a chill, could not play at all.

While Dr Grace and Vine were together - they had a partnership of 90 minutes for the third wicket - there seemed a probability of London County's making a good total; but with the wonderful catch in the long field that got out Vine, the game went steadily against them. The visitors had had, however, some luck before this, for Vine when he had just reached double figures should have been caught and bowled by Lees, and he was also badly let off by Mr Walker in the out-field. This catch was off Mr Hadfield, who bowled very well, varying his pace from slow to medium and always keeping a good length. Davis at the other end twice beat Dr Grace, the first ball just missing the leg bail and going for four byes.

Dr Grace was sixth out at 167; his full innings lasted three hours and he hit four fours, two threes and 11 fours. The rest of the innings produced no incident of note, beyond the throwing down of the

wicket by Mr Jephson from mid-on when Mr Hirsch was run out. Mr Hadfield's bowling figures came out well on a batsman's wicket, and he should be a decided acquisition to the Surrey eleven this season.

Surrey had only 66 to get to win, and the hard hitting of Hayes soon settled things. Dr Grace, after 40 had gone up, put on Jaya Ram and Mr Murdoch to bowl, the latter to the surprise of everybody bowling down Mr Wiltshire's middle stump. Lockwood made the winning hit and secured the ball of Surrey's opening success on the Oval. With the wind still bitterly cold from the west only a small company was present to see the finish.

Wednesday 15 April, page 9: THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The balance-sheet of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, which has just been issued to members, shows that the loss incurred last season amounted to £398 12s 2d. The balance in hand has been reduced from £1,552 0s 3d to £1,153 8s 1d. Gate money realized £1,965 12s 6d and subscriptions £1,277 1s, the total receipts being £5,022 4s 11d.

The chief item of expenditure was the expenses of players, amounting to £1,682 14s 4d. The annual meeting of the club will be held on Tuesday, April 28.

Saturday 18 April, page 9: THE NOTTS COLTS' MATCH

For the Notts colts' match, which will take place at Trent-bridge on April 29 and 30, the Notts committee have chosen the following players: -

Notts Eleven. - Mr A O Jones (captain), Mr J A Dixon, W Gunn, J Gunn, G Gunn, T Wass, Pennington, Iremonger, G Anthony, A W Hallam and Oates.

The Colts. - H W Dexter, J Day, J Hardstaff and E Hallam (ground staff), L Kirk (Gunthorp), W G Heymann and S A Wallis (West Bridgford), G O Wright, H Wright, G Morroll and J Woolley (Nottingham), R King (Mansfield), E Hixon (Skegby), G Nicholson (Netherfield), Arthur Wass and J Bean (Sutton-in-Ashfield), G Meakin (Newthorpe), C Attewell (Ruddington), W Smart (Kimberley), J Whitelow (Shirebrooke) and G Whysall (Pleasley). The colts' team will be captained by Mr Walter Marshall.

Friday 24 April, page 11: THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

Mr C E Green, the chairman of the committee of management of the Essex County Club, presided yesterday at the annual general meeting, at the County-ground, Leyton. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, he referred briefly to the work of the Essex eleven last year, and dwelt fully on the various questions at present much discussed in cricket.

Before leaving the Essex report he spoke of the attention that had been drawn to the number of drawn matches played at Leyton. When the counties were invited by the Marylebone Cricket Club to give their opinions on the proposed change in the size of the wicket, the Essex committee were strongly averse to any such change. They were convinced that the best method for the reduction of drawn games was to prevent the waste of time in the ordinary cricket day. They wanted, in the first place, strict punctuality in starting (at 11.30 on the first day and 11 o'clock on subsequent days), and the abolition of the tea interval. As to the widening of the wicket, it did not matter to a batsman when well set on a good pitch whether the wicket was a quarter of an inch or half an inch wider.

The artificial preparation of wickets was another evil that should be suppressed. Essex gave it up two years ago at what was thought at the time to be an instruction from the Marylebone Cricket Club; but this turned out now to be only a suggestion from the Marylebone Cricket Club, and had not been noticed at all at some other grounds.

In the matter of talent money, the Essex committee had drawn up a "marks" scheme that would apply to every point in the game; all their players could benefit by it, and the committee felt sure that it would strengthen a player's first thoughts for his side, instead of his own individuality.

The Essex Club had come fairly well financially out of a wet season, but they wanted more members to keep the club in a flourishing condition. The report and accounts were adopted.

The presentation to Mr H G Owen, who is retiring from the Essex captaincy, then took place. It consisted of a testimonial, on which were inscribed the names of some 500 Essex cricketers and friends, who had subscribed for a gold watch and chain, a gun and a purse of 200 guineas. In asking Mr Owen to accept these, Mr Green spoke of the good work Mr Owen had done for the county and for cricket generally, and of the high esteem in which he is held everywhere in cricket.

Mr Owen had played for Essex for 20 years, and for many seasons had been the captain of the side. In the Brentwood days, when Essex had only a struggling existence, Mr Owen was Mr Green's right-hand man in getting together a side and in winning a match, and later when Essex made Leyton their headquarters, Mr Owen stuck to them amid many difficulties and disappointments.

Mr Owen thanked Mr Green and the members of the Essex Club for all their kindness to him during his term of office, and he felt sure it would be extended to his successor, Mr C J Kortright. He spoke very hopefully of the prospects of the eleven. As to the wider wicket question he was present at the captain's meeting at Lord's Cricket-ground last December, and when he voted for the change, he had no idea that the alteration of the rule would come into force until next year and then only after it had been thoroughly tried.

Further, he thought that the Marylebone Cricket Club, in considering proposed changes in the rules of the game, should allow voting by proxy at the general meeting. At present the changes were made by a mere section of the Marylebone Cricket Club, which scarcely represented a tenth part of its membership.

YORKSHIRE CRICKET

Another batch of colts were on trial at the Headingley-ground yesterday, and Lord Hawke will to-day have to decide upon the constitution of the eleven to play against the regular county team in the final trial match next week. The new men who took part in yesterday's practice were: -

A G Linney (a master at Bootham School, York), C Trendall (Fulford), J A Brooke (Stairfoot), S Peck (Armley), J Hields (Acomb), J Megson (Earlsheaton), S B Brook (Morley), J H Shaw (Doncaster), G Weldrick (Brighouse), S Swithenbank (Saltaire), T A Booth (Idle) and E Watson (Castleford).

As in former years, the final selection of the colts team will be left to the Yorkshire captain, who during the week's practice has had the Hon F S Jackson and Mr R W Frank, the captain of the second eleven, to assist him in judging of the young players' capabilities.

Cricketers will learn with extreme regret that the illness of Arthur Shrewsbury, announced some little time ago, is of a very serious character. Shrewsbury has had to undergo two operations and is still under medical treatment.

Monday 27 April, page 11: SURREY COUNTY CLUB

The annual report and balance-sheet of the Surrey Club were issued to members on Saturday. The committee state that, though the record of the county eleven in 1902 showed some improvement on that of the previous season, it did not come up to the best traditions of Surrey cricket. Attention is drawn to the gratifying fact that the eleven did not lose a single county match at the Oval.

Though the exceptionally wet season had a very prejudicial effect on most of the county fixtures, there was a profit on the year's working of the club of £31 9s 2d. This the committee think not unsatisfactory, considering the heavy expenditure for repairs, amounting to over £900.

During the year 170 new members were elected. The committee do not propose at present to elect any successor to Mr Jephson, and they hope that Mr Jephson will be able to play and still captain the side on many occasions. The annual general meeting of the club will be held in the Pavilion at the Oval on Thursday, May 7, at 5 o'clock.

27 April: SURREY TWELVE v NEXT SIXTEEN

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

POTTED SCORE: SURREY TWELVE 134 (Hayward 33, Lees 37, Davis 32; Jackson 9/73) and 96/8 (Clode 21*).
NEXT SIXTEEN 251 (Moulder 48, Montgomery 90*, Nice 22, Bale 21; Clode 9/80). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 April, page 12)

The Surrey Club began a two days' trial match on the Oval, yesterday, when 12 of the county played the Next Sixteen. The Twelve side was captained by Mr L Walker, while Mr J E Raphael, of Merchant Taylors and Oxford, captained the Next Sixteen.

Between mid-day and 6 o'clock good headway was made with the match, in which, so far, the honours have been mostly for the Sixteen. On a soft wicket the Twelve made a bad show. Hayward played well, and there was some lucky hitting by Lees and Davis; but the majority of the side could do little with the slow, left hand bowling of Jackson, a colt from Mitcham, possessed of an easy action. Had all the catches been held his analysis would have worked out very remarkably, for, although both Lees and Davis were missed off him before they had reached double figures, he secured a record as it was of nine wickets for 73 runs, and he bowled 24 overs.

Next to his performance the best things in the day's cricket were the slow left hand bowled of Clode, the hitting of Moulder and the sound batting of Montgomery. Surrey's prospects are quite bright just now, and Mr Hadfield, who did so well in the Easter Monday match, and Jackson are sure to be given a thorough trial in bowling for the Eleven this season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 April, page 12)

The second day of the Surrey County trial match, at the Oval, between a Twelve and the Next Sixteen was spoiled by the rain. In a game of this kind there is naturally little interest attached to the actual result; but had the Sixteen paid more attention to the fielding in the last hour yesterday they would, no doubt, have won. As it was, the match was left unfinished, the Twelve wanting 21 runs to save the innings defeat with only three wickets to fall.

A good many people went to the Oval in the hope of seeing Surrey's new left hand slow bowler at work under better conditions for batsmen than existed when he performed so well on Monday, but they had to wait to see him at all until the last hour, and then the pitch was scarcely fit for play, for the weather had prevented the bowling of a ball between 1 o'clock and half-past 4.

In the morning Montgomery's steady batting was the feature of the cricket; he was the only batsman who could do much with Clode's left hand slows, and his 90 not out was got at a normal rate against good bowling. Montgomery was tried once for Surrey two seasons ago at the Oval, when he scored a single and bowled without getting a wicket against Hampshire. Clode's nine wickets cost 80 runs.

After the rain Jackson was not tried until the score had passed into the thirties; he again kept an excellent length and often beat the batsmen, but his field was not well placed. His two wickets cost 40 runs, and his record for the match was 11 wickets for 113 runs. The trial was not without success, and Jackson is sure to be well looked after by the Surrey executive, who are rather in straits for good bowling.

CRICKET AT CAMBRIDGE

The Trinity Freshmen's match ended in a victory for Mr A Scott-Murray's side by an innings and 14 runs. R H Pigeon, of Uppingham, took, in one innings, seven wickets for 35 runs, and in the second innings, A F Wilding, an Australian, took nine for 27.

In the Pembroke Freshmen's match, C H Eyre, the late Harrow captain, retired after making 53. C J E Peshall, of Rossall, scored 23 and also took eight wickets, and P R May, the London County player, took four wickets.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the county club was held at Bristol, yesterday. Mr H W Beloe, the chairman, announced that on last season's matches the club was £600 to the bad. This amount, however, had been reduced by £200 - the county's share of the profits from the test matches. Bad fielding, rather than poor batting or indifferent bowling, the chairman thought, was responsible for Gloucestershire's lack of success last season.

The balance in hand was stated to be £1,200. It was announced that as a result on increasing the annual subscription last season 200 members had resigned, but in spite of that the club had gained £140 by the change.

Referring to the wider wicket question, the chairman said that the Gloucestershire committee had unanimously decided not to support the proposal, which he hoped would not be adopted by the Marylebone Cricket Club.

29 April: THE NOTTS COLTS' MATCH

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

POTTED SCORES: COLTS 110 (Dexter 30; J Gunn 7/12, Wass 7 wkts, Hallam 4 wkts). THE ELEVEN 53/4 (A O Jones 29*). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Thursday 30 April, page 12)

Rain prevented a start being made in the first day's play in this match, at Trent-bridge, until a quarter to 3, and even then the bowlers found it a difficult matter to obtain a foothold. A strong sun dried the pitch very rapidly, however, and against some fine bowling by Wass and John Gunn the Colts, who were sent in first, fared very badly, and in the three hours and a quarter that play lasted lost 19 wickets for 104.

Dexter, a young professional, who has this year been engaged on the ground staff, played the best innings of the day. He faced all the bowlers with confidence and placed the ball with great judgment; he was particularly strong on the leg side and was unfortunate in being bowled off his pads when well set. Mr W G Heymann, a Nottingham amateur, and E E Hallam, of the ground staff, gave distinct promise, but the other members of the side shaped indifferently. John Gunn has so far taken seven wickets for six runs, and Wass seven for 24.

Day 2 (report from Friday 1 May, page 9)

The concerning day's cricket in this match at Trent Bridge was completely spoiled by rain. A start was not found possible until an hour after the appointed time, and interruptions were so frequent afterwards that, soon after 4 o'clock, the match was abandoned.

The Colts' innings closed for 110 runs, John Gunn having had the fine analysis of seven wickets for 12 runs. Thanks to some dashing cricket by Mr Jones the eleven made 53 for four wickets.

Thursday 30 April, page 12: CRICKET AT CAMBRIDGE

At Cambridge, yesterday, Mr J F Marsh, playing for Jesus College against the Crusaders, showed excellent form in an innings of 70. Mr H C McDonell took seven wickets for 86 runs. Jesus College scored 216, and at the close of the day the Crusaders had made 32 for the loss of one wicket.

Friday 1 May, page 9: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Lord Hawke presided at a meeting of the committee of the Yorkshire County Club, which was held yesterday at Leeds. It was resolved to grant the Leeds Club £50 for the use of their ground for practices during the last four years and to grant £100 towards the expenses of the forthcoming tour of Indian cricketers.

Various recommendations by the seating committee with reference to the Leeds and Bradford grounds were adopted. Mr Frank was asked to captain the second team again.

CRICKET AT CAMBRIDGE

At Cambridge, yesterday, the match between the Crusaders and Jesus College ended in a draw. For the Crusaders, Mr A H C Fergus hit freely for 57 and Mr F B Wilson scored 50 by vigorous cricket. Mr F Garne, a Freshman from Wellingborough, batted carefully for Jesus.

Mr J F Byrne has been appointed captain of the Warwickshire County Cricket team in succession to Mr H W Bainbridge, who has not been able to play regularly during the past two seasons, and who has undertaken the position of honorary secretary. Mr Byrne was first selected to play for his county as a bowler in 1897, and since then has rendered good service both with bat and ball. Mr Byrne will captain the eleven which will represent Warwickshire in their opening match against Surrey at the Oval on Monday next.

30 April: LONDON COUNTY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6145.html)

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

The bowlers had matters all their own way on the slow wicket at the Crystal Palace, yesterday, when between mid-day and a quarter to 6, each side completed an innings, and London County, going in a second time, lost one wicket for 25 runs, leaving them 20 runs to the good.

Jackson, Surrey's new left-hand slow bowler, again distinguished himself. It was a fine piece of work for Surrey to get out the strong London County batting side on any wicket in an hour and three-quarters for 122 runs. The hard fight for runs, the keenness in the field and the good bowling made it an excellent day's cricket to watch.

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

Not a ball could be bowled on the Crystal Palace ground yesterday owing to the wet weather, and early in the afternoon the renewal of the game was postponed until this morning . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 May, page 10)

The turf at the Crystal Palace ground on Saturday had not sufficiently recovered from Friday's rain to allow of any cricket, and the match between London County and Surrey was abandoned as a draw . . .

4 May: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6146.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 May, page 12)

There was no play in the Surrey v Warwickshire match or in the Cambridge Seniors' match yesterday, the heavy rains of the previous days having made the Oval and Fenner's Ground quite unfit for cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 13)

A start was made with the first county match of the season, at the Oval, yesterday. Warwickshire had considerably the best of the day's play, for after making 222 they dismissed their opponents for 82, thus finishing 140 runs to the good on the first innings.

When Warwickshire were batting the wicket was very slow, too slow, in fact, to be difficult, and though the bowlers got a certain amount of work on the ball, the batsmen had plenty of time to watch it. Surrey were certainly unlucky in having to go in at a time when the pitch had dried sufficiently to give the bowlers a great deal of assistance; but it was entirely their own fault that the Warwickshire total was so large. Lilley and Charlesworth, who between them were responsible for 108 runs, were both let off before they were set, and at least five chances were missed which ought to have been held, the catches dropped by Mr Walker at square-leg and Holland in the deep field being especially easy.

The great part of the Surrey bowling was done by Montgomery and Jackson, the medium-paced left-hander, from whom much is expected. Jackson got seven wickets for 96 runs and, considering that he bowled throughout the whole innings with one short rest and had three chances missed off him, his performance was most creditable. He has a nice easy action, which seems to take very little out of him, and he gets a good deal of work on the ball. He varies his pace, too, judiciously, and seems to use his head well in trying to find out the weak spots in a batsman's defence. In the whole of his 44 overs he sent down very few really bad balls; and he certainly should prove an acquisition to an eleven so weak in bowling as Surrey is at present, though he has yet to show whether or not on a fast wicket he would present great difficulties to the batsmen.

There was no feature of great interest in the Warwickshire batting; Kinneir played steadily for 32, getting most of his runs on the on-side, while Lilley and Charlesworth both played fine cricket, the latter making several fine, straight drives.

When Surrey went in to bat Hargreave and Santall, who bowled unchanged, had matters all their own way. No one except Holland and Hayes could do anything with the bowling. Hayward was caught when the total was 15, and then Hayes and Holland carried the score to 56 before being parted. They undoubtedly did right, considering the difficulty of the wicket, in playing a hitting game, and both of them made some beautiful strokes. After they were dismissed the side collapsed entirely and were all out for 26 more runs.

The Warwickshire fielding was by no means faultless, Quaife missing an easy chance at cover-point; but it was much better than that of Surrey, and the catch with which Hargreave, who was fielding close in at mid-on, dismissed Montgomery was a very fine one.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 May, page 12)

Owing to the saturated state of the ground play was not resumed yesterday in this match at the Oval until 20 minutes past 2; yet so far were the conditions in favour of the bowlers that at a quarter-past 5 Warwickshire had gained a victory by 126 runs.

Overnight each side had completed an innings, with an advantage to the visitors of 140 runs, and all through yesterday's play their winning position was maintained. After batting in their second innings a little over an hour, Warwickshire declared, with the result that Surrey were left with 196 runs to get to win and two hours and three-quarters in which to make them.

Surrey never appeared likely to effect even a draw, the side being quite outplayed from the start of their innings. Their batsmen were always in difficulties and, although Holland and Hayes made one or two good strokes, both were frequently beaten. To Hargreave the honour of Warwickshire's decisive win is chiefly due, and his fine bowling was supported by good fielding and wicket-keeping.

4 May: THE OXFORD SENIORS' MATCH

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

POTTED SCORES: MR COLLINS'S SIDE 165/10 (B L Peel 22, J Whittington 33, E G Whately 22, A J Graham 20, K O Hunter 29*; C R Venables 3 wkts, H M Worsley 3 wkts) v MR R S DARLING'S SIDE. Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 May, page 12)

Included in the teams taking part in the Seniors' match, which opened the season yesterday at Oxford, are several cricketers of whom 12 months ago a great deal was expected, notably Mr E G Whately (Eton), Mr C D McIver (Forest School) and Mr K M Carlisle (Harrow). All three started extremely well in their Freshmen's match, but not one of them succeeded in getting into the Eleven.

The start of play yesterday was delayed till 3 o'clock, the ground being very heavy after a night's continuous rain. The most interesting batting was seen towards the end of the afternoon, Mr Hunter playing a very bright game. No one else found it easy to get the ball away on the slow ground, rather more than two hours being spent in making the first hundred runs. The score ought to have been smaller, as Mr Peel, Mr Whately and Mr Graham all gave chances. Beyond everything else the feature of the cricket was the wicket-keeping of Mr Bomford, who made five catches.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 13)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in this match at Oxford yesterday, consequently the score remains - Mr Collins's side, 165 for ten wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 May, page 12)

. . . The weather also prevented any play in the Seniors' matches at Oxford and Cambridge. The matches were left drawn . . .

4 May: THE CAMBRIDGE SENIORS' MATCH

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

POTTED SCORES: MR G HOWARD SMITH'S SIDE 165 (E W Mann 37, E S Phillips 28, EE Lambert 30*, G Howard Smith 22; E G McCorquodale 3/43, H C McDonell 6/51). MR J W MARSH'S SIDE 197/8 (C T Rudd 26, E J Mann 63, H C McDonell 50; G Howard Smith 4 wkts). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 May, page 12)

There was no play in the Surrey v Warwickshire match or in the Cambridge Seniors' match yesterday, the heavy rains of the previous days having made the Oval and Fenner's Ground quite unfit for cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 13)

Although no cricket had been practicable at Cambridge on Monday owing to the wet, considerable progress was made with the game yesterday, when 19 wickets fell for 362 runs.

During the innings of Mr Howard Smith's side Mr E W Mann appeared to advantage, and he received useful assistance from Mr Lambert, Mr Phillips and Mr Howard Smith, but most of the others found considerable difficulty in playing Mr McDonell's slow leg breaks. The latter and Mr McCorquodale were very destructive.

At the beginning of their innings Mr Marsh's side fared so badly that with five wickets down for 55 there did not seem much prospect of anything better than a moderate score, but afterwards the whole aspect of the game changed. Mr E J Mann, of Marlborough, first with Mr Rudd and later with Mr McDonell, gave a bright display, Mr Mann and Mr McDonell adding no fewer than 102 for the seventh wicket. Mr Mann hit six fours, and both he and Mr McDonell were dismissed shortly before the drawing of stumps, when eight men were out for 197. Mr Marsh's side hold a lead of 32 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 May, page 12)

. . . The weather also prevented any play in the Seniors' matches at Oxford and Cambridge. The matches were left drawn . . .

Tuesday 5 May, page 15: THE LAWS OF CRICKET

(From our special correspondent)

To-morrow the Marylebone Club for the second time in three years will have to decide on a proposed change in the laws of cricket; and during the past winter controversy has raged on the merits or shortcomings of a modest proposal made by the county captains to broaden the wicket by one inch. That something ought to be done to diminish run-getting and the number of drawn matches appears to be the vague wish of most members of the cricketing world. But to attain this object a more ambitious scheme will be necessary; and two notices of amendments with this object have been given.

As the rules stand at present the width of the wicket is 8 in. and the height 27 in.; but, as a matter of fact, it is said that half an inch has been often more or less inadvertently added to the regulation width, owing to makers of stumps making them thicker to ensure strength. Whether this is so or not, the weight of opinion seems to be that a mere extra inch in the width of wicket would only result in an extra modicum of caution being shown by the batsmen, and would not materially diminish the number of runs or of drawn matches.

Even this very modest proposal of an extra inch to the width of wicket is met with opposition from several of the county committees. But it is to be hoped that the M.C.C. may look on the whole

question solely from the point of view of the best and highest interests of the game and will ignore all considerations of gate-money.

The whole question of reform in the rules has been so much discussed that the public ought to be in a position to make up their minds on the subject. The opponents of all reform, unable to deny the evil effects of too much high scoring and too many drawn games, have pleaded for greater efficiency in fielding and less waste of time in adjournments for team and other small observances - such as a rigid ten minutes between the innings, and two minutes for each batsman to go in after a wicket has fallen.

Nobody would deny that if cricketers all fielded well and never dropped catches an almost immediate remedy would be found and drawn games would be a rare exception. Not doubt greater attention and practice could do something in improving fielding; but it is a counsel of perfection that fielding can be improved beyond a certain point. Catches always have been dropped, and always will be. Human nature being what it is, perfection in this respect cannot be obtained. It is not probable that any amount of attention will make catching and fielding any better than what the Australians have shown us; and yet in 1899 the five test matches were all unfinished except one, while the weather was fine the whole time and there was little to find fault with in the English fielding.

As to the waste of time about which there has been much grumbling from old cricketers, it probably does not amount to much; and it musty be remembered also that in old days, when perhaps there was less time wasted, the majority of matches were over in two days and there was far less wear and tear. Cricketers knock up a good deal in these days, and it is doubtful if they could stand longer hours and longer days' play than they get now. At Lord's, in the great matches, there is not much time wasted; and yet, to take one instance alone, three consecutive University matches have lately been unfinished owing to the number of runs scored, and the fielding of both sides was up to quite a high standard in all three years.

Another common argument against reform is that in second and third class matches the scoring is not too high, and that to pass rules which would have the effect of further reducing the number of runs would be detrimental to this class of cricket. It is doubtful if this contention is based on a correct statement of facts; but, even if it were, it must be remembered that a large proportion of such matches are one day and even one afternoon contests, and seldom can more than one innings a side be played. If in consequence of reform runs in such matches were reduced, it might be possible to get through two innings in one day and, instead of being an injury, this would be a distinct advantage.

The first proposal the M.C.C. will have to discuss will be whether one inch is to be added to the width of the wicket. To this an amendment is to be moved that, in addition, one inch be added to the height of the wicket. If this is lost a second amendment will be moved that an extra inch be added to the height of the wicket, the width remaining as it is now. It is to be hoped that the Club will increase the size of the wicket by one inch both in height and in width. It is also to be hoped that no consideration of gate-money will be allowed to weigh in the minds of the members, but only the true interest of the game.

Lastly, in view of the oft-repeated argument that in wet seasons scoring is not too high and no change is necessary, it cannot be too often replied that cricket is a fine weather game and the rules ought to be framed on that basis, and on a real bowler's wicket the batting side must always have the worst of it, whatever the rules may be.

The true and only question to be decided is how are drawn matches on fast and easy wickets to be made a practical impossibility. The cause of the unhealthy number of drawn matches on such wickets is undoubtedly the plethora of runs, and some means must be found to check this. The argument of Prince Ranjitsinhji that drawn matches are not an evil, but the contrary, is really the only argument possible for maintaining the present state of things; but that such an opinion should be held by a great cricketer is ludicrous and cannot be taken seriously.

It is absurd to urge greater efficiency in fielding and bowling. No doubt this is highly to be wished; but in Australia, where greater attention has probably been given to fielding, matches are played to a finish. It takes four, five and sometimes six days to finish a match, and in England it is impossible to devote more than three days; and this plain statement of fact would seem really to put the whole matter in a nutshell.

If, in the opinion of the M.C.C., it would be better not to alter the size of the wicket, a somewhat similar result would be attained if the width of the bat were diminished by about half an inch; but

still, as the other proposal is to be laid before the M.C.C. to-morrow, it would be unwise to shelve the question; and the true interests of the game will be furthered by adding one inch to the width and height of the wicket.

Last season the alteration in the l-b-w rule was inadequately tried in second-class county cricket, where there is reason to believe the standard of intelligence of umpires is by no means high. As long as batsmen are allowed to adopt two lines of defence against bowling - namely, the bat and the legs - so long will bowlers be unduly handicapped in a manner not contemplated by those responsible for the rules of the game. It is to be hoped that this alteration will still be kept in view by the M.C.C., and that the matter will be opened up again in a reasonably short period.

Wednesday 6 May, page 13: THE MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club will be held this afternoon in the pavilion at Lord's Cricket Ground. After the conclusion of the ordinary business the meeting will be made special to consider the proposals as to altering the size of the wicket.

The original proposal, of which the Marylebone Cricket Club committee approve, is simply to increase the width of the wicket from 8 in. to 9 in. There are two amendments - standing in the names of Mr G W Ricketts and Mr Denzil Onslow - that the height of the wicket should also be increased by 1 in. Mr Onslow's amendment is conditional on the proposal to widen the wicket being carried.

Thursday 7 May, page 12: THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

The annual meeting of the Marylebone Club was held in the Pavilion at Lord's cricket ground, yesterday afternoon, Mr A G STEEL, K.C., the retiring president, being in the chair. The proceedings were quite formal, the annual report being adopted with little or no discussion.

Over 400 members were present, among them being Lord Alverstone, Lord Harris, Lord Wenlock, Lord Jersey, Lord Lichfield, Sir S Ponsonby-Fane, Sir Charles Oakeley, Mr R A H Mitchell, Mr V E Walker, Mr K J Key, Mr John Shuter, Mr Henry Perkins, Mr C E Horner, Mr H T Hewett, Mr A W Ridley, Mr H D G Leveson Gower, Mr A J Webbe, Mr G MacGregor, Mr C I Thornton, Mr W H Patterson, Sir T C O'Brien, Dr Russell Bencraft, Mr Denzil Onslow, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr J R Mason, Mr W J Ford, Mr E Rutter, Mr Roger Miller, Mr F H E Cunliffe, Mr C J Kortright, Mr P J de Paravicini, Mr R C Antrobus, Mr A Worsley, Mr E A Nepean, Mr C E de Trafford and Mr R S Lucas. The report stated: -

In 1902 the club consisted of 4,847 members, an increase of 64 over the previous year, of whom 4,125 paid; 403 were life members; and 317 were abroad. During the past season 178 matches were played by the club, of which 92 were won, 30 lost and 56 were drawn.

The Hon A Lyttelton, K.C., Mr A H Hornby, Mr J Shuter and the Hon F S Jackson retire by rotation from the committee. To fill these vacancies there are four candidates: - Mr A G Steel, K.C. (retiring president), proposed by Mr E L Bateman, seconded by Lord Harris; Lord Lichfield, proposed by the treasurer, seconded by Lord Howe; Major W E Hardy, proposed by Mr E Rutter, seconded by Mr V E Walker; Mr F H E Cunliffe, proposed by Lord Harris, seconded by Lord Jersey.

The Cricketers' National War Fund realized £2,290 13s 7d, which has been paid to and gratefully acknowledged by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association . . . The accounts of the refreshment department show a loss of £1,206 15s 8d for the year . . . The majority of the minor counties do not desire the proposed alteration to Law 24 (l-b-w.). The provision in their rules which enables them to decide a match on the first innings has been found to operate so satisfactorily that they do not think any further change is necessary.

Boys' classes for cricket instruction were held from April 14 to April 29. They have been well appreciated by those who attended . . . Mr E H Miles and Sir Edward Grey, M.P., are the respective holders of the gold and silver tennis prizes . . .

At the conclusion of the ordinary business, the meeting was made special to consider the proposition to widen the wicket from eight to nine inches. The original proposal was put to the meeting by itself, the amendments of which Mr G W Ricketts and Mr Denzil Onslow had given notice as [also to] heightening the wicket by one inch afterwards falling to the ground. It may be said at once that the

proposal was lost, the requisite two-thirds majority not being obtained. There was, however, a numerical majority, the number of votes being 215 for the proposal and 199 against.

Mr A G STEEL, in proposing the widening of the wicket, said that the reason the committee had approved of the proposal was that they thought they should help the bowler a little. They did not wish to revolutionize the game, but they wished to give some assistance towards restoring the balance between batsmen and bowler.

Two years ago the question of altering the law of leg-before-wicket was brought forward, but the proposed change did not receive sufficient support to pass into law. The present proposal was submitted to the M.C.C. Committee by the county captains, who were nearly unanimous in approving of it. When the matter had been fully discussed by the committee, circulars were sent to the counties, whatever of whom were in favour of the change and a number against it.

In the course of his speech, Mr Steel said that Essex, who opposed the alteration, were in favour of greater punctuality and longer hours of play. He did not entirely agree with them, but the Marylebone Cricket Club were doing their best to ensure better time being kept. They could not, he thought, with cricketers playing every day, have longer hours.

K S Ranjitsinhji, in a letter to The Times, said the public approved of drawn games, and another old friend said there should be no heavy roller and no mowing machine; but these suggestions, he thought himself, were far too revolutionary.

In Scotland, 50 clubs approved of the proposed alteration and only 13 opposed it. Some people said they should have a trial of the wider wicket, but he did not think that was necessary. If they diminished the size of the bat or had an additional stump, or curtailed the batsman's ground a trial might be required, but in the present case he did not think there was any need to take such a course, as they knew the alteration would assist the bowler without hurting the game. Gloucestershire, he was told, were against the change, thinking that reform might be brought about by better fielding. Personally, he believed that fielding was just as good to-day as it was 30 years ago.

In conclusion, he asked the members to support the committee in voting for the change, and added that since the circular had been issued to the counties it had been found out that, as a rule, the wickets, as generally pitched, measured $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. to $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. in width instead of the legal 8 in.

Lord Harris, in seconding the proposal, said they now had the opportunity of doing something to help the bowlers. The tendency of the umpires had always been to favour the batsman. They had had a trial last year in the suggested change in the law of l-b-w, but the umpires at Lord's did not adapt themselves to the altered rule and the result proved unsatisfactory.

Like the president, he believed that the fielding was as good as ever, not only in England, but in Australia, America and India, and that no one race fielded better than the others. One thing that told against fielding in these days was the big attendance at matches. Fieldsmen could not see the ball against the mass of black coats. While things remained as they were in this particular he did not see how fielding could be improved.

They therefore came to the necessity of dealing with the implements of the game. The proposal before the meeting had been brought forward by a body of experts, who were playing every day, who had thoroughly considered the matter, and who gave it as their firm opinion that the change would benefit the game. This was an honest effort to do something to help the bowlers. Owing to the laxity of umpires, the wickets, as had been said, were often over 8 in. in width, and in the event of the proposal being lost they would now go back to the strict 8 in. and the last state would be worse than the first.

Mr W E DENISON, in opposing the proposition, said that the Marylebone Cricket Club should not too hastily go against the powerful opposition of the majority of both first and second-class counties, and, as far as could be judged, the great majority also of ordinary clubs. There was also opposition in Sydney, America and South Africa. For this reason, and for no other, he asked the meeting to consider whether it was the duty of the club, against the weight of so many adverse opinions, to proceed too quickly, and without trial, to change the law.

Mr DENZIL ONSLOW, in whose name stood an amendment, conditional on the proposal being carried, to the effect that an inch should also be added to the height of the wicket, said that he wished the point out to the members that there had lately been many alterations in the laws of cricket. The number of balls in the over had been increased from four to five, and then to six, and the bowling crease had

been lengthened, but no benefit had resulted. The increase in the number of balls to the over had been adopted to save time, but this had since been neutralized by the institution of the tea interval.

Lord Harris had said that he wished to do something for the bowler, but the two things that had been done had had no effect and it seemed to him now a most dangerous thing to be interfering with the implements of the game. He did not think the public were solely interested in seeing matches finished. What they went to see was good, all-round cricket, good batting, good bowling and good catching. He was sorry to say that, as regards good catching, they did not just now see much of it. Improved fielding was, in his opinion, the most serious question. A famous cricketer who one season made 12 scores of over 100 told him (the speaker) that, but for dropped catches, he would only have made one of those hundreds.

He thought that if they carried the proposal cricketers, knowing the wicket was wider than before, would play a more careful game and there would be more stone-walling than ever. He thought the alteration would do no good, and that it would only be a stepping-stone to other changes in the implements of the game. Any steps of this kind he strongly deprecated, and should therefore vote against the proposal.

On a vote's being taken the numbers were: - For the proposal, 215; against it, 199. A two-thirds majority being necessary to effect any alteration in the laws of cricket, the proposition was therefore lost.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by LORD HARRIS, brought the meeting to a close.

The annual dinner of the club was held in the evening, and Lord Alverstone was announced as the new president.

6 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6147.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 7 May, page 12)

The wicket at Lord's yesterday had been so much affected by the rain that it was impossible to make a start in the match between the M.C.C. and Ground and Nottinghamshire . . .

Day 2 (report from Friday 8 May, page 10)

No cricket was possible in any of the three matches in the London district yesterday. The match at Lord's between the M.C.C. and Ground and Nottinghamshire, which should have been concluded to-day, has been abandoned.

7 May: LONDON COUNTY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6148.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 10)

No cricket was possible in any of the three matches in the London district yesterday . . .

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

Owing to the weather yesterday it was impossible to make a start with . . . London County v Lancashire at the Crystal Palace.

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

No play was again possible on Saturday, in . . . London County v Lancashire at the Crystal Palace. In consequence both matches had to be abandoned, without a ball having been bowled.

7 May: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6149.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 10)

No cricket was possible in any of the three matches in the London district yesterday . . .

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

Owing to the weather yesterday it was impossible to make a start with Surrey v Hampshire, at the Oval . . .

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

No play was again possible on Saturday, in Surrey v Hampshire at the Oval . . . In consequence both matches had to be abandoned, without a ball having been bowled.

7 May: THE OXFORD FRESHMEN'S MATCH

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

POTTED SCORES: MR W FINDLAY'S SIDE 150 (O T Norris 24, A E Worsley 32, C J D Sheringham 32; J P Winterbotham 6/26, G V Goodliffe 4/32) and 130 (A M P Lyle 26, A E Worsley 42; F H Henley 4/30). MR W H B EVANS'S SIDE 101 (E G Langdale 28; N R Udal 3/6, C J Burrough 5/17) and 58/8 (G A Sandman 6/33). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 10)

The teams of Freshmen, at Oxford, yesterday, captained by Mr Findlay and Mr Evans, included, as usual, several players who distinguished themselves in school cricket last season, notably Mr Norris, of Charterhouse, Mr Winterbotham, of Cheltenham, Mr Sandeman, of Eton, Mr Bird, of Malvern, and Mr Sheringham, of Winchester. Mr Winterbotham accomplished the best performance of the day, in taking six wickets for 38 runs during the innings of Mr Findlay's side.

Runs always wanted a lot of making with the ground scarcely recovered from its previous drenching, and the only important stand of the afternoon was made by Mr Worsley and Mr Norris, who contributed 46 for the second wicket. Mr Evans's side had an hour's batting at the end of the day, and in that time lost five wickets for 50. Of these Mr Langdale, who made a hit out of the ground for six, scored 28.

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

A fair amount of progress was made with the Freshmen's match at Oxford yesterday. Except for a shower, which delayed the resumption of the game for a little while, the weather was fine. The wicket helped the bowlers considerably.

On the opening day Mr Evans's side, in reply to the total of 150, had made 50 for five wickets, but they failed to catch up to their opponents' score. Mr Udal and the Rev C J Burrough bowled skilfully and the seven outstanding wickets went down for the addition of 51 runs.

Leading by 49, Mr Findlay's side went in a second time and put together a total of 130. The feature of the innings was the excellent batting of Mr Worsley, who came off for the second time in the match. He hit in capital style, his 48 including a six and seven fours. Mr Henley bowled well,

taking four wickets at a moderate cost. With the close of the innings play ceased for the day, Mr Evans's side being left with 180 runs to get to win.

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

Only an hour and a half's play took place at Oxford on Saturday, rain setting in at about half-past 3 and causing the match to be abandoned as a draw.

Mr Findlay's side, who had had the better of the game throughout, would doubtless have won had the rain held off a little longer. They had set Mr Evans's side 180 runs to get to win, and Mr Sandeman bowled so effectively on the difficult pitch that six wickets fell for 22 runs. The batting, after this, showed some improvement, but when play had to be given up 122 runs were still required and only four wickets remained in hand.

Mr Sandeman, who was in the Eton eleven last season, bowls slow left hand; on Saturday he kept a good length and got an appreciable amount of break on the ball. All through the match the bowling was capital and the fielding for the most part smart and accurate.

7 May: THE CAMBRIDGE FRESHMEN'S MATCH

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

POTTED SCORES: MR E M DOWSON'S SIDE 119 (J G Hirsch 37, E M Dowson 45*; P R May 7/59) and 258 (C C Page 53, C H Eyre 69, R P Keigwin 23*, J J Kearney 25, E M Dowson 20; H R Pigeon 4/57). MR C H M EB DEN'S SIDE 74 (P R May 22; R P Keigwin 6/25, F J V Hopley 3/29). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 10)

With one exception, the Freshmen, at Cambridge, yesterday, did not succeed with the bat, and in a short afternoon's cricket only one man made a double-figure score. This was J E Hirsch, of Shrewsbury, who, after three wickets on Mr Dowson's side had fallen very cheaply, stayed in for three-quarters of an hour for 37. He showed sound defence and at times hit well on the slow pitch. Mr Dowson's side looked like being out for a very small score, but after ten wickets had fallen for 70, Mr Dowson hit so freely that he made 45 out of the last 49 runs.

The feature of the day's cricket was the effective bowling of Mr P R May, who obtained seven wickets for just over eight runs apiece. Until Mr Dowson came in, Mr May had taken six wickets for 32, but the Cambridge captain punished him rather severely. Before the rain began at half-past 4 and stopped cricket for the day, Mr Ebden's side lost two wickets for eight runs.

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

Cricket was again severely interfered with at Cambridge yesterday, play being restricted to two hours and a half. When stumps were drawn on Thursday afternoon Mr Ebden's side had lost two batsmen for eight runs, and the innings was quickly finished off yesterday morning, the eight outstanding wickets falling for an addition of only 66 runs.

P R May alone obtained any real mastery over the bowling, his 22 being the result of good vigorous cricket. Mr R P Keigwin, who last year headed the bowling averages at Clifton, met with considerable success on a ground that afforded him great assistance.

Going in a second time with a lead of 45, Mr Dowson's side had 25 minutes' batting before lunch and lost two wickets for 22 runs. During the interval rain began to fall heavily, and there being little or no prospect of a cessation, it was decided to abandon play for the day.

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

Owing to the weather, the Freshmen's match at Cambridge had, on Saturday, to be left drawn. It had been arranged overnight to resume play at half-past 10 o'clock, but the wicket was so badly damaged

that cricket at that hour was out of the question. It was decided to mark out a fresh pitch, and at noon Mr Dowson's side continued their second innings.

Mr P R May, after sending down four overs, had the misfortune to sprain his left leg and was forced to retire. Taking advantage of his absence, Mr Eyre and Mr Page hit vigorously and in an hour put on 91 runs for the third wicket. Mr Eyre batted in most attractive style, his driving being exceedingly fine. Mr Page also showed fairly good form, though he made some faulty strokes.

Mr Ebden's side were left with 305 to get to win, but before they could go in rain began to fall heavily, and at 20 minutes past 4 o'clock stumps were finally drawn.

7 May: YORKSHIRE v XVIII OF NORTHALLERTON AND DISTRICT

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 10)

In this match at Northallerton, yesterday, Yorkshire, who went in first, scored 313. Of this total Mr Jackson and Mr Hirst were responsible for 234, the former making 112 and the latter 122.

Lord Hawke, speaking at Northallerton yesterday at a luncheon given to the Yorkshire cricket team on the occasion of their match with a local eighteen, expressed disappointment that the proposal to increase the width of the wicket had not received the requisite two-thirds majority at the meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club. He said that it seemed to him that cricket reform was at a standstill.

Many gentlemen of standing and of ripe experience in cricket and of a certain age connected with the Marylebone Cricket Club thought they would teach the younger generation that the leg-before-wicket rule should be altered. Present-day cricketers fought against that proposal and it was defeated. Now present-day cricketers had advocated a change in the width of the wicket, which the public and many cricketers had not supported.

It had been suggested that the widened wicket should be tried in the two big matches of the year between the Gentlemen and Players, but he did not think that would help them to see whether the reform would be a good one or not. If a trial was necessary, it would have to be tried throughout the country and throughout all classes of cricket.

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

The local side at Northallerton yesterday could do little against the bowling of Mr F S Jackson, Rhodes and Haigh, and they were all dismissed for 119. Rhodes took eight wickets for 30 runs. Yorkshire, on going in a second time, scored 129 for six wickets before the close of play.

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

. . . Play in the match between Yorkshire and XVIII of Northallerton and District was also abandoned, the scores remaining, Yorkshire, 313 and 129 (for six wickets), XVIII of Northallerton and District, 119.

Friday 8 May, page 10: THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Surrey Club was held in the Pavilion at Kennington Oval yesterday afternoon, Lord Alverstone, president, being in the chair.

In their annual report the committee said that, notwithstanding the exceptionally wet season, the accounts showed a profit of £31 9s 2d on the year's working, the general result, considering the exceptionally large expenditure for repairs - amounting to over £900 - not being regarded as unsatisfactory. Many of the county matches suffered from the rain, the receipts from the August Bank Holiday match with Notts, for example, falling from £1,029 5s 2d in 1901 to £535 8s.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet Lord Alverstone said that, despite the fact of their having lost their first championship match, he was not by any means disposed to take a despondent view of the club's prospects. There had been a good deal of anxiety as to the health of Abel, whose eyesight during the winter had caused him considerable trouble. But there was good reason to think that he would soon be sufficiently recovered to take his place in the eleven again.

Agreeing with what had been said at Lord's on Wednesday by Mr A G Steel, he did not think that fielding was as bad as it was sometimes represented, but he thought that a great deal of harm was done in dropped catches being so much insisted on. He once, when discussing this question of fielding, was told by a famous Australian player that the only people who never dropped catches were the spectators who were looking on round the ground.

In reply to a point raised in discussion, the chairman said that the committee quite appreciated the importance of having a permanent captain, and their object was to obtain one, but the amount of time demanded by county cricket nowadays was very great, and so far they had not been able to find a successor to Mr Jephson.

Lord Alverstone was re-elected president, Lord Onslow and Lord Rosebery were re-elected vice-presidents, Mr Wildman Cattley was re-elected treasurer, and votes of thanks to Mr Jephson for his services as captain in the past and to the chairman for presiding over the meeting brought the proceedings to a close. The eight members of the committee, who retired by rotation, were re-elected.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE CRICKET CLUB

A three days' bazaar in aid of the funds of this club was opened in the Shire-hall, Worcester, yesterday afternoon by Lady Barbara Dudley Smith. The club has incurred a debt of over £3,000 since its admission to the first-class counties, besides debentures issued for the erection of a pavilion, &c., and it is hoped [considerably to] reduce the indebtedness and to place the club upon a paying basis during the coming season, when expenses will be greatly reduced.

11 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MR H D G LEVESON GOWER'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6150.html)

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

Owing to the weather, no play was possible in the following matches yesterday: -
. . . Cambridge. - The University v Gentlemen of England.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 9)

In spite of the heavy rain of Monday, the pitch at Fenner's was sufficiently dry to admit of a start being made in this match at 12 o'clock yesterday. Three changes took place in the teams originally selected. On the Cambridge side, Mr P R May was unable to play, owing to a strained leg, his place being taken by Mr R P Keigwin.

Cambridge won the toss and took first innings on a slow but not very difficult wicket; however, with the exception of Mr Harper and Mr Phillips, who was last out for a sound innings of 22, they all failed before the bowling of Cranfield, Rawlin and Mr Bosanquet.

Mr Leveson Gower's eleven started none too well, losing Mr Dillon at 11 and Mr Burnup at 49, but then Mr Bosanquet and Mr Poidevin got together and made the Cambridge bowling look very simple, until Mr Bosanquet was caught off a mishit. Mr McDonnell for Cambridge bowled steadily and well.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 May, page 11)

The Cambridge batsmen again failed to do themselves justice yesterday and, in spite of a fine innings of 73 by Mr Dowson, they were beaten by an innings and 42 runs. The wicket was decidedly faster than on Tuesday, and by no means easy, while the light was certainly none too good at times.

With the exception of Mr Dowson no one seemed to bat with any degree of confidence. In the Cambridge second innings the first five wickets fell for 24 runs, but then Mr Dowson and Mr Fry made a great effort to save the side, staying together for an hour and a half while 94 runs were added.

11 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6151.html)

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

Owing to the weather, no play was possible in the following matches yesterday: -
. . . Leicester. - Leicestershire v Lancashire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 9)

After selecting a fresh wicket from that originally prepared, this county match was begun at Leicester yesterday in dull weather. The play extended over three hours and a half, during which 233 runs were scored for 11 wickets.

Lancashire, batting first, gave an uneven display. Ward, Mr MacLaren and Mr Spooner were all out for 17, but Mr Hollins and Mr Hornby accounted for 37 for the fourth wicket, which would, however, have fallen at 19 had Mr [?] Crawford held a catch from Mr Hollins at short slip.

Lancashire lost six wickets for 71, but then Sharp and Barnes became associated, and in 50 minutes the pair added 76. Sharp, who made his runs in rather over an hour, gave a difficult chance to Mr V Crawford when he had made 23, and another to King at 40, but except for these mistakes the Leicestershire fielding, especially the ground work, was capital.

With nine wickets in hand, Leicestershire are only 95 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 May, page 11)

Lancashire won their first county match yesterday at Leicester, when they defeated Leicestershire by 108 runs. The visitors carried all before them when Leicestershire continued their innings, for the outstanding nine wickets fell for 55 runs. The fielding of Lancashire was extremely good, Mr Spooner making two fine catches.

Except for Mr MacLaren, Lancashire did not bat well. His 91, however, was not one of his best displays, as he was missed by Mr V Crawford at five and again by Gill at 69. Leicestershire quite failed in their second innings. They wanted 194 to win, and in an hour and three-quarters they were cheaply dismissed.

11 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6152.html)

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

Owing to the weather, no play was possible in the following matches yesterday: -
Lord's. - M.C.C. and Ground v Yorkshire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 9)

The wicket at Lord's was still so wet yesterday that it was found impossible to make a start with the M.C.C. and Ground v Yorkshire match . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 May, page 11)

The ground at Lord's was still so wet yesterday that this match was played on the practice-ground. At 6 o'clock, when the match was drawn, Yorkshire were 51 ahead at the end of an innings each.

With Marylebone batting first, Lord Hawke gave his young bowlers a chance; and Ward and Walker Wainwright, left-hand medium to slow, kept a nice length and were backed up by good fielding. The latter did a fine piece of bowling after luncheon; he took three wickets in an over, and his last spell with the ball worked out that - 5 overs and 4 balls, 1 maiden, 20 runs, 5 wickets. Wainwright is attached to the ground staff at Lord's. The fine right-hand catch low down at short slip which got out Mr Beldam [by Wilkinson] was one of the best points in the day's cricket.

The feature of the Yorkshire innings was the batting of Rhodes, who went in first and carried his bat. He played a fine game on the slow pitch against much good bowling, and his driving on both sides of the wicket was clean and well timed. There was a fine array of bowling talent on the M.C.C. side, and most of it was brought to bear on the Yorkshire batsmen. The fielding was good and the catches in the deep field by A Hearne and Thompson were very well judged.

11 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6153.html)

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

Owing to the weather, no play was possible in the following matches yesterday: -
. . . Nottingham. - Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 9)

Several hours of bright sunshine, with a fairly strong wind, had such an effect upon the wicket at Trent-bridge yesterday that it was possible to make a start in this match before midday. Failing light and a rainstorm stopped play again later in the afternoon, but during rather more than four hours such progress was made that an innings on either side was completed. The wicket was soft, but not so difficult as might have been expected. The bowlers, however, held the upper hand for practically the whole of the day.

Winning the toss, Derbyshire certainly appeared to have the better of the conditions; but, apart from a brisk partnership for the first wicket, they made little use of their opportunities.

The earlier Nottinghamshire batsmen set their side a good example of vigorous cricket, Mr Jones, Iremonger and particularly John Gunn hitting very hard; but, after the effects of the roller had passed off, the wicket played none too well, and Mr Forester and Warren met with striking success. When W Gunn was dismissed, the home county already had a lead of 21, but the remaining seven wickets went down for an addition of only 43 runs. J Gunn's 58 was made in under an hour.

Hallam kept a good length in Derbyshire's innings, and Warren, for the visitors, bowled very fast for a few overs. The fielding of the Nottinghamshire team was excellent, the catches which disposed of Mr Wright, Storer, Needham and Hulme being really good. Much of Derbyshire's work in the field was spoiled by wild returns, but Humphries kept wicket very finely.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 May, page 11)

Nottinghamshire, at Trent-bridge, yesterday, won the first of their county matches by six wickets. At one time there appeared the prospect of an exciting finish. Nottinghamshire required 53 to win when they batted for the second time, and lost Iremonger, W Gunn and J Gunn for only ten runs. Mr Jones and Mr Dixon, however, made a stand, and when Mr Dixon left victory was practically assured.

Derbyshire began their second innings 64 runs behind, and though Mr Wright, Mr Ollivierre and Storer made a fairly promising start, the only other batsman who gave any trouble was Ellis, who scored an invaluable 44. The Nottinghamshire bowling and fielding were on the whole admirable, and Wass, after going on a second time, bowled 12 overs for 12 runs and five wickets.

11 May: SUSSEX v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6154.html)

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

Although there was a full day's cricket at Hove yesterday, the play generally was singularly slow and devoid of interest. Sussex had the advantage of batting first on a wicket which, although rather dead, presented few difficulties. Their moderate total would have been much less had a catch offered by Vine early in his innings been accepted by Mr Bromley Martin, while Mr Foster failed to hold an easy chance from Relf.

Vine, apart from his one mistake, played a good innings, hitting well to leg and timing his drives accurately, while Mr Smith also gave a good display. His strokes were chiefly made on the on side, and by hard safe cutting. The Worcestershire bowling was consistently good, the best figures being obtained by Keene, a slow left-hand bowler.

Worcestershire fared even worse than their opponents, Wheldon being the only batsman to play the Sussex bowling with confidence. He played by far the best innings of the day. At the close Worcestershire, with three wickets to fall, were 79 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 9)

Sussex in their second innings at Brighton yesterday gave a far better display than upon the opening day of the match, and at the close of play, with two wickets to fall, they were 379 runs on.

The chief factor towards this reasonably safe position of the home county was Mr Fry's brilliant innings. Taking full advantage of the improved condition of the pitch Mr Fry played a hitting game and made most of his runs by good driving on both sides of the wicket. He gave a return to Wilson when he had made 31, and took some risks after passing his hundred.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 May, page 11)

At Brighton, yesterday, Mr H K Foster made a great effort to save his side; but after his departure the rest of the eleven, with the exception of Wheldon, failed signally and Sussex won by 163 runs.

K S Ranjitsinhji at once declared the Sussex innings closed, leaving Worcestershire 379 behind. Worcestershire never looked like saving the game until Mr Foster and Mr Bromley Martin got together, when a draw seemed probable. The latter, however, was out at 111, and Mr Foster at 175. Mr Foster started cautiously, but later made a number of brilliant strokes on the off side. Bland took most of his wickets with a slower delivery than usual.

11 May: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6154.html)

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

Owing to the weather, no play was possible in the following matches yesterday: -
. . . Birmingham. - Warwickshire v Surrey . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 9)

There was . . no play in the match between Warwickshire and Surrey, at Birmingham.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 May, page 11)

Though the weather was fine in Birmingham yesterday, the pitch was still too soft to admit of play until after lunch. In the three and a half hours' cricket which took place 12 wickets fell for 161. Interest naturally centred in the circumstances on individual performances. Of these the chief was the fine innings of 38 played by Hayward.

The Surrey innings was declared simply with the view of giving Warwickshire some batting. It served to confirm the good impression previously made by Jackson, who kept an admirable length and got a great deal of work on the ball. Montgomery also fulfilled expectations, his four wickets costing only four runs each.

11 May: FIRST TWELVE v NEXT SIXTEEN AT OXFORD

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

POTTED SCORES: FIRST TWELVE 145 (W H B Evans 37, W Findlay 35; G A Sandeman 3/13) and 192/6 dec (C D McIver 45, K M Carlisle 41*, R S Darling 40). NEXT SIXTEEN 90 (H E Crawford 19; L Heathcote Amory 6/26, J F Winterbotham 4/20) and 129/11 (B L Peel 40, H M Worsley 27; F H Henley 5/25). Match drawn.

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

Although only one brief interruption was caused by rain, the weather at Oxford yesterday was unfavourable for cricket. On the slow pitch in the park batsmen generally fared badly, only Mr Findlay and Mr Evans showing to much advantage. The former played a good, steady innings, while Mr Evans, who gave one chance, hit hard for his runs. Of the seven bowlers tried for the Sixteen Mr G A Sandeman did the best work.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 9)

With the weather cold and the light so bat as to stop the game before 6 o'clock, cricket was not very enjoyable at Oxford yesterday. Batsmen were always at a disadvantage, and Mr C D McIver played the only really good innings of the day. He showed sound defence and gave only one chance - when he had made 33 - during the two hours he was batting.

Earlier in the afternoon the Sixteen had fared badly against the bowling of Mr Heathcote-Amory and Mr Winterbotham. The latter, bowling left hand, slow, with plenty of spin, was particularly difficult on the treacherous pitch.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 May, page 11)

The match between the First Twelve and the Next Sixteen was drawn at Oxford yesterday, though very little more time would have sufficed for the Twelve to gain an easy victory.

Mr Carlisle and Mr Darling began the day by scoring 63 runs together, Mr Darling hitting particularly well, while Mr Carlisle played good, steady cricket. When 107 runs had been added to the overnight score the innings was declared closed, the Sixteen being sent in with two hours and a half left for play and 248 runs to get to win.

Against the bowling of Mr F H Henley the batting broke down badly, and all but four of the wickets had fallen when the game had to be abandoned. Mr B L Peel played free cricket, but only Mr H M Worsley gave him much assistance. Mr Henley took six wickets at a cost of just over four runs each.

13 May: YORKSHIRE COLTS v NOTTS COLTS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/101/101280.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 14 May, page 11)

Although, owing to the soft state of the ground at Barnsley, play could not be begun until after lunch yesterday, the bowling was so much superior to the batting that an innings was completed on each side.

Against the excellent bowling of Bedford and Hallas the Notts colts gave a very poor display, and for the score of 55, made in about 80 minutes, Mr W Marshall, the captain, was chiefly responsible. The Yorkshire colts did much better for a time, Smith and Rothery scoring rapidly, but Taylor and Hardstaff brought the innings to a rapid close.

Day 2 (report from Friday 15 May, page 12)

The Notts colts again failed in batting yesterday at Barnsley, and the home side won by ten wickets.

14 May: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6156.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 12)

The Yorkshire eleven had to fight very hard for their runs at Leyton yesterday, and it took them from midday until a quarter to 6 to play their innings of 240. The wicket was on the slow side, the bowlers kept a fine length, and all but two of the catches were held. J T Brown of Driffield was missed at cover-point early in the day by Mead, and Sewell let off Wainwright in the long field late in the afternoon.

Denton made some good hits until he was cleverly caught at short-leg; but Wilkinson, Yorkshire's new left-hand player from Sheffield, although batting in good style, could not get the ball away very much, and it took him an hour and a quarter to get his 15. Some of the best batting was done by Haigh, and the cricket was brightest when he and Rhodes were in. Perhaps, amid much good bowling, the best work was done by Tremlin and Mead. The ground fielding was keen and the catches of Sewell in the long field and of Tremlin at short-leg were very good.

When Rhodes left five wickets were down for 136, but the Yorkshiremen persevered to the end, ten of them getting double figures. Mr Kortright managed his team extremely well. Soon after luncheon Hirst, in trying to pull a ball from Mead, was badly struck in the face, but after retiring he came back and finished his innings when Wilkinson was out.

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

At Leyton, yesterday, Yorkshire were always playing a winning game. Their one mistake in the field, however - when Wilkinson dropped an easy catch - made a great difference to the course of the cricket, and probably saved Essex from following on.

Hirst and Haigh bowled with great effect to begin with, and five more Essex wickets went for the addition of 12 runs. Young and Mr Kortright then made a splendid attempt to save the follow-on, but when Russell, the last man, came in Essex still wanted six more runs, and these, thanks to Young, were made.

The feature of the Yorkshire second innings was the batting of Tunnicliffe. Essex going in a second time wanted 334 to win and, before the close, three men were cheaply out.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 11)

The Yorkshire eleven won their match at Leyton on Saturday by 261 runs. There was some very fine bowling by Hirst and Haigh, who were unchanged in the Essex second innings, and they hit the wicket nine times. In the match Hirst had a record of nine wickets for 59 runs and Haigh eight for 64.

Saturday's play lasted less than an hour and a half, and the only break in the whole series of batting failures was the hard driving of Mr Kortright.

14 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6157.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 12)

Neither of these counties was fully represented in the match which started at Bristol yesterday, prominent batsmen being absent from both teams. Gloucestershire finished the day with a lead of 16 runs with six wickets in hand.

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

A patient innings by Mr Jessop was the feature of yesterday's cricket at Bristol. He took an hour and three-quarters in making his 77, but, although he was so careful, his batting was particularly sound. Chiefly owing to him, Gloucestershire secured a lead of 102 on the first innings.

Nottinghamshire lost Mr Jones's wickets before the interval, and then rain delayed play until 5 o'clock. Subsequently the game went all against the visitors. In spite of a capital display by Iremonger, seven men were out when stumps were drawn and Nottinghamshire had only secured a lead of 24. Much of the credit of this was due to Paish. He was no-balled in the morning for throwing, but on going on again his action was deemed fair and he met with great success.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 11)

No play was possible either at Bristol or at Manchester on Saturday; and in consequence the matches had to be abandoned . . .

14 May: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6158.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 12)

It was a day of small scores at Old Trafford yesterday, when Lancashire met Warwickshire on a wicket which gave every assistance to the bowlers.

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

Owing to rain, play was not possible at Old Trafford until nearly half-past 4 yesterday afternoon. Lancashire, who overnight had scored 42 for the loss of Ward, only added 70 for their remaining wickets. The condition of the pitch in no way accounted for their moderate total. Tyldesley played faultless cricket for his runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 11)

No play was possible either at Bristol or at Manchester on Saturday; and in consequence the matches had to be abandoned . . .

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6159.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 12)

In the day's play, at Lord's yesterday, each side finished an innings, and Sussex, going in again, lost half their wickets before stumps were drawn at five minutes to 6 owing to the bad light. At the close of play Sussex, who were without K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Fry, were only nine runs to the good, so that the M.C.C. and Ground finished up with an enormous advantage and there seems every prospect of their winning the match to-day.

The wicket certainly never appeared easy and the ball travelled very slowly in the outfield, but for the small scores good bowling and really good fielding were mainly responsible. The catching of the M.C.C. and Ground team in the Sussex first innings, considering the coldness of the day, was brilliant, and Coleman's catch at square-leg off a hard hit by Relf was an especially fine one.

The M.C.C. and Ground had a very strong bowling side, and in the first innings of Sussex Mr Burnup tried six bowlers; all of them, except Thompson, met with some success, and King, who went on fourth change, in four overs and one ball got five wickets for six runs.

The best batting of the day was seen at the beginning of the M.C.C. innings when Braund and Llewellyn got together. They both played fine free cricket and, though they took a good many risks, they added 54 for the second wicket before Llewellyn was bowled by a ball from Relf which seemed to come much quicker off the pitch. The Sussex total was passed with only four men out, but afterwards Tate, who bowled steadily and well throughout the innings, and Bland got rid of the remaining batsmen for an addition of 21 runs.

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

Sussex, though starting with a great disadvantage at Lord's yesterday morning, made a fine fight against the M.C.C. and Ground and, after a most exciting finish, were only beaten by one wicket.

It was chiefly the bowling of Tate and Bland in the second innings of the M.C.C. and Ground that brought Sussex so near to victory. The wicket had become quite difficult, and both bowlers, who kept a steadily length and got a good deal of work on the ball, required careful watching. No one, in fact, except Llewellyn, played them with much confidence.

On Thursday evening Sussex had lost half their batsmen for 30 runs, but the remaining five wickets added 106. Mr Smith, who is developing into a fine player, made some beautiful strokes in his 30, and Butt's 49 not out, though not particularly attractive to watch, was invaluable to the side.

The M.C.C. and Ground was left with 116 to get. They scored 96 of these for five wickets, and it looked as if they would win fairly easily; but the next four wickets went down quickly, and when J T Hearne, the last man, joined Mr Doll three runs were still wanted. Hearne played out the over, and then Mr Doll got a lucky three through the slips and won the match.

14 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6160.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 12)

Mr K J Key captained a team against the University at Oxford yesterday, which included seven of the eleven who had opposed Cambridge at the beginning of the week. The ground in the Parks had not recovered from the effects of the recent rains, and for the most part bowlers had matters very much their own way.

There was one brilliant display of batting by Mr Bosanquet, who in 70 minutes hit up 108 for the Gentlemen without a mistake. His dashing innings included two sixes, 16 fours, a three and five twos. Mr Findlay had the assistance of only three other old Blues, and completed his side with four seniors and three freshmen.

Going in against a total of 193 the University lost half their wickets for 32, but Mr Carlisle played up in capital form and, helped by Mr Heathcote Amory, put on 45 runs for the sixth wicket. For all that Oxford left off last evening with much the worst of the game, being 81 runs behind with only two wickets to fall. Mr Martin and Mr Burn bowled well for Oxford, but Mr Winterbottom met with tremendous punished from Mr Bosanquet.

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

Had not rain stopped play before 5 o'clock yesterday, at Oxford, the University would undoubtedly have been beaten, and to-day they have little chance of escaping defeat, as with four wickets in hand they require 138 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 11)

An hour's cricket at Oxford on Saturday proved sufficient to finish off this match, the Gentlemen of England winning by 85 runs.

Oxford had left off overnight with a little or no prospect of victory, as with only four wickets to fall, they still required 138 runs to win. Some little resistance was made on Saturday, after the eighth wicket had fallen, Mr Carlisle batting so well that the ninth partnership realized 33 runs.

14 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6161.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 12)

This match, at Worcester, could not be begun at the usual time owing to the home team not having arrived back from Brighton, the start being delayed until nearly half-past 1. A bright and attractive cricket compensated, however, in some degree for the unfortunate delay.

Surrey won the toss, and the earlier batsmen were mainly responsible for the total of 235. Hayes claimed 102 of the number, made in one hour and 50 minutes, and he has never played a finer innings. It was quite free from fault, and his driving and placing to leg were admirable. Hayward played correct but exceedingly slow cricket, for he was batting an hour and 40 minutes for 31. Brockwell, after a cautious start, forced the game and scored his last 31 runs in a little over a quarter of an hour, mainly by on drives.

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

Mr H K Foster and Arnold were mainly responsible for Worcestershire's score of 140 at Worcester yesterday. Rain considerably interfered with the day's cricket. At the close Surrey, with nine wickets in hand, held a lead of 121 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 11)

When this match was resumed at Worcester on Saturday, Surrey held a decided advantage, for with nine wickets to fall they were 121 runs on.

Surrey continued their innings in a very bad light, and wickets fell fast. Hayes, Hayward and Brockwell all were dismissed with only four runs added to the overnight total of 26. The seventh wicket, however, added 36 in 25 minutes, Clode playing vigorous cricket. The innings closed for 108. Arnold, who puzzled the batsmen, bowled very finely.

A shower fell at the conclusion of the Surrey innings, and under the influence of the roller the wicket played easily when Worcester began their task of getting 204 to win. Rain soon began to fall again, however, and the match had therefore to be abandoned shortly after 3 o'clock. There was then every prospect of an interesting finish, for Worcester required 177 to win with all their wickets to fall.

18 May: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6162.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 7)

It was another bowler's wicket at Derby yesterday, with the result that in the course of five hours' play 21 wickets fell for 185 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 14)

Although no more rain fell in Derby, the wicket never recovered, and by 3 o'clock yesterday Lancashire had won by ten wickets. In the second, as in the first, innings of Derbyshire Humphries was the highest scorer, but he was nevertheless lucky. Storer and Mr Ashcroft made determined efforts to stem the tide of disaster, but the last five wickets fell for 27 runs.

The match was a triumph for Barnes, who again secured seven wickets, making his record for the game 14 for 59 runs. Barnes has never previously been so deadly for his adopted county. He has bowled half his victims this season, and this is quite a new departure, for last summer he seemed to rely mainly on the off theory. The Lancashire attack is much stronger than of recent years and the fielding excellent.

18 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6163.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 7)

Winning the toss did not bring Gloucestershire much luck when they began their match with Yorkshire at Bristol yesterday. The weather was fine, but the sunshine coming after the rain of the two previous days made the wicket difficult.

Except for a short time after lunch, when Rhodes and Haigh lost their length, the Yorkshire bowling was uniformly good, and so was their fielding. Yorkshire passed their opponents' total with only three men out, and they finished the day with a lead of 45 with seven wickets in hand. They secured this advantage mainly owing to the capital batting of J T Brown, senior. Except for a difficult chance to forward short leg when 40 he made no mistakes, while his hitting, particularly on the off-side, was full of power. Hirst gave him capital assistance during the last hour of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 14)

At Bristol, yesterday, Yorkshire obtained their tenth consecutive victory over Gloucestershire, winning by an innings and 142 runs. Their success was mainly due to the admirable batting of J T Brown, sen., and the deadly bowling of Hirst and Rhodes.

Brown, who had made 73 of the 147 compiled by the visitors on Monday for the loss of three wickets, was not dismissed until he had placed 125 to his credit. His display was a remarkable one, especially when the slowness of the ground is taken into consideration. He got his runs by a variety of strokes, and scored rather more than usual in front of the wicket on the off side. Rhodes helped him to put on 100 in an hour and a quarter. Paish was again no-balled by West for throwing.

18 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6164.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 7)

The wicket at Lord's yesterday was so wet that it was decided to postpone the start of this match until this morning.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 14)

The wicket at Lord's had not recovered sufficiently yesterday to admit of any play in this match.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 12)

The match between the M.C.C. and Ground and London County, at Lord's, was finished in one day. No play had been possible on Monday and Tuesday, but yesterday there was a full day's cricket, and by 6 o'clock the M.C.C. and Ground had won by nine wickets.

The ground was still so wet that the ball came very slowly to the bat, but the wicket was never really difficult and London County's defeat was chiefly due to the weakness of their batting and some fine bowling by J T Hearne in the first innings and Trott in the second.

Mr Burnup, always a fine bat on a slow wicket, and Captain Wynyard both played very well, and Mr Bovington, a left-handed batsman, though he only made 18, showed great promise. He is possessed of a variety of strokes and puts plenty of power behind the ball.

Trott was mainly responsible for the collapse of London County in their second innings. He bowled unchanged throughout, and using his fast ball much more than he generally does now, he was the complete master of the later batsmen. Mr Murdoch's 31 was a very good performance; he got the majority of his runs by beautifully-timed strokes on the leg side.

18 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6165.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 7)

Yesterday's cricket at Oxford went all in favour of the University, who, after completing a first innings for 178, got five Worcestershire wickets down for 64. Worcestershire are giving a trial to two new players, Mr V B Burns, who last season headed the Staffordshire batting averages, and Cuffe, of New South Wales. Cuffe is a left-handed medium-pace bowler and only arrived in this country last week.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 14)

Oxford University had rather the better of their game with Worcestershire at Oxford yesterday; but matters might have gone very differently had a catch been held early in the Oxford second innings.

They had gone in again with a useful lead of 80 runs, but on a somewhat difficult wicket they lost three men for 21 runs. Then before he had scored, Mr Carlisle was missed, and as it happened this proved the turning point in the innings. He and Mr Findlay added 41 runs - the latter playing so carefully that he was two hours making 14 - and subsequently Mr Worsley hit so brilliantly that Worcestershire were set 184 to get to win.

Three wickets went down for 51 runs, and then Mr Burns and Mr Cuffe added 35, but at the finish Worcestershire, with half their side out, still required 96 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 12)

At Oxford, yesterday, the University gained a well-deserved victory by 59 runs.

18 May: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6166.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 7)

The wicket dried so slowly that it was impossible to make a start in this match at the Oval yesterday until a quarter to 3; even then it was very soft and the light was bad.

Play generally was singularly devoid of incident, the first hour's play only producing 38 runs. Mr Perrin, although he gave a difficult chance at 33, played the soundest innings of the day. Montgomery, who was fielding at long-off, in his attempt to bring off the catch injured his hand and took no further part in the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 14)

Essex had so much the better of the cricket at the Oval yesterday that at the close of play they were left in practically a safe position, seeing that they hold a lead of 290 runs with six wickets still in hand.

Up to a certain point, Surrey held their own; for after dismissing the four outstanding Essex wickets for the addition of another 26 runs, they had scored 93 with only three men out at the luncheon interval. Subsequently, however, they met with a series of disasters and, as the day advanced, their chances of ultimate success gradually vanished.

The turning point of the game was brought about by the splendid bowling of Mead, who in the innings took seven wickets for 34. Going on immediately after lunch, he had the wonderful analysis of 5.3 overs, three maidens, two runs and six wickets, five of which were bowled. At this period the pitch was at its worst, and Mead with his accurate length and spin carried everything before him. Surrey were all out for another 14 runs.

The only redeeming feature of the Surrey innings was the sound batting of Hayward, who was seen at his best. He punished the loose ball severely - he hit nine fours - and his defence was excellent. The Essex bowling was backed up by some close fielding, and the catch which dismissed Brockwell was an exceedingly good one. Sewell took the ball at deep square-leg with his right hand, and then fell among the spectators.

When Essex went in a second time with a lead of 80 the wicket had rolled out much easier, and of this they took full advantage. With the bowlers unable to keep a good length runs were put on at a good pace. Mr Fane and Sewell scored 89 for the first wicket, and later the batting of Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey considerably strengthened the Essex position. Mr Perrin, however, had one piece of good luck, as he ought to have been out before he had scored; but Mr Wiltshire, who was fielding at long-on, had the sun in his eyes and he failed to judge what would otherwise have been an easy catch. This proved a costly mistake, for the pair added 97 in 70 minutes for the third wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 12)

Surrey were quite outplayed by Essex at the Oval, yesterday, and were beaten by no fewer than 260 runs. Essex had gained such an advantage at the close of play on Tuesday that their success was practically assured. Nevertheless the margin in their favour came as a surprise to many. It was thoroughly earned, however, and was the outcome of superior cricket at all points.

It is true that the wicket was too soft to admit of Lockwood bowling in the Essex first innings, and that Montgomery, through an injury to his hand, took no part in the second, but this could have made little difference to the result. The Surrey bowlers never appeared to find their length, and their batting proved exceptionally weak, in fact Hayward was the only one to meet with any degree of success.

After adding another 46 runs to their total, the Essex innings was declared closed, and Surrey were set 337 runs to get to win with five hours still left for play. Poor as the Surrey batting was, their total should have been considerably less, for Hayward was missed at the wicket off Mead before he had scored and Stedman at 10 also gave a chance in the slips. Surrey never appeared like making a stand, and the end was reached shortly after 3 o'clock.

18 May: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6167.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 7)

A change to bright sunshine enabled Sussex and Nottinghamshire to enjoy an uninterrupted day's play at Brighton yesterday.

Nottinghamshire won the toss and in rather more than four hours made 207 runs. The chief feature was a sound 81 by William Gunn. He was seventh out and, if he scored somewhat slowly at times, he played polished cricket. He was once or twice beaten by Tate, and he might have been caught at long-leg by Relf at 31, but the fieldsman completely misjudged the flight of the ball.

Sussex lost Vine at 26, and Mr Fry was missed from a return to Wass at 17, a mistake which cost the visitors dearly. Hitting to the on with great power, Mr Fry scored 48 out of 79 in an hour and ten minutes, and was only dismissed in the last over but one. As the game now stands, Sussex, with eight wickets in hand, are 124 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 14)

The feature of yesterday's play at Brighton was the fine exhibition of all-round cricket by John Gunn. Going on to bowl on Monday in the Sussex innings with the total at 74, he bowled unchanged and got five wickets, including those of Mr Fry, K S Ranjitsinhji and Relf, for less than eight runs each.

Gunn followed up his good bowling with a brilliant innings. He played fine free cricket, making 55 runs in an hour and getting to within five of his century before he had the misfortune to play on. His best partner was the Rev H Staunton, who showed capital form after a somewhat nervous start. At the close of play the visitors, with four wickets in hand, led by 207.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 12)

As a mark of respect to the late Arthur Shrewsbury, it was decided not to continue this match at Brighton, yesterday.

18 May: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6168.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 7)

The play at Birmingham yesterday went all in favour of Warwickshire. On a slow wicket Hargreave and Moorhouse bowled with such effect that no stand of any length was made against them, and then, owing chiefly to the batting of W G Quaife, the Leicestershire score was exceeded by 159 runs.

When Devey and Kinnear were out for eight runs Quaife began his innings, which turned the fortune of the game. He scored much more freely than usual, his strokes on the leg-side being particularly fine. He did not give a chance and his hitting all round the wicket was excellent.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 14)

Owing mainly to another splendid bowling performance by Hargreave, Warwickshire won, at Birmingham, yesterday, by an innings and 43 runs. Overnight they had secured a lead of 150 on the first innings, and Leicestershire never looked like clearing off the arrears.

The pitch still helped the bowlers to some extent, and Hargreave was always very difficult to score from; keeping a good length and getting a great deal of spin on the ball he constantly had the batsmen in trouble. In the match he had the remarkably good record of 12 wickets for 79 runs. Moorhouse and Santall also bowled well, and the whole team fielded smartly. Knight, who defended

steadily for over an hour and a half, alone offered prolonged resistance, and Mr V F S Crawford made a few big drives.

18 May: FIRST TWELVE v NEXT SIXTEEN AT CAMBRIDGE

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

POTTED SCORES: NEXT SIXTEEN 268 (C H Eyre 26, J F Marsh 26, A Scott Murray 21, F B Roberts 71; E M Dowson 4/54, G Howard Smith 3/33, E W Mann 3/28). FIRST TWELVE 92 (L V Harper 31; R P Keigwin 7/42) and 148 (K R B Fry 35, L V Harper 25; F B Roberts 6/37). Next Sixteen won by an innings and 26 runs.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 7)

This match was begun yesterday on a slow and easy wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 14)

The sixteen had all the better of the game yesterday at Cambridge, and left off with victory well within their grasp. This was due very largely to the excellent bowling of Mr Keigwin in the first, and of Mr Roberts in the second, innings of the First Twelve.

The first innings of the sixteen was quickly finished off, Mr Howard Smith dismissing Mr Roberts and Mr McCorquodale in his first two overs. The wicket was decidedly difficult all day, and Mr Keigwin and Mr Roberts made full use of this, when the twelve went in to bat. No one seemed able to do anything with them except Mr Harper, who was aided by a considerable amount of luck.

Following on with a large deficit, the twelve made a better start, but after Mr Harper was out for a well-played 25, there was a collapse; and now, with four wickets in hand, the twelve still require 84 runs to avoid a single innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 12)

Little more than an hour's cricket sufficed to bring this match to a conclusion at Cambridge, yesterday, the Sixteen winning by an innings and 26 runs.

Thursday 21 May, page 12: THE GLAMORGAN COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Glamorgan County Cricket Club was held at Cardiff yesterday evening. The balance-sheet showed a profit of £20 on last season's games, exclusive of £250 - equal shared with Wiltshire - in the Australian match, leaving a deficit of £69 on the year's working.

New members from all parts of the county were enrolled. Lord Windsor was re-elected president, and Mr J H Brain was again chosen as captain and hon. secretary.

Wednesday 20 May, page 12: OBITUARY

ARTHUR SHREWSBURY

Arthur Shrewsbury, the famous Notts batsman, committed suicide at Gedling, near Nottingham, last night by shooting himself. His indifferent health had occasioned anxiety for some time. He had been under treatment locally for a return of an old internal complaint and had become very despondent, although he had the assurance of his medical adviser that there was no organic disease.

Upon the advice of friends he went to London about a month ago, and stayed for a brief period at a nursing home, returning then to the residence of his sister at Gedling. He committed suicide with a five-chambered revolver. One bullet penetrated the left side of the chest and, this not being

effective, he turned the weapon to his right temple, death from the latter bullet proving almost instantaneous. He was fully dressed at the time, having been out an hour or so previously.

Shrewsbury was born on April 11, 1858, and made his first appearance at Lord's for the Colts of England against the M.C.C. and Ground in 1873. Even as a lad of 17 he had given proof of exceptional ability, and no doubt was entertained in Nottingham that he would develop into a county player. For the Colts at Lord's he did nothing out of the common, scoring four and 16 not out, but the way in which he got his runs and his finished style of play made a strong impression. A few weeks before, for the Colts of Notts against the County Eleven at Trent Bridge, he had headed the scoring with an innings of 35.

By reason of ill-health he did little or nothing in 1874, but the following year found him a regular member of the Notts eleven, and in 1876 he made his first hundred in a big match, scoring 113 for Notts against Yorkshire at Trent Bridge. In May, 1877, he made 119 for the Players of the North against the Gentlemen of the South at the Oval, this being his first hundred on a London ground; and his position among the leading batsmen of his time was then assured.

Still, though everybody recognized his ability, he did not in these early days obtain anything like the number of runs he has made during the last 20 years. Over and over again he showed fine cricket, but it could not be said that he was a great scorer. The turning point of his career came when, in the winter of 1881-82, he paid his first visit to Australia with the team selected and managed by himself, Alfred Shaw and James Lillywhite. He was in bad health when he left England, being, indeed, too unwell to journey from Nottingham with the rest of the team; but the sea voyage and the Australian climate set him up, and from that time forward his career was one of almost unbroken success.

In this first Australian trip he did very well, coming out second to the late George Ulyett in the batting averages in eleven aside matches; and when he came back to England he was a different man, being much stronger and more robust than he had ever been before. In 1882, for Notts against Surrey, in the August Bank Holiday match at the Oval, he played an innings of 207, and from that day he was by general consent the first professional batsman in England.

Going on from success to success, he reached his highest point in 1887 - a summer of brilliant weather - when he played eight innings of over 100 in first-class matches, and had for the whole season the extraordinary average of 78. In the previous year, 1886, however, he played an innings which he himself always considered the best of his life - 164 for England against Australia, at Lord's. That innings, played against the bowling of Palmer, Spofforth, Garrett, Evans and Giffen, on a wicket that during the first afternoon varied in pace from hour to hour, was indeed a masterpiece of batting.

After the season of 1887 he paid his fourth visit to Australia, and did great things, scoring 232 against Victoria, at Melbourne, and 206 against All Australia, at Sydney. Remaining in the Colonies to look after a football team, he was absent from English cricket in 1888; but he was back again the following year, and played regularly until the end of 1893. In this last season he had another great triumph for England against Australia, at Lord's, scoring 106 and 81.

In 1894 he played no first-class cricket; but he reappeared for Notts in 1895, and continued to assist his county regularly up to the end of last summer. Last year he headed the Notts batting with an average of 52 and an aggregate of 1,153 runs, and for the first time in his career made two separate hundreds in one match, scoring 101 and not out 127 against Gloucestershire, at Trent-bridge.

The characteristics of Shrewsbury's batting were too well known to need any detailed description. Wonderfully strong back play in a style peculiarly his own and perfect timing accounted mainly for his extraordinary success. No one ever had a more accurate judgment of the length of bowling, the certainty with which he scored on the on side from anything like a short-pitched ball being astonishing. When at his best - that is, between 1888 and 1893 - he had certainly no equal either in England or Australia on a wicket rendered treacherous by rain.

It must be said against him that he had much to do with popularizing the leg play which has been so much indulged in during the last 20 years, and he was always a batsman to save rather than to win a match; but apart from this his batting left no room for fault-finding.

An inquest was held at Godling, near Nottingham, yesterday, by Mr D Whittingham, the coroner, on the body of ARTHUR SHREWSBURY, the cricketer. The coroner, addressing the jury, said that Shrewsbury was known to be a sportsman in the best sense of the term, and the fact that he was unable to take further part in a game with which he had so long been associated had caused him to be depressed. His fate would be deplored not only in Nottinghamshire, where his name was a household word, but throughout the whole cricketing world.

Mr Josiah Wood, of Gedling, Shrewsbury's brother-in-law, said Shrewsbury was 47 years of age and a single man. He lived at Nottingham, but having been unwell for some time had been staying with the witness. He had never threatened to take his life, nor did his friends know that he possessed a revolver. Evidence was given that a report was heard while Shrewsbury was in his room about 8 o'clock on Tuesday night, and that he was found shot in the right temple.

Mr John Arnold, a neighbour who was called in, said that Shrewsbury lingered for half an hour, but was unable to speak. The witness knew him to be a steady and sober man who never gave way to drink. The witness recently said to him, "You must get better Arthur as the county will want you," and he replied, "I shall never play cricket any more."

Evidence having been given by the gunsmith's salesman who sold the revolver, the jury returned a verdict of "Suicide while temporarily insane."

21 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6169.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 10)

Warwickshire won the toss at Cambridge yesterday and put the University in on a rather difficult drying wicket, which improved as the day wore on. Five wickets were down at lunch-time for only 52 runs, and with Mr Dowson out almost immediately afterwards, the outlook was very bad for Cambridge.

Then, however, Mr Wilson and Mr Keigwin made a plucky stand and added 40 before Mr [Keigwin] was splendidly caught at short slip. Mr Wilson and Mr McDonnell added 32 before the former was well caught for an invaluable 64. He was lucky at times, but he hit very hard and well towards the end.

Warwickshire had about an hour's batting, and at the close they had lost four good wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 9)

This match was continued at Cambridge yesterday in perfect weather on a wicket that rolled out fast and true. Quaife and Lilley put on runs at a good rate until Quaife fell to a good ball that came in from the off and took the top of the leg stump. Lilley was caught almost immediately afterwards for a well-played 33. The bowling honours were fairly evenly divided.

With Moorhouse incapacitated and Hargreave rather lame the county attack was considerably weakened, and of this the home side took full advantage. The partnership between Mr Dowson and Mr Harper, who added 121 for the third wicket, was a fine exhibition of cricket. Mr Dowson, especially, seemed to find the bowling easy from the start, and made many beautiful strokes. At the end of the day Mr Wilson again played fluently, and was well backed up by Mr Keigwin, the pair adding 95 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 May, page 12)

Cambridge accomplished a good performance on Saturday, when they defeated Warwickshire at Cambridge by 22 runs. The match was closely contested throughout, and until Mr Howard-Smith bowled Charlesworth off his pads the county looked very like winning, for they then only wanted 60 runs and had still a full hour to play.

Cambridge were without Mr Fry, who had a slight touch of sunstroke on Friday, and when Mr Keigwin was caught at the wicket, Mr Wilson also retired with a severe headache and was unable to take further

part in the match. Both the outgoing batsmen had played excellent cricket, especially Mr Wilson, who was most unfortunate in being unable to complete his innings.

Warwickshire started very well, Devey and Kinneir putting on 126 for the first wicket, before Devey returned one to Mr Keigwin. He had played attractive cricket for just under two hours, though he was badly missed at third slip before he reached double figures. Mr Byrne followed, and after lunch at once began to score rapidly. Eventually he was well caught at short slip in trying to hit a slow ball from Mr Dowson. Nine runs later Kinneir was caught at mid-on, having played patient and almost faultless cricket for about three hours and a half. Lilley and Charlesworth both gave considerable trouble; but after they left, Quaife could get no one to stay with him.

21 May: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6170.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 10)

The wicket at Catford Bridge yesterday gave the bowlers sufficient help to make run-getting difficult, but the early Kent batsmen got out chiefly through bad batting. The first six batsmen were dismissed for 64, and the steadiness of Humphries and a little hitting by Mr Blaker and Huish ran the score into three figures. Wass bowled very fast and was unchanged at the top end.

Nottinghamshire began almost as badly as Kent, but then Mr Jones and Dexter made a stand for 40 runs and subsequently Dexter and Anthony put on 64 for the sixth wicket. Nottinghamshire held an advantage at the close of the day, as with third-wicket left they are 27 runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 9)

After fighting an uphill game for the most part of yesterday at Catford-bridge, the Kent eleven established themselves practically in a winning position last night.

In the morning the game went against Kent, for after they had hit off the 47 runs deficiency on the first innings for the loss of Mr Burnup, they had seven men out for 101. Then the vigorous play of Huish and Blythe gave Nottinghamshire 121 runs to get.

With 40 up for one wicket they appeared to be on an easy course to victory; but in the next half-hour five more wickets went down. The game was adjourned in the afternoon for an hour, during the time of the service, at Nottingham, for the burial of the late Arthur Shrewsbury.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 May, page 12)

Nottinghamshire gained a victory over Kent at Catford-bridge on Saturday by four wickets. It was a surprising result from the position in which the game was left overnight, when Nottinghamshire had gone in to get 121 to win, and had lost six men for 50 runs, so that with the pitch worn, the chances were all against them.

But after the shower late on Friday night, the wicket rolled out well, and it was better on Saturday morning than it had been at any time during the last two days. Anthony and G Gunn hit off the balance of the runs in 80 minutes. Anthony made several good hits and G Gunn played with great steadiness. The former was missed with his score at 19. This error proved irreparable and probably cost Kent the match. The last four runs of the match were got by an overthrow by Mr Bradley, who was endeavouring to run out Anthony.

21 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6171.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 10)

At Leicester, yesterday, the ground was in excellent order, and batsmen did not fail to take advantage of the altered conditions.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 9)

The feature of the cricket at Leicester, yesterday, was Gill's 100. He went in when things were going none too well for Leicestershire, and by splendid hitting enabled his side to finish up the day's play with a lead of 247, with three wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 May, page 12)

At Leicester, on Saturday, Sussex just managed to escape defeat . . .

21 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6172.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 10)

Three innings were completed in this match, at Lord's, yesterday, and to-day the M.C.C. and Ground only require 22 runs to win. It was a difficult wicket all day, and on the drying ground the bowlers were able to make the ball turn very quickly.

The features of the cricket in Derbyshire's first innings were the wonderful catch by Captain Wynyard at short leg, which dismissed Mr Wright, and the batting of Mr Ollivierre.

The M.C.C. and Ground, with five wickets to fall, were only six runs behind their opponents, but the next four wickets fell for two runs, and it was only some resolute hitting by Mead which gave the M.C.C. and Ground their useful lead of 33. Wrathall played free cricket for his 29, and he was the only batsman who made the bowling look at all simple.

Derbyshire collapsed entirely in their second innings before Thompson and Mead, who were almost unplayable.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 9)

The M.C.C. and Ground only required 22 runs to win this match, at Lord's, yesterday. These were obtained for the loss of Wrathall's wicket.

21 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6173.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 10)

The University did very well against Surrey at Oxford, yesterday. They were without Mr A C Von Ernsthause and Mr H J Wyld, the team being completed by Mr F H Henley and Mr A C Pawson.

The feature of the Surrey innings was the batting of Hayes. Mr Martin bowled steadily, his length and break from the off requiring careful watching. Expensive at first, Mr Burn proved very successful after lunch, taking four of the last six wickets.

In the last hour - stumps were drawn at 5.30 owing to the boat races - Mr McIver batted capitally, and Oxford left off 135 runs behind with nine wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 9)

Two excellent batting performances marked the cricket at Oxford yesterday. Mr Findlay played very well for Oxford, while Hayward quite mastered the University bowling and did not make a mistake in his 82 not out. Mr Findlay kept wicket admirably; he ran out Mr Wiltshire, caught Hayes brilliantly on the leg side and stumped Mr Barker very neatly.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 May, page 12)

The University batting broke down before the bowling of Richardson and Lockwood at Oxford, on Saturday, and Surrey gained a victory by 119 runs.

At lunch time 51 of the 197 runs required had been obtained for the loss of two wickets, and the game was in an open position; but afterwards Lockwood bowled irresistibly. In six overs and five balls he took five wickets for seven runs, his length and break, on a rather worn pitch, being too much for the University batsmen. Richardson had a very good analysis, and in the match dismissed nine men at a cost of 67 runs.

Hayward, who had batted so finely on Friday, was out unfortunately, a ball he had played hard bounding back into his wicket off his foot.

21 May: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6174.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 10)

On a wicket which was much faster than any they had previously experienced this season, Yorkshire, at Taunton, yesterday, were got rid of for the moderate total of 147.

Somerset made a most promising start with Mr Palairt and Braund, who scored 72 for the first wicket. Later Mr Martyn hit finely, and as the game now stands, Somerset are 43 runs on, with three wickets in hand.

Unfortunately for Yorkshire, Hirst sprained a ligament in his calf whilst bowling, and he may be unable to take further part in the match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 9)

There was another exciting day's cricket at Taunton yesterday, when Somerset scored an easy victory over the Yorkshiremen. Somerset had been left in a strong position overnight, and although Yorkshire struggled gallantly against heavy odds they could never get on terms.

The Yorkshire team experienced very bad luck. First of all they lost the services of Tunnicliffe, who retired with a damaged hand, Hirst could not bowl owing to an injured leg, and J T Brown, jnr., dislocated his shoulder while bowling. Tunnicliffe and Brown, jun., took no further part in the game. Hirst was allowed a runner when batting, and pluckily hit up a most useful 50 runs in three-quarters of an hour.

Yorkshire were 109 runs to the bad when they began their second innings, and, as was the case on the opening day, their batsmen, with few exceptions, could do little against the bowling of Braund and Robson, backed up by excellent work in the field.

Somerset had only 82 runs to make, and this score was got with four wickets down. Mr Woods and his team, who have the honour of being the only county to beat the champions during the last three seasons, were the recipients of a splendid ovation at the close of play.

21 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6175.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 10)

On a fast wicket, at Worcester yesterday, Lancashire took a commanding lead. Worcestershire began well, owing to the fine batting of Mr H K Foster and Bowley, but the game underwent a change from the time that Mr W Brearley went on to bowl. He maintained a very great pace throughout and kept a really good length.

Lancashire passed their opponents' total with eight wickets in hand, and when play ceased they were 74 runs ahead and had sustained not further loss. For this splendid position they were indebted to Mr MacLaren and Mr Hollins, who came together at 49 and are still unseparated.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 9)

This match was concluded at Worcester yesterday, Lancashire winning by an innings and 11 runs.

FUNERAL OF SHREWSBURY. - The funeral of Arthur Shrewsbury, the famous batsman, took place in Gedling churchyard, near Nottingham, yesterday afternoon.

The mourners included his father, Mr William Shrewsbury; his three brothers, William, Edward and Joseph Shrewsbury; Mr Love, brother-in-law, and several nephews. Representing the Notts County Cricket Club executive were the Rev H T Hayman, Mr James Forman, Mr H Turner (secretary) and others; among the past and present players for the county attending were Mr J A Dixon, ex-captain, William Gunn, Alfred Shaw, W B Goodacre, Mordecai Sherwin, Wilfred Flowers and F Guttridge.

At the graveside there were also Messrs H A Cursham Bistow, W Sherwin, A Barnes, A Paul, Louis Hall, the secretaries of the Notts County and Notts Forest football clubs and various other athletic organizations. A large number of wreaths had been sent.

25 May: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6176.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 12)

Essex established an advantage in their return match with Surrey on the Leyton ground yesterday, finishing five runs short of the Surrey score and having four wickets in hand. This was the result of an excellent day's cricket, in which the bowling was generally too good for the bat.

Surrey began badly by the loss of Hayward's wicket from the second ball of the match. Their fortunes, however, improved while Hayes was in and, at luncheon, with the score at 148 for four, they seemed in for a very respectable total. Afterwards there was a fine piece of fast bowling by Buckenham, who in his last spell with the ball took six wickets in five overs and four balls for eight runs. Surrey collapsed, the last six men being out in half an hour for 21 runs. Hayes had a little luck, but altogether he played a very good innings, his off-driving and cutting standing out as the feature of his cricket.

When Essex went in the batting was steady. Hayes's slow leg-breaks were effective, when the long stand by Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey threatened Surrey with a losing position, and then Lockwood, profiting by a rest, bowled with great sting, four wickets falling, after 110 had been reached, for two runs. Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey, who were together while the score was taken from 56 to 110, played in splendid style, both driving at times with great power. The fielding on both sides was very good throughout.

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

After another excellent day's cricket at Leyton yesterday the game was left in a very interesting state, Essex at the drawing of stumps wanting 150 to win with nine wickets in hand. With the pitch slightly fiery the batsmen were again handicapped and, except when Strudwick was hitting, runs always had to be played very hard for.

In the early hours of the day Mr McGahey's fine innings enabled Essex to secure the substantial lead of 88, the last four wickets yesterday morning yielding 93 runs. Mr McGahey had made nearly half of his 110 overnight; but the second part of the innings showed him to the most advantage, when his off driving was hard and well timed. But perhaps the best batting so far seen in the match was shown by Hayward, who, with Holland, made a fine attempt to rescue Surrey from a bad position.

But when Holland, who gave two chances at the wicket in getting his first half-dozen runs, was out, Surrey's case became very bad; but when their seventh wicket went down they were only 56 runs on. Then, between half-past 4 and half-past 5, Strudwick and Mr Walker added 86, and eventually Essex were set 166 to make in the fourth innings. Strudwick made many fine hits, and Mr Walker kept up his end and scored steadily.

Mr Kortright, during the partnership for the eighth Surrey wicket, took a turn with the ball, bowling, not in his old style, but sending down slow leg breaks. The fielding on both sides was excellent; and in the morning the left-hand catches at mid-off by Hayward and at short slip by Hayes were particularly brilliant. The best bowling was done by Lockwood in the finish of the Essex first innings.

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

From beginning to end this match at Leyton was wonderfully interesting, and after many alternations of fortune Essex won yesterday by three wickets.

With the pitch still giving some help to the bowlers it was expected that the finish would be close when Essex yesterday, with one batsman out, had another 150 runs to make in the last innings. Lockwood bowled splendidly, and with the dismissal of Mr Kortright, for the second time in the match without scoring, six wickets were down for 76.

Up to this point the bowling had been so good that the chances of Essex again getting the game in hand seemed small. Buckenham and Russell, however, then added 55 runs. Eventually Russell was bowled by a "yorker" from Lockwood, but the runs were then hit off without further loss.

Buckenham's play contributed most to the Essex victory. He took ten wickets for 98 runs and made 59 for once out. Lockwood bowled with some bad luck, but his aggregate for the match was 11 wickets for 147 runs.

25 May: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6177.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 12)

Sussex gained an advantage over Lancashire at Old Trafford yesterday, and at the close of play, with nine wickets in hand, they were only 83 runs behind their opponents' total.

The feature of the Lancashire innings was the batting of Mr Hornby, who went in when things were not going well for his side, and played good, free cricket. Mr Fry and Killick were responsible for the advantageous position of Sussex, when stumps were drawn early, owing to the bad light.

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

The feature of the cricket at Old Trafford, yesterday, was the batting of Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji. In the morning Mr Fry at first played very slow cricket, and though he scored more quickly afterwards he did not make his century until the Lancashire total had been passed. When Sussex were exactly 200 ahead he was well caught by Mr Eccles at third slip.

Mr Fry had batted for five hours on a somewhat fiery pitch. He was always the master of the bowling, although he scored spasmodically rather than regularly, while his play on the leg side was brilliant. Mr Fry had never previously scored a hundred against Lancashire. On the other hand, Old Trafford is a favourite scoring ground for K S Ranjitsinhji; and his partnership for the third wicket with Mr Fry realized 196 runs.

At their second attempt Lancashire fared badly, for Mr MacLaren was bowled at 14 and Tyldesley was out at 25. Mr Spooner played the best cricket for his side, although he received a life in the slips from K S Ranjitsinhji when he had made 37.

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

Although Sussex won this match at Old Trafford yesterday by nine wickets, Lancashire made a much better struggle than seemed likely when play ceased on Tuesday, for then, with six wickets to fall, they were still 168 runs behind.

Mr Spooner and Sharp, however, showed such fine defence that they defied the attack for nearly two hours, during which time they put on 160 for the sixth wicket. Mr Spooner was then caught by Butt, who held the ball between his knees. He showed great patience and restraint during a critical time; his batting was mainly defensive, but he made several beautiful drives and cuts.

The run-getting was mainly done by Sharp, who scored very fast. He completed his 50 in 55 minutes, and reached three figures at the end of an hour and 35 minutes. Afterwards Sharp acted strictly on the defensive, and was three-quarters of an hour getting his last 17 runs. This was Sharp's first 100 for Lancashire, his previous best being 96 against Derbyshire two years ago. He never gave a chance, despite the rapidity of his scoring, until he had made 109. Mr Eccles also batted very well.

25 May: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6178.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 12)

It was almost an ideal day for run-getting at Lord's yesterday. The wicket was perfect and the bowlers could do nothing with the ball, which came fast, but not too fast, to the bat.

Middlesex took full advantage of winning the toss. They were not all out until five minutes to 6. Mr Warner and Mr Moon both played fine cricket, but Trott's innings was the most brilliant and most attractive to watch of the three.

None of the Gloucestershire bowlers except Roberts met with any success. Roberts bowled most steadily, never losing his length even when runs were coming very fast. Mr Jessop gave a good trial to Dennett, a left-handed bowler, who has not previously played for Gloucestershire. He has an easy action, varies his pace considerably and seems to be able to go on for a long time without tiring; but there does not appear to be anything of much difficulty in his bowling on a good fast wicket.

Mr Warner and Mr Moon, who started the Middlesex batting, were not separated until they had made 248. Both players got the majority of their runs by straight drives, making the bowling all through look very easy. Mr Warner played the sounder and more finished cricket, but Mr Moon, who was twice easily missed before reaching his hundred, showed the greater variety of strokes, especially on the off side.

The last [three] wickets added 163. When Mr Griffin was out, Trott was not much past his 50; but J T Hearne stayed with him till he got his hundred. In his innings Trott showed that he is not merely a wild hitter, who may throw away his wicket at any minute, but a batsman possessed of a number of remarkable strokes all round the wicket. His innings yesterday was certainly the best he has played for some years.

Gloucestershire had 25 minutes' batting at the end of the day.

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

Middlesex beat Gloucestershire, at Lord's yesterday, by an innings and 118 runs. Early in the day it became apparent how great an advantage it had been to Middlesex to win the toss, for the wicket did not play nearly so easily as on Monday. Several times the ball came up very quickly and straight off

the pitch, and all the bowlers could get a little work on. Still, it was a good performance for Middlesex to get their opponents out twice in the day.

Mr Warner managed his bowling with great judgment. Hearne was the most successful, and none of the batsmen ever seemed comfortable with him. In the two innings he took seven wickets for 85 runs. Mr Bosanquet, who was bowling his leg-breaks, was expensive, but he got his wickets at the right time.

There was nothing of much note in the Gloucestershire batting, except Mr Jessop's characteristic innings when Gloucestershire went in for the second time. He hit with all his accustomed power, keeping the ball more along the ground than usual, and his cutting off Mr Bosanquet was particularly fine. The Middlesex fielding, especially the ground work, throughout a long day's cricket was exceptionally good, and there were one or two pretty catches in the slips.

25 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6179.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 12)

The Nottinghamshire batsmen greatly distinguished themselves during a full day's cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday. Having the good fortune to win the toss on a perfect wicket, they remained in possession all day, scoring 484 runs for the loss of two batsmen.

Mr Jones and Iremonger made a promising start by scoring 141 runs in an hour and 40 minutes for the first wicket. The best partnership, however, was between William Gunn and John Gunn, who came together at the fall of the second wicket and were not separated at the close, scoring 298 runs. This is John Gunn's first century in county cricket. Apart from a life which he received from Mr V F S Crawford at 167, he offered no chance. His hundred was made in an hour and three-quarters and, throughout the afternoon, he hit with great vigour, most of his runs being made in front of the wicket.

William Gunn was five minutes under three hours reaching his century, and although manifestly tired towards the close he played with all his old grace and skill. Leicestershire stood their long outing remarkably well, no slackness being shown until the last half hour.

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

Some records were beaten at Trent Bridge yesterday. John Gunn's magnificent innings of 294, his first three-figure contribution in county cricket, [exceeded] the previous highest made by a Nottinghamshire batsman - namely, W Gunn's 273 against Derbyshire at Derby two years ago, while the Nottinghamshire total of 726 against Sussex in 1895 was left behind.

John Gunn and W Gunn in their partnership of three hours and three-quarters, which realized 367 runs, beat the previous highest Nottinghamshire partnership of 312 by the late Arthur Shrewsbury and William Gunn at Brighton 11 years ago, and also broke the record stand for the third wicket of 329, previously held by Mr Frank Mitchell and Wainwright for Yorkshire, against Leicestershire in 1899. John Gunn only gave two chances and William Gunn one.

Mr Dixon, who reached his 100 in 100 minutes, hit one six and 15 fours. Nottinghamshire declared at lunch time, the innings having lasted eight hours.

When Leicestershire went in Mr De Trafford, who was missed by John Gunn before scoring, and Whitehead were the only men who made a stand. Anthony bowled finely. Leicestershire, following on, had 20 minutes' batting before the close.

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

Leicestershire started the day's cricket at Trent Bridge yesterday in an apparently hopeless position. They batted, however, with such determination that they managed to save the game.

When King and Whitehead resumed Leicestershire's second innings 494 runs were required to avoid the innings defeat. With 28 up, Whitehead was run out, but from that point onwards the batsmen held the upper hand. King and Knight, playing with all the steadiness that the situation demanded, completely wore down the bowlers and, although eight were tried, the pair remained together four hours and three-quarters, and added 241 before King was caught at point. King had batted nearly five hours and a half without giving a chance. Knight and Mr Wood then played out time.

25 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6180.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 12)

The Yorkshire eleven were fortunate at Worcester yesterday in winning the toss. The wicket and outfield were very fast and runs therefore came very easily. Yorkshire were batting for five hours and three-quarters, and scored 478 for the loss of nine wickets. All the team contributed useful scores except Denton, who was caught off the first ball he received.

The best batting was shown by Wilkinson and Hirst, who during their partnership added 149 runs for the fourth wicket. Hirst was lame, but batted brilliantly and scored his first three figures of the season; he was badly missed at second slip by Hunt when he had made 81, but otherwise no fault could be found in his cricket.

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

The Worcestershire eleven were engaged all day at Worcester, yesterday, fighting an uphill battle against Yorkshire. They had to follow on 240 runs behind, and in their second innings they lost two wickets for nine runs. Lord Hawke's innings occupied a little under two hours.

The best cricket on the Worcestershire side was shown by Wheldon, Mr H K Foster and Mr Isaac. Wheldon gave no chance, but Mr Foster was missed behind the wicket when he had made 44. He was at a considerable disadvantage owing to a damaged thumb. The partnership between Wheldon and Arnold produced 113 runs for the third wicket. Mr Isaac, who had never scored 50 in first-class cricket before, made his runs in just over an hour without giving a chance.

Owing to lameness Hirst could not bowl for Yorkshire. Rhodes, however, bowled splendidly throughout on a perfect batsmen's wicket. Worcestershire now require 231 runs to save an innings defeat.

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

The Yorkshire eleven had to blame their own fielding for their failure to defeat Worcestershire, at Worcester, yesterday. Two easy chances were missed by Wilkinson and Wainwright late on Tuesday afternoon, when or were following their innings, and yesterday Hunter badly missed Wheldon. The result of these mistakes was that, instead of Worcestershire's having four wickets down for nine runs, the third wicket put on 149 and the fourth did not fall until the score was 173.

Arnold played fine cricket after being let off at the beginning of his innings. By far the best cricket of the day, however, was shown by Mr H K Foster. Beginning a little unsteadily before luncheon, he hit with great brilliance afterwards. He completed his century after an hour and three-quarters' batting. While he was in with Mr Brinton 156 runs were put on for the sixth wicket, and this stand, coupled with Yorkshire's previous bad fielding, enabled Worcestershire to save the match. Mr Brinton is new to county cricket, but he gave some promise.

Yorkshire wanted 142 runs to win the match and had an hour and 20 minutes' possible batting. They wished to catch a train at 5.35 for Cambridge, and consequently no attempt was made to obtain the runs, stumps being drawn at the conclusion of the Worcestershire innings.

28 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6181.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 10)

This match was begun in fine weather yesterday at Cambridge. The University were without Mr Harper, who is in for an examination, while Mr McDonnell was unable to play owing to an injury to his hand, Mr Godsell taking his place. Yorkshire were not at full strength.

On a fast, dry wicket Cambridge at first scored very slowly. The total at the interval was only 60, after an hour and three-quarters' play. After lunch three wickets soon fell. Mr Ebdon was caught and bowled, Mr Godsell was caught in the slips for an attractive innings, and Mr Mann was out in a similar way directly afterwards. Mr Dowson, however, again showed splendid form, hitting finely all round the wicket without giving a chance until just before the end of his innings. Mr Wilson and Mr Keigwin also played excellent cricket, though both had very narrow escapes of being bowled at starting.

Yorkshire seemed to be feeling the result of their heavy work at Worcester, for their fielding was hardly up to their usual standard. Rhodes, however, was a brilliant exception and was the means of saving many runs for his side.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 14)

Some good cricket was witnessed in this match at Cambridge yesterday, and there is every prospect of an interesting finish to-day. The Cambridge innings was quickly finished off for the addition of two runs.

Yorkshire made a good start, Brown and Denton putting on 116 for the first wicket before Brown was out. Three more wickets fell before the luncheon interval, the last being Denton's. He had played a beautiful innings, marred only by a hard chance to the bowler when he had made 74. Haigh and Wainwright gave considerable trouble, the latter especially making some beautiful strokes, and, after their departure, Lord Hawke, who was well backed up by the remaining batsmen, played a fine forcing game for his side.

Cambridge began their second innings none too well, losing Mr Godsell immediately, and Mr Ebdon with the score at 18. Then Mr Dowson came in and at once began to force the game, and encouraged Mr Mann, who had started very nervously, to do the same, one over from Rhodes yielding 17 runs. The third wicket had added 61 in a very short time before Mr Dowson was caught in the slips for a delightfully free innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 June, page 10)

This match was brought to a conclusion at Cambridge on Saturday, Yorkshire winning a good game by five wickets. Owing to a heavy shower in the early morning, the wicket was none too easy when play was resumed. Hunter was unable to turn out for Yorkshire owing to an injury to his knee, which he received on Thursday, and Myers kept wicket in his stead. The five outstanding Cambridge wickets only added 44 to the total on the treacherous wicket, and even that was quite a creditable performance.

Brown and Denton again started well for Yorkshire, the former playing his hook stroke with splendid precision. With the total at 44, however, Mr Dowson bowled him, and in the same over got Denton caught at mid-on. Wilkinson and Haigh were dismissed shortly afterwards by Mr Roberts, who was bowling very well, and four wickets were down for 56.

Meanwhile, Rhodes had been missed at short-slip before he had scored. This mistake proved expensive for Cambridge, for after the fall of the fourth wicket a heavy shower passed over the ground and made the wicket much easier for a while. Of this Rhodes and Wainwright took full advantage, and added 68 in about 35 minutes. When Lord Hawke joined Wainwright, the remaining runs were hit off in a very short time, Wainwright making his 50 and the winning hit with a fine four to leg off Mr Howard-Smith.

28 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6182.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 10)

The heavy rain, which fell about midday, prevented any cricket at Lord's yesterday until after 3 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 14)

By extending the playing time until a quarter-past 7 yesterday evening at Lord's, the M.C.C. and Ground and Kent teams were able to finish their match, Kent winning an excellent game by three wickets.

With the pitch still helping the bowlers, the batsmen had mostly to play very hard for their runs. Mr Burnup, however, played two beautiful innings; his first was the better, and he timed the ball for the cut and the drive with wonderful precision, when the wicket was enabling Hearne and Trott to get a great deal of work on.

There was no point out of the common in the M.C.C. and Ground second innings, and Kent were left to make 176. Thanks to Mr Burnup, they had 86 of these up with only three men out; but 78 were still wanted when the sixth wicket went down. The subsequent batting honours belonged to Huish, whose promotion in the "order" was justified by his very good cricket.

29 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6183.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 10)

Play was possible at Oxford, yesterday, for only two hours and a quarter, a severe thunderstorm stopping the game at a quarter-past 1, and so soaking the ground that nothing more could be done until after 5 o'clock.

The early Somerset batsmen did fairly well. Mr Lee batted in good style and Lewis showed much patience, while Mr Woods and Robson added 38 runs in 20 minutes. After Mr Woods left at 106, Mr Evans bowled with great success. He kept a perfect length and as able to get on an effective break, the drying pitch helping him considerably.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 14)

Heavy rain fell at Oxford yesterday until past midday, and the pitch was so wet that the game could not be resumed until a quarter-past 4. Then the fourth ball bowled finished Somerset's innings, and before the drawing of stumps the University secured a considerable advantage, leaving off only 20 runs behind with seven wickets in hand. On the drying wicket bowlers were not so difficult as anticipated, and Mr Wyld hit with great freedom.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 June, page 10)

As had been the case on the two previous days, the weather ruined cricket on Saturday at Oxford, and the match had to be abandoned as a draw. During lunch-time a very heavy thunderstorm broke over the ground, which was quickly flooded, and further play was impossible.

In the two hours' cricket that took place the University lost nearly all the advantage they had gained on Friday, the last seven wickets falling for 53 runs before the bowling of Braund and Robson on a dry pitch. Mr Carlisle hit freely and well, but there was no other noteworthy feature in the batting.

28 May: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6184.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 10)

Although heavy rain fell between 11 and 12 o'clock yesterday morning, the wicket dried so rapidly that it was found possible to make a start in this match at the Oval just before 3. The feature of the cricket was the wonderful hitting of Mr Jessop. He possesses the happy capacity of being able to make the bowling look simple when other batsmen have to fight for their runs. This proved the case yesterday, for he treated all the bowlers alike, and his well-timed pulling and the way in which he stepped back and cut anything like a short ball to the boundary was, indeed, excellent.

Mr Jessop did not open his score until after the fall of the second wicket at 20, and then he made his 50 out of the next 55 runs in 25 minutes. He was out to a splendid catch by Brockwell fielding on the boundary.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 14)

In a low scoring match Surrey beat Gloucestershire, at the Oval, yesterday, by four wickets. If only for the closeness of the finish it was an interesting day's cricket. It is true that there was nothing of note in the batting, but good bowling and excellent fielding in some degree atoned for this deficiency.

The six outstanding wickets in Surrey's first innings went down for another 68 runs, and then there was nothing to choose between the sides. From this point, however, the game took a decided turn in Surrey's favour. The Gloucestershire batsmen could do little with the bowling of Lockwood and Clode, who carried everything before them. Lockwood in particular, with his splendid length and pace backed up by some good wicket-keeping by Strudwick, proved almost irresistible. Nine wickets went down for 63, and it was left to Spry, who played excellent cricket, and Roberts to make the best stand during the innings.

Everything pointed to an early Surrey victory, but such did not prove the case. With half the side out, 41 runs were still required. Lockwood and Mr Walker then put on 20 for the next wicket, the fall of which proved to be the end of the Gloucestershire success, for Mr Walker and Mr Wiltshire by steady cricket knocked up the necessary runs, and the match was over just before half-past 5. The fielding of Mr Kitcat, who brought off three good catches in the slips, and the ground-work of Mr Jessop were also worthy of mention.

Monday 1 June, page 10: THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are as follows: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	7	447	181	1	74.50
J Gunn	9	565	294	0	62.77
Mr H K Foster	10	429	120	2	53.62
Mr E M Dowson	6	308	116	0	51.33
Lord Hawke	9	279	76	3	46.50
Wheldon	7	284	71	0	40.57
W Gunn	7	283	139	0	40.42
J T Brown, sen.	9	361	125	0	40.11
Mr F B Wilson	6	199	72*	1	39.80
Mr A C MacLaren	9	298	143	1	37.25
Rhodes	9	291	96*	1	36.37
Hayes	16	509	102	1	33.93
K S Ranjitsinhji	8	235	105	1	33.57
Hirst	7	229	123	0	32.71
Hayward	15	471	107	0	31.40
Trott	7	210	103	0	30.00
Mr G L Jessop	7	203	77	0	29.00

Dr W G Grace	7	201	81	0	28.71
Mr A O Jones	9	223	66	1	28.50
Mr W Findlay	7	171	70	1	28.50
Kinneir	7	167	93	1	27.83
Lilley	7	100	44	1	26.66
Killick	9	211	54	1	26.37
Mr F H Hollins	6	157	114	0	26.16
Mr A Eccles	6	127	39*	1	25.40
Iremonger	9	228	94	0	25.33
Mr V F S Crawford	7	175	73	0	25.00
Mr C J Burnup	9	196	72	1	24.50
Llewellyn	7	121	55	2	24.20
Braund	9	192	47	1	24.00
Mr C E De Trafford	7	157	70	0	22.42
Vine	11	236	63	0	21.45
Denton	9	183	101	0	20.88
Mr K M Carlisle	7	146	37	0	20.85
Mr L Walker	15	247	54	3	20.58

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hargreave	187.1	60	315	41	7.68
Hirst	77	19	175	21	8.33
Mr W M Bradley	101.5	29	216	20	10.80
Mr W H B Evans	89.1	20	252	23	10.95
J T Hearne	126	41	298	27	11.03
Barnes	194.2	67	438	35	12.51
Trott	117.3	28	319	25	12.76
Mead	169.5	66	338	26	13.00
Rhodes	243.4	81	516	37	13.94
Lockwood	162.3	33	421	30	14.03
Mr E G Martin	136	50	295	21	14.04
J Gunn	150	59	270	19	14.21
Roberts (Gloucester)	111.2	34	311	20	15.55
Bland	180.1	46	455	29	15.68
Santall	132	35	339	21	16.14
Braund	124.4	21	334	20	16.70
Relf	136	65	443	25	17.72
Jackson (Surrey)	173.2	37	410	23	17.82

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Below will be found the present position of the counties: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Sussex	4	2	0	2	2	100.00
Warwickshire	4	2	0	2	2	100.00
Notts	5	2	0	3	2	100.00
Somerset	1	1	0	0	1	100.00
Middlesex	1	1	0	0	1	100.00
Lancashire	5	3	1	1	2	50.00
Essex	3	2	1	0	1	33.33
Yorkshire	4	2	1	1	1	33.33
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Surrey	6	1	3	2	-2	-50.00
Kent	1	0	1	0	-1	-100.00
Leicestershire	4	0	2	2	-2	-100.00
Worcestershire	4	0	2	2	-2	-100.00
Derbyshire	2	0	2	0	-2	-100.00
Gloucestershire	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00

1 June: ESSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6185.html)

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

In a bright and interesting day's cricket at Leyton, yesterday, Essex established a big advantage; and last evening Kent had begun the third innings of the match and were 111 runs behind when stumps were drawn. The wicket was false and Essex had the turn of the luck, being dependent for their strong position at the close to the vigorous play of Mr Gillingham and Buckenham.

Kent had the first innings, but Mead and Buckenham found their length at once, and helped by the pitch they were very difficult to score from. Mr Burnup made a few good hits, but Kent were soon in a bad way, and the score was only 34 when the fifth wicket went down.

Mr Blaker and Hearne put a better complexion on the game, for while Hearne was very careful Mr Blaker timed the ball well and hit hard. After a fine catch low down at cover point had disposed of Hearne, Huish stayed some time; but no one except Mr Blaker could do much with the excellent bowling and the innings was all over in a couple of hours. Mead, Buckenham and Tremlin all bowled well and were backed up by keen fielding.

Essex began well, Mr Fane, after escaping at the hands of the wicket-keeper when he had scored only a single, playing steadily and Sewell hitting hard. But when things were going so prosperously for Essex something like a collapse occurred. Mr Fane had run himself out at 56, and by the time the total was at 96 five wickets were down.

In the next hour and a half the character of the match was transformed by the free hitting of Mr Gillingham and Buckenham. The Kent bowling was collared, and between a quarter past four and a quarter to six 126 runs were added. Buckenham, whose cricket contributed so much to the Essex victory last wicket against Surrey, took many risks, but his driving was very good. Mr Gillingham was eighth out at 230 in playing back to Fairservice. From first to last his batting was marked by both freedom and precision, and there were twelve fours in his 79. Fairservice bowled very well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 8)

Essex beat Kent at Leyton, yesterday, by four wickets. The pitch throughout helped the bowlers, and Essex, though set only 89 to make in the last innings, had quite a struggle to get the runs. Blythe and Fairservice bowled so well that five wickets fell for 66. Mr Burnup and Mr Marsham both played good cricket, the runs coming mostly by drives, and so bright was the play that 50 was reached in rather more than half an hour.

However, a change soon came over the game. It began by Mr Burnup's running himself out, and soon afterwards Seymour was stumped. Mr Marsham continued to play in brilliant style, and he had made 61 out of 104 when he was cleverly caught by the wicket-keeper. After this there was a rapid downfall of Kent wickets and, though the 100 had gone up with only two men out, the innings as over for 208. The Essex bowlers never lost their length and the fielding was very keen. Mr Kortright bowled faster than he has hitherto done this season, and the wicket at the pavilion end helped him a great deal.

With Sewell caught in the slips before a run was scored, the interest in the Essex second innings at once increased. Mr Fane was caught in the slips at 22, and Mr Perrin fell to third man at 43. Mr McGahey, however, kept his side together by his steadiness, and the honours at the finish largely belonged to him, for Kent fielded brilliantly for their bowlers to the end and the victory was virtually more narrow, considering the state of the wicket, than would be suggested by a first glance at the result.

1 June: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6186.html)

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

Against Derbyshire, at Southampton, yesterday, Hampshire succeeded in putting together a total of 355. They began badly, losing four wickets to Hulme for 63, but then Llewellyn and Mr Barrett added no fewer than 231 runs. Llewellyn played a brilliant game and made no mistake until his score reached 85; but at that point he was badly missed at mid-off, and after completing his hundred he gave two chances in the long-field. Amongst his hits were a six and 20 fours.

Exercising far more caution than Llewellyn, Mr Barrett was at the wicket two hours and three-quarters for his 92. He also enjoyed a piece of luck, being missed at slip by Mr Ollivierre at 36. The Rev W V Jephson, a cousin of the Surrey cricketer, made his first appearance for Hampshire. Hulme, although freely punished at times, dismissed seven of the home team.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 8)

Yesterday's cricket at Southampton went all in favour of Hampshire, who left off in a secure position, being 313 runs ahead with only three wickets down in their second innings.

At the close of play overnight Derbyshire had scored 87 for the loss of one batsman, and yesterday the side did exceedingly well. The innings, however, was of a most uneven description, and for the success they met with Derbyshire were mainly indebted to Mr Wright and Storer, both of whom batted in splendid style. In little more than an hour and a half the two men put on 109 runs for the second wicket. When an innings on each side had been completed Derbyshire were only 83 runs behind.

On going in a second time Hampshire started disastrously, losing Webb and Stone for 16 runs, but a splendid stand was then made by Mr Sprot and Mr Hill. At first both batsmen showed considerable care, but when once they had taken the measure of the bowling they played in dashing style. For two hours they withstood all the efforts of the Derbyshire bowlers, and in that time increased the score by 200 runs. When he had made 57 Mr Sprot should have been caught at mid-off, but apart from this his cricket was free from fault.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 June, page 9)

Playing good cricket all through their match with Derbyshire, at Southampton, Hampshire, yesterday, after declaring their innings closed with six wickets down, gained a well-earned victory by 261 runs.

The fine batting of Mr Hill and Mr Sprot had placed the side in a very strong position at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday, the score of 230 for the loss of three batsmen, added to the lead of 83 on the first innings, leaving them 313 ahead with seven wickets in hand. Yesterday, Mr Hill scarcely played so well as on the previous afternoon, but he increased his overnight score of 98 not out to 150. He did not give a chance until he had completed his 100, but afterwards was twice missed.

Derbyshire were set 405 to win, and went in at 1 o'clock. Before lunch they scored 69 for one wicket. Afterwards, the batting broke down so badly that in an hour and a quarter the nine wickets fell for the addition of only 74 runs.

1 June: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6187.html)

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

About 23,000 people enjoyed a good day's cricket at Old Trafford yesterday when these neighbouring counties met for the first time this season. Lancashire played Mr Garnett, Mr Steel and Mr Findlay for the first time this summer, so that they had no fewer than eight amateurs in their team, an event which has not occurred for at least 20 years. Lord Hawke had the assistance of Mr Jackson, Hirst and Tunnicliffe again, although Hunter was absent.

Yorkshire, who batted first, remained in possession for just over four hours and a half. Denton, who came in at the fall of the first wicket at 85, was the eighth out for a splendid 98. He has twice scored 100 against Lancashire in these contests, and failed to do so yesterday owing to a rash attempt to pull Mr Steel to square leg. He skied the ball and was caught at mid-on. Although he

gave a chance to point at 51, and another hard left-handed chance six runs later, he showed exceptionally clean cricket. Driving and leg hitting were his chief means of run-getting.

Brown played in quite his old style, but Tunnicliffe was exceedingly fortunate. Lord Hawke and Whitehead were together for just over an hour for the last wicket, and in that time they put on 108 by really excellent batting. The Lancashire fielding was exceptionally smart, more particularly in their ground work. Mr Steel bowled with good judgment. At the close of the day Lancashire had 40 minutes' batting.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 8)

Another large crowd watched the continuation of this match at Old Trafford yesterday. Mr Findlay was soon caught in the slips, and Mr Spooner, after an excellent display, was beaten by a ball which broke in from the off and took his leg stump.

Then Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley gave considerable trouble. Unfortunately Mr MacLaren is suffering from water on the knee, and his cricket was quite foreign to his customary style, as he acted almost entirely on the defensive. Tyldesley also played very carefully, and the pair put on 104 for the fourth wicket. Then Tyldesley tried to pull a short-pitched ball which kept very low, and was bowled.

After lunch Mr MacLaren was caught in the slips after batting just over two hours and a quarter. Mr Jackson bowled splendidly. He dismissed Mr Hornby and Sharp in one over, and later sent back Mr MacLaren, Mr Steel and Barnes in another. Thus, when the last man - Mr Brearley - came in, 11 runs were still wanted to prevent the follow-on, but the latter hit so well that 28 runs were scored and Yorkshire were compelled to bat again. Lancashire lost their last seven wickets for 37, and Mr Jackson's analysis after lunch was 13 overs and three balls for 20 runs and six wickets.

With a lead of 130 Yorkshire had at first a bad time, for Tunnicliffe was caught at the wicket when the total was six, while Brown was bad at 22 and Hirst left at 40. These successes were, however, rapidly discounted by favours given to Denton, who had considerable luck early in his innings. After settling down he played well, and with Mr Jackson added 92 for the fourth wicket. At the close of play Yorkshire led by 267 runs and had six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 June, page 9)

Lancashire rescued themselves from the perilous position which they held overnight, and had the better of the draw at Old Trafford yesterday. In an hour and twenty-five minutes Yorkshire lost their six outstanding wickets for the addition of 78 runs, Mr W Brearley claiming five of these for 31. Denton's innings was not one of his best. He gave three chances and was eventually out in trying to pull.

Lancashire were set 346 to win, but they never made any attempt to force the game, evidently preferring a draw with honour to the risk of a reverse. Mr Garnett was third out at 247. He scored at an even rate until he was 81, but from that point was quite an hour reaching three figures. Except for two bad strokes in the slips and a chance to the wicket-keeper, when he skied a ball in making a leg hit, with his score at 83, Mr Garnett made no mistakes. The majority of his runs were made behind the wickets by late cuts.

Mr Garnett and Mr Spooner put on 102 for the first wicket, and the former with Tyldesley 92 for the second. Mr MacLaren did not bat owing to his injured knee, but if it is no worse he hopes to take the field against Kent to-day.

1 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6188.html)

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

The Leicestershire eleven were seen to excellent advantage at Leicester yesterday. Winning the toss, they made full use of their opportunity, staying in until shortly before 6 o'clock.

For their fine score they were mainly indebted to Knight, Mr V F S Crawford and Gill, all of whom in their different styles played good cricket. Gill obtained his 67 in 50 minutes, his driving being very powerful. The most productive partnership of the innings was that between Mr Crawford and Coe, who added 73 runs for the sixth wicket. The weather was beautifully fine and a large holiday crowd watched the day's play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 8)

Following up the advantage which they had gained on Monday, the Leicestershire eleven at Leicester yesterday completely outplayed London County, and left off with a victory practically assured.

So badly did the London County batsmen fare in the morning that the overnight score of 19 had only been carried to 75 when the fifth wicket fell. Mr Murdoch and Mr Reese, however, improved matters considerably, 77 runs being added for the seventh [?] wicket, both men playing free, vigorous cricket.

At the conclusion of an innings on each side London County were 180 runs behind, but Leicestershire elected to go in a second time rather than make their opponents follow on. Knight and Mr Crawford batted well, but the side were all put out in just over two hours. Mr Posthuma bowled with great effect.

London County were left with 326 to get to in, and in the last 20 minutes of the day they lost three batsmen for nine runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 June, page 9)

As was only to be expected from the position in which the game had been left overnight, Leicestershire, at Leicester, yesterday defeated London County by 165 runs. At no time was the issue in the slightest doubt.

Mr Murdoch, Mr Smith, Mr Poidevin and Mr Posthuma all played in excellent style for their runs. Mr Posthuma hit with tremendous power, making some drives out of the ground. Coe bowled with marked effect.

1 June: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6189.html)

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

A big holiday crowd assembled at Lord's yesterday - 13,095 paying for admission - and greatly enjoyed both the glorious weather and the bright cricket which characterized the opening stage of the annual Whit Monday match between Middlesex and Somerset. Lord's happily had to a very large extent - if not entirely - escaped the heavy storm which visited other parts of London on Saturday, so the game was begun upon a fine fast wicket. Batsmen made good use of such an opportunity, rather less than five and a half hours' play producing 537 runs at a cost of only 11 wickets.

Middlesex had the good fortune to win the toss and Mr Warner, who captained the team in the absence of Mr MacGregor, set his side a splendid example. He went in first and, when fifth out at 293, after a stay of rather less than three hours, had put together an admirable innings of 135. When 77 he gave a chance at point and after completing his 100 he hit out rather recklessly; but his innings was, on the whole, an admirable display of batting, the chief feature of which was his on-driving. Mr Moon helped him to raise the score to 66 for the first wicket, and Mr Beldam, who was missed before he had scored, assisted Mr Warner to add 85 runs.

So fierce was the hitting after lunch that the first 40 minutes' cricket produced 100 runs. Mr Bosanquet hit hard and Mr Nicholls made several excellent strokes, but there were eight wickets down for 337, Trott playing the quietest cricket of the day. Before the innings closed, however, Mr Griffin, Mr Hunt and Hearne all scored freely and at a great pace, Mr Hunt by distinctly unorthodox

methods hitting up 57 in 40 minutes. Altogether Middlesex were batting less than four hours and a half for their 441.

Though Braund and Robson bowled very well before lunch, there was not much in the Somerset attack afterwards. Mr Martyn kept wicket admirably, but some of the visitors' fielding left a good deal to be desired.

In face of the big total put together by Middlesex, Somerset made a capital start, Mr Palairret and Braund in 50 minutes raising the score to 96 before a catch at slip dismissed Mr Palairret, the visitors thus leaving off 345 behind with nine wickets in hand. The pitch kicked a little at the nursery end.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 8)

Yesterday's cricket at Lord's was full of interest, the fortunes of the game varying in the most striking manner. At first Somerset, who, in the face of a total of 441, had scored 96 for one wicket on Monday, fared so well that they had excellent prospects of escaping a follow-on. They soon lost Lewis, but Braund and Mr Phillips played such bright cricket that the total reached 173 with only two men out.

At that point Braund had to leave. After his dismissal Trott bowled with marked effect, Mr Phillips, Mr Woods and Major Hedley all leaving in quick succession, with the result that six wickets were down for 197. For some time afterwards the bowlers held the upper hand, Mr Martyn and Robson not only being often in difficulties, but each having several narrow escapes of losing his wicket. Again the prospects of Somerset's saving the follow-on had become very hopeful, but Robson was neatly stumped just before lunch. At the interval the visitors, with only one wicket to go down, were 160 behind. On resuming, Mr Newton and Cranfield succeeded in making the requisite 11 runs.

Mr Warner and Mr Moon started well in the Middlesex second innings; but they were both out at 42, and Mr Beldam left third wicket down at 89. Mr Robertson had already begun to hit out in attractive style, and when Mr Bosanquet joined him runs came at a great pace, the two batsmen putting on 68 in half an hour. Just before 5 o'clock, Middlesex, with 157 on the board and only three men out, were 300 ahead.

Subsequently the batting collapsed, and the seven outstanding wickets fell for the addition of only 16 runs. Major Hedley and Cranfield each took two wickets in one over, and Mr Newton and Braund brought off good catches; but neither the bowling nor the state of the ground accounted for such a striking collapse. Mr Robertson, who was eighth out at 164 to a splendid ball from Cranfield, drove hard and made a number of capital strokes to leg.

Somerset had 317 to get to win. They went in for 45 minutes' batting, and lost Mr Palairret, Braund and Lewis for eight runs. Mr Woods then hit away vigorously and put a slightly better appearance on the game; but, at the drawing of stumps, Somerset, with seven wickets to fall, still required 267 more runs. About 10,000 people watched the match.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 June, page 9)

After holding the upper hand throughout the match, Middlesex beat Somerset at Lord's yesterday by 112 runs. Somerset were left with 317 to get to win in the fourth innings, and on Tuesday night they had lost three wickets for 50.

Yesterday there never appeared any likelihood of their getting the runs. Mr Woods was out with only 13 added, but then Mr Phillips and Major Hedley carried the score to 119. Six wickets were down for 157, and the whole side was out well before the luncheon interval.

The feature of the Somerset batting was Mr Phillips's innings. He got his runs very fast, never appearing in difficulties with the bowling and making a number of beautiful strokes, especially on the off side. Towards the close of the match Hearne bowled with great success, getting out Robson, Mr Martyn and Mr Lee in quick succession. He kept a steady length and several times he came up very quickly from the pitch. Trott made a really fine catch at second slip. Robson snicked a ball off the edge of his bat, which came very fast and wide to Trott's right hand, but he just managed to reach it.

With the prospect of an early finish, there was not a very large attendance, but the excellent gates on the first two days of the match should secure a substantial benefit for William Attewell.

1 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6190.html)

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

Not for many years has there been such a splendid gate at Trent Bridge as was witnessed yesterday. Fully 15,000 people passed the turnstiles, and William Gunn, who will take half the net proceeds as a supplementary benefit, should receive a good sum.

Needless to say the success of the home team was immensely popular. Winning the toss, on a perfect wicket they remained in possession all day, scoring 420 for the loss of six batsmen. The biggest stand was made by W Gunn and Iremonger, who put on 191 for the second wicket in two and three-quarter hours. Gunn, who scored a century in his first benefit match against Surrey six years ago, repeated the performance. His 112, made without a mistake, contained 12 fours. He batted with all his old grace and skill.

Iremonger was missed by Mr Walker at cover-point off Nice when 66, but otherwise played sound cricket, while John Gunn, who came in when the bowling had lost much of its sting, hit out in vigorous style, and with Anthony put on 140 for the sixth wicket in an hour and a half. The Surrey fielding during a long and tiring day was never slack.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 8)

The bat again held the mastery over the ball at Trent-bridge yesterday, no fewer than 386 runs being scored for the loss of nine wickets, and there is little probability of a definite result being arrived at.

Overnight Nottinghamshire had scored 420 for six wickets. Three-quarters of an hour sufficed to finish the innings. John Gunn was batting just under three hours for his runs, and in recognition of his fine performance a few county members in the pavilion subscribed £14 10s, which was given to him during the tea interval.

With the wicket still in perfect condition Abel and Hayward made a promising start for Surrey, putting on 92 for the first wicket. Profitable stands were also made by Abel and Hayes and Lockwood and Mr Walker. Abel at first batted with some freedom, but subsequently he was extremely slow, at one time occupying three-quarters of an hour for ten runs.

The brightest batting was shown by Hayes, who forced the game, until he was finely caught at cover point. At the close Surrey were only 144 behind with half their wickets in hand. Over 8,000 people watched the cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 June, page 9)

The concerning stage of William Gunn's complimentary benefit match at Trent-bridge aroused very little interest, the state of the game when stumps were drawn on Tuesday almost precluding the possibility of a definite result.

Surrey by no means maintained their good form of the previous day, and against some fine bowling by Pennington, who during the morning took four wickets for 41 runs, their remaining five wickets fell for an addition of 79. Nottinghamshire were left with a lead of 64.

George Gunn and Iremonger made a promising start, scoring 73 for the first wicket. Before the century was reached, however, the three Gunns had all been dismissed. Mr Dixon and Mr Jones made an effective stand, and when Nottinghamshire declared their innings closed only an hour and 40 minutes remained for play.

Naturally Surrey made no effort to force the game, but Hayes played another bright and attractive innings. The bowlers derived no assistance from the wicket, but they were backed up by splendid fielding.

1 June: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6191.html)

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

The feature of the opening day's play in this match at Brighton yesterday was a magnificent performance by Mr Jessop. He has done many brilliant things during his career, but nothing better than his 286. His score is not only the highest he has made in first-class cricket, but his runs were obtained in a more orthodox manner than is usual with him. His driving was beautifully timed, while he made a number of clean safe cuts past point.

Considerable praise must be awarded Board for the assistance he gave his captain. The pair came together at 129, and their partnership realized 320 in two hours and a half, before K S Ranjitsinhji got rid of Mr Jessop by means of a fine catch in the deep field. Altogether he had been at the wickets two hours and fifty minutes, and the only blemish upon his display was a hard chance to Marlow at mid-on when he had scored 98. He made no fewer than 41 fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 8)

At the close of play at Brighton yesterday Sussex occupied an unfavourable position, as it is practically certain they cannot save the follow-on. With only one wicket to fall in their first innings they still require 131 runs.

Rain fell in the morning, and although it stopped at about 10 a resumption was not practicable until after 1. At the outset of the Sussex innings the ball came along quite easily, and Mr Fry and Vine put on runs at a good rate. The former hit out in his customary vigorous fashion. Beautifully timed drives and well-placed cuts were the features of his batting. He was eventually well caught by Mr Jessop after the partnership had lasted an hour and 35 minutes.

The sun was now shining with some power, and the altered condition of the pitch soon became apparent, for Vine was out with seven added; while K S Ranjitsinhji and Killick both left at 131. At the same total Mr Smith should also have been dismissed, Nott failing to hold a very easy chance. He was again let off by the same fieldsman after he had scored six. Subsequently he hit out freely and added 20 in 20 minutes. Mr Jessop secured his wicket with another brilliant catch in the country.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 June, page 9)

A fine innings by K S Ranjitsinhji saved the situation for Sussex yesterday, for when he went to the wickets the prospect of his side making a draw appeared remote. Overnight, Sussex had lost nine wickets in their first innings and still required 131 to save the follow-on, but continuing, Marlow and Tate made such a good stand that 64 runs were added.

Starting their second innings at 1 o'clock, with the wicket playing as well as at any time during the match, Sussex had a reasonable chance of saving the game, but the start was most disastrous, as Mr Fry was bowled by a ball which he never attempted to play, while Vine left when the score was only ten.

It was at this stage that K S Ranjitsinhji came to the rescue, and as he found useful partners in Killick and Relf the innings defeat was averted with four wickets down. Towards the finish Mr Smith hit vigorously, and at the close Sussex, with six wickets in hand, were 109 runs ahead. K S Ranjitsinhji was batting four hours, a difficult chance at square leg, when he had made 107, being the only blemish on his cricket.

1 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6192.html)

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

Some keen and thoroughly interesting cricket was seen yesterday at Worcester, and so much progress was made with the match that 20 wickets fell for an aggregate of 309 runs.

Hot sunshine following a heavy storm rendered the pitch very treacherous, and it is doubtful if Warwickshire gained any advantage by batting first. At one time, indeed, they seemed certain to finish up with all the worst of the position; but in the last hour they pulled the game round. Their innings was all over by lunch time, Keene and Arnold, who bowled unchanged, getting rid of the side for 92 runs. Of these Lilley made nearly half, he being the only batsman able to play the good bowling with any confidence.

When Worcestershire went in they lost three men for 22, but at this point Mr H K Foster and Mr R [E] Foster came together and it was due to them that the Warwickshire total was passed with seven wickets in hand. Altogether the partnership produced 94 runs in an hour before Mr H K Foster was out. When he had been got rid of the batting broke down again, Mr Isaac being the only one of the remaining batsmen to offer any resistance. The Warwickshire bowling and fielding was not so good as usual, Hargreave, who should have been very difficult to play on the damaged wicket, being unable to get a length.

Worcestershire thus gained a lead of 64 runs on the first innings, but before play ceased Kinneir and Mr Fishwick succeeded in clearing off all but three of this number.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 8)

There was a most interesting day's cricket at Worcester yesterday. First one side and then the other appeared to have the advantage, but at no time was it very pronounced, and when play ceased the position held out every promise of a good finish to-day. With the wicket much improved, batsmen had an easier task than on Monday, and several men gave fine displays, Quaife and Charlesworth for Warwickshire and Wheldon and Arnold for Worcestershire playing admirably.

Warwickshire, who with all their wickets in hand began the day three runs behind, did not fare too well at the start, and with only 126 runs on the board four of their best men were out, but at this point Quaife and Lilley put on 60 in less than an hour. This was followed by a fine innings on the part of Charlesworth, and in the end Worcestershire were set 208 to get to win.

At the start of the Worcestershire innings Field bowled very well, and when Mr H K Foster, Mr R E Foster and Bowley had been dismissed for 75, there seemed to be a great chance for Warwickshire. Indeed, it would not have been surprising had two or three more wickets fallen before the close; but Wheldon and Arnold batted with great judgment, and when stumps were drawn Worcestershire, with seven wickets to fall, required 94 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 June, page 9)

After a great struggle, Worcestershire, at Worcester, yesterday gained their first victory this season, defeating Warwickshire by three wickets.

When play began in the morning Worcestershire were in a highly promising position, requiring only 94 runs to win with seven wickets still to fall. Arnold and Wheldon, the overnight not-outs, by sound, steady cricket raised the score from 114 to 146, when Wheldon was bowled. Nicholls failed, and when at 161 Arnold was bowled, 47 runs were still wanted with only four wickets to fall. Fortunately for Worcestershire, Gaukrodger offered a most determined resistance and won the match for his side. He found a very valuable partner in Bird.

4 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6193.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 9)

The University team at Cambridge yesterday differed in five instances from that which opposed Yorkshire last week, Mr Harper, Mr Bompas, Mr Eyre, Mr Lambert and Mr May taking the places of Mr Fry, Mr Howard-Smith, Mr Wilson, Mr Marsh and Mr Godsell.

Worcestershire made a capital start, the score being taken to 97 before the second wicket fell, but afterwards Arnold, who played a faultless innings, met with very poor support. When Cambridge went in to bat, Mr Eyre was leg before at 28, but Mr Ebden played in his best form and, assisted by Mr Mann, raised the score to 75.

The turning point in the fortunes of the day came with the partnership of Mr Dowson and Mr Ebden, who added 129 runs. Mr Ebden made no mistake during a stay of nearly two hours and a half. At the drawing of stumps the University, with seven wickets in hand, already possessed a lead of 37 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 12)

At Cambridge, yesterday, the University added 160 to their overnight score of 228, and led on the first innings by 197 runs. Mr Dowson's innings, which lasted about two hours, included 11 fours. When six wickets had fallen Mr Harper, who was playing in very finished style, found an excellent partner in Mr Hirsch, and they put on 76 runs.

On Worcestershire's going in Mr H K Foster and Wheldon scored 145 together for the first wicket, but the partnership ought not to have been nearly so productive, Mr Foster enjoying great luck. He gave a difficult chance at extra-cover point when he had made 12, and was twice badly missed by Mr Lambert before completing his 50. Mr Hirsch, in trying to make the first catch, split his hand and had to leave the field.

The arrears on the first innings were hit off while Mr Foster and Arnold were together, and at the drawing of stumps Worcestershire, with eight wickets in hand, held a lead of 44 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 11)

At Cambridge on Saturday the bad beat the ball so completely that in the course of the day 483 runs were scored and only four wickets went down.

At the beginning of play the position of Worcestershire was not altogether free from anxiety; but Arnold and Bowley, the not outs, brought their side out of danger, staying together for over two hours and punishing the Cambridge bowling with great severity. In all, they put on 221 runs for the third wicket. Arnold, who was out to a catch at mid-on, had the satisfaction for the second time in the match of making over a hundred. Bowley and Cuffe added 71 together, and then both were caught at point. The ten minutes to 4 the innings was declared closed.

Cambridge had 320 to get. Though they could not win, they did extremely well and had the better of the draw. Mr Dowson was in his happiest vein and hit splendidly all round the wicket. He and Mr Mann, after the first wicket had fallen at 55, put on 153 runs in an hour and a quarter.

4 June: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6194.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 9)

Kent, who began their annual match at Old Trafford yesterday, won the toss and naturally availed themselves of a capital wicket. Despite this they did not begin well, for they lost Mr Burnup, Mr Dillon, Mr Marsham and Mr Mason before lunch for only 79 runs.

Afterwards, however, the younger members of the team, and chiefly the professionals who have been coached at the Tonbridge nursery, greatly distinguished themselves. Seymour and Humphreys, for the fifth wicket, not only doubled the score but added 123 before they were separated. Humphreys played fine cricket, scoring all round the wicket. Seymour, who went in at the fall of the second wicket,

was the ninth to leave. He was in 25 minutes before he obtained a single, and was missed in the slips at 15 by Mr Steel, and at extra cover by Mr Brearley at 55. This is his first hundred in county cricket.

When Lancashire went in Blythe bowled Ward at 6 and Mr Steel at 20, and at the close of play Lancashire, with seven wickets to fall, were 301 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 12)

Lancashire have an uphill fight against Kent at Old Trafford, for play went all in favour of the visitors yesterday. Lancashire lost their seven outstanding wickets for 138 runs. Except Tyldesley none of the batsmen showed any capacity to deal with the bowling.

Tyldesley went in when four wickets had fallen for 38 and was the seventh out at 149. He hit harder than usual, his driving and cutting being very severe. With Sharp he put on 53 in 25 minutes. His departure seemed to be the signal for a general collapse, as Blythe, who was put on again at 147, dismissed Tyldesley, Barnes and Sharp in four balls, and finished off the innings in his next over. He thus obtained four wickets in three overs for five runs.

Although possessing a lead of 163 Mr Burnup decided that Kent should bat again and, as heavy rains stopped the play at 5 o'clock, it seems as if Lancashire will be lucky to escape from defeat. Kent, with four wickets in hand, are now 310 runs ahead. Mr Dillon again played well, but the best batting was that of Seymour, who showed more confidence and resource than on the previous day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 11)

On Saturday afternoon, Kent won this match at Old Trafford by 177 runs. It was evident when play was resumed in the morning that the rain on Friday had slightly softened the surface of the ground, but this did not explain the extraordinary collapse of Lancashire when the wicket had had time to recover.

Lancashire had been left requiring 334 runs to win. Mr Garnett, going in first, made a splendid effort to put his county on the road to success. At luncheon the total was 119 for two wickets, but afterwards 50 minutes sufficed to finish off the innings for another 37 runs. Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley were out in consecutive overs, while Sharp and Cuttell were dismissed in an over. After lunch, Blythe took four wickets for 12 runs.

The result of the match may be regarded as a triumph for the young players trained at the Tonbridge nursery for Kent cricket. This season Lancashire have not won a match on their own ground. They drew with Warwickshire and Yorkshire, and were beaten by Sussex and Kent.

4 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6195.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 9)

There was some interesting cricket in this match at Leicester yesterday. Surrey won the toss, but the wicket in the earlier part of the day did not play well, the ball getting up considerably at one end. Five wickets fell for 99 runs, and seven were down for 121. Lees, however, played a fine hitting game for his side, and with Richardson added 55 for the last wicket.

When Leicestershire went in the wicket had improved, and for a time they seemed likely to secure a lead. With two wickets down the total was 105. Afterwards, however, the match went in favour of Surrey; and at the close of play Leicestershire with four wickets in hand were 84 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 12)

There was another interesting day's cricket at Leicester yesterday, and though fortunes of the game fluctuated in the course of the day, Surrey at the close had established an advantage, for with two wickets in hand they are now 281 runs ahead.

Leicestershire added 76 to their overnight total. Mr Davis, who was in for two hours, played a very patient but somewhat tedious innings.

Surrey's lead of seven runs was increased to 57 before the first wicket fell, but a shower during the interval made the ball kick at one end for some time, and in quick succession Hayward, Hayes and Holland were taken at the wickets off balls that got up high and quickly, while Abel, after a characteristic innings, made in an hour and a half, cut a ball from Gill into his wicket. Then Mr Walker and Lockwood added 67 by admirable cricket, Mr Walker hitting freely, while Lockwood played his usual sound game.

It was left to Lees, however, to alter the aspect of the game. When he came in six wickets had fallen for 166, but in the next 65 minutes 108 runs were added to the score. Lees got his runs by fine forcing play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 11)

Interest in this match at Leicester was maintained to the end, Surrey eventually winning by 28 runs.

Leicester were set 297 to win, and when the sixth wicket fell at 150 Surrey's success seemed assured. Knight, who had been batting admirably after an indifferent start, was then joined by Mr Davis. The latter again proved difficult to get out. In the hour before the tea interval, the partnership produced 67 runs, so that on the resumption Leicestershire, with four wickets still to fall, required only 73 runs to win.

At 237, however, Mr Davis, after batting for 75 minutes and helping to increase the score by 81 runs, was caught at mid-on. Another wicket fell two runs later; but Mr Odell, favoured by a little luck, stayed with Knight until only 29 runs were required. Richardson then finished the innings and the match by getting Mr Odell taken in the slips and bowling Jayes with a fine ball in the same over. Knight carried out his bat for a very fine innings, marred by only one chance when he had made 62, and characterized by clean cutting and skilful placing.

Surrey's victory was in the end mainly due to the fine bowling of Richardson, who showed all his old powers of endurance. He took the last four wickets for 34 runs. Lees followed up his fine batting by bowling with great steadiness.

4 June: LONDON COUNTY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6196.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 9)

The feature of the opening day's cricket at the Crystal Palace, yesterday, was the batting of Mr Fowler and Wrathall, who put on 277 runs for Gloucestershire's first wicket in a little over two hours and a half.

Of the two Wrathall's was the more attractive innings; he is always a good batsman to watch, and yesterday he was seen at his best. He possesses a variety of strokes, but his best was his drive, which at times was quite brilliant. After passing his 100, he made one or two risky strokes in the slips, but these detracted little from his display. He made one slip drive off Dr Grace out of the ground for six, and hit 24 fours.

Mr Fowler, who has never before made a century in county cricket, also played well. He was strong on the leg side and also made some good drives. By comparison, the rest of the batting was devoid of incident, although Huggins showed good form. Mr Jessop ought to have been stumped before he had scored, but this made practically no difference, as he skied a ball to Dr Grace and was easily caught. Dr Grace bowled excellently; his figures, however, suffered by mistakes in the field.

When London County went in Nott was given a trial as wicket-keeper, and his stumping of Mr Reese was very neat.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 12)

The fortunes of the game completely turned at the Crystal Palace yesterday; for after having all the worse of the opening day's cricket London County not only recovered their lost ground but were left in practically a winning position.

For this change London County were chiefly indebted to Dr Grace for his splendid batting and the bowling of Mr Hesketh Prichard and Kermode. London County started badly and four wickets were down for 25 runs. Mr Poidevin, however, helped Dr Grace to put on 124 for the next wicket. But the turning point was reached when Dr Grace and Mr Douglas added 121 for the seventh.

Dr Grace was ninth out at 311, being caught by Spry from a lofty hit. Altogether he was batting just over three and a half hours and his chief hits were 20 fours. Although making several dangerous strokes - he was missed deep on the on-side by a substitute fielding for Mr Jessop before he had scored - he played magnificent cricket. His placing to leg was as well-timed as ever, indeed his cricket generally was worthy of the master. This is Dr Grace's highest score in first-class cricket since he made 168 for Gloucestershire at Trent-bridge in 1898.

Up to the close of the London County innings the bat had held the upper hand, but on going in a second time, Gloucestershire collapsed before the bowling of Mr Hesketh-Prichard and Kermode. No one showed any confidence and the innings was over in an hour and a quarter.

London County had a short spell of batting before the close, and when stumps were pulled up for the day they only required 122 runs to win with all their wickets in hand. Mr Jessop, owing to a chill, was unable to take any part in the day's cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 11)

London County beat Gloucestershire at the Crystal Palace on Saturday by seven wickets. Some such result was fully anticipated, as the collapse of the Gloucestershire batsmen in their second innings had left London County only 148 runs to get in order to win, and 26 of these had been made overnight without loss.

The wicket on Saturday was still in good condition, and London County had an easy task. The feature of this match was the splendid all-round cricket of Dr Grace.

4 June: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6197.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 9)

After a most interesting day's cricket at Lord's yesterday, Middlesex left off with a decided advantage, as with five wickets still to fall they had passed their opponents' total by 28 runs. In both their previous matches this season Middlesex have played good cricket, and they may congratulate themselves on a really fine performance yesterday.

Hearne accomplished a splendid bowling feat, taking four wickets for two runs just after luncheon, and the other great factor of their success as the batting of Mr Bosanquet. He went in when four wickets were down for 92 and the game in an even position, and by a magnificent bit of hitting enabled his side to finish the day in a most favourable position.

When Yorkshire went in the wicket certainly was not perfect, the ball at times getting up uncomfortably high, but there was not to account for their being out for a small total. They lost Tunnicliffe at 32, but then Brown and Denton carried the score to 97 for the second wicket, and at lunch time four wickets were down for 149. Brown and Denton both played good cricket, but neither of their innings was so attractive as Mr Jackson's. He timed the ball perfectly and made a number of

beautiful strokes all round the wicket before he was deceived by a ball from Trott, which seemed to come slow off the pitch.

After lunch Yorkshire collapsed entirely and the remaining wickets fell for an addition of eight runs. Hearne had gone on to bowl at the pavilion end before lunch, and all through he had kept a good length and made the ball come back quickly. Afterwards he proved quite irresistible. He had not for a long time bowled nearly so well as he did yesterday.

When Mr Warner and Mr Moon started against Rhodes and Mr Jackson the ball needed a great deal of watching. Both batsmen played steady cricket at first. When they got set, however, they both made a number of fine strokes. Mr Moon was lucky in being missed off an easy chance by Mr Jackson, but his innings was the brighter of the two, his forward cuts being particularly good. He was first out, when the score was 84, and Mr Warner followed at the same total. Two more wickets fell quickly.

Then Mr Bosanquet joined Mr Nicholls and the pair added 84 before being separated. From the start of his innings Mr Bosanquet played a hitting game - he treated all the bowlers alike and though, as was natural, he made a few miss-hits, the majority of his strokes were beautifully clean and hard. Hirst was absent from the Yorkshire team and his bowling was very much missed.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 12)

Yorkshire never recovered at Lord's yesterday, and at the close of play, with only three wickets to fall in their second innings, they were still 15 runs behind. Time and again in the past they have shown themselves a fine side at a crisis, and it is quite possible that Haigh and Lees Whitehead may add a good number of runs this morning; but, with only Wainwright and Higgins to follow, the position of the team is practically hopeless.

Middlesex, starting with their great advantage, played good cricket all day. In the morning there was some sound, steady batting all through, and a most useful stand by Rawlin and Hearne for the last wicket; and when Yorkshire went in again the bowling and fielding, with the exception of a rather bad miss by Mr Warner, was excellent.

Overnight Middlesex had scored 185. On resuming all the remaining batsmen showed good form. Mr Hunt hit very hard and made several fine drives. The ninth wicket fell at 290, but then Hearne and Rawlin got together and added 59 runs before they were separated.

Yorkshire went in again with 192 runs to get to save the innings defeat. They lost Tunnicliffe, who was beautifully caught by Mr Hunt, at 3, and with Denton and Mr Jackson out with the score at 35 their prospects of saving the innings defeat looked doubtful. Lord Hawke came in third wicket down, and with Brown, who had batted steadily from the first, made a great effort to save the side. Both players had to fight hard for their runs as the bowling was always difficult, but they played safe, steady cricket.

Just as they appeared to be well set and were beginning to score more freely, Mr Warner put Mr Bosanquet on at the nursery end, and the latter, who bowled his leg-breaks very well, got Lord Hawke out with the score at 106. Brown followed five runs later and, with half their wickets down for 111, Yorkshire were again in a very bad state. Lees Whitehead, however, who went in much earlier than usual, played a fine game for his side.

The bowling never looked easy to play. Perhaps Mr Hunt was the best. He bowled very fast and, coming from a great height, the ball got up quickly and high from the pitch and he often had the batsmen in difficulties. He should prove a great acquisition to the Middlesex side. The light during the last half-hour was very bad and stumps were drawn at 20 minutes past 6.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 11)

Yorkshire, as was only to be expected from the position in which the game was left on Friday night, were defeated, for the second time this season, at Lord's on Saturday, when they were beaten by nine wickets. The champion county was not at its full strength, but in any circumstance the performance of Middlesex must have been considered a very good one.

Middlesex started the season with prospects which were not [particularly] bright; but they have won their three county matches; and individually and collectively they are, at the present time, a fine

eleven. Throughout the match with Yorkshire they played the better cricket; their bowling was extremely good, their fielding keen and their batting most consistent. Yorkshire never recovered from the effects of their collapse in the first innings and from the mistakes in the field which enabled Middlesex to gain such a substantial lead.

Overnight Yorkshire, with three wickets in hand, still required 15 runs to save the innings defeat. When play was resumed, their last three wickets fell for an addition of 63 runs. Lees Whitehead, who was last out, played a fine game.

With only 49 required to win, Mr Warner was got out almost at once, but Mr Moon and Mr Beldam played Haigh and Rhodes with confidence and the end was soon reached. Lord Hawke, owing to injuries, did not field.

4 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6198.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 9)

The excellence of the Trent Bridge wickets received further testimonial yesterday, when Essex, who were fortunate enough to win the toss, kept Nottinghamshire in the field all day. The visitors, who played Mr A P Lucas in the place of the Rev F H Gillingham, obtained their runs at a very slow pace for the greater part of the time, and it was not until after the tea interval that Mr Perrin, who took just over two hours to reach his 50, enlivened the game by some spirited hitting, scoring 41 in half an hour.

The most profitable stand was made by Mr Perrin and Mr Lucas, who put on 152 for the fifth wicket. Mr Perrin's century is the eighth scored at Trent Bridge this season. He was missed by Anthony in the deep field when he had made 49, but the chance was a difficult one, and on the whole the Nottinghamshire fielding left little to be desired. There was not much sting, however, in the bowling.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 12)

Essex had the better of yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge, and when the eighth Nottinghamshire wicket fell and 37 were required to save the follow-on the home side were in an exceedingly awkward position; but some plucky batting by Hallam and Taylor put quite a different complexion on the game, and another draw now appears certain.

The four remaining Essex wickets added 60 runs in 50 minutes, Mr Perrin being the first to leave. He was exceedingly slow to watch in the early part of his innings, but subsequently he made runs at a good pace. He was missed at 59, but the catch was a difficult one. Despite the large total it is noteworthy that there was only one extra, and that was a no-ball.

A heavy shower fell as Nottinghamshire went out to bat; but fortunately it did not last long enough to affect the wicket, which played as easily as on the opening day. Nottinghamshire made a promising start with Mr Jones and Iremonger, who put on 70 for the first wicket. Subsequently the side were always in difficulties, but Hallam and Taylor, by plucky hitting, added 72 in 40 minutes. At three close Nottinghamshire were 100 behind with one wicket in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 11)

This match at Trent-bridge on Saturday resulted in a draw. The feature of the play was the batting of Mr Perrin, who, for the second time in the match, scored over a hundred.

Essex evidently considered victory out of the question from the start on Saturday. On going in a second time with a lead of 98 they made no attempt to force the pace, and when they might have declared with safety Mr Kortright deferred exercising his prerogative in order to give Mr Perrin a chance of scoring his second hundred. This was accomplished, but by somewhat tedious methods, as Mr Perrin was batting three hours and 40 minutes and made only four fours.

4 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6199.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 9)

The M.C.C. and Ground team at Oxford, yesterday, was not a very strong one, and the University had the better of the day's cricket. Winning the toss did not carry with it the advantage that had been anticipated, and so disastrously did the M.C.C. and Ground begin, that with five wickets down they had only scored 42.

Had Mr Cunliffe shortly afterwards been caught at slip, when he had made five, it is quite possible that the side would have been out for about a hundred. Profiting by his escape, however, he hit splendidly, and with Mr Eccles added 78 runs before another wicket fell. Mr Eccles played a different game, and being content to score at quite a moderate pace, occupied two hours in making his runs. Later on, Mr Arkwright and Mr Hartley gave useful assistance. Mr Evans again bowled remarkably well.

There was a sensational start to the Oxford innings, two wickets falling in one over with only six runs scored. After this the bowling was mastered, Mr McIver and Mr Carlisle batting so well that their partnership realized 86 runs. Mr McIver all through played delightful cricket. As the game stands, Oxford are only 63 runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 12)

Both sides blundered very badly in the field at Oxford yesterday, the mistakes made by the University late in the afternoon being very numerous.

Oxford entered upon the second stage of the game at a considerable advantage, as with eight wickets to fall - the match being 12 a-side - they were within 63 of their opponents' total. For all that, they only secured a lead of 17, the eight wickets going down, despite bad fielding, for the addition of 80 runs. Mr McIver was let off three times yesterday in adding 29 to his score. Coleman bowled in fine form.

The M.C.C. and Ground began their second innings by losing five wickets for 88; but Mr Cunliffe, who was missed at 9, and Mr Hoare at 25, hit up 89 for the sixth wicket. Oxford to-day, with an innings to play, require 232 to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 11)

Despite a fine performance by Mr Carlisle and Mr Pawson, who scored 104 runs for the sixth wicket, the University were beaten at Oxford on Saturday by 24 runs. They were set 232 to make in the fourth innings, and although they had scored 66 before the second wicket fell, they had five men out a little later for 86.

Then came the splendid partnership referred to, in which Mr Pawson batted soundly and Mr Carlisle hit finely. When once they were separated, however, the M.C.C. and Ground bowlers, especially Mr Arkwright, obtained the upper hand again, and the last five wickets fell for an additional 17 runs.

4 June: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6200.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 9)

The wickets at Hastings have been so good for the past few years that the moderate display given by Somerset yesterday came as a considerable surprise. Four wickets down for 28 and nine for 101, it being left for the last pair, Robson and Cranfield, to make the biggest stand of the innings. The

former gave the best batting display on his side, although early in his innings he had to retire temporarily through a blow on the leg.

The Sussex innings was marked by bright cricket, Mr Fry, K S Ranjitsinhji and Killick all scoring freely with delightful strokes. Mr Fry made most of his runs by characteristic drives, while K S Ranjitsinhji displayed all his usual variety of strokes. Killick played a sound defensive game, but when he hit he picked his ball with great judgment and made a number of fine hooks to leg and late cuts. He was out, after batting two hours and 20 minutes, just before the time for drawing stumps.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 12)

The fielding of the Sussex eleven yesterday at Hastings was brilliant and contributed in no small degree to their easy victory. Mr Fry, K S Ranjitsinhji and Relf all made splendid catches and, with everything thus coming off, the Somerset batting broke down before lunch, six wickets then being down for 85 runs.

With the visitors still 70 runs behind, an innings defeat appeared probable; but a fine display by Mr Martyn and a useful contribution from Mr Newton necessitated Sussex going in again to get 59. Mr Martyn was batting an hour and 35 minutes, and his hits, mostly drives, included 12 fours.

In the second innings of Sussex, Mr Fry gave a splendid exhibition of perfectly timed driving, and in a quarter of an hour scored 40. When there appeared no chance of the regular bowlers effecting a separation, Mr Woods put on Mr Johnson and Mr Major, and each succeeded in taking a wicket before the few runs required were hit off, Sussex winning shortly after 5 o'clock by eight wickets.

Friday 5 June, page 9: THE ARRIVAL OF THE PHILADELPHIAN CRICKETERS

The team of Philadelphian cricketers arrived at Liverpool yesterday in the Majestic and left for London by the special boat train. There were 13 players, but two more will arrive next week by the Oceanic, and the full team will be as follows: -

Mr J A Lester, captain, Mr R D Brown, Mr J B King, Mr A M Wood, Mr F H Bates, Mr R H Clark, Mr E M Cregar, Mr P N Le Ray, Mr J H Scattergood, Mr H A Haines, Mr N Z Graves, jun., Mr T C Jordan, Mr F H Bohlen, Mr C C Morris and Mr F Sharpless.

The players, questioned on the subject of the wider wicket, said that in Philadelphia they did not favour the change, and pointed out that their wickets were not so good as English wickets, and consequently they did not find that the bat beat the ball sufficiently to make it worth while widening the wicket.

Monday 8 June, page 11: THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr E M Dowson	8	524	122*	1	74.85
Mr C B Fry	11	621	181	2	69.00
John Gunn	12	761	294	1	68.27
Mr G L Jessop	9	495	286	0	55.00
Mr P Perrin	10	487	170	1	54.11
Knight	12	534	144*	2	53.40
Arnold	13	565	128	2	51.36
Mr H K Foster	14	610	120	2	50.83
K S Ranjitsinhji	11	454	182*	2	50.44
Quaife	8	299	130	1	42.71
Tyldesley	8	387	73	0	40.87
W Gunn	10	408	139	0	40.80
J T Brown, sen.	13	519	125	0	39.92

Wheldon	11	437	71	0	39.72
Lord Hawke	13	383	79	3	38.80
Hayes	20	694	102	2	38.55
Mr C McGahey	10	307	110*	2	38.37
Llewellyn	11	307	148	3	38.37
Dr W G Grace	10	343	150	0	38.30
Mr A O Jones	12	361	77	2	36.10
Mr A C MacLaren	12	367	143	1	33.38
Hayward	19	613	107	0	32.26
Denton	13	417	101	0	32.07
Iremonger	12	381	94	0	31.18
Sharp	12	349	120	1	31.72
Killick	12	331	77	1	30.09
Sewell (Essex)	14	391	90	1	30.07
Mr A Eccles	10	179	39*	4	29.53
Lilley	9	236	44	1	29.50
Wrathall	13	372	150	0	28.61
Hirst	9	257	123	0	28.53
Seymour	8	226	127	0	28.25
G Gunn	12	197	59	5	28.14
Rhodes	13	329	96*	1	27.41
Mr V F S Crawford	11	300	73	0	27.27
Mr K M Carlisle	9	242	65	0	26.88
Mr C D McIver	8	214	99	0	26.75
Mr E W Mann	8	186	69*	1	26.57
Charlesworth	9	231	64	0	25.66
Kinneir	9	198	90	1	24.75
Trott	10	238	103	0	23.80
Whitehead (Leicester)	12	284	62	0	23.66
Mr W L Murdoch	9	187	57	1	23.37
Mr L O S Poidevin	9	210	69	0	23.33
Gill (Leicester)	11	248	100	0	22.64
Braund	13	265	73	1	22.03
Bowley	14	287	149	1	22.07
Tunnicliffe	9	195	62	0	21.66
Mr L Walker	18	321	54	3	21.40
Mr F L Fane	8	171	35	0	21.37
Mr C J Burnup	13	256	72	1	21.33
Mr R H Spooner	10	210	73	0	21.00
Mr C H M Ebdon	8	165	50	0	20.62
Mr L G Wright	8	163	72	0	20.37
King	14	285	127	0	20.25
Mr W Findlay	10	178	70	1	19.56

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hirst	90	19	183	21	8.71
Hargreave	241.1	77	443	47	9.42
Mr W H B Evans	129.5	32	253	21	11.38
J T Hearne	255.5	72	518	42	12.33
Blythe	150.2	56	312	24	13.00
Mr W M Bradley	120.5	33	284	21	13.52
Mead	242.5	90	464	32	14.50
Hulme	128	28	253	24	14.70
Mr E G Martin	187	72	384	26	14.76
Trott	191.1	48	569	37	15.37
Santall	167.5	47	411	26	15.80
Bland	214.1	58	529	32	16.53
Buckenham	138.3	22	384	23	16.69
Lockwood	222.1	45	592	35	16.91
Barnes	303.3	87	748	44	17.00
Roberts (Gloucester)	148.2	45	378	22	17.09
Cranfield	177.5	47	521	29	17.96
Relf	253.5	85	648	36	18.00

Richardson	178.1	34	512	26	19.80
Rhodes	366.4	116	776	39	19.89
Arnold	278.3	83	644	32	20.12
J Gunn	256.5	108	550	27	20.37
Mr W B Brearley	179.5	31	567	27	21.00
Llewellyn	161	29	498	23	21.65
Bird	210.2	45	588	27	21.77
Hallam	241.5	81	501	23	21.78

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	3	100.00
Sussex	6	3	0	3	3	100.00
Notts	7	2	0	5	2	100.00
Hampshire	1	1	0	0	1	100.00
Essex	5	3	1	1	2	50.00
Warwickshire	5	2	1	2	1	33.33
Lancashire	7	3	2	2	1	20.00
Yorkshire	6	2	2	2	0	0.00
Surrey	8	2	3	3	-1	-20.00
Worcestershire	5	1	2	2	-1	-33.33
Somerset	3	1	2	0	-1	-33.33
Kent	3	1	2	0	-1	-33.33
Leicestershire	5	0	3	2	-3	-100.00
Gloucestershire	5	0	3	2	-3	-100.00
Derbyshire	3	0	3	0	-3	-100.00

8 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6201.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 12)

This match was begun at Cambridge yesterday in fine though windy weather. As it was the first match of the visitors' tour, considerable interest was displayed and a good number of spectators witnessed the game.

Mr Lester won the toss and sent in Mr Bohlen and Mr King to face the bowling of Mr Dowson and Mr Howard-Smith. Neither batsman appeared altogether comfortable on the very fast wicket, and with only 16 on the board Mr King was well caught by Mr Dowson at second slip. Mr Lester filled the vacancy and runs began to come at a steady pace, both batsmen making some fine strokes on the off side.

When he had made 40 Mr Bohlen was missed at short slip off Mr Roberts, and shortly afterwards Mr Lester was missed by the wicket-keeper standing back. This latter mistake proved expensive, for Mr Lester immediately began to play with far more confidence and freedom. However, with the total at 112, Mr Bohlen was dismissed by a good ball from Mr Roberts. He had played attractive cricket, his innings being marked by many beautiful strokes on the off side and by the precision with which he forced balls on the leg side to the boundary. After his departure two more wickets quickly fell before lunch, the score then being 124 for four.

After lunch Mr Lester continued to play splendid cricket; but he could get no one to stay with him except Mr Brown, who made several good drives and helped his captain to add 40 for the sixth wicket. With his own score at 87, Mr Lester gave two hard chances to Mr Howard-Smith, who was bowling from the top end, the second of which split the bowler's finger and compelled him to retire. Just as he was within reach of his 100, Mr Lester was bowled in attempting to hit one of Mr McDonnell's slows. He had played a fine innings, of which cutting and clean driving, principally on the off side, were the distinctive features.

Cambridge started their innings about half-past 4, Mr Ebden and Mr Godsell facing the bowling of Mr King and Mr Clark. The former bowls fast right hand, with a curious high action, which he varies considerably at times. The latter is a medium pace right hander, who bowls principally on the off side.

At first runs came quickly, but the batting soon sobered down, both batsmen playing rather tentatively at balls on the off side, Mr Ebden being missed in the slips with his score at 12. However, the score rose steadily, though Mr Lester (slow right) bowled instead of Mr King, and Mr Cregar (medium right) instead of Mr Clark. With the total at 86, Mr Ebden played a ball from Mr King, who had changed ends, on to his wicket.

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

Owing to intermittent showers it was impossible to continue this game at 11 yesterday as arranged. A start was made, however, shortly before 12. The rain had made the wicket rather tricky and, the bowlers keeping an excellent length, runs came very slowly.

Mr Dowson had only scored four when he was missed at short slip off Mr Clark. This mistake proved expensive, as afterwards he played a fine innings, though he was somewhat fortunate at times. Mr Roberts and Mr McDonell made a long stand for the last wicket and added 101 runs before Mr Roberts was smartly stumped. Mr King and Mr Clark bowled admirably, but not with the best of luck, their analysis hardly representing the excellence of their work.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 June, page 11)

Cambridge won this match at Cambridge yesterday by six wickets. In order to make sure of a definite result, it was arranged to begin at half-past 10. The wicket was rather difficult owing to heavy rain during the night; and the scoring in consequence ruled very slow.

Mr Lester played an extremely patient and careful innings; he made several beautiful strokes, but in the circumstances he might have adopted rather bolder tactics. He watches the ball admirably and is undoubtedly the best bat on the side. After his departure the rest of the side offered no serious resistance to the bowling of Mr Dowson and Mr Roberts.

Cambridge required 55 runs to get to win. This proved by no means an easy task, for with Mr King and Mr Clark bowling extremely well on the somewhat treacherous pitch, three good wickets were soon down for 19 runs. Moreover, Mr Mann was missed twice before he scored. Profiting by his escapes, however, Mr Mann played an admirable innings and was mainly instrumental in winning the game for his side.

8 June: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6202.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 12)

Essex played much the better cricket at Leyton yesterday, and at the close of the day they possessed a great advantage. Derbyshire's score of 136 exceeded the total that was promised when the first five wickets went down for 43. Mr Wright found only one player to aid him very much, and that was Humphries, who stayed while 40 were added for the sixth wicket. Buckenham, with the wind to help him, bowled at a great pace from the top end, and his analysis was another proof of his usefulness to Essex this season.

The cricket between 3 o'clock and 5 was marked by the innings of Mr Fane, who, profiting by the slackness in the field, scored rapidly, getting nearly all his runs in front of the wicket. While he and Mr Perrin were in the Derbyshire score was passed with only one wicket down. Mr Perrin's century is his third in succession, for he got two at Trent Bridge at the end of last week.

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

The Derbyshire eleven did much better yesterday at Leyton. With Mr Perrin unable to complete his innings, owing to the bad blow on his left hand from the last ball on Monday night, the seven outstanding Essex batsmen were got out for an addition of 79 runs.

Derbyshire had to face arrears of 224, and 170 of these were hit off by Storer and Mr Forester for the second wicket. Afterwards little could be done with the bowling of Mead and Buckenham.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 June, page 11)

Cricket was only possible at Leyton yesterday at half-past 4, and the hour then left for play was insufficient to finish the match. When stumps were pulled up at 6.30 and the game was drawn Essex wanted only 22 runs to win and had all ten wickets in hand.

Three-quarters of an hour were taken by Young and Mead to get down the four outstanding Derbyshire wickets, and then there were a couple of overs in the last innings of the match, and 11 of the 33 runs necessary to decide the game for Essex were got.

8 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6203.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 12)

Gloucestershire secured first innings at Bristol yesterday, and once more they were largely indebted to Mr Jessop for the success which they met with. On this occasion, however, he received greater support than in any previous engagement of the season. He did not score with his customary freedom, and spent three hours and five minutes making his runs.

When he went in three wickets had fallen for 37; still, if he was slower and more orthodox than usual, his batting lost little in consequence.

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

Rain seriously curtailed play at Bristol, yesterday. In the two hours and a half that the game was in progress Gloucestershire fully maintained the advantage which they had gained on the previous day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 June, page 11)

Owing to more rain no definite result could be reached in this match at Bristol yesterday. During the time that the game was in progress six wickets fell for 186 runs.

8 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6204.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 12)

Leicestershire had decidedly the better of the day's cricket at Lord's yesterday, for at the close of play with three of their opponents out, they possessed a lead of 238.

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

The M.C.C. and Ground retrieved their position in this match at Lord's yesterday, chiefly owing to another fine bowling performance by J T Hearne, and at the close of the day they had a slight advantage, requiring only 76 runs to win, with half their wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 June, page 11)

Owing to the rain this match at Lord's yesterday was abandoned . . .

8 June: SURREY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6205.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 12)

The opening day's play in the return match between these counties at the Oval yesterday left Surrey with the better position. Up to a certain point Worcestershire gave promise of making a larger score, as at the luncheon interval they had made 138 for three wickets. On resuming, however, the bowling of Richardson proved too good for most of the remaining batsmen; the ball in particular which took Gaukrodger's wicket was a splendid one - it came back and just removed the leg bail.

The best form was shown by Arnold, who was caught at the wicket from a rising ball. He played fine cricket from start to finish and scarcely made a bad stroke. Richardson, who bowled with Lees unchanged after lunch, met with great success, his figures being six wickets for 66 runs. Apart from one mistake, Strudwick kept wicket well and Lees bowled much better than his analysis would indicate.

Surrey went in at a quarter to 5, and the batting of Hayward and Abel enabled them to finish up the day 134 runs behind with nine wickets in hand. Both, however, were missed in the slips by Nicholls off Arnold, Hayward at 16 and Abel at 32.

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

This match was rather unexpectedly brought to a conclusion at the Oval yesterday, Surrey winning by an innings and 60 runs.

Heavy rain in the early morning had made the wicket very soft. There was a good drying wind, however, and the sun was never sufficiently powerful to make the pitch difficult. Surrey's nine outstanding wickets fell for 265 runs. Wilson, a slow left-hander from Kidderminster, bowled exceedingly well.

On going in a second time at 20 minutes to 5, 131 runs behind, Worcester collapsed badly against Richardson and Clode. Richardson showed some of his old form with the ball, and in the match he took 13 wickets for 135 runs.

8 June: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6206.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 12)

Having suffered two defeats at Taunton and Lord's, the Yorkshire eleven began the first match of their home season against Sussex at Bradford yesterday. No better wickets are obtainable throughout Yorkshire than at Bradford, and Sussex having the good fortune to bat first on a perfect pitch kept the home county hard at work throughout the whole of the day. Hirst was again unable to play for Yorkshire, and to make matters worse for the side, Tunnicliffe met with an unfortunate accident soon after the start, and will probably take no further part in the match.

Mr Fry and Vine played steady cricket for upwards of an hour, and had scored 46 when the latter was caught in the slips off Haigh. It was in making this catch that Tunnicliffe met with his injury, the ball travelling high up to his right hand and opening an old wound, which he incurred in the match with Somerset.

Mr Fry and Killick added 105 runs for the second wicket, and with K S Ranjitsinhji as his next partner, Mr Fry completed his century. The bowling was terribly knocked about during the afternoon.

K S Ranjitsinhji was missed by Hunter at the wicket when 32, and Yorkshire paid dearly for this mistake.

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

Owing chiefly to Mr Fry's magnificent innings, Sussex had all the better of the second day's play at Bradford, yesterday. The Yorkshire batsmen cut up badly against the bowling of Relf and Cox. Tunncliffe did not bat owing to his injured hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 June, page 11)

Sussex, at Bradford yesterday, beat Yorkshire by an innings and 180 runs. Lord Hawke and Mr Jackson will, owing to injuries, be unable to play for Yorkshire against Warwickshire to-day.

Tuesday 9 June, page 12: THE SURREY ELEVEN

Mr L Walker has been definitely appointed captain of the Surrey Eleven for the rest of the present season.

11 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6207.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 June, page 11)

This match was begun at Cambridge yesterday in cold and cheerless weather. Cambridge batted first on a fairly easy wicket. Mr Godsell was soon out, but Mr Ebdon and Mr Mann added 60 runs before the former was caught at extra-cover. Mr Mann played a really good innings, marred only by two difficult chances in the slips. The rest of the team, with the exception of Mr Keigwin, who played very well, failed before the bowling of Lees.

Surrey entered on their first innings shortly after 4 and, thanks to a stand of 117 for the second wicket by Hayward and Holland, left off in a favourable position.

Mr Dowson gave Mr E W Mann his blue yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 14)

Surrey beat Cambridge at Cambridge yesterday by ten wickets. The feature of the cricket was a magnificent piece of bowling by Lees in the Cambridge second innings.

11 June: ESSEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6208.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 June, page 11)

Play was only possible for a few minutes at Leyton yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 14)

On the soft wicket at Leyton, yesterday, great progress was made with this match. Mead bowled particularly well, getting his seven wickets in his last 11 overs for 17 runs, while he had not even a single made from him when taking his last four.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 June, page 13)

Owing to the rain there was no play on Saturday in four of the seven matches, which had to be abandoned . . .

11 June: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6209.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 June, page 11)

Rain at Southampton, yesterday, delayed the start of this match until after lunch. Several of the Leicestershire batsmen were indebted to mistakes in the field for their useful scores. Whitehead, when 20, was let off, King was twice missed, and Gill should have been caught before he had scored.

Whitehead and King batted brightly, forcing the game well on the slow and rather easy pitch. Gill made 35 out of 42 in a quarter of an hour and hit a six and six fours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 14)

Hampshire had to bat on a difficult wicket at Southampton yesterday. Mr Hill played in such brilliant form that, at the close of an innings on each side, the home team were only 20 runs behind. Going in second wicket down, Mr Hill in 100 minutes hit up 100 out of 137, the total when he left standing at 192.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 June, page 13)

Cricket was in progress only 40 minutes at Southampton on Saturday, rain coming on and continuing to fall so heavily that at 2 o'clock it was decided to abandon the game as a draw.

11 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6210.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 June, page 11)

No cricket was possible, owing to the weather, in the following matches yesterday: -
Lord's. - Middlesex v Nottinghamshire . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 14)

The wicket was still too wet to admit of a start being made in this match at Lord's yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 June, page 13)

What would otherwise have been a very interesting match was entirely spoilt by the weather. No play had been possible at Lord's on the first two days, and on Saturday the cricket was restricted to an hour and a half.

11 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6211.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 June, page 11)

Play was only possible for a short time at Oxford yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 14)

The Philadelphians at Oxford yesterday finished off with an advantage. Overnight they had scored 73 for one wicket, but when play was resumed no one except Mr Lester and Mr Graves gave much trouble.

The subsequent play went entirely in favour of the bowlers. None of the Oxford batsmen could do anything with Mr King, who bowled splendidly on a wicket which gave him some assistance. On going in a second time with a lead of 127 the Philadelphians fared badly against the bowling of Mr Burn and Mr Whately.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 June, page 13)

Play was only possible for about 20 minutes at Oxford on Saturday.

11 June: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6212.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 June, page 11)

No cricket was possible, owing to the weather, in the following matches yesterday: -
. . . Bath. - Somerset v Lancashire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 14)

A great improvement in the weather was experienced at Bath yesterday. With a bright sun, the wicket steadily became more difficult, and few of the batsmen on either side made much headway against the good bowling which they had to deal with.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 June, page 13)

Owing to the rain there was no play on Saturday in four of the seven matches, which had to be abandoned . . .

11 June: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6213.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 June, page 11)

The eleven that represented Yorkshire at Birmingham yesterday was without six members of last season's championship team. No amateur was included in the side and the duties of captain devolved upon Hunter, the senior professional. Rain had made the wicket at outfield rather slow.

Yorkshire, who won the toss, lost a wicket in the first over before a run had been scored. Denton, however, played a sound defensive innings, but at the luncheon interval four wickets were down for 84. Wilkinson and Rhodes subsequently made the best stand of the day and added 66 runs for the sixth wicket. Haigh and Wainwright also batted well. The Warwickshire fielding was good throughout and several excellent catches were made.

Warwickshire had 25 minutes' batting. They should have lost Kinneir's wicket in Rhodes's third over. The batsman gave a chance in the slips, which Wilkinson failed to hold.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 14)

There is every prospect of a close finish in this match at Birmingham to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 June, page 13)

Owing to the rain there was no play on Saturday in four of the seven matches, which had to be abandoned . . .

11 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6214.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 June, page 11)

Owing to heavy rain on Wednesday, play was not possible at Worcester until 1 o'clock yesterday. In the absence of sunshine, the pitch did not dry rapidly enough to help the bowlers very much; but the light was often bad and Worcestershire did well to stay in until 20 minutes past 6.

Bowley, who went in first and was sixth out at 160, played admirably for three hours. He drove hard, placed the ball cleverly on the leg side and did not make a bad stroke. Mr Jobson played soundly for an hour, during which 56 runs were added, and, after the fall of the seventh wicket at 169, Mr Isaac and Bird batted very steadily, their partnership realizing 48 runs. Mr Isaac showed specially good form, his hitting all round the wicket being well timed.

Blythe bowled admirably, keeping a good length and getting on an appreciable break; the ball left the turf slowly or he would have been still more difficult.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 14)

The wicket at Worcester had by no means recovered yesterday from the effects of Wednesday's rain, and was much more difficult than on Thursday. No batsman met with much success except Mr Burnup, who played beautiful cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 June, page 13)

Owing to the rain there was no play on Saturday in four of the seven matches, which had to be abandoned . . .

Monday 15 June, page 13: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Sussex	8	4	0	4	4	100.00
Middlesex	4	3	0	1	3	100.00
Notts	8	2	0	6	2	100.00
Hampshire	2	1	0	1	1	100.00
Essex	7	3	1	3	2	50.00
Warwickshire	6	2	1	3	1	33.33
Lancashire	9	3	2	4	1	20.00
Surrey	9	3	3	3	0	0.00
Yorkshire	8	2	3	3	-1	-20.00
Somerset	4	1	2	1	-1	-33.33
Kent	4	1	2	1	-1	-33.33
Worcestershire	7	1	3	3	-2	-50.00
Leicestershire	6	0	3	3	-3	-100.00
Gloucestershire	6	0	3	3	-3	-100.00

Derbyshire 4 0 3 1 -3 -100.00

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	14	911	234	2	75.91
Mr G L Jessop	10	653	236	0	66.30
J Gunn	13	766	294	1	63.00
Mr P Perrin	12	608	170	2	60.80
Mr E M Dowson	12	623	122*	1	56.33
Knight	16	656	144*	3	50.46
K S Ranjitsinhji	14	553	162*	3	50.27
Arnold	17	670	128	2	44.68
Lord Hawke	15	475	79	4	43.18
Mr H K Foster	18	664	120	2	41.50
W Gunn	10	408	139	0	40.80
Mr C McGahey	12	402	110*	2	40.20
Hayward	21	817	130	0	38.90
Hayes	20	694	102	2	38.55
Mr A C MacLaren	15	486	143	2	37.83
Dr W G Grace	10	363	150	0	36.30
Tyldesley	11	395	73	0	35.90
Llewellyn	12	313	148	3	34.77
Mr A O Jones	13	361	77	2	32.81
J T Brown, sen.	17	551	125	0	32.41
Denton	17	546	101	0	32.11
Sewell (Essex)	17	474	90	2	31.60
Killick	15	405	77	2	31.15
Iremonger	13	399	94	0	30.69
Sharp	14	399	120	1	30.69
Wheldon	15	459	71	0	30.60
Mr F B Wilson	10	244	72	2	30.50
Mr A Eccles	10	179	89*	4	29.83
Lilley	10	265	44	1	29.44
Mr F L Fane	10	286	90	0	28.60
Mr E W Mann	12	309	69*	1	28.09
Wrathall	14	375	160	0	27.78
Mr L G Wright	10	238	72	1	26.44
G Gunn	13	207	59	5	25.87
Mr V F S Crawford	14	362	73	0	25.85
Kinneir	10	230	90	1	25.55
Trott	12	295	103	0	24.58
Bowley	18	417	149	1	24.62
Mr K M Carlisle	10	242	66	0	24.20
Whitehead (Leicester)	16	350	62	0	23.75
Dexter	10	118	38*	5	23.60
Mr C J Burnup	16	330	72	1	23.57
Rhodes	16	377	96*	1	23.56
Charlesworth	10	231	64	0	23.10
W Wainwright	14	275	50*	2	22.91
Gill	14	318	100	0	22.71
King	18	385	127	1	22.64
Braund	16	335	73	1	22.33
Lees Whitehead	10	172	45*	2	21.50
Mr R H Spooner	14	279	73	1	21.46
Buckenham	12	192	58	3	21.33
Cox	12	189	55	3	21.00
Storer	19	210	89	0	21.00
Mr L Walker	20	352	54	3	20.70
Anthony	11	186	52*	2	20.56

Mr C H M Ebden	12	247	90	0	20.53
Mr J F Byrne	10	204	57	0	20.40
Mr T H Fowler	10	200	114	0	20.00
Mr W Findlay	10	176	70	1	19.55

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hirst	80	19	183	21	8.71
Hargreave	297.1	102	560	51	10.83
Blythe	208.3	72	432	37	11.67
J T Hearne	263.3	87	670	57	11.75
Mr W M Bradley	120.5	33	284	21	13.52
Mr W H B Evans	151.5	37	434	32	13.56
Mead	246	129	542	47	13.65
Young	169.3	63	382	25	14.48
Mr E G Martin	187	72	384	28	14.76
Mr R C W Burn	155.5	31	389	27	14.77
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	130.5	31	385	26	14.80
Trott	224.1	55	668	41	16.24
Buckenham	184.3	36	516	31	16.64
Lockwood	222.1	45	592	36	16.91
Hulme	165	35	466	27	17.25
Santall	197.5	56	471	27	17.44
Richardson	258.1	57	743	43	17.69
Bland	243.1	63	694	33	18.00
Relf	316.5	108	763	42	18.16
Cranfield	191.5	48	574	31	18.51
Barnes	344.3	106	873	47	18.57
Roberts	187.2	58	461	24	19.20
Lees	262.5	76	636	33	19.27
Clode	165	40	446	22	20.27
J Gunn	285.5	108	650	27	20.37
Mr W B Brearley	271.1	35?	725	35	20.80
Bird	265.2	53	729	35	20.82
Huggins	234.4	80	585	28	20.92
Rhodes	466.4	149	973	45	21.62
Hallam	241.5	81	501	23	21.78
Mr W W Odell	291.1	69	860	39	22.05
Mr E M Dowson	193.1	46	537	24	22.37
Braund	257	48	768	33	22.68
Tate	276.2	72	758	32	23.63
Arnold	344.3	100	805	34	23.70
Llewellyn	215	46	646	27	23.92

15 June: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6215.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 11)

Play was possible at Chesterfield yesterday for only about two hours and a half.

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

Derbyshire outplayed Surrey at every point at Chesterfield yesterday, and finished with practically a winning advantage. Heavy rain during the night was followed by bright sunshine, and the wicket became so treacherous after the first hour or so that run-getting was a matter of some difficulty.

When play was resumed, in a little over half an hour Derbyshire, thanks to some free hitting by Warren, added 51 to their overnight score.

When Surrey went in the effect of the sun upon the turf was beginning to be felt, and in half an hour before lunch Surrey did so badly as to lose Abel and Hayward for 16 runs. Hayes and Holland subsequently carried the score to 57, but then came a sensational collapse and the last seven wickets went down in half an hour for 11 runs. At the close Derbyshire, with two wickets in hand, held a lead of 260 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

At Chesterfield yesterday Derbyshire gained a brilliant victory over Surrey by 111 runs. Derbyshire had secured such a great advantage on Tuesday that their success was practically assured. They were, however, almost robbed of a win, bad light causing several delays, while directly after the match was over rain began to fall.

Surrey had to make 265 runs in the last innings and, though the wicket was not quite so difficult as on the previous afternoon, it gave the bowlers considerable assistance.

15 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6216.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 11)

Rain prevented play yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Cheltenham. - Gloucestershire v the Philadelphians . . .

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

The Philadelphians were seen to considerable advantage at Cheltenham yesterday. Their favourable position was mainly due to Mr Lester, who bowled with great judge, and Mr King, who batted in capital style. Gloucestershire were severely handicapped by Mr Jessop being called away to London, owing to the illness of his wife. Mr H C Manners took his place.

Owing to the heavy rain of the previous days, the game was not begun until 2 o'clock. Although the ground had recovered in a surprising manner, it was still very dead, and the Gloucestershire batsmen shaped so badly that they were dismissed in two hours and ten minutes. Langdon and Mr Barnett alone made any stand against the admirable bowling of Mr Lester and Mr Clark. Mr Barnett took an hour to score ten, and his sound defence proved more successful than the efforts of some of his colleagues to force the game.

The Philadelphians passed their opponents' total with only two men out. Mr King and Mr Wood made 34 in the first 15 minutes. The wicket became more difficult as the day advanced, and then Huggins and Cranfield bowled so successfully that in the last half-hour five men were dismissed. Mr Cregar

enlivened the cricket with some hard hitting, and at the close of play the Philadelphians held a lead of 45 runs, with three wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

Gloucestershire fared so badly at Cheltenham yesterday that they were beaten by an innings and 26 runs. At the close of play on Tuesday the Philadelphians had secured a strong position, as with three wickets still in hand they had established a lead of 45 runs. Their innings only lasted another quarter of an hour, but owing to the free hitting of Mr Cregar 24 were added.

Gloucestershire on going in a second time 69 runs behind at no time looked like reaching that number. The wicket drying rapidly under the bright sunshine was most treacherous and not a man on the side was able to adapt his play to the conditions which prevailed. Mr Lester again bowled splendidly and brought his record for the match up to 11 wickets for 33 runs. Mr Scattergood supported Mr Lester admirably at the wicket.

Cranfield, a slow right-hand bowler, made a promising first appearance for Gloucestershire. Mr Bohlen strained his side while fielding and Mr Haines took his place.

15 June: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6217.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 11)

Rain prevented play yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Tonbridge. - Kent v Sussex . . .

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

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Tonbridge. - Kent v Sussex . . .

The wicket at Tonbridge has been so much affected by the rain that it has been decided to abandon the game altogether.

12 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6218.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 11)

Rain prevented play yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Leicester. - Leicestershire v Warwickshire.

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

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Leicester. - Leicestershire v Warwickshire.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

Cricket was possible yesterday at Leicester, but only for about two hours.

12 June: MIDDLESEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6219.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 11)

Rain prevented play yesterday in the following matches: -
Lord's. - Middlesex v Essex . . .

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

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the following matches: -
Lord's. - Middlesex v Essex . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

Owing to the weather, the following matches yesterday had to be abandoned: -
Lord's. - Middlesex v Essex . . .

12 June: SOMERSET v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6220.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 11)

Rain prevented play yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Bath. - Somerset v Hampshire . . .

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

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Bath. - Somerset v Hampshire . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

Owing to the weather, the following matches yesterday had to be abandoned: -
. . . Bath. - Somerset v Hampshire.

12 June: YORKSHIRE v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6221.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 11)

Cambridge were not at full strength for their return fixture with Yorkshire at Sheffield yesterday. In the absence of Mr Dowson, Mr Harper captained the side.

Yorkshire were without the services of seven of their regular team, the alterations from the side which opposed Warwickshire being the substitution of Mr R W Frank and Newstead for J T Brown, sen., and Myers. The game was several times suspended owing to rain and the wretched light which prevented.

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

On a wicket that always favoured their bowlers Yorkshire beat Cambridge University at Sheffield, yesterday, by 206 runs. Their victory was mainly due to the fine bowling of Haigh and Rhodes, who

found the wicket exactly to their liking. During the match Haigh secured 12 wickets for only 52 runs. During the day 19 wickets fell for 208.

18 June: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6222.html)

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

Hunter, who captained the Yorkshire team at Derby yesterday, won the toss and sent his opponents in to bat. The wicket was soft and it was thought that it would just suit Rhodes and Haigh.

This proved erroneous, for the wicket, though slow, proved quite easy. Mr Wright played a fine forcing innings for Derbyshire, this being the only feature of interest in their batting. The chief success with the ball for Yorkshire was obtained by Ringrose, the Hull fast bowler. Hirst returned to the Yorkshire team, but he was not able to bowl at his usual pace.

Yorkshire gave a feeble display before the bowling of Bestwick and Hulme. They had five wickets down for 28 runs, six for 42 and seven for 67. Rhodes and Haigh then became partners and kept together during the last hour and added 55 runs to the score without being separated. At the close Yorkshire were only 11 runs behind and had three wickets in hand.

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

The Yorkshire team at Derby, yesterday, recovered the ground which they had lost on the previous day. Rhodes and Haigh again batted well, and they were not separated until they had added 93 for the eighth wicket. As the result of this excellent stand, Yorkshire, who had lost five wickets for 28 runs, were able to claim a lead on the first innings of 51.

When Derbyshire went in a second time Mr Wright again batted brilliantly. There was also some good cricket by Warren and a fine display of hitting by Mr Lawton. Yorkshire had to go in the second time requiring 144 runs to win. Denton batted steadily, and at the close of play they wanted only 57 runs and had seven wickets in hand.

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

The Yorkshire eleven on Saturday defeated Derbyshire, at Derby, by seven wickets. Three wickets had fallen in Yorkshire's final innings on Friday evening, and 57 runs were still required to give them a victory.

These were obtained in three-quarters of an hour by Hirst and Smith, the winning hit being made by Hirst at 25 minutes past 12. Hirst played perfect cricket and Smith showed better form than in his previous matches for Yorkshire.

18 June: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6223.html)

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

The Essex batting broke down, at Leyton, yesterday before the bowling of Hargreave, who was unchanged at the pavilion end during the innings, which lasted two hours and a half. Warwickshire established a strong position by getting within three runs of the Essex score with only three men out.

One of the best things in the day's cricket was the wonderful running catch in the long field by Mr Fane when he got out Mr Byrne.

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

Owing to the weather there was no play yesterday in the following matches. The scores thus remain: -
. . . Leyton. - Essex, 78; Warwickshire, 75 (for three wickets) . . .

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

Owing to the weather there was no play in the following matches on Saturday, which consequently were abandoned, with the following scores: -
. . . Leyton. - Essex, 78; Warwickshire, 75 (for three wickets) . . .

18 June: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6224.html)

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

The heavy rains that prevented any play in the first match of the Tonbridge week had left the Angel ground very soft, and yesterday batsmen were always in difficulties. The wicket became more treacherous as it dried, and Kent, who were fortunate in winning the toss, left off with a lead of 177 runs and seven wickets in hand.

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

Owing to the weather there was no play yesterday in the following matches. The scores thus remain: -
. . . Tonbridge. - Kent, 148 and 60 (for three wickets); Gloucestershire, 31 . . .

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

Owing to the weather there was no play in the following matches on Saturday, which consequently were abandoned, with the following scores: -
. . . Tonbridge. - Kent, 148 and 60 (for three wickets); Gloucestershire, 31 . . .

18 June: LANCASHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6225.html)

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

In cold and cheerless [weather] London County made their first appearance at Old Trafford yesterday.

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

There was some heavy scoring in this match at Old Trafford yesterday, and only seven wickets fell for 492 runs. Mr Eccles hit splendidly for a faultless innings, which included 18 fours. Hallows also played extremely well. Gill finished off the Lancashire innings quickly by taking four wickets in two overs for ten runs.

London County, who were 376 behind, lost Dr Grace, who played on, at 14, but Mr Murdoch and Mr Wood put on 210 without being separated. Mr Murdoch played the best cricket of the match, making 101 out of 157 in an hour and a quarter. He never made the least mistake, showing a complete mastery over the bowling. London County are now 152 behind and have nine wickets to fall.

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

The extraordinary turn which the game took on Friday afternoon was continued throughout Saturday and this match at Old Trafford actually ended in a draw in favour of London County.

The visitors, who were 376 in arrears on the first innings, were well served by Mr Murdoch and Mr Wood, who in three hours added 226 for the second wicket. Mr Murdoch played magnificently from start to finish without giving a chance. Mr Poidevin was even more successful, as going in when Mr Wood was dismissed he carried out his bat. Mr Poidevin is quite of the modern Australian school, for he believes in making runs without the slightly risk. He scored well all round the wicket and was easily master of the bowling. He received much assistance from Mr Smith and Mr Brewer.

Lancashire going in a second time with 222 to win fared so badly that they lost five wickets in 40 minutes owing to a few deadly overs from Gill.

18 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6226.html)

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

At Trent Bridge yesterday there was a full and interesting day's cricket in which Nottinghamshire gained a slight advantage.

The feature of the Philadelphians' batting was the stand by Mr Lester and Mr Bohlen, who, in rather less than two hours, by faultless cricket, added 132 for the third wicket. At lunch the visitors' total was 116 for two wickets. Subsequently, however, Wass bowled splendidly, taking five wickets for 28 runs, of which 13 were scored by Mr Lester in one over, before he obtained his first wicket. The fielding all round was excellent, not a single catch being missed throughout the day.

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

The Philadelphians had much the better of the cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday. They disposed of the five remaining Nottinghamshire batsmen for an addition of 35 runs, and then going in a second time finished the day with practically a winning advantage.

The feature of their batting was a fine display by Mr Morris, who gave but one chance, and that a difficult one to William Gunn at point at 65. Mr Lester and Mr King also played well. The cold weather made matters unpleasant for the out side, but the fielding was again good.

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

The Philadelphians, at Trent-bridge, on Saturday, gained a decisive victory over Nottinghamshire by 185 runs. When the visitors resumed their innings the last wicket gave unexpected trouble. Seventy-four runs were added in three-quarters of an hour, and then the innings was declared closed.

With 406 to get and five hours left for play Nottinghamshire had little chance of success. They again opened with George Gunn and Hardstaff, but from the start they were in difficulties, and the only stand of note was that by John Gunn and Mr Staunton, which added 73 for the fifth wicket. J Gunn, who went in second wicket down and was last out, played a fine forcing innings and was unfortunate in being brilliantly caught when four short of his century. The Philadelphians again fielded very well.

18 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6227.html)

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

Surrey had the better of the opening day's play at the Oval yesterday, in the return match between these sides, and at the end of an innings each they held a lead of 73 runs. For their position at the close of play Cambridge had mainly themselves to blame, for dropped catches considerably helped the Surrey total.

On the soft wicket, which naturally gave the bowler some assistance, Surrey made an indifferent start by losing four of their best batsmen for 55 runs. Mr Walker stayed with Lees for some time, but at lunch the score was 95 for five wickets.

When the game was resumed Surrey continued to fare badly and eight of the side were out for 115. At this period Lees was joined by Strudwick, and by some good hitting 52 runs were added in half an hour. Lees, who is far from being a finished batsman, made very few bad strokes and again proved of great assistance to his side. The Cambridge fielding was very poor. Mr McDonell, with his slow leg-breaks, was the best of the Cambridge bowlers, and he, like Mr Keigwin, suffered from mistakes in the field.

Cambridge began their innings shortly after 4 o'clock, and they never appeared able to recover from their bad start. The wicket when they were batting, when the effects of the roller had worn off, was probably more difficult than it had been earlier in the day, and the light at times was bad. But taking everything into consideration they ought to have done better.

Mr Mann made some good strokes on the on-side, on one occasion hitting Clode out of the ground for six. The majority of the batsmen, however, found the bowling too good for them. The fifth wicket fell at 82; then came a collapse, and the last five wickets only added another 14 runs.

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

Mr Dowson gave Mr R P Keigwin, Mr H C McDonell and Mr F B Roberts their blues at the Oval yesterday.

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

Owing to the weather there was no play yesterday in the following matches. The scores thus remain: -
Oval. - Surrey, 169; Cambridge University, 96 . . .

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

Owing to the weather there was no play in the following matches on Saturday, which consequently were abandoned, with the following scores: -
Oval. - Surrey, 169; Cambridge University, 96 . . .

18 June: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6228.html)

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

Brighton during the week has escaped the heavy rain, and the wicket at Hove yesterday was up to its usual excellence. With the two counties still undefeated considerable interest is attached to the match. Yesterday at the close of play the advantage rested with Sussex, as Middlesex, with three wickets down, were 256 behind.

The strong position held by Sussex was chiefly due to Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji. Mr Fry made his runs out of a total of 177, while K S Ranjitsinhji was at the wickets two hours and 50 minutes, during which time 199 runs were scored. Although the Middlesex bowlers made the ball break but little, and then only occasionally, they required a good deal of playing, Mr Beldam and Hearne keeping a splendid length.

During the hour Middlesex went in the light was indifferent, but this fact does not altogether explain their bad start. Mr Warner was the only one to bat with any degree of confidence. With the last run he scored Mr Fry brought his aggregate up to 1,000 runs for the season.

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

Owing to the weather there was no play yesterday in the following matches. The scores thus remain: -
. . . Brighton. - Sussex, 237; Middlesex, 31 (for three wickets).

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

Owing to the weather there was no play in the following matches on Saturday, which consequently were abandoned, with the following scores: -
. . . Brighton. - Sussex, 237; Middlesex, 31 (for three wickets).

18 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6229.html)

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

In the opening of the match at Worcester yesterday the Worcestershire eleven entirely outplayed their opponents. The breakdown of the Hampshire batting was in no way due to the state of the ground. In taking first innings on a soft pitch, which was too wet to permit of cricket before half-past 2, the visitors seemed to have secured an advantage, but they failed lamentably before the bowling of Wilson and Arnold. Maintaining a great pace Wilson made the ball swerve in a puzzling manner, and Arnold kept a good pitch. The Hampshire innings had quite a sensational termination, the last five wickets falling at the same total.

That there was nothing the matter with the wicket was made clear when Worcestershire went in. Mr H K Foster and Bowley scored 156 runs for the first wicket in an hour and 40 minutes. Mr Foster played very finely, making no mistake. He drove with great power on the off-side and placed the ball cleverly to leg. Bowley, who was third out at 213, was lucky in being missed when 66, but no other fault could be urged against him. Worcestershire finished up in a very strong position, being, with six wickets in hand, 103 runs on.

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

The averaged which they had secured on Thursday enabled Worcestershire to beat Hampshire at Worcester, yesterday, by an innings and 77 runs.

Hampshire played up much better than on the previous afternoon, dismissing the last six Worcestershire batsmen for 84 runs, but this left them in a minority of 241 - a practically hopeless position - and they again fared badly against the admirable bowling of G Wilson and Arnold. Five wickets fell for 62 runs and, though Mr Sprot and Mr Bacon stayed together an hour and added 78 runs, the match was over at a quarter to 4.

Arnold and Wilson had capital records in the match - the former took eight wickets for 77 and the latter 11 for 90. Mr Hesketh-Prichard bowled very effectively early in the day, taking four wickets for 20 runs.

Monday 22 June, page 9: THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	15	1000	234	2	76.92
J Gunn	15	904	294	1	64.57
Mr G L Jessop	11	671	236	0	61.00
Mr P Perrin	13	616	170	2	56.00
K S Ranjitsinhji	15	652	162*	3	54.53
Mr E M Dowson	13	632	122*	1	52.66
Knight	16	656	144*	3	50.46
Quaife	11	376	130	3	46.87

Mr H K Foster	19	743	120	2	43.70
Lord Hawke	15	475	79	4	43.18
Arnold	18	677	128	2	42.31
Mr A Eccles	12	322	126	4	40.25
Mr A C MacLaren	17	549	143	3	39.21
Mr L O S Poidevin	11	387	172*	1	38.70
Mr C McGahey	13	417	110*	2	37.90
Hayes	23	772	102	2	36.76
Hayward	24	873	130	0	36.37
Mr L G Wright	14	460	78	1	35.38
Mr W L Murdoch	11	352	155	1	35.20
W Gunn	12	421	139	0	35.08
Denton	21	719	101	0	34.23
Tyldesley	13	433	73	0	33.30
Dr W G Grace	12	391	150	0	32.58
Hirst	11	325	123	1	32.50
J T Brown, sen.	17	551	125	0	32.41
Lees	12	353	75*	1	32.09
Killick	16	431	77	2	30.78
Iremonger	13	399	94	0	30.69
Sharp	14	390	120	1	30.09
Sewell	18	481	90	2	30.06
Wheldon	16	480	71	0	30.00
Mr A O Jones	15	382	77	2	29.38
Llewellyn	14	319	148	3	29.00
Bowley	19	519	149	1	28.83
Seymour	11	287	127	1	28.70
Mr F L Fane	11	311	90	0	28.27
Kinneir	12	305	90	1	27.72
Mr V F S Crawford	14	362	73	0	25.85
G Gunn	15	258	60	5	25.80
Rhodes	19	460	98*	1	25.66

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hargreave	325	112	502	50	10.20
Hirst	120.2	29	280	26	10.76
Blythe	219.5	77	444	39	11.38
J T Hearne	292.3	87	741	60	12.35
Mr W M Bradley	120.5	33	284	21	13.52
Mead	363	132	677	50	13.54
Mr W H B Evans	151.5	37	434	32	13.56
Mr H C McDonell	118.2	19	332	24	13.83
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	145.5	33	441	30	14.70
Mr E G Martin	187	72	384	26	14.76
Mr R C W Burn	155.5	31	399	27	14.77
Young	172.3	54	371	25	14.84
Buckenham	184.3	36	516	31	16.64
Hulme	218.2	49	618	37	16.70
Lockwood	222.1	45	592	35	16.91
Richardson	293.1	70	613	48	16.93
Mr G W Beldam	152.3	49	389	21	17.57
Santall	210.5	67	496	28	17.78
Trott	285.1	55	747	42	17.78
Roberts	227.2	74	619	29	17.69
Lees	302	91	737	41	17.97
Bland	243.1	63	594	33	18.00
Relf	322.5	110	773	42	18.40
Cranfield (Somerset)	191.5	48	574	31	19.51
Barnes	344.3	106	873	47	18.57
Huggins	262.4	88	662	33	20.06
Bestwick	219.2	63	527	26	20.26
Rhodes	520.4	167	1077	53	20.32
Clode	227.1	54	613	30	20.43

Mr W B Brearley	221.1	35	728	35	20.80
Bird	265.2	53	729	35	20.82
Arnold	381.5	111	883	42	21.02
J Gunn	342.5	124	666	31	21.46
Haigh	381.2	109	978	45	21.73
Warren	112.5	25	356	16	22.25
Braund	257	48	758	33	22.96
Mr E M Dowson	201.1	47	554	24	23.50
Hallam	299.5	101	612	26	23.53
Mr E E Steel	145.3	23	407	21	23.66
Tate	276.2	72	753	32	23.68
G Wilson	232.3	55	656	28	23.78

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Sussex	9	4	0	5	4	100.00
Middlesex	5	3	0	2	3	100.00
Notts	8	2	0	6	2	100.00
Essex	8	3	1	4	2	50.00
Warwickshire	8	2	1	5	1	33.33
Lancashire	9	3	2	4	1	20.00
Yorkshire	9	3	3	3	0	0.00
Hampshire	3	1	1	1	0	0.00
Surrey	10	3	4	3	-1	-14.28
Warwickshire	8	2	3	3	-1	-20.00
Kent	5	1	2	2	-1	-33.33
Somerset	4	1	2	1	-1	-33.33
Derbyshire	6	1	4	1	-3	-60.00
Leicestershire	7	0	3	4	-3	-100.00
Gloucestershire	7	0	3	4	-3	-100.00

22 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6230.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 12)

Dr W G Grace, at Gloucester, yesterday, won the toss and decided to put Gloucestershire in. It cannot be said, however, that he gained any advantage, as Gloucestershire, with a weak side, succeeded in making 251 in three and a half hours.

Up to lunch the home side did none too well; it cost them four of their best batsmen to make 111, and that in spite of a good effort by Sellick, a young professional, who was making his first appearance for his county. In the afternoon, however, Mr Fowler, Mr Romans and Spry batted freely and well. The first two put on 52 in 35 minutes, while Mr Romans and Spry added 73 in about the same time. Mr Romans was missed at 43, but otherwise played excellent cricket.

London County started badly, Dr Grace and Mr Beldam being dismissed for only 12 runs. Mr Wood and Mr Poidevin then played out time.

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

Fine weather has so far favoured the Gloucestershire week, and should it continue there is every chance of the first match furnishing an interesting finish. At the end of the second day's play Gloucestershire had secured a lead of 142, with half their wickets in hand.

At one time during the morning they had a chance of securing a good lead upon the first innings. In spite of some good batting by Mr Poidevin, six of the London County wickets were down for 170. Then

Braund was joined by Mr Robson, and the pair hit so freely that 107 were hit in an hour. The innings was soon closed in the afternoon leaving Gloucestershire 37 behind.

They quickly cleared off the arrears, and so well did Wrathall and Mr Barnett play that the first wicket produced 71. Mr Fowler and Langdon made a good effort, scoring 81. Within ten minutes of the drawing of stumps they were still together. The professional then fell to a catch at the wicket and, as Mr Romans was also dismissed, Gloucestershire lost the advantage which they had previously gained.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 June, page 12)

Gloucestershire were beaten by London County at Gloucester yesterday by five wickets. The position of the game in the morning indicated that a closer result was probable, but the Gloucestershire batting was rather disappointing, the last five men being dismissed for 51 runs. Most of these were obtained by Mr Fowler and Nott, the former again showing capital form. Mr Odell was the bowler who brought the innings to a rapid close.

London County wanted 194 when they went in for the last time. Dr Grace and Mr Beldam were out at 32, but London County were soon in a winning position owing to the fine play of Mr Poidevin and Mr Wood.

22 June: LANCASHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6231.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 12)

This return match opened at Liverpool yesterday in beautiful weather. Lancashire began disastrously, for Mr Spooner was bowled off his pads and Mr Garnett caught at point for only 35 runs. Mr MacLaren should have been caught in the slips when he had made six, while Tyldesley out to have been out at 14. These escapes proved very fortunate for Lancashire, as Tyldesley remained to make 41 out of 53 during his stay. Mr MacLaren was, however, the saviour of his side, for he played consistently well and made runs all round the wicket. He was ninth to leave at 229, playing on to Wilson.

Worcestershire lost Bowley, Pearson, Arnold and Wheldon for only 32 runs. At that point, however, Mr Foster and Gaukrodger became partners and played such a fine game that 121 were added without their being parted. Gaukrodger gave a chance to Mr Steel at 32 and Mr Foster was missed at mid-on at 41. Worcestershire at the close of play were 35 behind with six wickets in hand.

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

Splendid weather was again enjoyed in Liverpool yesterday. Mr Foster and Gaukrodger, who overnight had come to the rescue of their side at a critical time, remained together until they had increased the total by 167 for the fifth wicket. Mr Foster was seen at his best.

Worcestershire gained a slight lead on the first innings, but when Lancashire went in again runs came freely, mainly owing to a splendid display by Tyldesley. He never encouraged the fielders by lofty strokes and his placing was admirable. When play ceased Tyldesley was still not out. Mr Hornby rendered the greatest assistance, and his partnership with Tyldesley has already produced 212 in the course of an hour and three-quarters.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 June, page 12)

Rain caused several interruptions at Liverpool yesterday, and the game was drawn. When Lancashire resumed their innings the partnership between Tyldesley and Mr Hornby was soon broken, having realized 242 runs. Tyldesley gave two chances, one at 207 and another at 238, but these were the only faults in a remarkably fine display. He hit 36 fours.

After Lancashire had declared their innings closed, Worcestershire had nothing but a draw to play for, and they were batting for two hours and ten minutes for their runs.

22 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6232.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 12)

At Lord's yesterday the start had to be deferred until after 2 o'clock owing to the soft state of the wicket. The Marylebone Club put into the field against the Philadelphians a fine side, in which were three of the leading bowlers of the day - Mead, Jack Hearne and Trott.

On the sticky wicket the Philadelphians made a very poor batting show against Mead and Hearne, who were unchanged, and got the side out in an hour and three-quarters. Both Hearne and Mead brought off a wonderful return catch. That by Hearne was particularly clever, the ball being taken wide out with the right hand from a hard drive. It was an impossibility to time the bowling, and the Philadelphians looked like being out for many fewer runs before Mr Clark made a few good hits. Mr Bohlen stayed in the longest and was an hour making 18.

Marylebone, with the pitch perhaps a trifle less difficult, established an advantage on the day. Mr Warner made some good hits and Mr Bosanquet played robust cricket. The M.C.C. passed their opponents' total with five wickets in hand, but their lead on the innings was after all only 30. Mr King bowled wonderfully well.

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

The M.C.C. and Ground beat the Philadelphians yesterday afternoon at Lord's by five wickets. The pitch was more false if anything than on Monday, and there was some fine bowling on both sides.

In the morning the Philadelphians were out a second time in an hour and a half for 93, a score that would have been smaller had two catches not been dropped off Jack Hearne, for the men missed - Mr King and Mr Wood - were the only members of the side to give any trouble. Mr Wood played fine, free cricket, some of his drives from Hearne being very hard. The only change in the Marylebone bowling in the match was when Trott took the ball and got the last three wickets without having a run made from him. Mead's aggregate bowling on the two days worked out at ten wickets for 68 runs.

Mr Clark bowled wonderfully well against the club, who had only 55 to get to win. Mr Warner had a big share in the ultimate victory by his plucky hitting, but he was fortunate in being missed from an easy catch to short slip from Mr King's bowling when he had scored only 15 runs.

22 June: SURREY v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6233.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 12)

Oxford University were seen to little advantage at the Oval yesterday in their return match with Surrey, and at the close of play the home side held a lead of 61 runs and had five wickets still to fall.

Although Surrey outplayed them at all points, Oxford were chiefly to blame for their unfavourable position, which was largely due to indifferent batting and fielding. It is true that the wicket always gave the bowlers some assistance, but not to the extent that the Oxford score would indicate. Several of their batsmen were out to rising balls that might well have been left alone. Their inability to hold catches also considerably helped the Surrey total.

Oxford made a bad start, losing Mr Findlay in the first over, from which they never recovered. Half the side were out for 65, and at lunch the score was 92 for seven wickets. When the game was resumed the innings was quickly finished off, having lasted only two hours and a half. Mr Evans batted extremely well for his runs, being especially strong on the off-side. He was out to a splendid ball from Lees, which came back very quickly.

Mr Carlisle, although very slow - he was in an hour and a half - made some good strokes, as also did Mr Wyld. The rest of the side, however, collapsed badly. The Surrey fielding was excellent at all points.

Surrey went in at 20 minutes to 4, and lost Abel at 11 and Hayes at 46. Holland then helped Hayward to pass the Oxford score, and they were not parted until 103 runs had been added for the third wicket, when Hayward was out to a catch at mid-off. Holland was out to the last ball sent down.

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

Oxford showed some improvement at the Oval yesterday. Their fielding was more certain and their bowling was better, while their batsmen played with much more confidence. They started the day well by claiming the six remaining Surrey wickets for 91 runs, and on going in a second time they considerably improved their position by some consistent batting, although they will still have to fight hard to avoid defeat.

When Surrey resumed their innings Mr Raphael helped Mr Walker to put on 56 for the sixth wicket. At this point there seemed every prospect of Surrey's making a large score. But here their success ended, for Mr Burn, with his slow left-hand bowling, took four of the last five wickets in 13 balls for two runs. Mr Evans bowled much better than his figures would indicate.

Oxford went in a second time 152 runs behind, but again started badly by losing three good men for 57. Mr Evans helped Mr Wyld to put on 43, when he ran himself out. This was a misfortune for Oxford, as at the time he appeared to be well set. Mr Wyld and Mr Pawson then hit off the arrears, but the former was out almost immediately afterwards to a catch at slip. Mr Wyld, although somewhat slow at times, played excellent cricket, being especially strong on the off-side. After he left Mr Pawson, Mr Voss and Mr Peel all batted well, and at the close Oxford were 75 runs ahead with three wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 June, page 12)

Surrey beat Oxford University at the Oval yesterday by nine wickets. The Oxford innings was completed for another 28 runs, and this left Surrey with only 104 to get to win.

With the wicket still easy, the result was always a foregone conclusion, but the Surrey batsmen at times played with caution. Hayward and Abel put on 43 for the first wicket, when Hayward was out to a good catch at third man. Abel left at 52, and then Hayes and Mr Raphael scored the necessary runs, the match being over shortly after 3 o'clock. Hayes played good free cricket, but Mr Raphael was batting about an hour for his runs. A feature of the match was the bowling of Clode, who took 12 wicket for 140.

22 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6234.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 12)

Weakened by the absence of K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Fry, the Sussex eleven, yesterday, at Brighton, gave a moderate display. Poor as the performance was it would have been much worse but for a fine innings by Killick. His play was marked by great steadiness and judgment, but loose balls were severely punished. Mr Newham rendered useful assistance, his partnership with Killick adding 113 in an hour and 40 minutes.

The capital bowling of Cambridge kept the rate of scoring low. The fielding of the side also was excellent, not a catch being missed. Mr Ebden and Mr Wilson batted well for the University, and at the close they were only 114 behind with eight wickets in hand.

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

At one stage of yesterday's play in this match at Brighton it appeared as though Sussex would be in a poor position at the conclusion of their second innings, as four wickets were down for 70 runs. At this point, however, Relf by his free play altered the position considerably, and at the close Sussex were 270 runs on with three wickets to fall.

The University, continuing their innings, failed to maintain their good start of 97 for two wickets, six batsmen being dismissed for an addition of 61 runs. Mr Dowson and Mr McDonell, however, batted in good style, and eventually Cambridge left off only four runs behind.

The second innings of Sussex was marked by extreme slackness in the field. Mr Dowson misjudged a lofty hit by Relf, when he had made 11, at long-off, a mistake which proved very expensive, while Marlow was missed no fewer than three times. Relf's hits included 17 fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 June, page 12)

At Brighton, yesterday, Cambridge University gained a good victory just in time over Sussex by two wickets. Overnight Sussex, with 270 runs on and three wickets to fall, appeared in a reasonably safe position, and when, after some good batting by Mr Brann and Cox, Cambridge were left to get 322 in five hours their chances seemed almost hopeless.

To Mr Dowson and Mr Wilson the chief honours of the success are due. Coming together when Mr Ebdon and Mr Godsell had been dismissed for 43, they, in two hours and a quarter, added 200 for the third wicket. Mr Wilson was the first to leave; and with his departure Mr Dowson showed some unnecessary anxiety to get runs. He was out to a catch at mid-off. Mr Dowson gave a fine display of clean hitting on the off, his strokes in front of point and his drives being splendidly timed. When he was fourth out only 54 runs were required with an hour and a half still left for play.

A period of slow cricket followed, and at one time it seemed probable that the University would not get the runs. Mr McDonell and Mr Roberts on coming together, however, batted and ran with great judgment, and when Mr Roberts went with the fall of the seventh wicket only six were required. These were not obtained without further loss, but eventually Mr Howard-Smith made the winning stroke four minutes before time.

22 June: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6235.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 12)

Yesterday's cricket at Birmingham went all in favour of Warwickshire, who at the close of play were three runs ahead and had still five wickets to fall.

At one time Derbyshire looked like being out for a much smaller score, three of their best batsmen being dismissed for 13 runs, but, thanks to Warren, Mr Lawton and Cadman, these early disasters were to a large extent retrieved. Warren and Mr Lawton were only together for an hour, but in that time 98 runs were added. Field finished off the innings in sensational style, taking the last four wickets in two overs for 13 runs. He dismissed Mr Lawton, Ellis and Morton in four balls.

Warwickshire on going in did not start any too well, Mr Fishwick and Kinneir being both out at six, but from this point everything went well with the side.

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

The feature of an interesting day's cricket at Birmingham yesterday was the batting of Mr L G Wright, and to him Derbyshire were mainly indebted for the favourable position in which they stood at the close.

Mr Wright was fifth out at 249, having been at the wickets three hours and three-quarters, and he made no real mistake. He found his most valuable partner in Needham, who assisted him to add 101 for the fourth wicket. When stumps were drawn Derbyshire were 222 runs ahead and had still three wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 June, page 12)

This match at Birmingham yesterday was left drawn. Rain caused a delay of an hour in the morning and the time thus lost could not be made up. The Derbyshire innings, in which overnight 299 had been scored for seven wickets, was rapidly finished off for an addition of 35 runs. Warwickshire were left with 258 to get to win in about five hours.

With the wicket still easy this did not appear a very formidable task, but shortly after Kinneir and Devey had gone in rain caused a delay. On the game being resumed two wickets fell quickly, but at this point Quaife joined Kinneir, and so long as these two men stayed together Warwickshire seemed to have an excellent chance of victory. When they were separated, however, matters again went badly with Warwickshire; but at a critical time Moorhouse and Hargreave offered a stubborn resistance and saved the game for their side. As the match was left Warwickshire with two wickets to fall still required 26 runs to win.

22 June: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6236.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 12)

The first match of the season between these counties as begun at Leeds yesterday. Although dull and threatening at times the weather kept fine.

Yorkshire made anything but a promising start, losing Tunnicliffe, Brown and Wilkinson with the score at 20. Denton and Hirst, however, laid the foundation for a much better total. Hirst throughout played beautiful cricket, and when Denton had been caught at point Hirst and Smith put on 156 runs for the fifth wicket. Smith was a trifle lucky, but Hirst, in scoring his second century of the season, have nothing approaching a chance. Towards the close of the day Hunter and Haigh made another excellent stand, the pair adding 79 for the eighth wicket in little less than an hour.

Kent had only half an hour's batting before the close, and during that time they lost Mr Burnup, Humphreys and Seymour.

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

Yorkshire beat Kent at Leeds yesterday by an innings and 130 runs. Hirst and Haigh again did splendid work for Yorkshire, bowling unchanged during the early part of the day. Kent were compelled to follow on and, and had been anticipated, the lead of 249 which Yorkshire held proved too much for them.

Mr C J Burnup fell to a ball from Hirst before a run had been scored, and Kent had lost six wickets at lunch for 45 runs. Nothing approaching a stand was made until Huish and Fairservice became partners, the pair putting on 46 runs in 40 minutes. Although bowling at little more than a medium pace Hirst made the ball swerve as dangerously as ever.

Tuesday 23 June, page 12:

ETON v WINCHESTER. - For the Eton and Winchester match on June 24 and 25, fast trains will leave Paddington for Windsor at 9.15 . . . Return trains will leave Windsor for Paddington at 4 . . .

Wednesday 24 June, page 14: THE OXFORD ELEVEN

Mr W Findlay has given Mr C D McIver and Mr E G Martin their Blues.

AN ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

The following official announcement was made at Lord's yesterday: -

"The M.C.C. are prepared to make themselves responsible for a side to visit Australia this year, subject to certain conditions which will in all probability be accepted."

It has been known for some time that the M.C.C. were contemplating sending a team to Australia this autumn, thus carrying out an old project which had to be abandoned owing to the war in South Africa. Preparations are now far advanced, and unless any quite unforeseen difficulty should arise the trip may be regarded as certain to take place.

The M.C.C. are entering upon the business on sharing terms, paying their professionals and the expenses of their amateurs. Mr P F Warner has been chosen as captain, and invitations have already been sent to various players. The team, it is stated, will number 15.

25 June: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6237.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

The feature of a rather uneventful day's cricket at Derby yesterday was the batting of Mr L G Wright, who once more gave evidence of being in his best form. Going in first, Mr Wright was sixth out at 168, and so complete was his command over the bowling that due the two hours he was in he only made one faulty stroke, giving a somewhat difficult chance to the wicket-keeper at 20.

His innings presented some curious contrasts, for he obtained his 50 in as many minutes, but afterwards in 35 minutes he only scored four more runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 13)

A keen and thoroughly interesting afternoon's cricket was seen yesterday at Derby. The overnight score had pointed to an even struggle, Leicestershire with eight wickets in hand being only 145 runs behind.

Some rain had fallen during the night and, though it did not greatly affect the wicket, it made run-getting difficult. Consequently the Leicestershire batsmen did not find their task an easy one, and so badly did they fare that in an hour and a quarter the innings was all over for another 60 runs. Knight was run out almost immediately, and after this Bestwick and Warren carried all before them. Both Knight and King played excellent innings, although King owed something to the blunders of the Derbyshire fieldsmen.

Thus Derbyshire held the useful lead of 85 runs, but so badly did they start their second innings that five wickets fell for 55 runs. Eventually Leicestershire were set 267 runs to win, and in the last 25 minutes they lost two wickets for 21 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 14)

Derbyshire, on Saturday, beat Leicestershire, at Derby, by 35 runs. Their victory was well deserved, excellent bowling being backed up by smart work in the field.

Leicestershire started in the morning with a fairly heavy task before them, as, with two wickets down for 21 in their second innings, they still required 246 runs to win. The third wicket fell at 33, and when Mr Wood and Knight had taken the score to 75 Knight played on. After this, however, Mr Wood and King showed splendid cricket and, so long as they stayed together, there seemed every chance that their side would win. The partnership lasted an hour and a half and produced 87 runs, Mr Wood being then out to a catch at mid-off. His innings was a model of steady batting and quite free from fault.

When the seventh wicket fell the score was 220. Then, at 222, came the deciding point of the match, King being brilliantly caught at point. The other two wickets soon fell, and by 4 o'clock the match was over.

25 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6238.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

Gloucestershire fared so badly at Gloucester yesterday in their match with Somerset that at the close, with only nine wickets in hand, they still required 200 runs to avoid an innings defeat. Their cricket throughout was inferior at all points to that of their opponents, although they owe their present position almost entirely to their poor batting.

Mr Martyn hit with his customary vigour, and enjoying some luck - he was missed at 34 and again at 70 - he scored his runs out of 116 in 65 minutes. In one over from Spry he scored 18, and his driving all through was very powerful.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 13)

Somerset beat Gloucestershire, at Gloucester, yesterday, by an innings and 72 runs. Their success was due in a large measure to another capital bowling performance by Cranfield, who divided the wickets with Braund. These two bowled unchanged throughout both innings of Gloucestershire.

Their figures in the match would have been even better but for several blunders made in the field during their second innings. Wrathall, who alone met with any success, was missed when he had scored 26, and that enabled him to make 54 out of 68 in 35 minutes.

At the end of the first day Gloucestershire had nine wickets in hand and were still 200 behind, but so poorly did the majority of the team perform on the second morning that they were all out by a quarter past 1.

25 June: KENT v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6239.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

Losing the toss at Beckenham yesterday, the Kent eleven had a day's fielding. The Philadelphians did not attempt anything in the way of hitting, all being content with quiet, steady methods. The batting as a whole was good, but lacked brightness.

The Philadelphians always looked like making a good score. That was practically assured by lunch time, when the total was 105 for one wicket. Mr King and Mr Lester placed the side in a good position by putting on 97 for the second wicket. The former, who was in for over two hours, made his runs in good style, and Mr Lester, despite a chance, played capital cricket. Mr Bohlen batted well for nearly an hour, and Mr Wood and Mr Graves made useful scores. Mr Graves hit seven fours in his 31.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 13)

After a good day's cricket at Beckenham yesterday, the game was left in an interesting position, Kent with nine wickets left requiring 242 to win.

Kent had to face a total of 311 on a wicket which, without being difficult, was not by any means perfect, and for a long time they looked to have a chance of getting on terms with their opponents. The most favourable position they obtained was when 150 went up on the board with only four men out. Then came a bad collapse, the side being out for 26 more runs. Seymour, who was in for an hour and a

quarter, played an excellent innings, and good work was also done by Humphreys, A Hearne and Mr Dillon.

Except for some hitting by Mr Clark and Mr Cregar, the second innings of the Philadelphians did not present any special feature. They led on the first innings by 135, and subsequently lost a good deal of their advantage.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 14)

The Philadelphians gained a victory at Beckenham on Saturday, beating Kent by 62 runs. The result was quite in accordance with the cricket that had gone before.

Kent, who were set 252 runs to get to win, had a heavy task. When 100 went up on the board with only four men out they appeared to have just a chance of making the runs, but with Mr Browne and Mr Burnup leaving soon afterwards the result was practically never in doubt.

Early in the morning, Blythe and Humphreys put on 34 for the second wicket, and then, later, Mr Browne and Mr Burnup added 40 for the fifth wicket. Mr Browne was at the wicket for an hour and a half and played very well. The partnership of Mr Dillon and A Hearne produced 34 runs, and then a final effort was made by Mr Marsham and Huish, who in half an hour scored 37.

The Philadelphians deserve every credit for their victory. They played their winning game very well, their bowling and fielding being alike admirable.

25 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6240.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

A thunderstorm during Wednesday night, followed by a hot sun yesterday morning, naturally did not tend to improve the wicket at Old Trafford yesterday for the beginning of the first match between Lancashire and Surrey.

Mr Walker won the toss and Surrey batted first. They were all out just before lunch for a very moderate total. The wicket was faster at one end than the other. Lancashire hardly ever made the slightest mistake in the field and Barnes bowled splendidly. His deliveries, coming in quickly from leg, secured the dismissal of Abel, Hayward and Hayes when only 38 had been scored, and only 13 of these had been hit from Barnes.

Mr Brearley, who went on for Littlewood at 42, took five of the last seven wickets, the batsmen failing entirely to time him. Lockwood, who came in at the fall of the fifth wicket, was the last out, and played well for his runs.

Lancashire lost Mr Garnett, Tyldesley, Mr Spooner and Mr Hornby for 44, but Mr MacLaren and Sharp added 39 and Mr MacLaren and Mr Steel 51 by capital cricket. The finest innings of the day was played by Mr MacLaren, whose defence was excellent. Surrey went in a second time 51 runs behind, but again started badly.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 13)

Owing to the weather, there was no play in this match at Manchester yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 14)

Lancashire beat Surrey, at Old Trafford, on Saturday by seven wickets.

25 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6241.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

At Lord's, yesterday, the M.C.C. and Ground had much the better of the cricket, for at the close of play, with five wickets in hand, they held a lead of 124.

The Cambridge batting broke down badly before the bowling of Trott. The wicket have the bowlers some assistance, but under the conditions Cambridge ought to have done better.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 13)

The M.C.C. and Ground beat Cambridge University in their last trial match at Lord's yesterday by an innings and 161 runs. Overnight the M.C.C. and Ground with only four men out were over 100 ahead, and they batted so well yesterday morning that they eventually gave Cambridge 278 runs to make to save the innings defeat.

K S Ranjitsinhji was able to continue his innings, but he only added five to his overnight score. Mr Marriott again played fine cricket, though when he had passed his 100 he adopted rather cautious methods. The Cambridge bowling was never very difficult, but the fielding of the side was excellent, and Mr McDonnell's catch off his own bowling was a very good piece of work.

When Cambridge went in to bat no one except Mr Ebden offered any serious resistance. Mr Ebden made several beautiful strokes, especially on the leg side, and he never appeared in difficulties with the bowling until he was caught off a bumping ball at the wicket. Young bowled very well, keeping a good length and often getting up quickly off the pitch, and Trott dismissed Mr Dowson with a wonderful ball, which came in about a foot from the off.

25 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6242.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

There had been a short but heavy downpour at Nottingham during the night, and at the time for beginning play at Trent-bridge yesterday the ground was still showing the effects of the rain, and the sun was shining. Mr A O Jones won the toss, and after some little hesitation decided to let his own side bat first. Yorkshire left off in a strong position at the end of the afternoon, being a run ahead with seven wickets in hand, but if they had held the catches they would have gained a much bigger advantage.

Nottinghamshire were batting for two hours and 50 minutes. George Gunn alone met with any marked success. He went in first, and after a stay of two hours and a half, was out - eighth wicket down - at 117. At the opening of his innings he was very uncomfortable with Hirst's bowling, but he played a sound, watchful game and his only real mistake was a difficult chance at point, when he had made 25. In Dexter he found a most useful partner, the two batsmen putting on 48 runs together for the sixth wicket.

Rhodes bowled in far better form than he has done in any county match during the last few weeks. After lunch he sent down nine overs and three balls for six runs and four wickets.

Brown and Tunncliffe opened Yorkshire's innings in excellent style, sending up 55 in 50 minutes, but nevertheless there were three wickets down for 70. Then Wilkinson and Hirst steadily mastered the bowling and in the course of an hour and ten minutes added 63 runs without being parted. At times they were very careful, but towards the finish they hit out with some freedom.

John Gunn, Hirst, Denton and David Hunter received invitations at Nottingham yesterday to assist the Players against the Gentlemen at Lord's on Monday week, July 6.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 13)

The Yorkshire eleven at Trent-bridge yesterday batted with a caution quite foreign to their ordinary methods. Wilkinson and Hirst, who had on Thursday placed their side in a very flattering position, stayed together yesterday till the total had reached 213, their partnership producing 143 runs. Hirst's play was beyond reproach till he had scored 75, but after that his batting was at times rather faulty. Since his return to the Yorkshire eleven he has been quite the mainstay of the side.

Rhodes and Wainwright put on 74 in 70 minutes for the eighth wicket. Rhodes, who became very careful towards the end of his innings, driving with great power and making 32 out of his first 38 by fours.

In going in against a balance of 232, Nottinghamshire had a thankless task, and in the last hour of the day they lost two wickets. As the game now stands they still require 187 runs to avoid a single innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 14)

Yorkshire beat Nottinghamshire, at Trent-bridge, on Saturday by an innings and 63 runs. Nottinghamshire started in the morning in a very unfavourable position, as, with two wickets down for 45 in their second innings, they still wanted 187 to avoid a single innings defeat.

All chance of their getting this number soon disappeared, half the side being out before 1 o'clock for 99. George Gunn was bowled by a very good ball, John Gunn threw away his wicket and William Gunn was caught by the wicket-keeper, the downfall of these three batsmen making the result merely a question of time. The eighth wicket fell at 128, but after that Dexter and Hallam played in good form, putting on 31 runs. Dexter showed strong defence, resisting the Yorkshire bowlers for an hour. At lunch time nine wickets were down, and when the game was resumed the last wicket fell to the fourth ball sent down.

25 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6243.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

Considering the excellence of the wicket scoring throughout the first day's play in this twelve a side match at Brighton, yesterday, was remarkably low, 15 wickets falling for an aggregate of 118 runs. These figures would have been even lower but for several dropped catches during the Sussex innings - two of them from Mr Fry at 14 and 18.

The Oxford fielding of the ground strokes, however, was exceedingly smart and clean, while in Mr Bomford they possess a reserve wicket-keeper of more than average ability. This is a piece of good fortune for Oxford, as Mr Findlay is standing down out of the match owing to an injury to his hands. Mr Bomford stood right up to the wicket for all the bowling, and his dismissal of Mr Newham and Bland was cleverly effected.

Mr Fry and Vine put on 41 for the first wicket before the former was taken at mid-off, and then Killick, Relf [?] and Vine were out for the addition of six runs. Sussex never looked like retrieving their bad start. The best partnership afterwards was by Cox and Butt, who added 30 for the tenth wicket. Although the Sussex batsmen were failing so badly, no fewer than six bowlers were tried. Mr Martin kept a splendid length and came out with remarkably good figures.

The University batted very steadily, their runs taking them two hours and a quarter to make, and at the close of play, with seven wickets to fall, they were only 38 behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 13)

Being 74 runs behind on the first innings, and with Mr Fry dismissed in the second with only three scored, Sussex at one period of this match, at Brighton, yesterday, had all the worst of the game. A good stand by Vine and Killick, however, so altered the conditions that, at the close of play, the county, with seven wickets in hand, could claim a lead of 134.

The two professionals, exercising all their well-known powers of defence, gradually wore down the attack, and although the rate of run-getting was never high, they seldom missed an opportunity of scoring off the proper ball. During the two hours and three-quarters that they were together neither player offered anything approaching a chance.

Mr Evans's innings was not one of his best, as although he made a number of good forcing strokes, he gave two easy chances, one at slip at 45 and the other at mid-on when he had made 84. The consistency of their bowling was the best part of the Oxford work in the field, as the picking up and throwing in of the ball was far below the standard shown in the first innings.#

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 14)

The concluding stage of this match, at Brighton, on Saturday, contrasted with the play of the preceding days, the finish after the previous keen fight being extremely tame.

Overnight Sussex left off with an advantage of 134 runs with seven wickets to fall, and continuing, Oxford, by dismissing Relf, Mr Fisher, Mr Brann and Mr Newham for an additional 56, again held a slight advantage. Butt, however, hit up 36, in which were eight fours, in half an hour, and in the end Oxford were left to obtain 241 to win. Mr Martin failed to follow up his good bowling performance of the first innings, Mr Burn coming out with the best figures.

There is little to be said of the Oxford second innings, Mr Raphael being the only batsman on the side who displayed any confidence. The wicket was as good as ever, so that the poor show of Oxford as a whole is difficult to account for. Mr Raphael, who went in first and was ninth out after batting two hours and ten minutes, could get no one to stay with him for any length of time. Mr Brownlee was his best supporter, the pair adding 33 runs, while Mr Pawson showed strong defence. The rest of the side, however, never seemed at home against the bowling of Relf and Bland.

Saturday 27 June, page 13: THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

Mr Dowson completed the side to play against Oxford yesterday, by giving Mr R T Godsell (Trinity) and Mr G Howard-Smith (Trinity) their blues.

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

The following have already accepted invitations to take part in the Gentlemen v Players match, at Lord's, on Monday week, July 6: -

Gentlemen. - K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr C B Fry, Mr G L Jessop, Mr P F Warner, Mr J R Mason, Mr H Martyn and Mr E M Dowson.

Players. - John Gunn, Tyldesley, Hayward, Braund, Hargreave and Arnold.

Hirst, Denton and David Hunter had not replied up to yesterday afternoon; but, as there is no Yorkshire match on July 6, it may almost be taken for granted that they will play.

Monday 29 June, page 14: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

Denton and David Hunter have accepted the invitation to take part in the Gentlemen and Players match at Lord's next Monday, but Hirst, probably not wishing to put more strain than he can help upon his leg, has not yet decided whether he can play.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Sussex	9	4	0	5	4	100.00

Middlesex	5	3	0	2	3	100.00
Essex	8	3	1	4	2	50.00
Notts	9	2	1	6	1	33.33
Warwickshire	9	2	1	6	1	33.33
Lancashire	11	4	2	5	2	33.33
Yorkshire	11	5	3	3	2	25.00
Somerset	5	2	2	1	0	0.00
Hampshire	3	1	1	1	1	0.00
Worcestershire	9	2	3	4	-1	-20.00
Surrey	11	3	5	3	-2	-25.00
Derbyshire	8	2	4	2	-2	-33.33
Kent	6	1	3	2	-2	-50.00
Leicestershire	8	0	4	4	-4	-100.00
Gloucestershire	8	0	4	4	-4	-100.00

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	17	1033	234	2	68.86
J Gunn	17	949	294	1	57.43
K S Ranjitsinhji	16	740	162*	3	56.92
Mr P Perrin	13	616	170	2	56.00
Mr G L Jessop	13	679	286	0	52.23
Quaife	13	505	130	3	50.50
Mr E M Dowson	17	799	135	1	49.93
Knight	18	730	144*	3	48.66
Mr H K Foster	21	872	119	2	45.69
Hirst	13	544	123	1	45.33
Tyldesley	17	737	248	0	43.35
Lord Hawke	15	475	79	4	43.18
Mr L O S Poidevin	13	518	172*	1	43.16
Mr A C MacLaren	21	730	143	4	42.94
Mr L G Wright	18	689	133	1	42.52
Arnold	20	885	128	3	40.29
Mr A Eccles	12	322	126	4	40.25
Mr C McGahey	13	417	110*	2	37.90
Killick	20	646	110	2	35.88
Hayward	28	908	130	0	35.64
Hayes	27	852	102	3	35.50
W Gunn	14	463	139	0	33.07
Denton	23	732	101	0	31.82
J T Brown, sen.	19	548	175	0	31.47
Sharp	18	460	120	3	30.66
Kinneir	14	393	90	1	30.73
Sewell (Essex)	18	481	90	2	30.06
Dr W G Grace	14	420	150	0	30.00
Llewellyn	16	357	148	4	29.75
Wheldon	18	483	71	1	28.70
Iremonger	15	422	94	0	28.13
King (Leicester)	20	528	127	1	27.78
Mr F H Wilson	17	415	76	2	27.66
Mr A O Jones	17	407	77	2	27.13
Bowley	21	542	148	1	27.10
Mr C J B Wood	23	562	78	2	26.76
G Gunn	17	321	59	5	26.75
Seymour	15	372	127	1	26.57
Rhodes	21	585	98*	1	26.25
Lees	15	364	75*	1	26.00

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hirst	189.3	47	411	38	11.60
Hargreave	394	133	746	64	11.65
J T Hearne	337.1	110	833	69	12.14
Mead	411	147	777	62	12.53
Mr W M Bradley	120.5	33	284	21	13.58
Young	204.3	64	435	32	13.59
Blythe	294.5	101	638	44	14.50
Trott	296.4	62	790	54	14.62
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	146.5	33	441	30	14.70
Cranfield (Somerset)	227.1	57	676	44	15.36
Mr W H B Evans	212.5	50	596	37	16.10
Mr R C W Burn	244.4	42	601	37	16.24
Lees	361.2	104	854	53	16.30
Barnes	430	143	1021	62	16.46
Mr H C McDonell	167.2	26	485	30	16.60
Mr E G Martin	278.1	105	548	33	16.60
Buckingham	184.3	36	516	31	16.64
Hulme	218.2	49	618	37	16.70
Relf	437.3	159	982	58	16.93
Lockwood	253.1	57	682	39	16.97
Clode	286.4	64	778	43	18.00
Bland	341	83	839	46	18.23
Rhodes	583.1	193	1171	63	18.58
Mr W B Brearley	286.5	55	800	47	18.83
Richardson	340.1	80	985	52	18.94
Santall	245.5	71	569	30	18.96
Roberts (Gloucester)	290.1	85	704	37	19.02
Haigh	429	124	1073	54	19.87
Bestwick	328.3	95	764	37	20.84
Mr R P Keigwin	262.5	60	764	36	21.22
Huggins	318.4	103	792	37	21.40
Warren	213.4	43	637	32	21.46
Bird	237.2	56	788	36	21.88
Arnold	429.1	118	1058	48	22.04
Braund	306.1	63	894	40	22.35
Mr E M Dowson	237.4	57	654	29	22.55
Hallam	358.5	123	713	31	23.00
J Gunn	383.5	137	763	33	23.12

THE PHILADELPHIANS

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr J A Lester	11	385	96	1	38.50
Mr J B King	11	298	53	0	27.09
Mr F H Bohlen	10	266	65	0	26.60
Mr C C Morris	9	231	164	0	25.66
Mr F C Sharpless	4	67	39	1	22.33
Mr T C Jordan	5	34	19*	3	17.00
Mr A M Wood	11	160	36	1	16.00
Mr N Z Graves	11	157	62*	1	15.70
Mr P H Clark	11	169	25	3	13.62

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr J A Lester	85.4	21	178	15	11.86
Mr J B King	222.1	61	544	44	12.35
Mr H Clark	191	38	505	27	18.65

29 June: HAMPSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6244.html)

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

The Worcestershire eleven gave a splendid display of batting at Southampton yesterday in the opening stage of their return match with Hampshire. Their success was the result of individual rather than general excellence, chief honours being borne off by Bowley and Mr H K Foster, who in their different styles played most delightful cricket.

Of the two Mr Foster's was unquestionably the more attractive innings. He hit with great freedom in all directions, and was only at the wickets an hour and 25 minutes, but Bowley batted with much more care, being in for about four hours and a half.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 14)

Going in against the large total of 547, the Hampshire eleven played up in fine style at Southampton yesterday and left off with every prospect of saving the game; but had Worcestershire accepted all the chances given them in the field they would in all probability have been well on the road to victory.

At lunch time Hampshire had lost three of their best batsmen for 95 runs, but afterwards Mr Sprot, who was missed by Mr Simpson-Hayward when 22, and Llewellyn, who should have been caught by Corden at mid-off at 4, offered a stubborn resistance and completely altered the aspect of affairs. The feature of the day's cricket was the batting of the Rev W V Jephson. He did not make a single bad stroke during the hour and 50 minutes he was in, and to him Hampshire were mainly indebted for saving the follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 12)

After an exciting finish Worcestershire beat Hampshire at Southampton yesterday by 91 runs, the match coming to an end within two minutes of time.

At the close of play on Tuesday evening there seemed little prospect of any other result than a draw, Hampshire, in face of a total of 547, having scored 418 with a wicket in hand. Yesterday, however, the cricket underwent a complete change, bowlers having matters all their own way. The Hampshire innings was finished off for an addition of only one run, and then going in a second time with a lead of 128 Worcestershire fared badly against the bowling of Mr Hesketh-Prichard.

Hampshire were left with 290 to get to win; but as only two hours and three-quarters remained when they went in they had nothing to play for but a draw. Mr Sprot batted exceedingly well and Stone kept up his end for 40 minutes, but the other batsmen seemed quite unable to exercise the care demanded by the situation.

29 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6245.html)

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

There was some brilliant batting at Leicester yesterday, when Nottinghamshire were at the wickets for the whole day. After Mr Jones was dismissed in the first over with the score at three only, the batsmen nearly always seemed masters of the situation.

Iremonger and William Gunn contribution 125 runs for the second wicket, and later, after Iremonger was third out at 155, John Gunn and George Gunn added 114 in 80 minutes. The next three men were got rid of rather cheaply, but with the total at 310 for seven, Hardstaff and Oates came together and their stand realized 72 in three-quarters of an hour, while the last wicket also proved extremely useful. John Gunn hit 19 fours in his innings.

Leicestershire's attack, weakened by the absence of Gill owing to an injured hand, was terribly punished until Mr V F S Crawford, who does not often bowl, went on and took three wickets cheaply.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 14)

Good as was the Nottinghamshire performance at Leicester on Monday, Leicestershire yesterday responded with one that was at least as good, if not better.

Their first pair of batsmen, Whitehead and Mr Wood, stayed together for two hours and a half and contributed 182 for the opening partnership. Next Mr Wood and Knight added 52 in three-quarters of an hour, and later Knight and King scored 84 more for the third wicket. At the close of the day Leicestershire, with only five men out, were within 66 runs on their opponents' total.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 12)

Nottinghamshire played splendid cricket at Leicester yesterday, but time did not allow of their winning and the match was abandoned as a draw at ten minutes past 6.

After their heavy scoring on Tuesday, Leicestershire collapsed in a remarkable manner, the last five wickets falling in a quarter of an hour for five runs. Hallam, who dismissed three men without having a run hit from his bowling, and John Gunn caused this breakdown; and owing to their excellent work Nottinghamshire secured an unexpected lead of 61 runs.

The pitch remained in good order for run-getting, but Nottinghamshire could not score quite fast enough to force a victory. Iremonger gave chances at 18 and 51, and his play throughout his innings was unequal. He and Mr Jones began capitally by scoring 70 in 55 minutes. Afterwards John Gunn so monopolized the hitting as to make 35 out of 37 added by the third partnership in 25 minutes.

Leicestershire were sent in at 4 o'clock requiring 235 runs to win. They lost Whitehead before a run had been scored, and then Mr Wood and Knight steadily played for a draw. They stayed together an hour, and with King equally skilful in defence Leicestershire made the game safe, and there was a quiet finish. Mr Wood was batting an hour and a half for eight. John Gunn bowled extremely well on the hard ground, and in the match had the very good record of nine wickets for 106 runs.

29 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6246.html)

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

More than ordinary interest was attached to this two days' match, which began at Lord's yesterday, owing to the fact that three places in the Oxford team remain to be filled. Twelve men aside were played, but the University was not at full strength, but Mr Evans and Mr Martin being given a rest, while Mr McIver played for the M.C.C.

The day once again brought to light the lamentable weakness of the Oxford batting. In the field they did fairly well, and the total for which they dismissed their opponents, considering that the wicket was almost perfect, was not a very large one; but with two exceptions their batsmen failed signally, and at the close with only four wickets to fall they were still 140 behind.

The M.C.C. and Ground started badly, losing five wickets for 78, but then Mr Hartley and Mr Medlicott added 79 for the next wicket, and later on in the innings Mr Reynolds made a very useful contribution. Mr Medlicott played beautiful cricket throughout, scoring most of his runs by drives on the off side and timing the ball perfectly. There were some missed catches, but on the whole the Oxford fielding was good, while Mr Ernsthausen bowled better probably than he has previously done this season.

The Oxford innings throughout was most disappointing. Certainly the bowling was good, but with the exception of Mr Wyld, who played a most attractive innings, when once he got started, and Mr Findlay no one ever looked like making runs. Mr Brownlee was a little unfortunate in being magnificently

caught at cover point by Mr Medlicott, one handed high up, off by no means a bad hit, which was travelling very fast.

J T Hearne and Tarrant both bowled very well. The latter, an Australian, is a fast medium left-hander, of whom a good deal is likely to be heard later on. He kept an excellent length, varied his pace judiciously and often sent down a slower ball from some way behind the crease, which appeared to trouble the batsmen considerably.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 14)

This match at Lord's yesterday ended in a draw, Oxford at the close being 103 run behind with four wickets to fall. Overnight Oxford in their first innings had scored 102 with seven men out, and yesterday morning they added 65 for the last four wickets, all the tail end batsmen making useful double figure contributions.

The feature of the M.C.C. and Ground second innings was a magnificent innings by Trott. Runs were wanted quickly to allow the M.C.C. and Ground to declare, and Trott played exactly the right game in the circumstances. He hit at nearly everything, but he timed the ball beautifully and hardly made a bad stroke. With five wickets down the M.C.C. and Ground's innings was declared closed, Oxford being left with 254 to get to win.

They again started very badly, losing Mr Raphael, Mr Samson and Mr Bennett for 19 runs. Mr Wyld then came to the rescue, and with Mr Pawson added 72 for the next wicket. Mr Wyld played fine cricket and Mr Pawson showed sound defence, though he is not a player possessed of many strokes. After the stand was over wickets fell rapidly, and with seven men out for 95 and about three-quarters of an hour to play the M.C.C. looked to have quite a chance of winning. Mr Carlisle and Mr Findlay, however, by sound, though very slow, play kept their wickets up until the close.

29 June: SOMERSET v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6247.html)

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

At Taunton yesterday the Philadelphians were seen to little advantage, and when stumps were drawn they were 132 behind in their second innings and had nine wickets in hand.

In their first innings Mr King and Mr Lester were alone able to make any stand. Braund and Robson both bowled splendidly. Somerset gave a very different display, but they had considerable luck in making their runs. Braund, who showed the best form of the day, was missed at 28, Mr Martyn also had a life when he had made 36, while Robson and Mr Lee were each let off. In spite of the poor support which he received, Mr Clark accomplished a fine bowling performance, and he always looked difficult to deal with.

Going in a second time, the Philadelphians had 35 minutes' batting at the end of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 14)

The match between Somerset and the Philadelphians came to an end early yesterday at Taunton, the visitors being defeated by ten wickets. They never recovered the ground which they had lost on the first day. It is true that they made a plucky effort in their second innings to atone for their collapse in the first, but that did not carry them far enough.

Mr Sharpless batted very well. Going in first, he was seventh out with the total at 143. It took him two hours and 35 minutes to make his runs; still, he possesses some good scoring strokes, particularly an off drive. After he left, Mr Clark, Mr Graves and Mr Cregar all hit so freely that in the course of half an hour 76 were added to the total. Their dashing cricket afforded a pleasant contrast to the slowness of the morning.

Somerset had to get 66 to win, and these were scored without loss.

29 June: SUSSEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6248.html)

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

At Eastbourne yesterday, Sussex gave a most uneven display against Essex; for whereas their first five batsmen scored 255, the remainder of the side were all dismissed for an addition of nine runs from the bat. Fine bowling by Buckenham was responsible for this collapse of the Sussex tail. Going on after lunch when 225 had been scored, in nine overs he took his five wickets for 24 runs.

When Essex went in Vine occasionally made the ball turn, and several of Bland's deliveries got up somewhat awkwardly. Sewell was caught from a ball of which he failed to judge the rise, and Mr Fane was bowled by one which broke considerably from leg. At the close the game was left in an interesting state, as Essex, with two of their best batsmen out, were still 196 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 14)

Essex, at Eastbourne yesterday, had all the better of the play in their match against Sussex, and at the close the position of the home side appeared almost hopeless.

When play was resumed the game was in an even state, Mr Fane and Mr Sewell having been dismissed for 77 runs overnight. For a time neither side established a decided advantage. With eight wickets down for 251 it seemed as though Essex would finish behind their opponents' total, but resolute batting by Mr Lucas, Young and Mead so changed the position that no fewer than 109 runs were added for the last two wickets.

The honours of the Essex batting belonged to Mr Perrin and Mr Lucas. The former scored at a slower rate than usual, his stay extending over three hours and a quarter. Just before lunch, however, he hit out with more freedom, as though anxious to attain his century before the interval. After giving a chance to Bland at mid-on at 92, he was caught at long-off on the boundary in the last over before lunch. Mr Lucas was batting an hour and three-quarters, and the strength of his back-play showed that his strong defence remains unimpaired. With Young he added 54 for the ninth wicket in 40 minutes.

The Sussex batting, upon the side going in a second time 87 behind, was marked by unaccountable failure. With the hard, fast wicket wearing well a big score was looked for, but in 80 minutes half the side were out without the arrears having been cleared off. K S Ranjitsinhji was caught from a very bad stroke in the slips, while Mr Fry was dismissed fourth wicket down from the succeeding ball.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 12)

Although the Sussex tail offered some resistance, there was no doubt regarding the result of this match at Eastbourne yesterday.

Overnight, five Sussex wickets were down for 63 runs, and continuing two more quickly fell, Mr Smith and Cox leaving after the addition of ten. Butt and Mr Newham, however, played well, and before the [former?] was taken in the slips 42 had been put on in 35 minutes. Bland gave a couple of chances, but otherwise the fielding was good. Mr Newham was last out, his innings, which extended over an hour and a half, being marked by strong defence and clean hitting to the off.

Essex wanted 50 to win, and as the wicket was wearing well this should have proved an easy task. It occupied 65 minutes, however, and as only accomplished with the loss of four batsmen.

29 June: WARWICKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6249.html)

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

Considering the excellent wicket, the scoring at Edgbaston yesterday was rather low in the return match between these counties, for five hours and 20 minutes' batting only produced 208 runs for 13 wickets.

Quaife, Lilley and Charlesworth were the chief scorers for the home team, but Quaife's display was certainly the best in quality, for Lilley was at the outset twice beaten by the ball, and once he played on without dislodging the bails. Mr Brearley, going on a second time, secured the last five wickets for 39, although he had been hit freely before lunch.

Lancashire lost Mr MacLaren, Mr Spooner and Mr Eccles for 25 runs, but Tyldesley played in his best form and with Mr Hornby defied the attack for nearly an hour and a half. Together they scored 81 without making the least mistake. Lancashire with seven wickets to fall are 86 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 14)

This match at Birmingham yesterday went very much in favour of Lancashire. Warwickshire are now only 53 runs to the good, with four wickets to go down.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 12)

About two hours sufficed to conclude this match at Birmingham yesterday, Lancashire winning by eight wickets. Lilley and Moorhouse scored 30 for the seventh partnership, but Littlewood came on at 181 and three runs later the innings was over. Both he and Barnes bowled excellently, and the new wicket-keeper, Worsley, was a success.

Requiring 81, to win, Lancashire lost Mr Spooner from Hargreave's first ball, and Mr MacLaren was not seen at his best, while Mr Eccles should have been caught by Santall before scoring. Tyldesley, however, again batted admirably.

29 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6250.html)

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

Ideal weather prevented yesterday at Sheffield, when Yorkshire and Surrey began the first of their annual matches. Yorkshire were still without their amateur members, Lord Hawke, owing to a family bereavement, deciding not to play.

Surrey won the toss and batted for three hours and 40 minutes. Their best work was done before luncheon, when 145 runs were scored for three wickets. By far the best individual performance was that accomplished by Holland. He went in with Hayward at the beginning of the innings and was fourth out, brilliantly caught low down by Wainwright at point. Ringrose was the most successful Yorkshire bowler, and Rhodes and Hirst bowled well after lunch.

Yorkshire had a wicket down for two runs, Brown being bowled in Richardson's second over. Tunnicliffe and Denton then hit powerfully and put on 78 runs in three-quarters of an hour, when Denton was caught at the wicket. Two other wickets quickly fell, but Tunnicliffe continued to play excellent cricket, and he reached 50 out of 116 in an hour and a half. At the close of play Yorkshire were 158 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 14)

The Surrey eleven obtained a commanding advantage over Yorkshire in this match at Sheffield yesterday. The wicket did not wear well and the fast bowlers derived considerable assistance from it.

Lockwood in the morning bowled splendidly and took the last three Yorkshire wickets in successive balls. Tunncliffe was caught off the last ball of one over and Wainwright and Ringrose were bowled with the first two balls of his following over.

The remaining six Yorkshire wickets went down in a little over an hour for 60 runs. Tunncliffe played very fine cricket; he had opened the innings was Brown and was eighth to leave. He gave no chance during the two and a half hours that he was batting, most of his runs being obtained by hard driving.

Surrey held a lead of 98 runs on the first innings. In a little over an hour before luncheon this lead was increased by 78 runs, Hayward and Holland making that number without being separated. Holland should, however, have been caught at the wicket in Hirst's first over. After luncheon the bowlers again obtained the upper hand and in an hour and 45 minutes Surrey were all out for 91 more runs, Ringrose and Rhodes being the successful bowlers.

Yorkshire thus required 268 runs to win when they went in a second time at a quarter to 5. Richardson this time bowled splendidly, and in a little over an hour Yorkshire had six wickets down. Smith and Haigh then became partners, and although they did little in the way of scoring, they kept their wickets intact and compelled Mr Walker to take off Richardson for the first time in the match, Clode being put on in his place, while Lees displaced Lockwood.

The batsmen could not be separated until just on time, when Haigh was caught at the wicket. Yorkshire now require 178 runs to escape defeat and have three wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 12)

The Surrey eleven gained a well-deserved victory over Yorkshire at Sheffield yesterday by 145 runs. It was obvious from the state of the game on Tuesday evening that, if rain did not intervene, Yorkshire would be beaten for the fourth time this season. They required 178 runs to escape defeat and had but three wickets in hand.

The weather yesterday proved gloriously fine and in half an hour the match was concluded. Richardson took two of the wickets and Lees the other, the three realizing 33 runs. The bowling honours fell to Richardson, who obtained 12 wickets in the match for 150 runs. The wicket had worn considerably at one end, and this gave Richardson much assistance; but he used his opportunity well. The victory is the first gained by Surrey over Yorkshire since 1898.

Tuesday 30 June, page 11: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

Hirst has decided not to take part in the Gentlemen and Players match at Lord's on Monday next.

THE YORKSHIRE ELEVEN

At a meeting of the general committee of the Yorkshire County Club held yesterday afternoon at Sheffield, Lord Hawke in the chair, it was decided to present to the members of the Yorkshire team a memento of their success in winning the county championship for three years in succession.

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

For the Gentlemen and Players' match at Lord's next Monday the Players' team has been completed, the three last places having been given to Barnes, Knight and Trott.

The Gentlemen's side will include for certain K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr G L Jessop, Mr P F Warner, Mr C B Fry, Mr J R Mason, Mr H Martyn, Mr E M Dowson and Mr W Brearley, the new Lancashire fast bowler, the last-named having yesterday accepted the Marylebone Club's invitation. It is hoped that Mr MacLaren and Mr F S Jackson will play; but Mr MacLaren up to yesterday had not replied, and Mr Jackson was still very doubtful. Even if they both play there is one place still to be filled up.

The Players' side will be: - Denton (Yorkshire), Hunter (Yorkshire), John Gunn (Nottinghamshire), Tyldesley (Lancashire), Barnes (Lancashire), Hayward (Surrey), Braund (Somerset), Knight (Leicestershire), Arnold (Worcestershire), Hargreave (Warwickshire) and Trott (Middlesex).

2 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6251.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 12)

On an excellent wicket at Trent-bridge Nottinghamshire took full advantage of winning the toss yesterday, as they kept their opponents in the field all day.

Mr Jones and Iremonger made an admirable start by scoring 205 for the first wicket in two hours and 20 minutes. Mr Jones made his runs by fine hitting cricket and reached his hundred before luncheon. Iremonger, who had made 66 when Mr Jones left, as the fourth out at 345, after a stay of nearly four hours and a half. His defence was admirable and his placing to leg very clever. This is his first hundred this season.

The fielding of Lancashire was good on the whole, and only one catch was missed, while Worsley never gave a bye until 386 runs had been made.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 July, page 13)

There was again a most interesting exhibition of batting in this match at Trent-bridge yesterday; for after Nottinghamshire had completed their innings Lancashire batted for five hours and are now within 63 of their opponents' score and have four wickets to fall.

After Mr Hornby was out when the total was only six, Mr Spooner and Tyldesley were together for two hours and 35 minutes, while they added 206. Tyldesley then had his off stump knocked out of the ground for a quiet, but most serviceable, innings. Mr Spooner, who opened the innings, was not out at the close of play, having made his first hundred in county cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 July, page 13)

Although this match at Trent-bridge on Saturday ended in a draw, the cricket remained quite interesting until the last half-hour.

Mr Spooner, who went in first, was the eighth to leave at 484. He batted for nearly seven hours and throughout played in beautiful style. Lancashire finished their innings with a lead of 64, for Littlewood proved such a useful partner to Mr Spooner that the eighth wicket added 123.

When Nottinghamshire went in again Iremonger was dismissed first ball, but William Gunn and Mr Jones scored 137 for the second wicket before the former was caught at point. Mr Jones had then made 64, and he completed his second three-figure innings in the match, after staying two hours and 50 minutes.

2 July: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(From our special correspondent)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6252.html)

Thursday 30 June, page 11: THE OXFORD ELEVEN

Mr Findlay yesterday completed his side to play against Cambridge as follows: -

Mr W Findlay (Eton), Mr H J Wyld (Harrow), Mr R C W Burn (Winchester), Mr W H B Evans (Malvern), Mr K M Carlisle (Harrow), Mr C D McIver (Forest School), Mr E G Martin (Eton), Mr A C von Ernsthause (Uppingham), Mr J E Raphael (Merchant Taylors'), Mr O M Samson (Cheltenham) and Mr A C Pawson (Winchester).

Thursday 2 July, page 12: OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

The following are the sides for this match which begins at Lord's to-day: -

OXFORD	CAMBRIDGE
*Mr W Findlay (Eton) (capt)	*Mr E M Dowson (Harrow) (capt)
*Mr H J Wyld (Harrow)	*Mr L V Harper (Rossall)
*Mr W H B Evans (Malvern)	*Mr C H M Ebdon (Eton)
*Mr R C W Burn (Winchester)	*Mr F B Wilson (Harrow)
*Mr A C von Ernsthause (Uppingham)	Mr E W Mann (Harrow)
Mr K M Carlisle (Harrow)	Mr H C McDonell (Winchester)
Mr C D McIver (Forest School)	Mr F B Roberts (Rossall)
Mr E G Martin (Eton)	Mr R P Keigwin (Clifton)
Mr J E Raphael (Merchant Taylors')	Mr G M Buckston (Eton)
Mr O M Samson (Cheltenham)	Mr R T Godsell (Clifton)
Mr A C Pawson (Winchester)	Mr G Howard-Smith (Eton)

Play begins at 11.20 to-day and at 11 o'clock tomorrow and Saturday. Luncheon will be taken at half-past 1 each day, and stumps will be drawn at 6.30; but in the event of a chance of a finish on Saturday the game will be prolonged until 7 o'clock.

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 12)

The University match was begun at Lord's yesterday; and this year, to judge from the trial matches, it presents some curious features. Generally speaking, University elevens are strong in batting, weak in bowling and good, though not so good as they should be, in fielding. This year Oxford were deemed to be weak in batting, above the average in bowling and only moderate in fielding, with a terrible propensity to drop catches.

Cambridge, on the other hand, were regarded as an average bowling side, fairly strong in batting, with, however, one batsman in Mr Dowson in a class by himself, and very similar to Oxford in fielding. Why twenty-two young men in the prime of life and in full practice should miss so many catches is a puzzle to many critics. In the Surrey match at least twelve fair catches were dropped, and all through the season it has been the same.

The most curious feature this year is the weakness of the Oxford batting; and apart from Mr Dowson and an occasional flash of brilliancy from Mr Wilson there is little to boast of in the Cambridge

eleven in this respect. Lord's this season has not been by any means an easy ground to score on; and if the wicket were to give the bowlers any advantage there was some reason to hope for a good old-fashioned sporting match with not too many runs, and even the possibility of the game being finished in two days; a return in fact to what cricket was 30 years ago, and what many would like to see again.

The day was very hot, and Oxford, on winning the toss, went in to bat. A good judge of the game used to say that it was a fortunate thing that batting was such a test of nerve, because if it were not the University match would never be finished. There is an element of truth in this remark; and up to the luncheon interval the Oxford batsmen batted rather in the style which their previous performances had led the public to expect.

The cricket, in fact, was altogether negative in character. There was nothing bad and nothing superlatively good. Mr Findlay and Mr Raphael went in first, and Mr Dowson and Mr Roberts began the bowling. Mr Findlay was soon out. Mr McIver played a moderate innings, and the runs never at any time came fast. Mr Raphael justified his selection, and but for him Oxford would have fared badly, for he scored 52 not out out of a total of 119 for four wickets, one of whom was Mr Evans, who on last year's form was the best bat on the Oxford side. From the form he showed in his score of 21, Mr Evans was a good player, but his bat did not appear to be held quite straight in playing forward.

The Cambridge bowling got no assistance from the wicket, which was tolerably fast and very easy. Speaking generally, it was by no means bad; fully up to the average, in fact, of University bowling. Mr McDonnell bowled rather better than any one else, and though he did not succeed in getting wickets up to luncheon he puzzled the batsmen most. The fielding was safe.

After luncheon the pace of the run-getting improved, and Mr Wyld began in a style that considerably raised Oxford's chances. He was beginning to look dangerous when he mistimed a full pitch and was easily caught.

The rest of the innings was remarkable for nothing except Mr Raphael's batting. He scored 130 by thoroughly sound cricket, and when wickets were falling the other end he adopted a free style of play, and altogether he played the right game for his side and gave no chance. Mr McDonnell was the best Cambridge bowler and fully deserved his success. He never lost his length and nobody except Mr Raphael seemed quite at home to him. Mr Dowson did not make enough use of Mr Keigwin and bowled Mr Roberts too much.

The practice of having no point is not one to be commended, and seems an innovation on the natural method for which little can be said. The fielding was industrious, and Mr Howard Smith did good work all through. Oxford were all out at exactly 4 o'clock for 250, not a great score, because, as far as appearances went, Lord's for the first time this season provided a really easy wicket. A glance at the score will show how moderate the batting was apart from Mr Raphael's, and it was generally supposed that, if Mr Dowson played up to his reputation. Cambridge would score fully as many.

When the Light Blues went in it was at once obvious that the Oxford bowling was far superior to that of Cambridge. It is doubtful if since the days of Mr Steel and Mr Woods better all-round bowling has been seen. At the same time the Cambridge batting was, except Mr Dowson's, feebleness itself, and if a rather difficult catch at slip had been held Mr Dowson himself would have been out for four. As it was, the Light Blue captain, assisted by Mr Keigwin, who played a most useful innings, prevented an absolute collapse; but the score at the drawing of stumps was only 126 for eight wickets.

With the exception of one difficult chance, Mr Dowson played grand cricket, and of the Cambridge batting this is all that can be said. All the Oxford bowling was good, Mr Evans being some way the best; and yesterday's play quite justified his selection to play for the Gentlemen on Monday.

As far as the match as gone it has been a grateful sight once more in a University match on a good wicket to see bowling and batting on equal terms. At the same time it cannot be denied that, although the Oxford bowling was very good and that of their rivals fair, the batting has been bad, only two good innings having so far been played.

Cambridge, with only two wickets in hand, are 133 runs behind, and Oxford look to be well on the road to victory. If this proves to be the case, they will deserve hearty congratulations from every good sportsman; it is such an unusual pleasure to see good bowling meet with its proper reward on a good wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 July, page 13)

The second day's play in the University match at Lord's, yesterday, was on a somewhat faster wicket and in cooler weather with a rather strong wind from the north-west. Cambridge with only two wickets to fall were 133 runs behind, and were in a very critical state.

Mr Howard-Smith knocked up 11 runs, and Oxford were in the undeniably pleasant position of having to go in on a good wicket against weak fielding and not very strong bowling and with a comfortable lead. Further, Mr McDonnell, who if not the best Cambridge bowler was the one most likely to get wickets, was taken ill; and at one time it was feared that he would not be able to play all day.

This was terribly hard luck for Cambridge, and in a short time Oxford made the most of their good fortune. Mr Raphael and Mr Findlay were cheaply got rid of, and Mr Keigwin bowled steadily and well. But Mr McIver and Mr Carlisle then collared the bowling and play became freer than at any previous stage of the match. More than 100 runs were put on, but both batsmen were out before the luncheon interval, when the total was 155. The fielding was not up to the mark; but the bowling, considering the circumstances, was not bad - especially as far as Mr Keigwin and Mr Roberts were concerned. Oxford must have been, indeed, even a worse batting side than they were supposed to be if, crippled as Cambridge were by the loss of Mr McDonnell, they had not scored largely.

After luncheon Mr McDonnell had sufficiently recovered to take part in the game, and the pace of the run-getting for a time decreased. He soon bowled Mr Wyld; but Mr Evans played an admirable innings of 60, and it was almost entirely owing to him that the Dark Blue total was hit up to 291, as, with the exception of some fine hitting from Mr Samson, there was no other scoring of importance.

Mr Pawson was in a long time for a painful innings of seven; and there was, indeed, nothing worthy of note in the whole innings except the play of Mr McIver, Mr Carlisle and Mr Evans. Those of the spectators who remembered the driving powers of the giants of old time, such as Mr Pauncefote, Mr Yardley, Mr Alfred Lyttelton and Mr Buckland, must have been struck with the curious inability of the present race of University cricket to drive straight and hard past the bowler. Mr Evans, who plays in beautiful style, did not seem able to play this stroke - and, in fact, nobody did except Mr Dowson. On the other hand, Mr McIver, Mr Carlisle and Mr Evans all excelled in the off stroke in the direction of cover-point, and Mr Evans was exceedingly good in play off his legs.

On the whole Oxford's two scores of 259 and 291 were, in the circumstances, nothing remarkable; what gave such a one-sided appearance to the match was the ignominious batting of the Cambridge men in their first innings. Oxford were all out shortly after 4 o'clock, and Cambridge were set the overpowering task of making more than 400 runs to win against excellent bowling and with no great skill in batting.

Oxford set about their task with a will, and Mr Martin and Mr Evans actually bowled down the wickets of Mr Ebdon, Mr Mann, Mr Dowson and Mr Harper for 11 runs. Such a collapse reminded one of Oxford in 1878 and 1893. Mr Dowson looked as if he meant to play the ball away to leg, but the ball went slightly up the hill and clean bowled him; and at this moment it looked as if the match might be finished in two days.

Mr Godsell and Mr Wilson stopped the rot and took the score up to 79 before Mr Wilson was clean bowled for 42. This innings of Mr Wilson's was a most curious one. He was by no means comfortable to Mr Burn, and his defence generally did not strike one as that of a safe player; but after playing several balls in this style he would hit in a way that no other player on either side quite equalled; some of his off strokes, indeed, could not have been surpassed by any other cricketer in England, and a very large proportion of his runs were made by fourers.

After Mr Wilson left, clean bowled by Mr Evans with the total at 79 for five wickets, Mr Godsell and Mr Keigwin by slow cricket brought the total to 98; and Cambridge are now in the hopeless position of wanting 316 runs with five of their best wickets down. Mr Godsell scored 35 not out and took about two hours to make this score. He has a fair defence, but has no power in his hitting, and seldom meted out any punishment to an overpitched ball.

The match has shown nothing remarkable except the excellence of the Oxford bowling; and Mr Evans bids fair to bring off a performance that has not been surpassed by any bowler since Mr Steel and Mr Woods. It is possible that the wicket is not so easy as it appeared to be; be this as it may, there was a consistency about Mr Evans's break-back which would have tested batsmen far superior to the Cambridge eleven, except Mr Dowson; and it was unfortunate for Cambridge that the side had to face such bowling after several hours in the field.

The Cambridge bowling was not strong enough to get a moderate batting side out on a good wicket unless backed up by first-rate fielding, and this the Light Blues did not possess, for, though they fielded fairly, it was more with the energy of mediocrity than with any real skill.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 July, page 13)

There is little to be said of the third day's play, at Lord's on Saturday, of the University match of this year; for the match was practically over on the previous evening and nobody could feel sanguine that any batting skill would be shown by the Cambridge tail against the really excellent bowling of the Oxonians. It appeared to be the general opinion that the wicket all through to some degree assisted the bowlers; and certainly on Friday afternoon a considerable quantity of dust flew about, and Mr Evans, at any rate, could make the ball break most consistently.

In an hour and a quarter the side were all out, and Mr Ernsthause got all the remaining wickets but one, and showed himself to be quite a good bowler and not at all easy to hit. Everybody regretted that Mr Godsell did not succeed in carrying his bat all through the innings; but his innings of 59 was remarkable for its excellent defence and lack of power in hitting. Mr Godsell is one of a large class whose utility to a side consists in his stopping at one end while one batsman like Mr Dowson hits away at the other; as it was he was batting for over three hours for his runs and, considering the strength of the bowling, his defence must be sound and good.

The total score was 145, and Oxford won by no fewer than 268 runs, Cambridge, indeed, not having met with so severe a defeat for more than 20 years.

Though the match was so one-sided, it was not an uninteresting game; indeed it was far less so than most of the modern matches played on fast wickets. A comparison with the cricket burlesques that were played on the same days at Brighton and Nottingham, when 48 wickets fell for 2,230 runs, or an average of 46 runs per wicket, is entirely in favour of the University match. If the batting generally was inferior, at any rate there were eight individual innings played in which there was much excellent, and some brilliant, batting shown.

The great feature of the game was the Oxford bowling; and it was most refreshing once more, on a wicket that if not easy was not really difficult, to see batsmen having to play hard for their runs and not merely push forward their bats and score fourers every other ball. Considering the quality of the bowling he had to meet, Mr Dowson's first innings of 54 was perhaps the best innings of the match; but Mr Raphael's innings also was a thoroughly sound bit of batting.

The task of Oxford in the second innings was comparatively an easy one, deprived as Cambridge were of their best bowler for the whole morning; but the three chief scorers played well for their runs. Mr Evans must be ranked with Mr Dowson as being in a higher class as batsmen than any others in the match, and, as an all-round player, he has not been equalled by any Oxonian for many years.

Another feature of the game was Mr Wilson's innings of 42. Mr Wilson is not, perhaps, a high-class batsman, owing to some unsoundness in his defence, but his all-round hitting was most delightful to watch, and he must be described as distinctly a dangerous bat.

The fielding of Oxford was good, but it could not be said to have been highly tried, while that of Cambridge did not come out of the ordeal with much credit. It was not exactly bad, but it never inspired confidence, and the wicket-keeping was much inferior to that of Oxford.

In the matter of luck - Oxford, no doubt, won the toss, but this did not probably make much difference, but Mr McDonnell's indisposition was very hard lines for Cambridge, as Oxford did not play him at all comfortably in their first innings, and it is reasonable to suppose that the defeat of Cambridge would not have been so severe if he had been able to play all through.

The University match of this year gives an excellent proof of the vast superiority of cricket as a game when it is played on wickets that give some assistance to the bowler. This fact must be commended to the careful consideration of those who think that no cricket reform is necessary and that the game as played now is ideally perfect.

[Note: University averages follow. Regarding results, Oxford played 10 matches (won 2, lost 5, drawn 3), while Cambridge played 11 (won 3, lost 6, drawn 2).]

A correspondent writes: - The first inter-University cricket match was played in 1827. Of the 22 players who took part in this historic contest only one survives. This is Mr Herbert Jenner-Fust, LL.D. Mr Jenner-Fust captained Cambridge, and not only made 47 out of the Cantabs' total of 92, but took five Oxford wickets. The match was unfinished.

Mr Jenner-Fust is 97 years of age and has lived in five reigns. He was considered the finest wicket-keeper of his day, but he was a thoroughly great batsman and bowler.

2 July: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6253.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 12)

Owing chiefly to a fine innings by Lewis, Somerset had the better of the first day's play in the return match with Gloucestershire at Bath yesterday. When rain brought play to a premature close at 20 minutes to 6 they had secured a lead of 30 runs, and still had two wickets in hand.

Lewis has been quite out of form of late, but upon this occasion he gave an admirable display. He was missed in the long field at 47, and he made two or three lucky strokes behind the wickets, but he atoned for these by the brilliancy of his off driving. Mr Daniell and Mr Lee were the only men who gave him much assistance, and no effective stand was made till after the fall of the sixth wicket.

Gloucestershire, who gave a trial to Giles, formerly engaged with the Grange Club, were not seen to advantage and were dismissed before lunch. Most of the runs were made by Mr Thomas and Mr Jessop. The former exhibited admirable form, his driving being excellent, but Mr Jessop was not seen at his best. Robson was the chief cause of the collapse of the visitors. He was well supported in the field, Braund making four catches at short slip.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 July, page 13)

Gloucestershire were beaten by Somerset yesterday at Bath, by ten wickets. Their play presented very few features of interest, and just now the side is weaker than it has been for some years. Upon this occasion they were handicapped by the breakdown of Roberts.

When Gloucestershire went in a second time Mr Jessop played a magnificent innings; his hitting at times was terrific, yet so perfect was his timing and placing that he never made a mistake. In spite of his great effort Somerset were only left in a minority of 35.

2 July: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6254.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 12)

Sussex had nearly a full day's fielding at Brighton yesterday, Surrey making good use of their opportunities upon the perfect wicket. The start pointed to even a bigger total than was realized, as Hayward and Holland put together 137 for the first wicket and, after the dismissal of the former batsman, Hayes helped to add 61 for the second.

All three played delightful cricket, Hayward making his runs in his usual stylish, easy manner, while, although Holland and Hayes adopted more vigorous methods, their hitting was clean and along the ground. The only ball mistimed by any of the three players was one which went to Bland at mid-off, when Holland had made 52.

After Holland left two more wickets quickly fell, neither Lockwood nor Abel appearing in their usual form, while Hayes was fifth out at 277. Lees and Nice saw the addition of six only, but Mr Walker and Clode hit resolutely. Sussex had half an hour's batting before the close.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 July, page 13)

At Brighton yesterday Surrey were given plenty to do by the home eleven, every man who went in, with the exception of Relf, scoring with the utmost facility. A magnificent batting performance by Mr Fry, however, completely dwarfed everything else. He hit the ball invariably in the centre of his bat and, timing it to perfection, he never made a faulty stroke. He scored his runs out of a total of 365 in four hours and 40 minutes. The drive, as usual, was his favourite stroke, but when scoring the second hundred he made a number of magnificent cuts.

Killick also batted in irreproachable fashion for two hours. Hard cutting in front of point was the feature of his innings. When Mr Fry left, fifth out, Mr Newham and Mr Brann continued the full rate of scoring and favoured by some good luck put on 107 without being separated. Considering the long outing, the bowlers kept their length well, while Lockwood on the true wicket made the ball come back considerably. The fielding, however, at times became very slack.

Sussex are now, with half their wickets in hand, 131 runs to the good.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 July, page 13)

Surrey had to fight hard, at Brighton, on Saturday, in order to avoid defeat, for, at one stage, the visitors had lost half their wickets and were still 61 runs behind. Eventually the match was drawn, Surrey then requiring 17 runs to avoid the innings defeat, with four wickets in hand.

The play of Mr Newham and Mr Brann, the overnight not outs, upon the continuation of the Sussex innings was in marked contrast to that of the previous evening, only 12 runs being added in half an hour. After their dismissal the remaining batsmen also played defensive cricket. When Sussex were 201 ahead, Mr Fry declared.

Four hours were left for play when Surrey went in. Holland and Hayward were out with 69 scored, but afterwards Lockwood and Hayes made the draw look certain. With the latter throwing his wicket away foolishly in attempting a short run, and Mr Walker and Abel out for the addition of 26, there seemed a possibility of a finish. It was at this critical point that Lees joined Lockwood, and the pair by keeping up their wickets until just on time saved the game.

2 July: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6255.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 12)

This match was begun at Dewsbury yesterday. The Leicestershire batsmen started badly against the Yorkshire bowlers, Hirst in particular being in very fine form. He bowled Whitehead, Knight and King in succession.

At the interval Leicestershire had lost five wickets for 94 runs, and would have fared even worse had it not been for the steady batting of Mr C J B Wood. He was at the wickets two hours and 50 minutes for his runs. After he was out Haigh quickly finished off the innings.

Yorkshire made a somewhat indifferent start, losing the wickets of Tunnicliffe and Brown for 32; but then Denton and Wilkinson kept the Leicestershire fieldsmen hard at work, adding 114 runs for the third wicket in an hour and ten minutes. The visitors' total was passed with only three wickets down, and as the game stands at present Yorkshire are 15 runs ahead with seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 July, page 13)

Yorkshire beat Leicestershire, at Dewsbury, yesterday, by an innings and 280 runs. Denton and Hirst, who were not out overnight, put on 152 for the fourth wicket in an hour and 20 minutes. Hirst played beautiful cricket, scoring fast all through his innings. Ultimately he was run out through a

misunderstanding with Rhodes. He gave no chance and hit a six and 24 fours. Rhodes, Smith and Wainwright also scored freely.

In the second innings Leicestershire gave another weak batting display. They were dismissed in two and a quarter hours for 118 runs. Eight wickets had fallen at half-past 6, and Coe being unable to bat owing to indisposition, extra time was played in order to finish the game. Ringrose bowled very finely and played a prominent part in Yorkshire's victory.

Friday 3 July, page 12: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

The Gentlemen's team at Lord's is now complete, as Mr Hesketh-Prichard, the Hampshire bowler, has accepted the M.C.C. invitation. Unfortunately, Mr F S Jackson and Mr J R Mason cannot play. The full team now is: -

K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr C B Fry, Mr G L Jessop, Mr P F Warner, Mr H Martyn, Mr E M Dowson, Mr W Brearley, Mr W H B Evans, Mr B J T Bosanquet and Mr Hesketh-Prichard. W G Quaife has been asked to be present as reserve man for the Players.

Saturday 4 July, page 13: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

In the Gentlemen's Eleven at Lord's on Monday Mr C J Burnup will take the place of Mr G L Jessop.

Mr W Methven Brownlee, father of Mr L D Brownlee, the Oxford and Gloucestershire batsman, died yesterday at Clifton. He was an authority on lawn tennis, but he will be chiefly remembered as the author of an excellent biography of Dr W G Grace. It is in consequence of his death that Mr G L Jessop, who was a close personal friend, will not play at Lord's on Monday.

Monday 6 July, page 13: THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	20	1335	234	2	74.16
J Gunn	21	1122	294	2	69.05
Mr P Perrin	16	729	170	2	55.38
K S Ranjitsinhji	18	802	162*	3	53.46
Mr G L Jessop	15	801	286	0	53.40
Tyldesley	20	1012	248	1	53.25
Quaife	15	585	130	3	48.75
Hirst	18	719	153	1	47.93
Mr E M Dowson	19	854	135	1	47.44
Mr H K Foster	23	990	120	2	47.14
Knight	22	854	144*	3	44.94
Lord Hawke	15	475	79	4	43.18
Mr L O S Poidevin	13	518	172*	1	43.16
Mr L G Wright	18	689	133	1	40.52
Mr A Eccles	15	390	126	6	39.00
Iremonger	19	694	125	1	38.56
Mr A C MacLaren	24	753	143	4	37.65
Killick	23	799	118	2	37.57
Arnold	22	712	123	3	37.47
W Gunn	18	655	139	0	36.38
Hayes	31	1009	102	3	36.03
Mr A O Jones	21	682	137	2	35.89
Mr H G Garnett	12	393	122	1	35.72
Hayward	32	1141	130	0	35.85
Mr C McGahey	15	463	110*	2	35.61

Mr W L Murdoch	11	352	155	1	35.20
Denton	26	914	133	0	35.15
Bowley	23	761	164	1	34.69
Mr H Martyn	10	235	79	0	33.50
Llewellyn	18	463	148	4	33.07
Mr F L Fane	13	377	90	1	31.41
Dr W G Grace	14	420	150	0	30.00
Lilley	14	359	59	1	29.92
Wheldon	20	658	71	1	29.36
Mr C J B Wood	27	734	101	2	29.36
Sewell (Essex)	20	517	90	2	28.72
J T Brown, sen.	22	618	125	0	28.09
Sharp	20	476	120	3	28.00
King (Leicester)	24	607	127	2	27.59
Rhodes	24	606	98*	2	27.54
Mr F B Wilson	19	464	76	2	27.29
Kinneir	16	407	80	1	27.13
Lees	19	460	75*	2	27.05
Mr R H Spooner	23	591	247	1	26.96
Seymour	15	272	127	1	26.57
Whitehead (Leicester)	22	655	104	0	25.22
G Gunn	20	378	59	5	25.20
Holland (Surrey)	26	651	97	0	25.03
Tunnicliffe	14	350	87	0	25.00

BOWLING					
	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Ringrose	138.3	35	356	30	11.66
J T Hearne	380	126	923	75	12.37
Hargreave	439.1	147	833	67	12.43
Mead	468	168	890	65	13.48
Mr W H B Evans	250.3	64	682	48	14.20
Hirst	261.3	64	650	45	14.44
Blythe	295.5	101	638	44	14.50
Young	238.2	69	528	36	14.68
Trott	289.4	68	849	56	15.16
Robson (Somerset)	129.5	30	397	26	15.26
Mr H C McDonell	200.1	34	567	36	15.75
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	214.4	43	642	40	16.05
Buckenham	220.3	39	643	40	16.07
Cranfield (Somerset)	298.1	72	900	55	16.36
Hulme	218.2	49	618	37	16.70
Lees	419.2	118	1031	60	17.18
Barnes	555.4	190	1300	74	17.56
Mr R C W Burn	281.4	47	711	40	17.77
Mr E G Martin	306.1	116	624	35	17.32
Relf	503.4	135	1116	62	18.00
Santall	262	72	506	33	18.12
Lockwood	319.3	69	652	47	18.12
Mr A C von Ernsthausen	158.5	40	480	25	18.40
Rhodes	665	217	1331	72	18.48
Roberts	305.1	90	743	39	19.17
Bland	394.4	95	1002	52	19.26
Richardson	430.4	93	1254	65	19.29
Haigh	479.3	136	1205	62	19.43
Clode	307.4	86	863	44	19.61
Braund	391	91	1117	56	19.94
Mr W B Brearley	348.4	62	1149	53	21.67
Arnold	407	128	1241	57	21.77
J Gunn	505.1	179	977	44	22.20

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	5	3	0	2	3	100.00
Essex	9	4	1	4	3	60.00
Sussex	11	4	1	6	3	60.00
Lancashire	12	5	2	6	3	42.85
Nottinghamshire	11	2	1	8	1	33.33
Yorkshire	13	6	4	3	2	20.00
Somerset	6	3	2	1	1	20.00
Warwickshire	10	2	2	6	0	0.00
Worcestershire	10	3	3	4	0	0.00
Surrey	13	4	5	4	-1	-11.11
Derbyshire	8	2	4	2	-2	-33.33
Hampshire	4	1	2	1	-1	-33.33
Kent	6	1	3	2	-2	-50.00
Leicestershire	10	0	5	6	-5	-100.00
Gloucestershire	9	0	6	4	-5	-100.00

6 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6256.html)

Monday 6 July, page 13

The sides for this match, which begins at Lord's to-day, are as follows: -

Gentlemen. - Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire), K S Ranjitsinhji (Sussex), Mr C B Fry (Sussex), Mr E M Dowson (Cambridge University), Mr H Martyn (Somerset), Mr B J T Bosanquet (Middlesex), Mr W H B Evans (Oxford University), Mr W Brearley (Lancashire), Mr H Hesketh-Prichard (Hampshire) and Mr C J Burnup (Kent).

Players. - Hayward (Surrey), Tyldesley (Lancashire), J Gunn (Nottinghamshire), Hunter (Yorkshire), Denton (Yorkshire), Braund (Somerset), Arnold (Worcestershire), Knight (Leicestershire), Barnes (Lancashire), Hargreave (Warwickshire) and Trott (Middlesex).

The following will be the Gentlemen's team at the Oval next Thursday: - Dr W G Grace, Mr P F Warner, Mr C J Burnup, Mr G W Beldam, Mr W W Odell, Mr G H Simpson-Hayward, Mr W M Bradley, Mr C McGahey, Mr G L Jessop, Mr L O S Poidevin and Mr C Robson.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 8)

(From our special correspondent)

There was every expectation that the annual match between the Gentlemen and Players at Lord's, which began yesterday, and which in the absence of the Australians is the chief event of the cricket season, would be a long-scoring match with no reasonable prospect of being finished; in other words, the batting would completely overpower the bowling. At the end of the first day's play the Players, having won the toss, have placed themselves in such a position that a defeat for them is almost an impossibility; and if the amateurs, as is quite likely, make a large score, the public will again see a repetition of the modern up-to-date cricket with no decisive result.

There are many players taking part for the first time in this match - Denton, Knight, Arnold, Barnes, Hunter and Hargreave among the Players, and Mr Burnup, Mr Dowson, Mr Bosanquet, Mr Evans, Mr Brearley and Mr Hesketh-Prichard for the amateurs. Mr Brearley and Mr Hesketh-Prichard are practically unknown to the London public, and the same may be said of Hargreave, Barnes and Arnold. The loss of Hirst is a serious one for the Players, and if Mr H K Foster was not asked to play the Gentlemen must be very strong in batting to leave him out.

Hayward and Braund began the batting against the bowling of Mr Brearley and Mr Hesketh-Prichard, both fast high right hand bowlers. The batting was good, and slowly the bowling was worn down. Mr Evans went on at the pavilion end and bowled well, and no fault as yet was to be found with the fielding;

but the score was taken to 114 before Hayward was clean bowled by Mr Dowson, bowling from the pavilion end. The wind was blowing strong and cold from the north-west, and one could not help wondering why Mr Dowson had not gone on at the pavilion end in the University match when the wind would have helped him as it did yesterday.

After the luncheon interval Braund was caught off Mr Dowson, who had the bad luck to see Denton badly missed at forward short leg off his bowling when he had only scored two runs - a disastrous blunder. Mr Dowson's bowling up to this point was of far better quality than he showed against Oxford, thought it was against stronger batting and on an easier wicket. Tyldesley then ran himself out, and if Denton had been caught four of the Players' best wickets would have been out for comparatively a moderate score.

Denton and Knight then made a prolonged stand, and both played well, the former being the more attractive to watch. Denton was at length caught at slip off a rising ball from Mr Bosanquet, and J Gunn then scored 28 by the most lively play, Mr Bosanquet in particular being severely punished. Gunn plays in a most light-hearted way, pulling short balls in a daring fashion; but no surprise was felt when he put up to point a bumping ball that he was trying to put away to leg. Batsmen in these days are right to assume that bowling will not get up, as Gunn has found out at Trent Bridge, and one could readily understand why on the dull, dreary, easy wickets at Nottingham he has scored so enormously.

Mr Brearley had got Gunn's wicket, and there was then an adjournment of a quarter of an hour for tea, and immediately on resuming Mr Brearley clean bowled Arnold and Trott with successive balls. Both these batsmen attempted to play back to Mr Brearley's fast bowling on a fast wicket and, both being late, lost their wickets. The score was 276 for seven wickets, and it looked as if the Gentlemen would have to go in for about half an hour.

Barnes, however, who is not supposed to be remarkable as a batsman, soon showed that he understood how to play forward to Mr Brearley; and the bowling was completely mastered and the score hit up from 276 to 387, and both Knight and Barnes were in when stumps were drawn.

The bowling was, some of it at any rate, very loose, and both batsmen played very well, Knight all through his innings having played a very safe and characteristically a professional game with strong defence and good cutting. The fielding was fair, though not brilliant, but Denton was twice missed very badly, by Mr Brearley and Mr Bosanquet. Mr Brearley and Mr Dowson bowled perhaps the best, and the most striking feature of the out cricket was the wicket-keeping of Mr Martyn and the fielding of Mr Burnup, whose throwing was a really beautiful sight to see.

If the weather does not break up the Gentlemen will have to bat very badly if the match is to be finished, and this does not seem likely, as they are a strong batting side. Mr Evans did not get up so much as he did while bowling against Cambridge, but it was very trying both to him and to Mr Hesketh-Prichard to have to bowl, wholly in the latter's case and partly in Mr Evans's, at the nursery end against a very strong wind. The modern perfect wickets no doubt encourage bowling of a somewhat fantastic nature, but K S Ranjitsinhji's and Mr Bosanquet's leg-break bowling is hardly of a class that should be seen in the great match of the season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 9)

The second day's play in the Gentlemen v Players match at Lord's yesterday presented in every way, except the weather, a great contrast to the first. On the first day the bowling was weak and the fielding not up to the mark, and it was, therefore, not surprising to find the batting very good. Yesterday both bowling and fielding were first-class and the batting not what is expected of a representative Gentlemen's Eleven. No wonder that, at the end of the first innings, the Players held such an overwhelming advantage; and our remark yesterday that if the Gentlemen were defeated it would be because their batting was bad seems likely to prove true.

Nearly 100 runs were put on by the last three wickets of the professionals, and Knight has played by far the biggest innings of the match so far by thoroughly sound batting, redeemed perhaps from dullness by good and pretty cutting. It was, no doubt, by no means an easy task to manage the bowling properly with such a strong wind blowing; but it was hardly fair for Mr Hesketh-Prichard not to have one chance given him of bowling from the Pavilion end with the wind behind him. The best bowling was shown by Mr Brearley and Mr Dowson, who had curiously similar analyses; but some of it was of really poor quality, and the loss of Mr Jackson, Mr Jessop and Mr Mason was severely felt both in batting and in bowling.

When the Gentlemen went in there was some curiosity felt as to how Barnes and Hargreave would shape as bowlers, and it may be said at once that Hargreave fully justified his selection. He has an excellent delivery and all through the innings kept a good length and now and then made the ball get up. Barnes bowled one over and then broke down, and retired for the rest of the day. Barnes's record in this respect is of such a nature that it hardly seems fair on the other Players that he should be played in the leading match of the season. Both Barnes and K S Ranjitsinhji appear to be more or less unsound, and three-day matches on a hard wicket, among other qualifications, certainly require soundness of limb.

Of the Gentlemen's batting it can only be said that three did themselves justice - Mr Warner, Mr Dowson and Mr Evans; and for these days the scoring even of these three was moderate. Mr Warner, however, played very well indeed, and he alone seemed to understand how to play Braund's leg break bowling. He is one of the few players who venture out of their ground to meet slow bowling and drive it. This now appears to be a lost art; but Mr Warner brought it off and was the only batsman who appeared comfortable to Braund all day.

Mr Dowson and Mr Evans both made good hits, and the only fault to be found in their batting was that they both got out when they just seemed to get set. Hargreave, Braund and Trott all bowled exceedingly well and the fielding was as near perfect as it could be. Tyldesley, Denton, Trott, Gunn and Knight were especially good, and there were three good catches in the deep field; Hunter was first-rate at the wicket, though he missed one chance of stumping, and Braund is by no means easy to take.

The total of 185 runs on such a wicket can only be described as very moderate; but again it is satisfactory to be able to say that it was a grateful sight to see good bowling and superb fielding meet with the proper reward on a hard wicket.

The Gentlemen, on following their innings, did much better and scored 74 for the loss of Mr Warner's wicket, who for the second time was caught at the wicket off Hargreave. Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji then played out time. Mr Fry batted well and skilfully, and proved that driving to the on side is still possible. The Gentlemen are now 219 runs in arrear with a good wicket gone in their second innings. Some years ago this would have been an absolutely hopeless position, but in these days nothing in the way of scoring seems impossible; but against such bowling and fielding as the Players possess their failure in the first innings probably means a defeat.

It was said by one of the leading amateurs that there were two or three bad places on the wicket, which made the bowling difficult. If this is the case it only adds interest to the match, and gives an excellent opportunity for the Gentlemen to show how good bowling can be played on such a wicket. At the same time, it is rather strange that, if such bad places did exist, either the amateurs did not find them or else they did not give the same assistance to them as they did to the Players. The Gentlemen may, at any rate, congratulate themselves that Lockwood is not playing against them.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 July, page 12)

The Gentlemen more than redeemed their batting reputation on the third day of the great match of the year at Lord's yesterday, and finer batting on an easy wicket has never been seen. Every now and then a ball delivered from the pavilion end got up a little, but on the whole the wicket yesterday must be classed as easy. Nevertheless, the bowling was good, the fielding of the Players never got slack and the batting was nothing short of magnificent.

Mr Fry was the hero of the match, and was batting all day up to 5 o'clock; not one single chance did he give and he hardly made a bad stroke. He appeared naturally to tire when he had got about 150 runs, and took a considerable time in scoring his last 80, while Mr MacLaren, on the other hand, scored with great rapidity after he had reached his century.

It is difficult to say much about the cricket; the bowling was completely mastered and the method of each batsman is too well known to require minute description. Neither batsman does much in the way of cutting, and while Mr Fry's strong point is his forward driving on both sides of the wicket, Mr MacLaren, in addition to strong driving on the off, is wonderfully skilful in pulling short balls to leg. This stroke cannot with any certainty be brought off if the ball bumps, and in old days when it frequently shot it was, of course, impossible.

Before Mr Fry's and Mr MacLaren's long partnership, the edge had been taken off the bowling by Mr Fry in conjunction with K S Ranjitsinhji. The latter was safe but was not as brilliant as usual, and was probably handicapped by an unsound leg. Mr Fry and Mr MacLaren raised the score from 191 to 500, when the innings was declared at an end.

The best bowling was shown by [Hargreave] and Arnold, and at no time did any batsman attempt any liberties with [Hargreave]. But it needed a more difficult wicket to defeat the batsmen in the form they were in, and at no time after luncheon did a decisive result appear probable. It does not seem to be the fashion, but a little more might be done to make a match end decisively. Mr Fry could surely have gone in for quick scoring after half-past 3, and the innings might have been declared at an end soon after 4. Play in such circumstances could have been prolonged until 7, and if the wicket had worn at all there would have been just an off-chance of a definite result.

As the match was played, the Players were put in for an hour and a quarter's batting to get 207 runs to win; and what advantage can be gained by such a finish? Captains, however, will not run any risk; and it is owing to this feeling that the rule as to declaring innings at an end produces so little result as far as definitely finishing matches is concerned.

The true spirit that ought to prevail is one that will make an eleven prefer to finish a match, even if they are defeated, than play in these dull and dreary drawn matches. But this apparently is not the prevailing spirit. The Players scored 55 for the loss of Hayward's wicket, who was again clean bowled by Mr Dowson; and the great match fizzled out.

In one sense the Gentlemen and Players match of this year may be called a success. It ought surely to impress upon the public the absolute necessity for some change in the rules of the game. The public could not have had a better object-lesson. Twelve hundred and eighteen runs were scored for the loss of 23 wickets, or an average of over 50 runs a wicket.

It is a matter of no importance whether this burlesque of the game is owing to superior batting, bad bowling or too great perfection of wicket. The result is the same; there is no proper proportion between batting and bowling. It may be doubted if it is not desirable to see every match for the rest of the season finish in the same way as this last match between two picked elevens of England. The gate money would fall off and some reforms would be forced through by the sheer weight of public opinion. There ought first to be an alteration in the l-b-w rule, then the wickets must be raised one or two inches, and if this is not enough the width of the bat must be reduced.

6 July: LANCASHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6257.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 8)

Cold and boisterous weather was experienced at Old Trafford yesterday, when the Philadelphians met a rather weak county team. Lancashire began badly by losing Mr F G MacLaren, Mr F H Hollins and I'Anson for 17. Mr G Radcliffe, who played so well against the Yorkshire second eleven, showed good form, but the best display was given by Mr Eccles. He was out to a splendid running catch by Mr Le Roy at extra cover-point. Bowling with the wind behind him throughout the innings, Mr King was very effective.

Although 36 were scored before the Philadelphians lost their first wicket, I'Anson, who has not been well enough to assist the county this season, was so difficult to play that four wickets were down with only ten runs added. Mr Bohlen and Mr Wood, however, put on 44 for the fifth wicket, and when play finished for the day, the Philadelphians were 55 behind, with half their wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 9)

The Philadelphians at Old Trafford yesterday added 84 runs for their outstanding wickets, so that they led by 29 on the first innings. For an hour and a half Mr Bohlen played excellent cricket, and Mr Clark and Mr Brown carried the total past the Lancashire figures.

Lancashire began their second innings well, but after lunch Mr King bowled splendidly. In his first innings he "yorked" Mr MacLaren and Mr Hollins with consecutive balls, while in his second over he

dismissed I'Anson and Mr Eccles, and in his third he knocked Sharp's leg stump out of the ground, making five wickets for seven runs. After being given a rest, he secured the remaining wickets, three of them in the last five balls. After luncheon Mr King took nine wickets for 49, hitting the wicket eight times.

The Philadelphians were set 143 to win, and Mr Graves and Mr Sharpless made such an excellent start that, with all their wickets in hand, they only want 70 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 July, page 12)

Half an hour sufficed to finish this match at Old Trafford yesterday, as in that time Mr Graves scored 60 out of the last 70 and completed his 100 in an hour and three-quarters.

6 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6258.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 8)

In the match against Derbyshire at Leicester yesterday the home side fared badly against the bowling of Warren and Hulme, and the last five wickets fell for 37 runs.

Derbyshire started badly, losing two wickets for 28. Mr Ollivierre and Cadman, however, hit up 70 in an hour for the third wicket. Derbyshire, with three wickets to fall, led by 52 runs when rain setting in heavily put an end to the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 9)

When play finished at Leicester on Monday the Derbyshire eleven were in a happy position, being 52 runs on with three wickets in hand, but yesterday the game underwent a great change, and at the drawing of stumps Leicestershire hold a lead of 337 and only seven batsmen had been dismissed in their second innings. This was mainly the work of three batsmen, Mr Wood, King and Whitehead.

The Derbyshire innings was quickly finished off for another 18 runs, and then Mr Wood and King not only cleared off the arrears of 70, but made in all 148 runs in less than two hours. Mr Wood gave a good display of skilful cricket and scored well all round the wicket. Whitehead next helped King to add 145 runs, and King was not dismissed until the score was up to 327. King played fine cricket. He took some time to settle down, but when once he had thoroughly mastered the bowling he hit in most finished style.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 July, page 12)

At Leicester, yesterday, the Leicestershire eleven beat Derbyshire by 126 runs. The Leicestershire innings was quickly finished off, and Derbyshire were left with the heavy task of making 370 to win.

They began badly, Mr Wright being dismissed at 20, but the second-wicket partnership realized 63 runs, and at lunch time the score was 110 for two wickets. Derbyshire after the interval lost two more batsmen for another eight runs, and half the side were out for 146. Their chances of saving the game then were extremely remote, but Mr Lawton and Needham made a splendid stand. The Derbyshire captain hit with tremendous power, and so quickly did runs come that 72 were added in 35 minutes. Needham left at 242, and then the last three wickets fell for one run.

6 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6259.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 8)

Worcestershire were seen to very great advantage at Worcester yesterday, as, after dismissing their opponents for a small total, they finished up 284 runs ahead with eight wickets in hand.

For their position at the close Worcestershire were mainly indebted to Bowley and Mr H K Foster, both of whom batted splendidly. Coming together at the fall of the first wicket at 98, they hit with such tremendous power that, in less than two hours, 250 runs were added. Mr Foster, who had the satisfaction of playing his highest innings in first-class cricket, has so far been batting only two hours and a half for his runs. The character of his play may be gathered from the fact that at one time he scored 50 runs in 18 minutes.

Somerset, who on going in first gave a very feeble display, are much below their full strength.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 9)

On going in a second time Somerset gave a much better display of batting than on Monday, but they left off at Worcester yesterday evening in a hopeless position, as with only three wickets to fall they still required 141 to avoid an innings defeat.

Mr H K Foster only added six to his score, when, in endeavouring to pull a straight ball, he was out leg-before. Subsequently Wheldon batted in free, attractive style, and was only at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes.

When Somerset went in a second time, 447 runs behind, Lewis played very skilfully; but by far the best display was given by Mr Johnson, who played sound and correct cricket for his runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 July, page 12)

Less than half an hour's cricket at Worcester yesterday morning proved sufficient to bring this match to an end, Worcestershire winning by an innings and 109 runs.

When play was resumed, Somerset were in a hopeless position as, with only three wickets in hand, they still required 141 runs to avoid an innings defeat. The three remaining batsmen were dismissed for an additional 32, and the only feature of interest in the closing portion of the game was the hitting of Mr Daniell, who made his 51 in an hour.

6 July: LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/129/129246.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 8)

At the close of play yesterday in this match, at Liverpool, Cambridge were left with a slight advantage.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 9)

Liverpool and District gained a great advantage in this match at Liverpool yesterday, and at the close of play Cambridge, with seven wickets in hand, were 431 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 July, page 12)

Liverpool and District won this match at Liverpool yesterday by 194 runs.

6 July: YORKSHIRE v the YORKSHIRE CRICKET COUNCIL

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 8)

A new departure was taken in Yorkshire cricket at Leeds yesterday when a two day's match was begun between the county eleven and 16 players representing the Yorkshire Cricket Council. The council is an organization formed for the purpose of fostering the interests of club cricket in the county, and the object of the match is to discover young players, who may be of service in county cricket, and an age limit was imposed by the county authorities.

Only two of the council team showed special talent as batsmen. These were the captain, Mr H Wilkinson, and Fairfax Gill, of Wakefield. Mr Wilkinson carried out his bat for 21, while Gill made 30. Rhodes took seven wickets for 47 runs and Haigh five wickets for 42 runs.

On going in to bat, Yorkshire lost five wickets for 64, all the wickets being taken by Hartington, a fast bowler from the Dewsbury Club. Wilkinson, who made 40, Wainwright, 30, and Haigh, 55, afterwards batted well for Yorkshire. At the close the county, in reply to the Council score of 130, had obtained 204 for eight wickets.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 9)

The two-days' match between the Yorkshire eleven and 16 players selected from the clubs in the Yorkshire Cricket Council came to an early conclusion at Leeds yesterday. The county team won by an innings and eight runs. They led on the first innings by 96 runs, and then got the Sixteen out a second time in two hours for 88 runs.

Rudston, of Hull, batted well for 28, and Mr H Wilkinson, the captain, carried out his bat for 12. In the two innings, Mr Wilkinson scored 33 without being once out. No one else was able to offer any resistance to the county bowling. Haigh took seven wickets for 47 runs, Rhodes three for 14 and Wainwright five for 21. The scores were: The Yorkshire Cricket Council, 130 and 88; Yorkshire, 226.

Tuesday 7 July, page 8: THE CRICKETERS' FUND FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Mr W E DENISON presided last night in the members' dining hall at Lord's, at the annual meeting of this society.

The chairman dwelt at some length on the sources of the income of the year, but he could not promise them such success in the current season. The society was in a certain degree in a flourishing condition; but in the meantime they could not but look with some concern on the growth of the outgoings.

LORD HARRIS said that in turning to the list of those to whom allowances had been made, there was a tinge of sadness to think that so many great cricketers of the past had reached the sear and yellow leaf, or a condition calling for aid. He mentioned in particular Fryer and his old friend Tom Emmett. He hoped that the membership of the society would be increased. As for the funds, he thought that the members themselves should help individually to strengthen the society by putting the aims of the society before men of the country in a position to help them.

In cases of dispute arising out of the administration of the fund, the following have consented to act as arbitrators: - Mr A G Steel, Mr A W Ridley, Mr E L Bateman, Captain E G Wynyard and Major W E Hardy.

The floating balances in favour of the society up to the end of June were £570, and it is hoped that £500 of this may be invested. Mr H Luff, Wisden's, Cranbourne-street, W.C., is the secretary of the fund.

Thursday 9 July, page 12: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

The Marylebone Cricket Club yesterday received a cable message from the Cricket Associations of Australia cordially inviting them to send out an English team this autumn. From this it may be assumed that the conditions laid down by the M.C.C. have been accepted. There now remains the task of selecting the team, of which, as already announced, Mr P F Warner is to be captain.

9 July: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6260.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 July, page 10)

In many respects the cricket at Derby yesterday was quite remarkable. To all appearances the wicket was in splendid order, and yet runs were difficult to make all day. The batting generally was poor and there was scarcely one individual innings which was altogether free from fault.

Derbyshire were chiefly indebted to a plucky, if not faultless, stand by Mr Wright and Storer, who put on 88 for the second wicket, and to Mr Ollivierre for their score. Mr Ollivierre, who seems to have quite regained his form, played brilliantly and scored freely all round the wicket. Derbyshire's last five wickets fell to Anthony and Taylor for 13 runs.

When Nottinghamshire went in they fared very badly, a characteristic innings by William Gunn and the sound defence of Mr Dixon alone saving the side from a bad collapse. W Gunn went in at 14 and was fourth to leave at 74. When stumps were drawn Nottinghamshire, with two wickets to fall, were still 130 behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 14)

Although the bowlers were not masters of the situation to quite the same extent as on the opening day, they nevertheless accomplished some effective work at Derby, yesterday, and so much progress was made in the match that a definite result is assured, if the weather remains fine. Nottinghamshire require 205 with eight wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 July, page 11)

After holding the upper hand nearly all through the match Derbyshire defeated Nottinghamshire on Saturday at Derby by 114 runs.

9 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6261.html)

Tuesday 7 July, page 8

The teams for this match at the Oval to-day are as follows: -

Gentlemen. - Dr W G Grace, Mr C J Burnup, Mr G W Beldam, Mr W W Odell, Mr G H Simpson-Hayward, Mr W M Bradley, Mr C McGahey, Mr G L Jessop, Mr L O S Poidevin, Mr C Robson and Mr C J B Wood.

Players. - Arnold, Denton, Quaife, Hayward, Strudwick, J T Hearne, Trott, Knight, Tunnicliffe, Hayes and Richardson or Lockwood.

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 July, page 10)

The annual Gentlemen and Players match at the Oval, which began yesterday, does not, and cannot as things are at present, excite nearly so keen an interest as the Lord's match. During the past few years the teams, and especially the Gentlemen's eleven, have seldom been at all representative, and this takes away much of the interest of the match.

At Lord's one sees as a rule practically the best side of Gentlemen and the best side of Players that can be got together in England; at the Oval one has come to expect little more than a game between good sides of amateurs and professionals. This year is no exception to the rule, and a comparison between the sides which met at Lord's early in the week and the sides which took the field at the

Oval yesterday is distinctly unfavourable to the latter. Some of the Gentlemen, indeed, who are taking part are useful county cricketers, but with no claims to play for a representative team.

The match yesterday was begun on a wicket which was easy throughout. The weather was beautifully fine and there was no wind either to help or to hinder the bowler. In these circumstances it was likely that the side who won the toss would do well, and the Gentlemen, as events proved, batted for nearly the whole of the day. It was distinctly a dull day's cricket. The bowling and fielding of the Players was very good, though not quite so good as at Lord's on Tuesday last; but the batting throughout was very slow, and was only redeemed by a magnificent piece of hitting by Mr Jessop and a fine innings by Mr Burnup.

Dr Grace and Mr Wood started to the bowling of Richardson, from the Pavilion end, and J T Hearne. From the outset runs came very slowly, and the bowling, in fact, always looked difficult except during the short time in which Mr Jessop made it appear as simple as possible. No one except him and Mr Bradley, who made a few good hits at the close, ever attended to score fast.

The Gentlemen started badly. With only nine scored Mr Wood was caught from a short ball of Richardson's which he tried to pull, mistimed and hit straight up in the air; Dr Grace was out at 22; and at 39 Mr Poidevin was beautifully caught in the slips off Hearne, who had been bowling, if anything, the better of the two.

Then Mr Beldam and Mr McGahey, by painfully slow cricket, carried the score to 88. There was no redeeming feature in their batting except their sound defence, both players being singularly unable to get the ball away. Changes of bowling were tried, but it was not until Arnold went on that Mr McGahey was caught in the slips, ten minutes before lunch. Mr Jessop then joined Mr Beldam, and at lunch time the score was 103 for four.

After lunch Mr Jessop hit beautifully; he kept the ball well along the ground and timed it to perfection. Half the side were out for 137; but the later batsmen did much better. Mr Beldam improved as he went on, and Mr Burnup's innings was so sound and correct that it was attractive, although he scored very slowly. The same can hardly be said of Mr Beldam. He has a sound defence and is a difficult man to get out, but he gives one the idea of being little beyond a useful cricketer, and his deficiency of scoring strokes on the off side precludes the possibility of his being ranked as quite first-class.

Mr Simpson-Hayward's innings was a curious one. For the most part he appeared uncomfortable, especially with Trott's fast ball, but once or twice he came out with a fine stroke. The last wicket - Mr Bradley's - fell at five minutes to 6, leaving the Players 25 minutes' batting.

The bowling and fielding of the professionals was wonderfully good taken as a whole. All the bowlers were hard to score from, but perhaps Hearne and Arnold were the two best. The former got through a lot of hard work, kept a steady length and several times made the ball come back considerably. Trott's fielding and catching in the slips were up to his usual standard, and Denton in the deep field and Knight and Quaife on the off side fielded excellently.

Tunncliffe and Hayward played out the last 25 minutes against Mr Bradley from the Pavilion end and Mr Simpson-Hayward's lobs from the other.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 14)

In one respect the second day's play in the Gentlemen and Players' match at the Oval, yesterday, resembled the first; the bowling and fielding were good, while the batting was lifeless and distinctly uninteresting, in fact in a full day's cricket only 300 runs were scored. The weather was again beautifully fine and hot, and the wicket showed little sign of wear, although the ball occasionally got up high off the fast bowlers.

In the circumstances the Gentlemen did very well to get the Players out for so small a total, and they may congratulate themselves on finishing the day in a good position, for with five wickets to fall they are now 251 runs ahead.

The batting of the Gentlemen before lunch on Thursday was slow, but the professionals scored even more slowly yesterday morning. Overnight they had made 16 for no wicket and they only added 111 before the interval - Hayward was altogether over an hour in making his 16; and whatever the quality

of the bowling, a batsman possessed of such scoring powers as he is, on a good wicket, might surely have made more attempt to force the game.

Two wickets were down for 42, but then Denton and Quaife carried the score to 106. Denton is always attractive to watch, but he, too, yesterday, was slower than he usually is. A good deal was expected of Knight after his performance at Lord's, but he was soon out to a really remarkable catch at slip by Mr Simpson-Hayward.

After lunch the scoring became a little quicker, Quaife showing that he is not merely a batsman of great defensive power, but that he can, when he tries, make beautiful scoring strokes on the off side. Apart from his batting, which was really good, the rest of the innings was singularly featureless. All the later batsmen failed. Trott was in a reckless mood, hitting at everything, and was soon out; Rhodes was run out by a fine piece of fielding; and Hearne after apparently being missed at the wicket off one ball was caught off the next.

Much of the bowling of the Gentlemen was of a high quality, but Mr Bradley was certainly the best. It was, of course, a wicket which assisted a fast bowler more than a slow, and one on which catches in the slips were likely. Mr Bradley took full advantage of this; he kept up a great pace, seldom sent down a bad ball and found a length which was just too short to play forward to comfortably. His performance altogether must be classed as an excellent one.

On going in again, 123 runs ahead, the Gentlemen made a fairly good start, the first two wickets putting on 75 runs. Then three more wickets fell before the close, and Mr Jessop, who was not out at the end of the day, had a narrow escape of being caught first ball; he mistimed a stroke off Richardson, but the ball did not quite come to hand.

Mr Burnup again batted very well, and got most of his runs on the offside by late cuts and drives past extra cover. Mr Beldam, too, played more attractive cricket than in his first innings, and he showed himself very good indeed in placing the ball to leg. The fielding on both sides was distinctly good, and it is not often that one has the pleasure of seeing two such perfect fieldsmen at third man as Mr Burnup and Denton.

As the game now stands there seems a reasonable prospect of a finish. The Players must have a great many runs to make for a fourth innings, but with the batting talent which they possess it may prove a task not beyond their capabilities.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 July, page 11)

The Gentlemen and Players' match at the Oval ended on Saturday in a victory for the Gentlemen by 54 runs. The last day's play was certainly the most interesting of the three, for although the scoring was often very slow and the cricket never bright, there always appeared a prospect of a good finish during the fourth innings of the match.

With the wicket still easy, 295 did not seem by any means an impossible number for the Players to get, and neither Mr Bradley nor Mr Odell bowled so well as in the first innings. The earlier batsmen without doing anything great scored consistently, and when the fifth wicket fell only 123 runs were required, and the match was in a fairly even state. With Trott out, however, 20 runs later, matters were again in favour of the Gentlemen, and with Quaife's dismissal the Players' last chance of victory practically disappeared.

The later part of the innings showed how dangerous lob bowling may be even to the best batsmen - Mr Simpson-Hayward's lobs in fact played a great part in winning the match for his side. He only bowled seven overs, but he got half the wickets and four out of the five were clean bowled.

On Friday evening the Gentlemen had made 128 for five wickets. The rest of the innings was singularly feeble; Mr Jessop was run out, Dr Grace played extremely slow cricket and the rest of the side did nothing. Only 43 runs were added and the Players went in on an easy wicket with plenty of time to get the runs at a moderate rate of scoring.

The first three wickets made 73, and then Knight and Quaife carried the score to 131. Both played slow cricket, but Knight again, as at Lord's, made several beautifully-timed late cuts. Just as the pair had got well set, Mr Simpson-Hayward was put on and clean bowled Knight. Arnold helped Quaife to add 31, and a good deal seemed to depend on Trott, for Quaife was playing most soundly, and if Trott had hit up 20 or 30 the Players' chances of victory would have been much increased. Trott

started well, not as he so often does hitting at everything, but just after the tea interval he mistimed a ball of Mr Bradley's and was easily caught on the off-side.

Rhodes seemed quite comfortable with the bowling, but the policy of putting Mr Simpson-Hayward on again proved successful, for he got Rhodes out l-b-w, and when he bowled Quaife the victory of the Gentlemen was practically assured, as with only Strudwick and Richardson to come in 63 runs were still wanted.

Quaife had played a great game for his side. His innings was practically free from fault, and his timing on the off side and his drives wide of mid-on were as fine as one could wish to see. Often, however, for over after over he was painfully slow, and the number of balls on the off side which he left alone was almost phenomenal. To a batsman of Quaife's height there are, no doubt, many off-side balls which it is extremely risky to play at, but, even though in the circumstances he was justified in taking as little risk as possible, yet the number of balls he let go by seemed unnecessarily great.

The last two wickets both fell to Mr Simpson-Hayward for eight runs, and by a quarter to 6 the Gentlemen had won the match.

On the whole the Gentlemen must be considered to have done a fine performance. They batted well in their first innings, but it was owing mainly to their really good bowling and fielding on Friday that they obtained the advantage which they never afterwards lost.

A feature of the game was the wicket-keeping of Strudwick. In the two innings he only gave four byes and the way he took all the bowling, and especially Trott, who is very difficult to take, marks him out as a wicket-keeper of more than ordinary merit.

9 July: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6262.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 July, page 10)

Somerset, who visited Old Trafford yesterday for this return match, did not include either Mr Woods or Mr Palaret, but with Braund back the team was stronger than at Worcester. Lancashire gave a trial to Sladen, a fast bowler on the ground staff, but he was not successful. Barnes and Littlewood, however, bowled well, but the Somerset batting was feeble. Braund proved an exception, for he batted exceedingly well, his driving to the off being admirably times. Mr MacLaren at second slip made four good catches.

Lancashire scored much quicker than their opponents, but Mr Spooner was the only batsman seen at his best. Mr Lee made the catch of the day at mid-on, taking a hard, high drive with one hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 14)

The best cricket in this match yesterday at Old Trafford was seen in the first hour's play, when Mr A H Hornby hit freely and he made his 72 runs in less than an hour. Somerset in their second innings batted consistently, and are now 224 runs to the good.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 July, page 11)

There was a sensational finish to this match at Old Trafford on Saturday, when Somerset won by 182 runs. After batting six hours Somerset completed their second innings, and Lancashire were left with 294 to win.

They fared badly. Mr Garnett hit across a full pitch, Mr Spooner was caught at mid-on, Mr Eccles bowled, Tyldesley stumped and Mr Hornby caught at the wicket, these five batsmen being dismissed for 35 in as many minutes. Mr MacLaren and Barnes afterwards put a better complexion on the score, but the latter might have been caught before he had made a run.

Braund bowled excellently. The Somerset fielding was almost faultless, Mr Samson making five excellent catches in the match.

9 July: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6263.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 July, page 10)

At Brighton yesterday Mr Fry gave another proof of his great batting form this season. For the first wicket 133 were scored, while Relf helped Mr Fry to add 124 in an hour and 25 minutes. The former was dismissed by a fine one-handed catch at long-off on the boundary. Mr Fry was fourth out, caught in the slips, and subsequently Mr Brann showed bright cricket.

Llewellyn bowled nearly all day, his first turn lasting two hours and 40 minutes. He, however, maintained his form well, but on the perfect wicket the ball came along easily.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 14)

With the necessity of having to obtain 342 runs to avoid the follow-on, a big task confronted Hampshire at Brighton yesterday; but so well did the earlier batsmen of the side acquit themselves that at one period of the innings they appeared in a not unfavourable position.

The fall of several wickets towards the close, however, so altered the conditions that when stumps were pulled up they, with seven batsmen out, still required 37 runs to save the follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 July, page 11)

Until late on Friday afternoon the scoring of both these elevens had been so high and consistent that no other outcome than a draw appeared possible. Towards the close of play, however, the Sussex bowlers gained the upper hand, and shortly after 5 o'clock on Saturday Sussex were able to claim a decisive victory by ten wickets.

9 July: WARWICKSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6264.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 July, page 10)

Considerable progress was made in this match at Coventry yesterday, and when stumps were drawn the game was left in an even position.

Warwickshire started well by dismissing the Philadelphians for a small score, but they were only able to claim a lead of 41 on the first innings. This was chiefly due to some splendid bowling by Mr Cregar, and with the exception of Mr Fishwick, Mr Rotherham and Charlesworth no one offered much resistance to the bowling. At the close of play the Philadelphians were ten runs ahead with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 14)

Warwickshire beat the Philadelphians at Coventry yesterday by seven wickets.

Friday 10 July, page 10

Cricketers and football players will learn with regret that Mr C W Alcock, the secretary of the Surrey Club, has broken down in health and is lying seriously ill at his residence at Richmond. From

the latest accounts there is reason to fear that he will have to abstain from all work for some months. Mr Alcock has held his present position at the Oval since 1872.

Saturday 11 July, page 14: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Strudwick, the Surrey wicket-keeper, has accepted an invitation to go to Australia with the M.C.C. team.

Monday 13 July, page 11: THE TEA INTERVAL AT CRICKET

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I suppose the tea interval, like the motor-car, has come to stay. Something may be said for it when two men are well set and the out side has had a long day in the field; but when, as was the case to-day, seven wickets had fallen at encouraging intervals for 180 runs, and of the remaining three batsmen two were certainly not the most reliable on the side, when everything pointed to an early termination of the innings, to adjourn for tea seems ridiculous (as a matter of fact five runs only were added after the interval).

Now for those who, when they like to do so, can devote a whole day to watch the game the interval may not be of much importance, it may even be a relief from the weary watching of wily willow-wielders; but to the many professional men, who in their day played the game for all it was worth, as it used to be played, and ho can only afford a few hours now and again to enjoy and to criticize, it must make a considerable difference. Cannot the "premier" club in the world, on its own ground, in the "premier" match of the year, do something to set an example in the use of a wise discretion?

Yours truly,
37, Charles-street, Berkeley-square, W., July 7.

DARTMOUTH

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	24	1754	234	4	87.70
Mr P Perrin	15	720	170	2	55.38
Mr H K Foster	24	1206	216	2	54.81
J Gunn	24	1170	294	2	53.18
Quaife	17	736	130	3	52.57
Mr G L Jessop	17	860	286	0	50.68
K S Ranjitsinhji	21	881	162*	3	48.94
Tyldesley	24	1065	248	2	47.95
Hirst	16	719	153	1	47.93
Knight	25	1030	144*	3	46.81
Mr E M Dowson	20	883	135	1	45.47
Lord Hawke	15	475	79	4	43.18
Mr A C MacLaren	28	979	168*	6	42.66
W Gunn	20	765	130	1	40.26
Bowley	24	909	154	1	39.62
Mr L O S Poidevin	15	521	172*	1	37.21
Mr L G Wright	22	775	133	1	38.96
Killick	24	804	116	2	36.54
Iremonger	21	724	125	1	36.20
Hayes	31	1009	102	3	36.03
Mr A O Jones	23	753	137	2	35.85
Denton	29	1035	133	0	35.68
Hayward	36	1248	130	0	34.66

Arnold	25	752	128	3	34.12
Mr A Eccles	19	471	126	5	33.64
Wheldon	21	670	112	1	33.50
King (Leicester)	26	768	167	2	32.83
Mr C McGahey	17	491	110*	2	32.73
Llewellyn	20	506	148	4	31.75
Mr H G Garnett	14	468	122	1	31.38
Lilley	16	438	59	2	31.28
Rhodes	26	731	95*	2	30.45
Braund	25	668	73	2	29.04
Mr F M Lee	15	347	73*	3	28.91
Mr C J B Wood	31	834	101	2	28.75
Sewell (Essex)	20	517	60	2	28.72
Dr W G Grace	16	454	150	0	28.37
JT Brown, sen.	22	618	125	0	28.09
Kinneir	18	439	80	2	27.43
Mr R H Spooner	25	651	247	1	27.12
Lees	18	460	75*	2	27.05
Whitehead (Leicester)	24	639	104	0	26.82
Sharp	22	602	120	3	26.42
Mr A H Hornby	23	637	91	2	25.57
Holland (Surrey)	26	651	97	0	25.03

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Ringrose	138.3	35	356	30	11.66
J T Hearne	430	147	1022	79	12.93
Mead	466	168	830	66	13.48
Hargreave	542.1	168	1053	73	14.42
Hirst	281.3	64	650	45	14.44
Blythe	295.5	101	638	44	14.50
Young	236.2	69	628	36	14.66
Mr W M Bradley	148.4	40	437	28	15.60
Mr W H B Evans	282.2	72	751	48	15.64
Buckenham	220.3	39	643	40	16.07
Lees	419.3	118	1031	60	17.18
Cranfield	394	78	1087	62	17.23
Trott	348.3	78	1087	62	17.53
Barnes	623.1	218	1456	81	17.97
Santall	262	72	566	33	18.12
Lockwood	319.3	69	852	47	18.12
Hulme	253.2	56	731	40	18.23
Field	276.2	61	852	46	18.52
Rhodes	869.1	228	1404	75	18.72
Bland	431.4	105	1084	57	19.01
Roberts (Gloucester)	305.1	90	748	39	19.17
Relf	529.4	189	1210	63	19.20
Haigh	479.3	136	1205	62	19.43
Clode	307.4	66	863	44	19.61
Richardson	475.4	101	1390	69	20.14
Braund	490	114	1416	70	20.22
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	294.5	67	834	41	20.34
Robson (Somerset)	186.5	34	585	23	20.92
Warren	314.2	61	967	47	21.00
Bird	338.4	61	953	45	21.17
Huggins	318.4	103	792	37	21.40
Bestwick	403.3	114	964	44	21.90
Mr W B Brearley	384.4	69	1258	57	22.07
Arnold	536.3	133	1387	62	22.37
Cox	411.5	118	1028	45	22.84
Hallam	468.1	159	915	40	22.87

THE PHILADELPHIANS

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr F H Bohlen	15	449	93	0	29.93
Mr J A Lester	16	419	93	1	27.93
Mr F C Sharpless	10	211	54	1	23.44
Mr N Z Graves	17	343	103*	2	22.83
Mr J B King	16	335	57	0	20.83
Mr C C Morris	12	244	164	0	20.33
Mr A M Wood	16	226	36	2	16.14
Mr P H Clark	16	169	26	4	14.06
Mr R D Brown	13	137	34	1	11.41

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr J B King	303	78	771	60	12.85
Mr J A Lester	106.3	22	251	17	14.76
Mr E M Cregar	81	12	260	17	15.28
Mr P H Clark	263	46	775	36	22.14

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	5	3	0	2	3	100.00
Sussex	12	5	1	6	4	66.66
Essex	9	4	1	4	3	60.00
Lancashire	14	5	3	6	2	25.00
Yorkshire	13	6	4	3	2	20.00
Somerset	8	4	3	1	1	14.28
Worcestershire	11	4	3	4	1	14.28
Nottinghamshire	12	2	2	8	0	0.00
Warwickshire	10	2	2	6	0	0.00
Surrey	13	4	5	4	-1	-11.11
Derbyshire	10	3	5	2	-2	-25.00
Hampshire	6	1	3	1	-2	-50.00
Kent	6	1	3	2	-2	-50.00
Leicestershire	11	1	5	6	-4	-66.66
Gloucestershire	9	0	5	4	-5	-100.00

13 July: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6265.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 12)

The day's cricket at Tunbridge-wells, yesterday, was, so far as the batting was concerned, singularly dull until the closing hour furnished some brilliant hitting by Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley, who added 94 runs in three-quarters of an hour.

Before this, the bowlers and fieldsmen had had matters all their own way. Kent played a very poor innings and between midday and a quarter to 5 made only 136 runs. Mr Burnup early in the day hit well for a few overs; but he was beaten by a swerving ball from Barnes, who kept a fine length and took four of the six wickets that fell before luncheon for only 31 runs. Lancashire fielded and bowled with splendid keenness.

Lancashire were batting for an hour and a half. Several of the amateurs failed, and but for a dropped catch when Tyldesley was let off they would have fared badly. Three wickets were down for 53

and then came the dashing finish to the day by Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley, and Lancashire have already passed the Kent score with seven wickets in hand.

Splendid weather prevailed and there was no excuse for Kent's bad batting, for the wicket was quite true. In the afternoon play was suspended during the time of the burial of the late Mr J N Tonge, at Chevening, Sevenoaks.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 12)

The Kent eleven came out fairly well in a losing fight at Tunbridge Wells yesterday, but they were indebted almost wholly for their improved position to the batting of Mr Burnup and Alec Hearne, who added 102 runs for the third Kent wicket.

Mr Burnup played the good Lancashire bowling with fine precision. He was third out at 139 to a clever catch in the deep field. Alec Hearne played with all his accustomed steadiness. There was a brilliant piece of hitting by Mr Hutchings towards the close, and Kent finished 91 on with five wickets to fall.

Early in the morning the best thing in the remainder of the Lancashire innings was Mr MacLaren's and Tyldesley's batting. They put on 138 for the fourth wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 12)

Lancashire beat Kent, at Tunbridge-wells, yesterday, by six wickets. The third day furnished some of the best cricket of the match. In the morning, Mr Hutchings finished his brilliant innings. He timed the Lancashire bowling with fine precision and his driving on both sides of the wicket was very powerful. Chiefly through his efforts and the plucky batting of some of the tail, Kent put Lancashire in to get 190.

Tyldesley stayed a long time, but the stand of Mr Garnett and Mr Eccles, who put on 58 for the third wicket, really turned the game for Lancashire. Mr MacLaren was in 40 minutes for seven, and then Mr Hornby hit vigorously and the game was over at a quarter past 5. The Kent fielding was good and there were two fine catches by Blythe at point and mid-off.

13 July: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6266.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 12)

The end of the first day's play in the Middlesex and Surrey match yesterday left Middlesex with an advantage, for their opponents with four wickets down are still 183 runs behind. Middlesex have not as yet played many matches, but each time they have shown themselves a good side, and yesterday they played fine cricket throughout.

At one time in their innings it looked as if they would not get much over 200, for eight wickets were down for 214 and Lockwood was bowling at his best; but the side had practically no tail with such batsmen as Mr Hunt to go in ninth and Rawlin tenth, and the last two wickets by adding 84 changed the score from a respectable to almost a formidable one. Again, when Surrey were in and had scored over 100 for one wicket, it did not look as if Middlesex would have much the better of matters at the end of the day; but just at the close three more wickets fell, and thus Middlesex were left in a favourable position.

Middlesex started very badly, losing Mr Moon off the first ball, but then Mr Warner and Mr Beldam, who both played good cricket, carried the score to 84. Mr Nicholls was soon out, but Mr Bosanquet and Mr Beldam made another good stand; and at lunch time, with 151 for three wickets, Middlesex looked like making a large score.

After Mr Bosanquet was out wickets fell rapidly; Mr Beldam was caught in the slips, Trott was caught at the wicket, and neither Mr MacGregor nor Mr Cunliffe did anything. Mr Hunt and Rawlin, however,

made a fine stand. Mr Hunt appeared uncomfortable at first, especially with Lees, but Rawlin from the outset of his innings played good, free cricket, and together they added 74 runs.

Altogether it was a good performance by Middlesex, for Lockwood, who nearly always does well at Lord's, bowled beautifully. Just after lunch from the pavilion end he appeared particularly difficult, as he made the ball come back considerably; and, if the wicket breaks up at all, it is more than likely that he will, as last year, do something sensational.

Strudwick again kept wicket very well, and he made one really fine catch, that which dismissed Mr Nicholls, for the batsman turned the ball considerably, and it was going fast at a nasty height. He stood back to the fast bowlers, but this policy proved a most wise one, as he only let three byes and made five catches.

Surrey lost one wicket at 13, but then Hayes and Holland added 80 before being parted.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 12)

The second day's play of the Middlesex and Surrey match at Lord's yesterday went entirely in favour of Middlesex, and at the close they were not only safe from defeat but, given good weather, they should be easily able to win to-day, for with two wickets to fall they are 449 runs ahead.

Overnight Surrey had made 117 for four, and this morning 103 runs were added. Only Mr Dowson and Hayes played the bowling with any confidence. Mr Dowson's innings was undoubtedly the best on his side. He started slowly, but when once he got set he made beautiful strokes all round the wicket. All the bowling was good, but Trott's performance was remarkable, and it is doubtful if he has bowled better this season than he did yesterday.

The Middlesex second innings was very good indeed. Mr Beldam played sound, correct cricket, as usual, and Mr Bosanquet and Mr Hunt were quite brilliant. Mr Bosanquet from the time he went in seemed to find the bowling very simple, and his hitting towards the close was magnificent. Mr Hunt, too, showed himself a powerful player; he seems to pick the right balls to hit and he puts a wonderful amount of force into his strokes.

Mr Beldam and Mr Bosanquet put on 124 for the fourth wicket, and then Mr MacGregor wisely put the hitters in and until the close runs came at a great pace. The bowlers were tired, the fielding, though good, considering the long outing which Surrey had had, showed signs of slackness, and all the batsmen took advantage of this and hit with great freedom. Strudwick again kept wicket well and did not let a single bye.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 12)

The weather at Lord's yesterday was beautifully fine, and Middlesex, as was only to be expected after their fine performance on the first two days and the position which they held on Tuesday evening, gained a victory over Surrey, winning by 221 runs. In the match they have played fine cricket, and at the present time they are no doubt a very formidable side.

Surrey went in yesterday with a hopeless task, and in the circumstances their total on a wicket which was not perfect was a most creditable one. Overnight Middlesex were 440 runs ahead with two wickets to fall. The innings was soon finished off, only seven runs being added; and Surrey went in at about 12 o'clock with the practically impossible task of making 457.

The lost Holland at once; but Hayward and Hayes made a good stand, and Mr Dowson and Hayward added 61 for the third wicket before the latter was stumped. Mr Dowson was out almost immediately afterwards, and at lunch half the wickets were down for 132. Afterwards Surrey did better, Mr Walker played a good innings, and Mr Miller and Lockwood made useful scores.

Mr Bosanquet followed up his fine batting by a good bowling performance, and his play in this match proves what a valuable all-round cricketer he is. He made runs in both innings; he got a wicket just when it was wanted in the first Surrey innings, and in the second he bowled really well.

13 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6267.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 12)

A bright and interesting day's cricket was witnessed at Trent-bridge yesterday in the return match between these counties, and at the drawing of stumps Nottinghamshire held an advantage.

The best stands for Sussex were those made for the first, third and fifth wickets. Mr Fry and Vine scored 50 in three-quarters of an hour, and after Taylor had relieved Wass and got rid of both in his first over Killick and K S Ranjitsinhji again took the measure of the bowling, the latter playing delightful cricket. Mr Brann and Killick added 46 for the fifth wicket, but after the former had been finely taken at the wicket matters went in favour of Nottinghamshire. The last five wickets fell for an addition of 20 runs.

Nottinghamshire had just over an hour's batting before the close.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 12)

An uneventful day's cricket at Trent-bridge left this match in a fairly even state, Sussex at the close being 26 runs ahead with eight wickets to fall.

Mr Jones and Iremonger carried the overnight score of 55 to 91 before the former was dismissed. The three Gunns and Hardstaff then left in rapid succession. Anthony, however, hit well, and Iremonger and Hallam also made a useful stand, with the result that Nottinghamshire claimed a lead of 49 runs. Iremonger, who was missed by Mr Brann at point at 63, was batting four hours and 20 minutes.

Mr Fry and Vine, who opened the Sussex batting, hit off the arrears, but at 67 both were dismissed. Killick and K S Ranjitsinhji were together when rain caused play to be abandoned at ten minutes past 6.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 12)

In striking contrast to the dull cricket of the past two days, the game at Trent Bridge yesterday was full of excitement. Rain had fallen heavily during the night and the wicket was soft when play was resumed, but despite the bright sun it never became really difficult.

On Sussex resuming their second innings with a lead of 26 and two wickets down, K S Ranjitsinhji was almost immediately taken at short leg, but, thanks to the stubborn batting of Killick, Relf and Mr Smith, Nottinghamshire were eventually set 172 to win. Wass bowled very finely indeed and took the last three Sussex wickets in four balls, without a run being scored off him. Both Killick and Cox were missed at the wicket, but these mistakes did not make any serious difference to the score.

Nottinghamshire had two hours and three-quarters in which to get the runs; and when Mr Jones and Iremonger by sound batting caused 50 to be signalled in less than three-quarters of an hour there appeared every prospect of victory. At 51, however, Mr Jones was taken at the wicket, and with Iremonger falling in the next over the Nottinghamshire batsmen centred all their efforts on securing a draw.

In this they were successful; but when the seventh wicket fell with 35 minutes left to play the chances were all against them. Oates and Hallam, however, played stubbornly; and, Butt missing Oates and Mr Fry dropping a catch from Hallam, the pair remained together until stumps were drawn, Nottinghamshire being 47 behind with three wickets in hand.

13 July: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6268.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 12)

Essex were in the field all day at Birmingham, yesterday, and every member of the Warwickshire team who went in to bat reached double figures, but the chief honours of the day were carried off by Mr Fishwick and Quaife.

Mr Fishwick began very quietly, but afterwards batted in most attractive style, his cutting and driving being especially good. Mead at short leg missed Quaife badly when he had made 24, but otherwise the Warwickshire professional played sound cricket for more than two hours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 12)

The Essex eleven, at Birmingham, were engaged all day yesterday in fighting an uphill battle. They had to contend against some excellent bowling and brilliant fielding, but, thanks chiefly to Mr Fane, Mr McGahey and Mr Kortright, they succeeded tolerably well.

The Warwickshire innings was very quickly finished off, and then Essex stayed in until rain put a stop to the day's cricket. By losing two good wickets for 39 runs Essex were compelled to play the strictly defensive game for the rest of the day. Mr Fane and Mr McGahey set themselves the task of wearing down the bowling, and by good steady batting they raised the score by luncheon time to 134.

Subsequently, however, Essex had a very anxious time. Mr Fane and Mr Douglas left at once, while not long afterwards Mr McGahey and Buckenham were dismissed. Everything now pointed to the innings being all over very quickly, but Mr Kortright and Russell added 53 runs for the eighth wicket, and then Young stayed in until the finish. Mr Fane played good cricket, but Mr McGahey was very slow, taking two hours and a quarter to make 37.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 12)

Warwickshire beat Essex at Birmingham yesterday by an innings and 78 runs. Essex had failed to make the most of their chances on Tuesday, but they certainly experienced very bad luck yesterday. Heavy rain during the night was followed by bright sunshine. The wicket was in consequence very treacherous and Hargreave proved almost unplayable. In the match he took 11 wickets for 80.

13 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6269.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 12)

Although a considerable quantity of rain had fallen at Worcester on Sunday, the wicket yesterday in the absence of sun never appeared difficult, the majority of the home batsmen finding runs easy to obtain, so that the subsequent failure of the Philadelphians seemed surprising.

Bowley and Arnold started well by putting on 52 for the first wicket, and then the latter with Mr H K Foster laid the foundation of the good score by raising the total to 153. Mr Foster, who was the first to go, made his runs in fine vigorous fashion in front of the wicket, while Arnold displayed more variety of stroke. With Wheldon and Mr Burns cheaply dismissed, half the side were out for 192, but Gaukrodger and Cuffe again put the county in a favourable position. The sixth wicket added 109 in 65 minutes, and afterwards Cuffe continued to bat in fine style, strong off play being the feature of his innings.

The Philadelphians had just over an hour's batting, and in that time they fared very badly. Mr Simpson-Hayward quickly got rid of Mr Wood and Mr Bonham-Carter with a high dropping ball which the batsmen jumped out to and hit at too soon, and, Arnold afterwards bowling magnificently, the visitors with only four wickets to fall left off with 168 required to avoid the follow-on.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 12)

Play at Worcester was curtailed yesterday, rain setting in steadily at 5 o'clock, but at this period the home side had placed themselves in a fairly safe position, as, with four wickets in hand, they were 313 ahead.

When the game was resumed the Philadelphians were in a bad state, six of their batsmen having been dismissed overnight for 71; but a stand by the not outs, Mr Clark and Mr Jordan, which realized 40 runs, and a partnership for the eighth wicket by the former and Mr Morris, which added 90 in 65 minutes, placed a better complexion upon the score. Nevertheless, they finished the innings 155 behind. Mr Simpson-Hayward puzzled the batsmen extremely with a varied height of delivery and an off break.

Mr Foster decided to bat again instead of sending in the Philadelphians. In the innings Mr Clark bowled very finely, while Mr Le Roy was able to break back considerably and was unlucky in frequently beating the batsman and missing the wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 12)

Although a considerable quantity of rain fell at Worcester during the night, a start was found practicable at the fixed time yesterday. For a period, the wicket played easily, and the four outstanding Worcestershire wickets added 47 to the overnight total. Different conditions prevailed, however, during the visitors' innings, the sun, which came out with some power affecting the pitch; and at a quarter to 4 Worcester had gained a decisive victory by 215 runs.

Cuffe, who is qualifying for the county, showed that in addition to being a good bat he is likely to prove useful as a bowler.

13 July: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6270.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 12)

For the return match between these counties, which opened at Bradford yesterday, Somerset had a weak side. Play was suspended on several occasions owing to rain, but, in spite of this, Yorkshire, who are playing their strongest available eleven, including Lord Hawke, did some excellent scoring.

A distinctive feature of the day's cricket was the batting of Brown. He and Denton added 113 runs in an hour, while Brown was at the wickets for an hour and 40 minutes, and fell to a catch at mid-off. Denton played beautiful cricket for upwards of an hour, and Hirst followed with a spirited innings, although he had the good fortune to be missed in the slips when he had made 30.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 12)

Play was only possible for rather more than an hour at Bradford yesterday owing to rain, but during that time Yorkshire make a considerable increase in their lead.

The feature of the Yorkshire innings was the fine batting of Hirst. He and Smith put on 157 for the fifth wicket in an hour and 20 minutes, and of this total Hirst made exactly 100. When stumps were drawn owing to the rain, Lord Hawke declared the Yorkshire innings closed.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 12)

Although rain delayed the resumption in this match at Bradford yesterday, the Yorkshire eleven made a bold bid for victory. Somerset from the first had nothing better than a drawn game to hope for, and scoring as a consequence was slow throughout the day. Mr P R Johnson, Braund and Major Hedley played fine defensive cricket, the last-named being at the wickets close upon an hour for four singles. Hirst and Rhodes bowled in their best form during the first innings.

Somerset, being 299 behind, were compelled to follow on. It was a keen fight to the end. An hour and 40 minutes was all that was left for play, when Somerset started their second innings, and ten minutes from that time for the drawing of stumps they had lost six wickets for 57 runs.

Tuesday 14 July, page 12: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Mr F E Lacey, the secretary of the Marylebone Cricket Club, stated yesterday that only Mr P F Warner (the captain) had definitely accepted the invitation to join the team for Australia next autumn. Amateurs and professionals to the number of ten or a dozen had had invitations extended to them; but Mr Lacey did not think it advisable for the undertaking or for the players that the names of the players should be published until definite replies had been received. This reply has not yet come, even in the case of Strudwick, who on Saturday last was announced as one of the side.

Mr Lacey further stated that, by direction of his committee, he had yesterday cabled to Major Wardill suggesting that the team should leave England on Friday, September 25. The departure will, of course, depend upon the views of the Australian authorities, whose reply can scarcely be received for a day or two.

During the Yorkshire and Somerset match at Bradford, yesterday, it was stated that Hirst had received an invitation to join the team.

ARRANGEMENTS CONCLUDED

Melbourne, July 13.

Arrangements have now been concluded for the visit of an English cricket team to Australia during the coming season under the auspices of the M.C.C. - Reuter.

Wednesday 15 July, page 12: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

In addition to Strudwick, Hirst and Braund, Mr A C MacLaren, Tyldesley and Rhodes have been invited by the M.C.C. to join the team for Australia. Mr MacLaren said at Tunbridge Wells yesterday morning that he had been asked by the M.C.C. if he would go under Mr Warner's captaincy, and added that he had not yet come to any decision in the matter.

In view of certain statements cabled from Australia, it may be well to state that the conditions laid down by the M.C.C. before consenting to arrange the tour have been accepted by the Australian authorities. No acceptances were received at Lord's yesterday.

Thursday 16 July, page 12: THE PHILADELPHIANS v MR P F WARNER'S ELEVEN

Some little time back the Philadelphians filled up the date which they had left vacant by arranging a match at the Oval on the last three days of next week, July 23, 24 and 25, with an amateur team got together by Mr P F Warner. Mr Warner's team will be: -

Mr P F Warner, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr G W Beldam, Mr L J Moon, Mr R W Nicholls, Mr T A D Bevington, Mr E M Dowson, Mr H J Stevenson, Mr A G Archer, Mr J Stanning and another.

Cornelius Coward, a well-known old time cricketer, died at Preston yesterday. Coward, who was 65 years old, was for many years prominent in first-class cricket. Over 40 years ago he joined the Preston Club, and afterwards he played for Lancashire, England and the United North. Up to ten years ago he acted as one of the county umpires, and up to the time of his death he occupied a similar position with the Northern Nomads.

Tuesday 14 July, page 12; HIGH SCORING IN CRICKET MATCHES

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - Your judicious Special Correspondent, in his report of the greatest cricket match of the year, uses an expression which ought to arrest attention. He calls it a "burlesque of the game"; and no

one who has the faintest knowledge of what the game was, and what we have allowed it to become, can disagree with him.

The welfare of the game depends almost entirely on the due relation between bowling and batting being maintained. For the last 30 years we have squandered time, money and the resources of science on making batting easy and bowling difficult. The result is a greater degeneration of the game than many critics seem to understand. The spectators grumble because the matches are unfinished. That seems to me the smallest part of the question. In a short time they will not be worth beginning. To an increasing degree the game is being deprived of variety, there being an increasing similarity in bowling and in batting, and the modern generation of players do not know what has happened.

Not only were innings comparatively short in the years 1860 to 1880, but they were marvellously interesting to play and to watch. The bowling and the breaking was on both sides of the wicket; leg hits were made in between playing of shooters and crashing hits to long-on, as well as the modern off-drives and cuts. The great hitters of those days hit quite evenly to every point of the compass, according to the exact line of the ball bowled. There was no pulling.

Nowadays these noble ingredients in the best cricket have wholly disappeared - leg hitting and the playing of shooters, and the on-drive with the straight bat; and the straight drive of a straight half-volley is becoming rarer; and so is the forward drive of a middle-stump ball. The only satisfying strokes left are the forward off-drive and the cut off a high-bounding ball. But even on the off-side the most lovely stroke of all has nearly gone, I mean the cut behind point from a short ball near the ground. It is easy to see a long innings made nowadays entirely by off-drives, cuts and different sorts of pull strokes, all ugly.

The alterations which your Correspondent advocates would do nothing to remedy this mutilation of the game. The only hope would lie in leaving the grass on the pitches in a more natural state, so as to give the bowlers a chance of making the ball turn, not only from the off, but from the leg. This might recover for us round-hand bowling and leg-breaking, and consequently leg-hitting, and perhaps the shooter and all the best features of the game would be renewed.

But I fear, Sir, that all proposals for reform are a waste of breath as long as the power rests with county captains, who are nearly always batsmen, and as long as the gate money keeps up at a good figure.

The batsmen do not know what the delights of batting on the right side of the wicket really are, and the public I am told go to see their favourite professional distinguish himself because they have nothing else to do. That is why this pitiable state of things continues, and nobody seems much to care.

Yours faithfully,

EX-GENT v PLAYERS

16 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6271.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 July, page 9)

Gloucestershire have done so badly this season that a number of changes were made in the team which met Warwickshire at Bristol yesterday. The game went so much in favour of the visitors that at the end of the day they had got within 42 of their opponents' total and still had seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

There was an interesting day's cricket at Bristol yesterday. The later Warwickshire batsmen did very badly against the bowling of Spry, and Warwickshire could only claim a lead of 29 on the first innings. Spry took six of the last seven batsmen for 24 runs.

When Gloucestershire went in a second time the ground was easier, but they failed badly against Moorhouse and Hargreave. Later in the day, however, they showed some improvement, and Warwickshire were left with 165 to get to win. During the Gloucestershire second innings Hargreave strained his left knee and had to retire.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

Warwickshire beat Gloucestershire at Bristol on Saturday by nine wickets. They had 165 to get to win in the fourth innings, and on Friday they had scored 16 for no wicket. When play was resumed on Saturday only six runs had been added when Mr Fishwick was out, but then Mr Loveitt and Mr Byrne got the runs without being separated.

16 July: HAMPSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6272.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 July, page 9)

Play at Southampton yesterday was greatly interfered with by rain, with only two hours' cricket being possible. The Philadelphians fared badly, and the sixth wicket fell with only 60 runs scored. Mr Cregar, however, drove with such power that in 25 minutes he nearly doubled the score off his own bat. Mr Lester found the bowling so difficult to score from that out of the 70 runs put on for the partnership he only made seven.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

A fine batting performance by Mr Hill and Llewellyn at Southampton yesterday enabled Hampshire at the close of the day's play to hold a useful advantage, as with three wickets in hand the county had got a lead of 142 runs.

When the Philadelphians continued their innings the pitch had scarcely recovered from the previous day's rain, so the last four wickets did well in adding 100 to the overnight total. After Mr Cregar had been dismissed with the first ball he received, Black, a slow left-hand bowler, was tried for the first time, and was successful in getting Mr Lester caught at the wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

Owing to the weather no play was possible at Leicester and Southampton on Saturday . . .
Consequently the matches had to be abandoned . . .

16 July: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6273.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 July, page 9)

The Kent eleven played a very fine innings at Tunbridge Wells yesterday. The foundation of their big score was laid by Alec Hearne and Mr Dillon, who made 139 for the first wicket before lunch. Subsequently Mr Bosanquet bowled his slows with great effect, although he sent down a great many bad balls. Middlesex had rather more than an hour's batting.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

There was a remarkable day's cricket at Tunbridge Wells yesterday, and in the end Kent set Middlesex the big task of making 329 in the fourth innings of the match. Kent, being 155 on, had the option of playing the third innings, and this they decided to do. Middlesex had an hour's batting at the close.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

The match between Kent and Middlesex was not finished at Tunbridge-wells on Saturday owing to the rain. Middlesex had been set the big task of getting 329 in the last innings and, had the pitch remained fast and true, a side of so many good batsmen might have got the runs. As it was, a storm in the morning delayed the renewal of the game until half-past 1, and then the wicket, although it played easily than any one had expected, so much helped the bowlers that it was a fine performance on the part of Middlesex to save the game.

So much care had to be exercised in playing the bowling that after the delay in the morning there was no time left to get the runs, and so the Middlesex batsmen set themselves rigidly to play for the draw. Mr Warner played a wonderful innings; his patient defence was unwearying, and Mr Bosanquet, usually a free hitter, adapted himself admirably to the conditions. Before the final storm came at 5 o'clock on Saturday and set the seal on the match as a draw, Mr Warner had been batting altogether three hours and a half for his 70 not out, and he and Mr Bosanquet had been together an hour and three-quarters to carry the score from 74 to 151. When the match was abandoned Middlesex anted another 178 runs to win and had seven wickets left.

16 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6274.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 July, page 9)

It was unfortunate that rain should have interfered with the match at Leicester yesterday, more especially as the fixture had been set apart as a benefit for Woodcock, the old Leicestershire fast bowler. A start was not possible until 3 o'clock, and there were two interruptions afterwards. In the time available for play Essex did fairly well on the slow wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

The feature of the cricket at Leicester yesterday was a wonderful display of hitting by Mr V F S Crawford. He went in when three Leicestershire wickets had fallen for 33 and actually scored 90 out of 104 runs in an hour.

Earlier in the day Essex, who had made 168 for seven wickets, finished off their innings for another 40 runs. Apart from Mr Crawford's hitting there was nothing of note in the Leicestershire batting.

Going in a second time with a lead of 24, Essex lost two men for 35, and then the position of affairs was fairly even; but at that point Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey made a stand and turned the fortunes of the game. Staying together for the last hour and a half, they added 82 runs without being separated. As the game now stands Essex are 141 runs to the good with eight wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

Owing to the weather no play was possible at Leicester and Southampton on Saturday . . .
Consequently the matches had to be abandoned . . .

16 July: LONDON COUNTY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6275.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 July, page 9)

Rain greatly interfered with the opening day's play in this match at the Crystal Palace yesterday. A start was not made until just after 3 o'clock, and altogether cricket was only possible for about two hours and three-quarters.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

London County had so much the better of the cricket at the Crystal Palace yesterday that at the close they were left in a winning position, seeing that Derbyshire still require 68 runs to save the innings defeat and they have only four wickets in hand.

When London County continued their innings runs came at a fast rate, and they were not dismissed until 123 had been added to their overnight score.

The batting of Derbyshire was in marked contrast to that of their opponents. There was nothing in the wicket to account for their early collapse, but so badly did they fare that half the side was out for 44 runs. Mr Lawton, Else and Warren managed to stop the rot, and the total eventually reached much better proportions than was expected.

On going in a second time, 183 behind, Derbyshire again fared badly. Late in the afternoon Cranfield split his left hand badly in attempting to hold a hard hit from Mr Lawton at square leg, and it is most improbable that he will be able to take his place in the Somerset eleven at the Oval on Monday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

London County beat Derbyshire, at the Crystal Palace, on Saturday, by an innings and 31 runs. The closing stage was devoid of interest, and London County had gained such an overwhelming advantage overnight that, provided play was possible, there could only be one result.

At the close of play on Friday night Derbyshire, with only four wickets in hand in their second innings, were 68 runs behind, and half an hour's cricket proved sufficient to bring the match to a definite result. Rain prevented a start being made at the usual hour, but the game was over shortly after 3 o'clock.

16 July: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6276.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 July, page 9)

Rain fell for the greater part of three hours yesterday morning at the Oval. The wicket was rather easy when play was begun after luncheon, but as the day advanced and the pitch dried the bowlers were able to obtain some assistance.

Lancashire batted first, and for the strong position which they now hold they are indebted in the main to Mr Garnett and Mr Spooner, who hit with such freedom that they made 50 in 40 minutes and 100 in an hour and a quarter.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

The feature of the play at the Oval yesterday was the partnership of the second wicket of Surrey. The batsmen were Holland and Hayes, and they came together at 35 and hit with such freedom that they increased the total by 100 runs in 55 minutes, and in all scored 156 before Holland was caught in the slips.

Hayes has generally failed against Lancashire, but yesterday he batted brilliantly and scored well all round the wicket. Mr Dowson also batted in free style for his runs. Surrey are now only 36 behind with five wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

Owing to the weather . . . at the Oval only one over was bowled, and that a maiden. Consequently the matches had to be abandoned . . .

16 July: YORKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6277.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 July, page 9)

Owing to rain at Huddersfield yesterday no play was possible in this match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

Owing to rain, play in this match at Huddersfield yesterday was restricted to less than two hours. An hour's play was possible early in the day, and it was not until a quarter to 6 that the game could be resumed.

Worcestershire, who won the toss, gave an extremely feeble display and they were dismissed in an hour. They lost a wicket with two runs on the board, had three men out for four and five for 21, while the last five wickets only added three between them. Rhodes and Hirst bowled brilliantly on the sticky wicket.

The pitch was soft and treacherous when Yorkshire went in. Brown and Tunnicliffe scored 43 in half an hour, when Brown was caught at the wicket. At the close of play Yorkshire, with nine wickets to go down, were 52 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

It was not until half-past 4 on Saturday afternoon that play was resumed in this match at Huddersfield. The cause of the delay was the muddy state of the wicket.

Lord Hawke closed the Yorkshire innings at its Friday night's total of 76 for one wicket. Worcestershire thus required 52 runs to save an innings' defeat. They started badly against the bowling of Rhodes and Hirst, their first four wickets falling for eight runs. Arnold, before he had scored, had a strong appeal made against him for a catch at short slip by Tunnicliffe. The umpire at the bowler's wicket could not give a decision and, when the umpire at square leg was appealed to, he decided in the batsman's favour.

Arnold then defeated admirably and was not out when play ended nearly two hours later. Mr Isaac stayed with him three-quarters of an hour, but six men were out at ten minutes to 6 for 19. Pearson then assisted Arnold in defensive tactics to the close, and the game was drawn greatly in Yorkshire's favour.

Worcestershire, with four wickets to fall, required 25 runs to escape an innings' defeat. Rhodes and Hirst again bowled well. The former took eight wickets in the match for 12 runs.

Friday 17 July, page 9: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Hayward has received an invitation from the M.C.C. to go to Australia. The Surrey committee, it is understood, told him yesterday that they had no wish to put any impediment in his way. At the same time, they expressed their approval of Strudwick's going, thinking that the trip would do the young wicket-keeper good.

In answer to an enquiry addressed to him at the Oval yesterday, Mr MacLaren said he had not yet come to a decision as to whether or not he would join the team.

Monday 20 July, page 9: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Mr A C MacLaren stated at the Oval on Saturday that he had decided not to go to Australia under Mr Warner's captaincy.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	26	1813	234	4	82.40
Mr P F Warner	14	681	149	3	60.09
Hirst	17	861	153	1	53.81
Quaife	19	832	130	3	52.00
Tyldesley	27	1237	248	2	49.48
J Gunn	26	1187	254	2	49.45
Mr H K Foster	28	1265	216	2	48.65
Mr P Perrin	19	774	170	3	48.37
Mr B J T Bosanquet	14	624	108	1	48.00
Mr E M Dowson	23	996	135	2	47.52
K S Ranjitsinhji	23	934	162*	3	46.70
Mr G L Jessop	19	867	286	0	45.63
Lord Hawke	16	499	79	5	45.36
Knight	27	1034	144*	3	44.95
Mr A C MacLaren	31	1063	168*	5	41.07
Llewellyn	21	644	148	5	40.25
Hayes	34	1244	145	3	40.12
Mr L O S Poidevin	16	587	172*	1	38.73
Iremonger	23	842	125	1	38.27
W Gunn	22	791	139	1	37.66
Killick	26	903	116	2	37.62
Bowley	28	994	164	1	36.81
Denton	31	1092	133	1	36.40
Mr A O Jones	25	820	137	2	35.65
Arnold	29	878	128	4	35.12
Mr L G Wright	24	807	133	1	35.08
Mr G W Beldam	15	488	118	1	34.85
Hayward	39	1331	130	0	34.12
Mr A Eccles	22	546	126	6	34.12
Mr H G Garnett	17	516	122	1	32.25
King (Leicester)	27	804	167	2	32.16
Mr C McGahey	21	578	110*	3	32.11
J T Brown, sen.	24	740	125	0	30.93
Mr F L Fane	17	483	90	1	30.81
Lilley	18	468	59	2	29.25
Wheldon	25	606	112	1	29.00
Braund	28	750	73	2	28.84
Mr C J B Wood	32	840	101	2	28.00
Sewell (Essex)	24	609	90	2	27.68

Dr W G Grace	17	464	150	0	27.29
Rhodes	27	655	98*	3	27.29
Mr F M Lees	17	352	73*	4	27.07
Mr R H Spooner	28	729	247	1	27.00
Holland (Surrey)	29	782	97	0	26.96
Sharp	24	556	120	3	26.47
Mr A H Hornby	26	600	91	3	26.08
Tunncliffe	18	441	97	1	25.94
Whitehead (Leicester)	25	648	104	0	25.92
Mr J F Byrne	20	485	77*	1	25.68
Kinneir	20	462	90	2	25.66
Mr V F S Crawford	23	577	90	0	25.08

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Ringrose	151.3	41	371	31	11.86
Hirst	315	84	741	58	12.77
Hargreave	641.5	197	1244	92	13.52
J T Hearne	583.5	171	1183	84	14.08
Mead	533	188	1019	69	14.76
Young	275.2	77	538	41	15.56
Mr W M Bradley	169.4	40	437	28	15.60
Mr W H B Evans	282.2	72	751	48	15.84
Rhodes	784.1	271	1496	90	16.62
Blythe	415	148	882	53	16.64
Killick	202.4	50	515	30	17.18
Relf	505.4	213	1726	70	17.51
Cranfield	456	91	1506	84	17.92
Fielder	235.5	63	634	34	18.64
Buckenham	252.3	42	768	41	18.73
Lockwood	381	78	1051	56	18.76
Barnes	735.1	257	1696	90	18.84
Haigh	513.3	161	1234	65	18.93
Lees	501.4	133	1272	67	18.98
Trott	433	88	1351	71	19.02
Hulme	268.2	57	800	42	19.04
Mr G W Beldam	342.3	80	582	31	19.09
Roberts	305.1	90	748	39	19.17
Mr E G Martin	327.1	118	710	37	19.18
Bland	435.4	105	1037	57	19.24
Field	338.2	74	1002	52	19.26
Santall	288	82	660	34	19.41
Mr B J T Bosanquet	199.5	33	647	33	19.60
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	320.5	72	922	44	20.85
Arnold	503.4	160	1524	72	21.16
Richardson	536.5	107	1619	76	21.30
Bird	342.4	62	959	45	21.31
Warren	351.5	65	1148	53	21.68
Clode	341.4	70	1000	46	21.73
Braund	539.2	121	1610	74	21.75
Bestwick	403.3	114	964	44	21.90
Hallam	531.1	187	989	45	21.97
Robson (Somerset)	233.5	45	798	38	22.16
Mr W B Brearley	412.4	74	1379	61	22.60

THE PHILADELPHIANS

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr J A Lester	17	486	96	1	30.37
Mr F H Bohlen	18	465	93	0	25.83
Mr N Z Graves	20	440	103*	2	24.44

Mr J B King	16	336	57	0	20.93
Mr C C Morris	15	306	164	0	20.40
Mr P H Clark	19	292	67	4	19.46
Mr F C Sharpless	13	733	54	1	19.41
Mr A M Wood	19	242	36	2	14.23
Mr E M Cregar	14	175	55	1	13.46
Mr T C Jordan	11	71	22	5	11.83
Mr H A Haines	8	74	20*	1	10.57

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr J B King	303	78	771	60	12.85
Mr J A Lester	127.3	25	349	19	18.36
Mr P H Clark	363.1	61	1126	52	21.45
Mr E M Cregar	128	15	439	18	24.38

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	7	3	0	4	3	100.00
Sussex	13	5	1	7	4	66.66
Lancashire	16	6	3	7	3	33.33
Essex	11	4	2	6	2	33.33
Warwickshire	12	4	2	6	2	33.33
Yorkshire	15	6	4	5	2	20.00
Somerset	9	4	3	2	1	14.28
Worcestershire	12	4	3	5	1	14.28
Nottinghamshire	13	2	2	9	0	--
Surrey	15	4	6	5	-2	-20.00
Derbyshire	10	3	5	2	-2	-25.00
Hampshire	5	1	3	1	-2	-50.00
Kent	8	1	3	4	-2	-50.00
Leicestershire	12	1	5	6	-4	-66.66
Gloucestershire	10	0	6	4	-6	-100.00

20 July: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6278.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 12)

At Glossop yesterday Essex had much the better of the game. Mr McGahey and Mr Perrin were the chief contributors to the Essex total, while Mr Fane and Buckenham made useful scores. Mr McGahey went in with two wickets down for 40 and was seventh out at 190.

Although Storer, and afterwards Mr Ollivierre, showed fair form, the Derbyshire batting was disappointing, and at the close the home county with only four wickets left were 135 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 July, page 12)

Essex had all the better of the cricket at Glossop yesterday, and at the drawing of stumps they led by 281 runs and had eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

Essex gained an easy victory at Glossop yesterday by 232 runs. On a pitch so wet from rain that the game could not be continued until 12 o'clock they added 82 runs in three-quarters of an hour, and then declared their innings closed, putting Derbyshire in to get 364 runs to win.

As the wicket dried under a hot sun, the batsmen were severely handicapped. Derbyshire never looked like making a prolonged fight and the match ended at a quarter past 4.

20 July: KENT v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6279.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 12)

The Hampshire eleven were outplayed at Catford-bridge yesterday on the slow wicket. Keeping a fine length, Blythe and Fielder got them out in an hour, and the rest of the day was mostly occupied with the fine batting of Kent.

Mr Blaker went in fourth wicket down at 124 and was ninth out at 254. His cutting was particularly good and he made 16 fours in his score of 89, for which he was batting only a little more than an hour and a half. Hampshire, who were 198 behind, had begun their second innings when stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 July, page 12)

Kent beat Hampshire at Catford Bridge yesterday by an innings and 76 runs. This is Kent's second victory this season, their first success being against Lancashire at Old Trafford.

20 July: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6280.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 12)

The wicket at Old Trafford yesterday was soft owing to heavy rain and the bowlers held the upper hand all day. Lancashire started well in the circumstances, scoring 58 for the first wicket. Everybody on the Lancashire side made some small contribution and it was left to Mr Findlay to head the list.

When Middlesex went in Mr Moon was caught at the wicket off the first ball, but Mr Warner and Mr Beldam remained together for an hour and a half, adding 68. Two other wickets fell quickly, and at the close the game was left in an even position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 July, page 12)

Owing to rain only an hour and 25 minutes' play was possible at Old Trafford yesterday, but in that time, Middlesex lost their six outstanding wickets for 56 runs, leaving them 39 behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

Play was delayed by rain at Old Trafford yesterday until after 3 o'clock. Runs were difficult to get, and Mr MacLaren, with the score at 82, declared the Lancashire innings closed, leaving Middlesex with 122 to get to win in 80 minutes. This they failed to do and the match was consequently drawn.

20 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6281.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 12)

Going in first on a wicket which, in consequence of recent rains, always gave the bowlers considerable assistance, The Worcestershire eleven at Leicester yesterday did as well as could have been expected, staying at the wickets until shortly before 6 o'clock.

The innings did not open with much promise, Mr Foster and Bowley being both out at 34, but Wheldon and Mr Caldwell offered great resistance and materially improved matters for their side. The best batting, however, was that of Gaukrodger. The Leicestershire fielding generally left a great deal to be desired and a number of catches were missed.

Leicestershire had 20 minutes' batting at the close of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 July, page 12)

Leicestershire had all the worst of the day's play at Leicester yesterday, and when stumps were drawn they were in an almost hopeless position, requiring 101 to avoid an innings defeat with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

At Leicester, yesterday, Worcestershire gained a victory by an innings and ten runs. The rain had completely soaked the pitch, but a hot sun dried the wicket more quickly than was expected. However, not until ten minutes past 4 could play be resumed.

Then Leicestershire, with seven wickets to fall, wanted 101 runs to avoid an innings defeat. They were, however, all out half an hour before time. Keene bowled with great effect, taking in the two innings 11 wickets for 38 runs.

20 July: LONDON COUNTY v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6282.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 12)

The M.C.C. and Ground were at the wickets during the whole of the cricket hours at the Crystal Palace yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 July, page 12)

The bowlers held the upper hand at the Crystal Palace yesterday, as with the exception of K S Ranjitsinhji, who played a wonderful innings, no one could do very much. At the close of play London County required 224 to win with all their wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

London County beat M.C.C. and Ground at the Crystal Palace yesterday by seven wickets. In the last innings, they still required 224 to win when play was resumed with all their wickets in hand.

After two men were out cheaply, Mr Poidevin and Mr Heygate added 122 for the third wicket, and thus made victory practically certain. Subsequently K S Ranjitsinhji again batted splendidly and made 48 of his 59 runs by fours.

20 July: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6283.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 12)

Although handicapped by the absence of Cranfield, Somerset managed to hold their own at the Oval yesterday, and at the close of play they were 123 behind with seven wickets in hand.

Defective light considerably curtailed the cricket, for only a quarter of an hour's play was possible before lunch, while stumps had to be drawn at 20 minutes past 6. It was a quiet day's cricket and, with the exception of Braund's bowling, was almost featureless.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 July, page 12)

Surrey outplayed Somerset at the Oval yesterday at all points and at the close of play they were left in practically a winning position, for Somerset were 445 behind with all their wickets in hand.

Surrey started the day well by dismissing the seven outstanding Somerset batsmen for another 61 runs. This was chiefly due to the splendid bowling of Richardson, who in the morning had the following analysis: - 14.1 overs, six maidens, 15 runs and four wickets.

The batting of Surrey in their second innings was in marked contrast to that of their opponents, and the weak Somerset bowling was hit to all parts of the field. So quickly did the runs come that the innings lasted less than four hours, giving an average rate of scoring of about 100 an hour.

The absence of Cranfield was much felt by Somerset, as Braund proved almost as ineffective as he had been effective in Surrey's first innings. It is true that he had several catches missed off him, but he sent down a large number of loose balls.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

Surrey beat Somerset at the Oval yesterday by 246 runs. Richardson again bowled well, and in the match he had the splendid figures of 11 wickets for 125 runs.

20 July: WARWICKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6284.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 12)

Mr F R Loveitt played a splendid innings at Birmingham yesterday on a pitch so wet from rain during the night and morning that the match could not be begun until after lunch. Steady in defence and hitting powerfully to the off, Mr Loveitt also scored cleverly on the leg side and his batting was admirable in every way.

Quaife played steadily for an hour and a half, helping to add 97 for the third wicket, but after he left the batting broke down. Hargreave is unable to play in the match owing to a strained leg.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 July, page 12)

Heavy rain stopped play at Birmingham yesterday, before 2 o'clock, and prevented any play in the afternoon. Owing mainly to some hard hitting by Santall and Field, the last two Warwickshire wickets added 33. The Gloucestershire batsmen found runs difficult to get, Wrathall taking an hour and a half to make 37.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

With so little progress made on Monday and Tuesday and the resumption delayed yesterday until 20 minutes past 1, there was never any chance of a definite result in this match at Birmingham.

Mr Jessop and Langdon played very well, and at the close of the innings Gloucestershire had a lead of 29 runs. Eventually stumps were drawn with the game left in an even position.

20 July: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6285.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 12)

The Nottinghamshire captain on winning the toss at Leeds, yesterday, allowed his opponents to take first innings. The weather was fine and warm, but the wicket was soft after a heavy rainfall in the early hours of the day.

Yorkshire kept position of the wickets until a quarter to 6. Brown and Tunnicliffe began a steady day's scoring by making 75 runs for the first wicket, and afterwards Denton, Hirst and Rhodes all showed good form. Much of the Nottinghamshire bowling was weak and erratic; Hallam's, however, was an exception. Owing to the bad light there was no play after 6 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 July, page 12)

The Nottinghamshire eleven had a hard struggle at Leeds yesterday to save the follow-on, and eight wickets fell before they succeeded.

They were greatly indebted to Mr J A Dixon. He went in at the fall of the third wicket when the score was 65 and he was ninth out two hours and three-quarters later. When play ended the home side were 171 runs ahead and had eight wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

Nottinghamshire were beaten by Yorkshire yesterday at Leeds by 164 runs. Yorkshire, who held a lead of 171 with eight wickets in hand, adopted forcing tactics, but the policy did not meet with success. At 20 minutes to 3 Lord Hawke declared the innings closed and Nottinghamshire had to get 228 runs to win.

They began their second innings at 3 o'clock. They were, however, all out in an hour and a quarter. Hirst bowled splendid and was assisted by some brilliant work in the field.

Wednesday 22 July, page 12: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

No further acceptances have been received at Lord's, and the statement that Mr B J T Bosanquet has been invited to join the team is officially denied. It is understood that several of the professionals who have been asked to go consider the terms offered - £300 and expenses, with the addition of a bonus if the tour prove a financial success - inadequate.

Five test matches will be included in the programme. Though nothing definite has been decided on, it is not the desire of the Marylebone Club to derive profit to themselves from the trip.

Thursday 23 July, page 7: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

At Manchester, yesterday, during the Lancashire and Middlesex match, it was officially announced that Mr P F Warner is quite willing, subject to the approval of the M.C.C., to waive his own rights and go out to Australia under the captaincy of Mr A C MacLaren.

Mr MacLaren confirmed the statement, but said he hardly thought the M.C.C. would change their mind. He added that Mr Warner had no feeling in the matter and would leave it to the M.C.C. to decide.

It is stated that Lilley has received an invitation from the M.C.C. to join the team.

23 June: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6286.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 July, page 10)

Showers during the morning prevented a start being made at Portsmouth until 1 o'clock, while rain fell so heavily after lunch that through game was abandoned for the day at 20 minutes to 4.

During the hour that play as in progress, however, Hampshire did very badly against the bowling of Richardson and Lees, and, with Llewellyn foolishly sacrificing his wicket, half the home side were dismissed. Both bowlers got up awkwardly at times, Mr Sprot, Mr Steele and Mr Hill all being caught in the slips.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 14)

In spite of the heavy rain of the previous day, the wicket at Portsmouth, under the influence of a hot sun and drying wind, had recovered sufficiently to allow of a start being made at the usual time yesterday.

Naturally in the circumstances the bowlers throughout held the upper hand, 22 batsmen being dismissed for an aggregate of 347 runs. At the close Hampshire, with three wickets in hand, were 74 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 7)

A fine bowling performance by Lockwood at Portsmouth contributed in no small degree to the easy victory of Surrey over Hampshire on Saturday by nine wickets. On Friday night Lockwood disposed of Mr Hill and Bowell, the home side at the close of play being 74 ahead with three wickets to fall.

Captaining on Saturday, he again bowled in irresistible fashion, the ball coming back at a great pace and the length being invariably good. Against him the outstanding batsmen could do nothing, the three wickets falling for an addition of only 14 runs to the von score.

Although the wicket still helped the bowlers the ability of Surrey to get the 80 necessary to win was never questioned - in fact, it seemed as though Hayward and Holland would hit them off without loss. At the outset both batted steadily against Mr Hesketh-Prichard and Soar; and the bowling being supported by excellent fielding, only 25 runs were scored in the first half-hour. With bowling changes, runs, however, came faster, each batsman making several beautifully timed drives. Towards the close they took risks, with the result that with only six runs wanted Holland was caught off a lob.

23 July: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6287.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 July, page 10)

Owing to the rain, no play was possible yesterday in this match at Gravesend.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 14)

Play was found possible after 2 o'clock yesterday at Gravesend. The feature of the day was the splendid century of Mr Burnup. Mr Burnup went in second wicket down at 20 and was sixth out at 256. He timed the bowling with great precision and his driving was hard; there was scarcely a bad stroke in his long innings.

Hardinge, a young player from Tonbridge, who was tried once last year, made a successful second appearance for Kent, helping Mr Burnup to put on 159 for the sixth wicket. He has a free and confident style, and has sundry good strokes on both sides of the wicket. Soon after the long

partnership for the sixth wicket, Mr Burnup closed the Kent innings. Somerset lost two wickets in the half hour they were batting at the close of the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 7)

Kent beat Somerset by 130 runs, at Gravesend, on Saturday, when the wicket gave the bowlers so much help, that between half-past 11 and a quarter to 5, 23 wickets fell for an aggregate of 234 runs. The difficulty of timing the ball was common to almost the whole of the batsmen, and if there were exceptions they were in the cases of Mr Dillon, Mr Lee and Braund.

Among many fine catches made during the day perhaps the best was that by Mr Blaker when he got out Mr Johnson, holding the ball high up with his right hand close to the boundary. Blythe bowled remarkably well in both Somerset innings. A dropped catch when the last man was in enabled Somerset to save the follow-on in the morning; but the second innings of each side was played through in about an hour and a quarter.

23 May: LANCASHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6288.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 July, page 10)

On an easy, if somewhat slow wicket, this match, set apart for the joint benefit of Charles Smith and Cuttall, was begun yesterday at Old Trafford. Lancashire were rather less than three hours making their runs. Tyldesley showed by far the best form, but Mr Eccles, hitting freely, scored the faster. For the visitors Mead bowled exceedingly well.

Essex had lost both Sewell and Mr Fane at 29, when Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey came together. These two carried the score to 92 before they were separated. At the close Essex were only 74 behind, with six wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 14)

This match at Old produced some interesting cricket yesterday. Overnight Essex were within 74 of their opponents' score, and when play was resumed the last six wickets added 207. Mr McGahey, who came in at the fall of the second wicket at 79, carried out his bat.

In their second innings Lancashire lost two wickets for 48, but Tyldesley and Mr Hornby played so admirably that they put on 103 for the fifth wicket. Tyldesley, who took two hours to complete 50, was missed at extra cover-point by Mr Douglas when he had made 56, but otherwise he batted excellently. Lancashire are now 26 runs ahead with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 7)

There was an excellent finish to this match at Old Trafford on Saturday, when Essex won by two wickets. They were set 190 to get to win, and they began their task badly, as Mr Fane was caught in the slips at 19. Sewell and Mr Perrin, however, played so well that they added 105 before they were separated.

The third wicket fell at 171, when Mr McGahey was caught at second slip. Mr Perrin was out at 177, the fifth and sixth wickets fell at 182, the seventh at 184 and the eighth at 190, but the runs were then hit off. Fifteen were required when the tenth batsman came in and there were only 20 minutes to play. Cuttall coming on a second time dismissed five men for 34.

23 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6289.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 July, page 10)

The run-making reputation of Trent Bridge wickets was fully upheld yesterday, for Nottinghamshire were in during the whole of the cricket hours and only lost three wickets.

Mr Jones played a magnificent innings. He hit with the greatest brilliancy, and although naturally tired towards the close of the day, he never lost his hold over the bowling. With Iremonger, he put on 107 for the first wicket, and with W Gunn 235 for the second.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 14)

There was a marked change in the conditions at Trent Bridge yesterday, and during the day 23 wickets fell for only 300 runs.

On resuming the Nottinghamshire batsmen hit out freely and the remaining seven wickets fell for 53. Huggins finished off the innings by performing the "hat trick" [Note: Nottinghamshire scorebook shows three wickets in four balls], Oates, Hallam and Taylor being caught off successive balls.

With the wicket all in favour of the bowlers, Gloucestershire had no possible chance of saving the game and Nottinghamshire won by an innings and 256 runs. Owing to an injured ankle, Roberts did not bat in either innings.

23 May: P F WARNER'S XI v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6290.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 July, page 10)

The opening day's play in this match, at the Oval, yesterday, was greatly interfered with by the weather. Less than a quarter of an hour's cricket was possible before lunch, and at the close of the innings at a quarter to 6 rain came on again and stumps were drawn for the day.

Mr Warner's side started very badly against the bowling of Mr King and Mr Clark. None of the batsmen attempted to force the game, in fact Mr Warner was the only one to show any confidence. Eight wickets were down for 98. Subsequently, however, some good hitting by Mr Archer, Mr Stevenson and Tarrant in some degree atoned for the early favours.

The light was very bad during the afternoon; this was especially the case towards the close. Consequently the batsmen deserved every credit for their resolute batting. The brightest piece of play was that for the last wicket, when Mr Stevenson and Tarrant put on 52 in an hour.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 14)

The second day's play in this match at the Oval yesterday left Mr Warner's Eleven with a great advantage, for at the close of play, with six wickets in hand in their second innings, they possessed a lead of 258 runs.

Play was not possible before luncheon owing to the sodden state of the wicket, and when the Philadelphians appeared, it at once appeared that runs would be very difficult to get. Mr Bosanquet and Tarrant, who were unchanged, bowled very well and throughout held the upper hand. Half the side were out for 37 and eight wickets fell for 59. Mr Morris and Mr Le Roy then made a short stand, but the Philadelphians were 105 behind on the first innings.

When Mr Warner's Eleven went in again the bowling of Mr King and Mr Clark at first got up awkwardly, but the wicket certainly improved towards the end of the day. Mr Stanning was caught at third man almost immediately, but then Mr Orr and Mr Nicholls carried the score to 67. Mr Orr got nearly all his runs behind the wicket, but Mr Nicholls made several good drives, especially on the on-side.

After Mr Nicholls was out two more wickets fell rapidly. Then, however, Mr Bosanquet and Mr Bevington came together and put on 77 runs before the close. Neither player seemed quite comfortable

at first, but when they got set they both made a number of fine strokes, and Mr Bosanquet in the last 20 minutes hit freely and reached his 50 a few minutes before stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 7)

Mr P F Warner's XI beat the Philadelphians at the Oval on Saturday by 196 runs. On Friday night the form were 258 ahead with six wickets in hand, and when play was resumed on Saturday they added 121 before Mr Warner declared the innings closed.

Mr Bosanquet only added 12 to his score, and the feature of the batting was Mr Bevington's innings. Mr Bevington is a fine free left-handed player, not altogether sound, but possessed of a number of good scoring strokes in front of the wicket.

The Philadelphians were put in to get 380, and in the circumstances their only chance of saving the game was to play defensive cricket. The best batting was shown by Mr Graves, but although several of the batsmen did fairly well, the side never quite looked like playing out time. With five wickets in hand, they had just over an hour and a half left; but Mr Bosanquet afterwards bowled very well and the remaining batsmen could do little against him. In the match he got 12 wickets for 79 runs.

23 July: SUSSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6291.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 July, page 10)

Rain seriously interfered with cricket at Brighton yesterday, but between the showers there was some splendid batting by Mr C B Fry and Vine, who in little more than two hours scored 170 together.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 14)

Heavy rain fell at Brighton during the night, and yesterday, when play was practicable at ten minutes past 12, the Sussex batting collapse completely on the rapidly drying wicket. Vine was out in the first over, and in the course of an hour the last eight wickets went down for the addition of 48 runs. Mr R T Crawford and King both bowled admirably, keeping an excellent length and getting a lot of break on the ball. King brought the innings to an abrupt close by doing the "hat trick."

Mr de Trafford played a most effective forcing game at the start of the Leicestershire innings. In half an hour before lunch he scored 48 out of 53, and altogether made 72 out of 88 in three-quarters of an hour. Mr Wood stayed while 75 were put on for the first wicket. Four men were out for 105, but then King and Whitehead, by sound, steady cricket, added 122 in two hours. Leicestershire led at the close by 28 runs and had two wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 7)

The match at Brighton on Saturday ended in a draw, but Leicestershire had much difficulty in avoiding defeat. Half an hour from time they had only three wickets in hand; then King and Gill stayed together and saved their side.

Tate by taking the first five wickets at the cost of 15 runs nearly won the match for Sussex; but the feature of the day's play was the splendid batting of Mr Fry and Vine, who, for the second time in the match, opened the Sussex innings by scoring a hundred. On Thursday the first-wicket partnership produced 170 runs and on Saturday 179. Mr Fry did not give a chance, and though he was occasionally in difficulties with King's bowling, his batting was for the most part perfect.

23 July: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6292.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 July, page 10)

At Hull yesterday, Brown played a fine innings for Yorkshire, who were batting just over four hours for their runs. Hargreave, in spite of his injured knee, bowled unchanged throughout the Yorkshire innings.

Warwickshire started badly against the bowling of Hirst and Rhodes, and at the close, with eight wickets in hand, they were 178 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 14)

Although rain interfered considerably with the cricket at Hull yesterday, excellent progress was made in this match, and as the game stands at present, Yorkshire are 151 ahead with four wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 7)

Yorkshire beat Warwickshire at Hull on Saturday by 69 runs.

Friday 24 July, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

It is officially announced that Hayward, Hirst and Rhodes have accepted the M.C.C.'s invitation to join the team for Australia.

Mr P F Warner said at the Oval yesterday that he made no statement for publication of any kind at Manchester on Wednesday as to the captaincy of the English team for Australia. He simply had a private conversation with Mr MacLaren, and he thinks that the so-called official announcement which appeared yesterday puts him in a false position as implying a doubt of his absolute loyalty to the Marylebone Club.

Yesterday afternoon Mr Warner explained his position very fully, saying that he would have been pleased to go to Australia with Mr MacLaren as captain if the M.C.C. had appointed that gentleman. Having himself being chosen as captain, however, Mr Warner feels that he must retain the post unless the M.C.C. should wish him to resign it.

Saturday 25 July, page 14: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

The following statement with reference to the visit of the English team to Australia was issued yesterday evening by the Marylebone Club: -

The M.C.C. Committee selected Mr Warner as captain of the English team from the first and have in no way qualified that selection at any time since. The terms offered by the M.C.C. are - for amateurs (including washing bills, which have proved a heavy expense on previous trips) £300, and a bonus if the tour is financially successful.

The M.C.C. have announced that they do not wish to make a profit for the club out of the tour.

The following have accepted the invitation to be members of the team: - Mr P F Warner (captain) (Middlesex), Mr R E Foster (Worcestershire), Mr B J T Bosanquet (Middlesex), G H Hirst (Yorkshire), W Rhodes (Yorkshire), T Hayward (Surrey) and H Strudwick (Surrey).

Replied have not yet been received from Mr C B Fry (Sussex), E Arnold (Worcestershire), L C Braund (Somerset), Fielder (Kent), A E Relf (Sussex), A A Lilley (Warwickshire) and J T Tyldesley (Lancashire).

Those who have been asked but are unable for various reasons to accept are: - The Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire), Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire), Mr H Martyn (Somerset), Mr L C H Palairret (Somerset), Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire) and Mr E M Dowson (Surrey).

The team will leave England as previously announced, on September 25, an earlier departure suggested by the Australian authorities being impracticable.

THE YORKSHIRE FIXTURES FOR NEXT SEASON. - An important meeting of the Yorkshire County Committee was held during the progress of the match at Hull yesterday, Lord Hawke in the chair. The principal business had reference to the allotment of next season's fixtures.

It was decided to play all first-class counties in addition to the M.C.C. and Ground and Cambridge University. Hampshire, therefore, appear on the Yorkshire card after being dropped for two years. The home fixtures were allotted to the various Yorkshire grounds as follows: -

Middlesex, Sussex, Worcestershire and Derbyshire at Sheffield, Lancashire, Essex and Hampshire at Leeds, Surrey, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire at Bradford, Kent at Harrogate, Somerset and Cambridge University at Hull, Warwickshire at Huddersfield and Gloucestershire at Dewsbury.

Monday 27 July, page 7: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Subject to the approval of the Kent County committee, Fielder, Kent's new fast bowler, has accepted the invitation of the mm to join the team for Australia.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	28	2039	234	5	88.55
Quaife	22	958	180	4	53.66
Mr P F Warner	18	727	149	4	51.92
K S Ranjitsinhji	26	1128	162*	4	51.27
Mr P Perrin	23	1014	170	3	50.70
Hirst	21	854	153	1	49.70
Tyldesley	31	1380	248	2	47.58
Mr H K Foster	29	1277	218	2	47.29
Mr G L Jessop	22	1018	286	0	46.18
Mr A O Jones	28	1177	296	2	45.25
J Gunn	28	1210	294	2	44.81
Mr E M Dowson	27	1054	135	2	42.16
Mr B J T Bosanquet	18	706	108	1	41.47
Mr L O S Poidevin	18	688	172*	1	40.57
Hayes	38	1373	145	4	40.28
Knight	30	1071	144*	3	39.66
Mr C McGahey	25	821	144*	4	39.09
Mr A C MacLaren	35	1148	168*	6	38.28
Killick	28	923	118	3	38.22
Bowley	29	1015	164	1	38.25
W Gunn	25	870	139	1	36.75
Hayward	43	1522	130	1	36.23
Iremonger	26	901	125	1	36.04
Denton	25	1205	133	1	35.44
Lord Hawke	20	529	79	5	35.28
Arnold	30	885	128	4	34.33
Llewellyn	35	875	148	5	33.75
King	31	933	167	2	33.32
J T Brown, sen.	28	926	125	0	33.07
Mr L G Wright	26	813	133	1	32.52
Mr F L Fane	21	621	90	1	31.05
Mr A Eccles	28	599	128	6	29.95
Mr H G Garnett	19	533	122	1	29.61

Sewell (Essex)	28	755	90	2	29.03
Wheldon	26	723	112	1	28.92
Braund	22	551	73	2	28.36
Mr F M Lee	21	441	73*	5	27.56
Rhodes	31	729	93*	4	27.00
Mr C J Burnup	31	803	134	1	26.93
Lilley	21	509	89	2	26.78
Sharp	28	658	120	3	26.22
Holland (Surrey)	33	867	97	0	26.27
Whitehead (Leicester)	29	751	104	0	25.89
Dr W G Grace	19	492	150	0	25.89
Mr C J B Wood	38	879	101	2	25.85
Mr R H Spooner	32	789	247	1	25.77
Mr A H Hornby	30	675	91	3	25.00

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hirst	405	116	944	78	12.42
J T Hearne	549.5	178	1284	92	13.95
Hargreave	708.1	211	1410	100	14.10
Mead	682.4	245	1733	85	14.50
Blythe	484.2	167	1047	70	14.85
Mr W H B Evans	282.2	72	751	48	15.84
Young	330.2	91	729	46	15.84
Mr B J T Bosanquet	249	60	734	46	15.84
Fielder	283.5	74	701	43	16.30
Moorhouse	259.5	63	638	39	16.30
Rhodes	875.4	306	1637	100	16.37
Lockwood	409.4	76	1151	65	17.70
Cranfield (Somerset)	456	91	1106	84	17.92
Trott	455	95	1413	77	18.25
Relf	652.4	226	1484	79	18.78
Barnes	841.1	303	1949	102	18.81
Hulme	263.2	67	800	42	19.04
Lees	554.4	155	1419	74	19.17
Haigh	555.3	174	1330	69	19.27
Field	329.2	74	1005	52	19.22
Bland	439.4	106	1112	67	19.50
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	373.4	84	1057	53	19.94
Richardson	612.2	128	1838	82	19.97
Braund	645.2	137	1940	94	20.63
Hallam	600	203	1161	55	21.10
Arnold	647.4	178	1640	77	21.29
Buckenham	297.3	64	911	42	21.69
Robson (Somerset)	297.5	70	958	44	21.77

THE PHILADELPHIANS

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr J A Lester	19	520	90	1	28.38
Mr F H Bohlen	20	502	93	0	25.10
Mr N Z Graves	22	478	103*	2	23.90
Mr C C Morris	17	360	164	0	21.17
Mr J B King	18	360	57	0	20.00
Mr F C Sharpless	15	263	54	1	18.71
Mr P H Clark	21	283	67	4	17.23
Mr A M Wood	19	242	38	2	14.23
Mr E M Cregar	16	180	55	2	12.55

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr J B King	352	93	885	65	13.63
Mr J A Lester	143.3	28	412	21	19.61
Mr P H Clark	420	68	1317	62	21.24
Mr E M Cregar	132.1	15	474	20	23.70

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	8	4	0	4	4	100.00
Sussex	14	5	1	8	4	66.66
Essex	13	6	2	5	4	50.00
Yorkshire	17	8	4	5	4	33.33
Worcestershire	13	5	3	5	2	25.00
Lancashire	18	6	4	8	2	20.00
Warwickshire	14	4	3	7	1	14.28
Surrey	17	6	6	5	0	0.00
Nottinghamshire	15	3	3	9	0	0.00
Somerset	11	4	5	2	-1	-11.11
Kent	10	3	4	3	-1	-14.28
Derbyshire	11	3	6	2	-3	-33.33
Hampshire	7	1	5	1	-4	-66.66
Leicestershire	14	1	6	7	-5	-71.42
Gloucestershire	12	0	7	5	-7	-100.00

27 July: ESSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6293.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

Rain prevented play in the following matches yesterday: -
Leyton. - Essex v Hampshire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 July, page 12)

Owing to the weather it was impossible to make a start in the matches between Essex and Hampshire at Leyton . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 July, page 10)

Owing to the rain no play was possible in the Rugby and Marlborough match, at Lord's, yesterday. The weather also prevented cricket in the matches between Essex and Hampshire, at Leyton, and Sussex and The Philadelphians, at Brighton. Consequently both were abandoned without a ball being bowled . . .

27 July: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6294.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

Only half an hour's play was possible in this match at Maidstone yesterday owing to the rain. Surrey won the toss and made 37 for the loss of one wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 July, page 12)

. . . There was also no play at Maidstone in the Surrey and Kent match, the score consequently remaining: - Surrey, 37 for one wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 July, page 10)

At Maidstone there was no play yesterday, and the only cricket in the match was about half an hour on the first day, when Surrey made 37 for the loss of one wicket.

27 July: SUSSEX v GENTLEMEN OF PHILADELPHIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6295.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

Rain prevented play in the following matches yesterday: -
Brighton. - Sussex v The Philadelphians

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 July, page 12)

Owing to the weather it was impossible to make a start in the matches between . . . Sussex and The Philadelphians at Brighton.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 July, page 10)

The weather also prevented cricket in the matches between . . . Sussex and the Philadelphians, at Brighton. Consequently both were abandoned without a ball being bowled.

At Brighton, however, a scratch game was played on a fresh wicket. Both sides were to bat for an hour, and that side which had made the most runs in the time was to win. After Sussex had scored 90 for five wickets, of which Killick made 43, in 50 minutes, rain again set in and stumps were finally drawn.

27 May: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6296.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

Rain prevented play in the following matches yesterday: -
. . . Sheffield. - Yorkshire v Gloucestershire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 July, page 12)

Some sensational cricket was witnessed at Sheffield yesterday in the return match between these counties. Yorkshire batted first on a soft wicket. Brown and Tunnicliffe put on 50 runs as the result of the first half-hour's play. Denton was lucky to escape being caught by Mr Townsend at cover-point before reaching double figures, but subsequently he played beautiful cricket. He and Lord Harris added 59 for the eighth wicket.

The Gloucestershire batsmen cut up badly against the Yorkshire bowling. Mr L B Brownlee and Spry were the only pair to secure double figures, and the side were out in an hour and a half. Hirst bowled in grand form throughout the innings.

Gloucestershire had to follow on, and fared even worse. Hirst and Rhodes were practically unpleasant, and in a little more than half an hour six wickets had fallen for as many runs, while at the close of play eight wickets were down for 17.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 July, page 10)

The match between Gloucestershire and Yorkshire, at Sheffield, yesterday, resulted in an easy victory for the home county by an innings and 183 runs.

Twenty minutes' play sufficed to finish the game, although some plucky hitting by Huggins helped Gloucestershire to double their overnight score of 17 for eight wickets. Hirst and Rhodes bowled very finely throughout the match. The score of 36 is the fourth lowest innings ever played by Gloucestershire.

Tuesday 28 July, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

The M.C.C. announce that Relf has accepted the invitation to go to Australia, and Fielder also, subject to Kent's approval.

30 July: ESSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6297.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

The rain of the early part of this week had left the ground at Leyton in such a bad state that yesterday it was at once decided to defer the start of this match until this morning.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 12)

Although the ground at Leyton was still suffering from the effects of the rain, it was found possible to begin this match at about half-past 2 yesterday. Essex in the first innings, which they played through in a couple of hours, found the Middlesex bowling and fielding very difficult to score against. Indeed there was not batting of any particular excellence.

The Essex troubles began with the beautiful piece of stumping that got out Sewell, and after that it was a mere scramble for runs. J T Hearne and Rawlin bowled particularly well on turf on which it was difficult to get a foothold, and Mr G W Beldam being put on as second change at Rawlin's end got the last three wickets very cheaply. The catches of Mr Hunt at long-on and of Mr G Beldam, when he got out Buckenham, were excellent.

Middlesex, who were without Mr Warner, who is suffering from a slight chill, and Mr Bosanquet, had an hour and three-quarters' batting before the close of the day. They found runs difficult to get quickly and Mr Douglas played on in trying to force the game. Mr Wells, however, was far more successful and made some fine strokes on the leg-side before he was caught at mid-on, after having helped Mr Moon to make 41 for the third wicket. Mr Moon played very steadily and Middlesex finished only 14 runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 August, page 10)

Middlesex won their match with Essex, at Leyton, on Saturday, by seven wickets. The turf was even more false than on Friday, and the batsmen, with few exceptions, cut a sorry figure before the good bowling, particularly that of Mr Wells.

Mr Wells was put on in the second innings, when Essex looked like making something of a fight, for they were then 24 ahead with six wickets in hand. Mr Wells's slows worked havoc with the rest of the Essex side. This bowling was one of the best pieces of cricket in the match. J T Hearne finished off the innings, and Middlesex then went in and rapidly got the 53 necessary to secure them the victory.

Mr Moon got more than half the runs made from the bat in this innings, and his record for the match was 87 without being dismissed, so that he had a very big share in the success of his side. From first to last Essex batted very badly on the slow wicket, and the one redeeming feature of their play was Mr Fane's excellent innings in a losing game after luncheon on Saturday afternoon. Rawlin badly injured his hand in making a brilliant catch at short leg, and took no part in the cricket after a quarter to 2.

30 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6298.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

The feature of the first day's play in this match at Liverpool, yesterday, was the partnership of Mr MacLaren and Mr Spooner for the first Lancashire wicket. They went in at noon and were separated just before 5 o'clock, having, with one interruption for rain, made 368 runs in three hours and 30 minutes' play.

Mr MacLaren was certainly lucky, as he was several times missed early in his innings, but he hit very finely and made many beautiful strokes. At 379, before Tyldesley had scored, Mr Spooner was held in the slips for his second highest innings this season. He only gave two hard chances, at 36 and 90, and he played an admirable innings. The Gloucestershire bowling was decidedly weak, and late in the day Tyldesley, after being nearly bowled by Spry, put on runs with considerable freedom.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 12)

Owing to rain in Liverpool there was only an hour and 20 minutes' play in this match yesterday. Mr MacLaren declared the Lancashire innings closed, and when Gloucestershire went in they fared badly.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 August, page 10)

Heavy rain on Saturday morning completely spoiled the third day's play in this match and only an hour and 35 minutes' cricket was possible at Liverpool. Not a ball was bowled until half-past four. Mr Fowler was defeated with a fine delivery and Mr Jessop was splendidly caught by Mr MacLaren in the slips, seven wickets having then fallen for 68.

At this point Mr Brownlee rendered invaluable aid, showing good defence and hitting powers. The colt Heap bowled so well that he is sure to have a further trial, while Cuttell kept a very good length. The match was left drawn, Gloucestershire being 339 runs behind.

30 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6299.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

Although no play was possible in this match at Trent-bridge until just after 3 o'clock yesterday Nottinghamshire, who had the good fortune to win the toss, made such excellent use of their opportunities that when stumps were drawn they had scored 267 for three wickets.

The chief contributor was Iremonger, who played a fine not-out innings, for which he was batting during the whole time play was in progress. He opened rather shakily, but when once he had settled down he played fine cricket. Mr Jones and John Gunn batted in brisk fashion, and a good display was given by Mr G T Branston, of Charterhouse, who has made some good scores this year for his school.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 12)

A full day's cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday went altogether in favour of the home county, and Kent required 245 to save an innings defeat with one wicket down in their second innings.

Nottinghamshire increased their overnight total of 267 for three wickets by 146 by lunch time, when the innings was declared closed with eight wickets down. Iremonger, who played much slower cricket than on Thursday, was sixth out, but not until he had safely passed his second 100 for the first time in his career. He was caught off his first really bad stroke after batting five hours and ten minutes for his runs. George Gunn, Mr Hemingway and Hallam were all favoured by mistakes in the field, the work of the Kent men in this respect being very faulty.

Although the wicket was by no means in favour of the bowlers, Kent gave a feeble display, the only stand of note being that by Fairservice and Blythe for the ninth wicket. John Gunn, who varied his pace very judiciously, bowled unchanged. Following on, Kent fared better, owing to a steady innings by Mr Dillon.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 August, page 10)

Following up their excellent work on the first two days, Nottinghamshire on Saturday defeated Kent at Trent Bridge by an innings and 36 runs.

Kent were in a very bad position when play resumed, as with one wicket down in their second innings they required 245 runs to save the innings defeat. Mr Dillon and Seymour, the overnight not-outs, offered a stubborn resistance, increasing the total by 66, when they both left, and subsequently Mr Burnup, Mr Day and Hardinge also made good stands. They batted with considerable freedom and Hardinge bore out the promise he gave against Somerset in the previous week. The last five wickets, however, fell for 68 runs, Wass and John Gunn bowling admirably.

30 July: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6300.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

The opening day's play in the return match between these counties at the Oval, yesterday, went very much in favour of Yorkshire, for at the close they held a lead of 83 runs with half their wickets in hand. Yorkshire were the batter side at all points on the day's cricket; their bowling was much superior, their fielding keener and their batting showed more confidence.

The bowling of his and Rhodes was quite in a different class to that of their opponents. They made the most of their opportunities, and the Surrey batsmen not only had to fight hard for their runs, but they were frequently beaten. The Surrey bowlers, on the other hand, did not look nearly so deadly. The wicket appeared to be less difficult when Yorkshire went in, but Surrey failed to utilize their chances and frequently they were at fault in their length.

So much rain had fallen overnight that it was found impossible to make a start at the usual hour. Surrey won the toss and went in to bat at ten minutes to 1. Although there had been no sun to affect the wicket, it soon became apparent that runs would be difficult to get. From the first Hirst and Rhodes, with their splendid length and spin, always held the upper hand, and the ball was continually beating the bat.

Surrey started badly by losing Holland when the score was only three, and Hayward was the only one on the side to show any confidence, but he ought to have been out when he had made six, but Mr Smith in the long field misjudged the flight of the ball. The batsmen seemed quite incapable of timing the bowling. Hayes was caught in the long field and Hayward was bowled by a splendid ball. Captain Bush and Lockwood made several good strokes, but they never appeared to be comfortable, and at lunch five wickets were down for 53.

When the game was resumed Mr Walker was quickly dismissed, and after the score had been raised to 62 rain caused a delay of 35 minutes. Up to this period Hirst had taken five of the six wickets for 26 runs. When the players came out again the innings was quickly finished off, chiefly through some good work by Rhodes.

Yorkshire on going in gave a very different display, but the Surrey bowling is not seen to advantage on such a slow pitch. Brown was bowled in Lee's first over, but there Surrey's success ended, although Tunnicliffe ought to have been caught by Moulder in the long field before he had scored. This proved a serious mistake for Surrey, as Tunnicliffe and Denton by some good free cricket put on 89 in an hour for the second wicket.

Afterwards Denton continued to play well, but he was very slow in comparison with the earlier part of his innings. Towards the close of play Denton when 73 was missed by Mr Walker at long-off, while Hirst ought to have been out when he had made only four, so that Surrey have themselves partially to thank for the greatness of their disadvantage.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 12)

After being outplayed from start to finish, Surrey were beaten at the Oval yesterday by an innings and 97 runs. The position of the game overnight, when Yorkshire were 83 runs ahead with half their wickets in hand, naturally pointed to their ultimate success, but few could have been prepared for the feeble display given by the Surrey batsmen. They have the reputation for being a bad side on the soft wicket, and it must be a long time since they were seen to such poor advantage.

It was not only in batting, however, that Surrey failed, for their fielding was much inferior to that of Yorkshire, and several dropped catches considerably helped their opponents to reach such a respectable total. At all points they seemed to lack that keenness which goes to make a successful side.

When Yorkshire resumed their innings Denton continued to play splendid cricket until just after reaching his hundred, when he was bowled by Lockwood, who appeared to be the only bowler on the side to present any difficulties to the batsmen. Denton was seventh out at 196, after having been at the wickets for nearly two hours and a half. With the exception of a chance at 73 his play was free from fault. Subsequently Lord Hawke and Lees Whitehead batted well, and the innings eventually closed for an addition of 87 runs to the overnight total.

Surrey went in a second time at 1 o'clock 170 runs behind, but wickets fell so rapidly that it soon became apparent that there was no chance of saving the innings defeat. The majority of the batsmen tried forcing tactics, but they showed no discrimination in picking out the right ball to hit, and in this way several good wickets were lost. Hayward made several good strokes, but Surrey collapsed so badly that by lunch time seven of the side were out for 52. When the game was resumed the end was quickly reached, and the match was over a few minutes after 3, the Surrey innings having lasted just under an hour and a quarter.

The bowling of Hirst and Rhodes, who were unchanged throughout the match, was excellent; in fact Hirst just now is at the top of his form, and in the last five matches for Yorkshire he has taken 46 wickets for a little over seven runs each. In the present match Rhodes took ten wickets for 81 and Hirst ten for 67 runs, figures which speak for themselves.

30 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6301.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

Rain considerably curtailed play in this match at Worcester yesterday. Worcestershire made excellent use of their opportunities and laid the foundation of a big score.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 12)

Worcestershire completely outplayed Sussex at Worcester yesterday, and at the drawing of stumps the visiting team, with Mr Fry out in the second innings, were still 290 runs behind.

The cricket of the two elevens presented a most striking contrast. Before lunch Worcestershire increased their overnight score of 233 for two wickets to 403 for five, and then the Sussex batsmen

fares so badly against Wilson and Arnold that they were at for under 50, seven wickets being down for 26 runs.

When Sussex followed on, 356 behind, they did not, in spite of Mr Fry's speedy dismissal, collapse a second time, Vine and Killick batting so steadily that they were still together at the drawing of stumps. In the early part of the day the Worcestershire batsmen played capital cricket. Mr Caldwell only added ten runs to his overnight score of 123, but his innings was an admirable display of batting, extending over nearly four hours and a half.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 August, page 10)

The Sussex eleven were beaten at Worcester on Saturday by an innings and 176 runs, this being on their second defeat in county matches during the present season. They were quite outplayed, but considerable allowance must be made for the loss involved in K S Ranjitsinhji's absence.

Little interest attached to Saturday's cricket. With one wicket down after following on, Sussex wanted 290 runs to avoid an innings defeat, and Mr Fry being out, the prospect of getting such a number was, to say the least, remote. Killick and Vine, the not outs of Friday, played with great care for some time, and succeeded in carrying the overnight score of 66 to 99. Then, however, Killick was leg-before-wicket, and at 111 Vine was out in the same way. After they left Relf alone seemed able to do much with the excellent bowling.

Wilson and Arnold followed up wonderfully well the great success which they had met with in the first innings. In the whole game they took 19 wickets between them, Wilson obtaining ten and Arnold nine. The match was in every respect a brilliant one for Worcestershire.

Friday 31 July, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Arnold, the Worcestershire player, has accepted the M.C.C. invitation to join the team for Australia.

Monday 3 August, page 10: THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	30	2041	234	5	81.64
Quaife	22	906	120	4	53.65
Mr P F Warner	18	727	149	4	51.92
K S Ranjitsinhji	26	1128	162*	4	51.27
Tyldesley	32	1437	248	3	49.85
Mr P Perrin	26	1048	170	3	47.63
Hirst	23	1044	153	1	47.45
Mr H K Foster	29	1277	216	2	47.29
Mr A O Jones	29	1215	295	2	45.03
J Gunn	30	1231	294	2	43.96
Mr A C MacLaren	36	1362	204	5	43.81
Iremonger	27	1111	210	1	42.73
Mr E M Dowson	27	1054	135	2	42.16
Mr G L Jessop	25	1038	268	0	41.52
Mr B J T Bosanquet	18	705	108	1	41.47
Mr L O S Poidevin	18	688	172*	1	40.47
Knight	30	1071	144*	3	39.56
Denton	37	1392	133	1	38.66
Hayes	41	1389	145	5	38.58
Killick	30	833	116	3	36.40
W Gunn	25	870	139	1	36.25
Bowley	30	1051	164	1	35.24
Hayward	46	1572	130	2	35.72

Mr C McGahey	27	821	144*	4	35.69
Lord Hawke	22	584	79	6	34.25
Arnold	31	915	128	4	33.88
Llewellyn	25	675	148	5	33.75
King (Leicester)	31	833	167	3	33.22
Mr L G Wright	28	813	133	1	32.52
J T Brown, sen.	30	965	126	0	32.16
Wheldon	27	810	112	1	31.15
Mr G W Beldam	19	524	118	2	30.82
Mr R H Spooner	33	967	247	1	30.21
Mr F L Fane	23	662	90	1	30.09
Mr A Eccles	26	599	125	6	29.95
Mr H G Garnett	30	646	122	1	29.26
Braund	32	851	73	2	28.36
Mr F M Lee	21	441	73*	5	27.56
Sewell (Essex)	30	766	90	2	27.35
Mr C J Burnup	33	660	134	1	26.87
Sharp	29	671	120	4	26.84
Lilley	21	509	59	2	26.78
Whitehead (Leicester)	29	751	104	0	25.89
Dr W G Grace	19	492	150	0	25.89
Mr C J B Wood	36	879	101	2	25.85
Rhodes	33	743	96*	4	25.62
Tunnicliffe	24	585	87	1	25.43
Vine	36	855	80	2	25.14
Mr A H Hornby	30	675	91	3	25.00

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hirst	451.1	136	1047	96	10.90
J T Hearne	599	203	1349	97	13.90
Hargreave	708.1	211	1410	100	14.10
Mead	714	264	1298	91	14.26
Rhodes	924.4	317	1756	117	15.00
Mr W H B Evans	282.2	72	751	48	15.64
Blythe	538.2	180	1168	74	15.78
Young	320.2	91	729	45	15.84
Mr B J T Bosanquet	249	50	734	46	15.85
Lockwood	420.4	78	1188	68	17.47
Cranfield (Somerset)	456	91	1506	84	17.92
Mr G W Beldam	261.3	87	812	34	18.00
Fielder	363.1	83	810	45	18.00
A E Trott	472	98	1483	80	18.28
Haigh	563.3	179	1339	71	18.85
Barnes	846.1	307	1927	102	18.87
Lees	581.4	160	1464	77	19.01
Hulme	268.2	57	800	42	19.04
Relf	663.4	230	1507	79	19.07
Field	328.2	74	1005	52	19.32
Bland	451.4	109	1144	58	19.72
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	373.4	84	1057	53	19.84
Arnold	720.4	215	1719	86	19.98
Richardson	631.2	130	1897	94	20.18
Hallam	617.2	208	1198	59	20.30
Braund	645.2	137	1940	94	20.63
Roberts (Gloucester)	325.1	96	813	39	20.84
Bird	363.4	66	1008	47	21.44
Buckenham	297.3	51	911	42	21.68
J Gunn	753.2	233	1629	75	21.72
Robson (Somerset)	297.5	70	558	44	21.77
Clode	347.4	72	1018	46	22.13
Warren	382.5	72	1267	57	22.22
Cuttell	439.5	148	964	43	22.41
Bestwick	436.3	128	1140	49	23.26

Mr W Brearley	410	62	1562	67	23.31
G Wilson (Worcester)	419.3	83	1306	56	23.32
Tate	479.3	128	1276	54	23.62

THE PHILADELPHIANS - ALL MATCHES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr J A Lester	20	524	96	1	27.57
Mr N Z Graves	23	573	103*	2	27.28
Mr F H Bohlen	21	503	93	0	23.96
Mr J B King	19	385	57	0	20.26
Mr C C Morris	18	361	164	0	20.05
Mr F C Sharpless	16	264	54	1	17.60
Mr P H Clark	22	314	67	4	17.44
Mr A M Wood	20	252	38	2	14.00
Mr E M Cregar	17	188	55	2	12.63

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr J B King	384.3	106	954	74	12.89
Mr J A Lester	176.3	40	451	28	15.10
Mr P H Clark	439	71	1373	65	21.12
Mr E M Cregar	134.1	15	479	20	23.85

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	9	5	0	4	5	100.00
Yorkshire	19	10	4	5	6	42.85
Sussex	15	5	2	8	3	42.85
Essex	14	6	3	6	3	33.33
Worcestershire	14	6	3	5	3	33.33
Lancashire	19	6	4	9	2	20.00
Warwickshire	14	4	3	7	1	14.28
Nottinghamshire	16	4	3	9	1	14.28
Surrey	19	6	7	6	-1	-7.69
Somerset	11	4	5	2	-1	-11.11
Kent	12	3	5	4	-2	-25.00
Derbyshire	11	3	6	2	-3	-33.33
Hampshire	7	1	5	1	-4	-66.66
Leicestershire	14	1	6	7	-5	-71.42
Gloucestershire	14	0	8	6	-8	-100.00

3 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6302.html)

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

Yesterday's cricket at Derby went all in favour of the Derbyshire eleven, who wound up with a strong advantage, being five runs ahead with half their wickets in hand. Rain had fallen heavily during Sunday night, but in the entire absence of sunshine the pitch was always easy and the batsmen should have experienced little trouble in making runs.

Hampshire, however, who had the good fortune to go in first, gave a very indifferent display and in two hours and 50 minutes the whole side were out for a moderate score. At lunch time an even smaller total appeared to be in prospect, five wickets being down for 108, but afterwards Mr Bacon and Mr Johnston offered considerable resistance and added 66.

The best batting, however, was shown by Mr Sprot, who made his runs in admirable style. At 29 he should have been caught at point by Mr Ashcroft, but apart from this mistake his innings was perfect. Warren bowled with marked effect and came out with a splendid record.

The feature of the Derbyshire innings so far as it went was the hitting of Mr Ollivierre, who scored his 68 in 35 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 10)

At Derby, yesterday, Derbyshire gained a splendid victory over Hampshire by an innings and 59 runs, the match coming to an end just before half-past 6. When play began in the morning Derbyshire, with five wickets in hand, were five runs ahead, and by adding 256, they gained an advantage that practically assured their success.

The feature of the day's cricket was the batting of Needham, who had the satisfaction of playing his first three-figure innings in county cricket. He was eighth out at 424, after being at the wickets for three hours and 35 minutes, and although he gave three more or less difficult chances it was a splendid innings.

Going in again 261 runs behind, Hampshire fared so badly that seven wickets were down for 115. Bowell then batted with great resolution, and was ably assisted by Mr Bacon and Soar, but their efforts were of no avail.

3 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6303.html)

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

For the first time this season, Gloucestershire were practically at full strength yesterday, when they began their return match with Sussex at Bristol. Mr C L Townsend, Sewell and Mr Brown were available for the first time during the summer, and the only prominent men absent were Mr F H B Champain and Huggins. Sussex were also well represented, so the counties met upon level terms.

The play, however, went distinctly in favour of the home side, who kept their opponents in the field all day. As the ground was soft after a night's heavy rain, the scoring during the morning was slow, only 79 runs being made by lunch time, while Mr Townsend, Mr Rice and Wrathall were disposed of. The wicket was much faster in the afternoon, and then the batsmen were seen to far greater advantage.

Mr Sewell played a good innings. His batting was not quite as polished as usual, but it was entirely free from fault. When he left, Mr Jessop and Langdon made a capital stand, 75 minutes' play producing 106 runs. Of that number Mr Jessop claimed the remarkable proportion of 92. He was nearly caught before he had scored, but afterwards he played correct cricket, his driving being particularly powerful. Mr Brown helped Langdon to add 107 in an hour and a quarter, but wickets fell quickly after they were parted.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 10)

Owing to a remarkable stand made by Mr W S A Brown and Roberts for the last wicket at Bristol yesterday, Gloucestershire were able to run up a very large score against Sussex. Mr Brown and Roberts came together with the score at 340, and they were not parted for an hour and 50 minutes, adding 104 in that time.

Of that number the professional only claimed 11, for he made no attempt to score and was quite content to keep his end up. His play would have been most tedious but for the fact that it enabled Mr Brown to compile the highest score he has ever made for his county. His display was altogether much the best that he has ever given. His hitting on the leg side was daring in the extreme, but he got the ball away very cleanly.

Rain in the morning and the early afternoon did not improve the wicket, and Sussex did well to get as many runs as they did for the loss of five wickets. Mr Fry did not appear comfortable and, although helped by a life at 15, he took 80 minutes to get his runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 10)

Before the luncheon interval was reached at Bristol, yesterday, it became apparent that this match would end in a draw. The only chance of a definite result being arrived at was by the home team's making their opponents follow on. This they failed to do, and all interest in the game disappeared quite early in the day.

The visitors, who had lost half their wickets for 166, found the wicket much easier than it had previously been, and although runs were not scored freely, the moderate bowling of Gloucestershire did not give the batsmen much trouble. Killick added 23 to his score before he was caught and bowled. He did not give a chance during the two hours and a quarter that he was at the wickets, but he was scarcely seen at his best.

Mr Brann, however, played a great game for his side. Apart from a chance when he had made one, he did not make a mistake and got his runs by very correct cricket. The only other batsman who met with any success was Mr Heygate, who carried out his bat. Much of the Gloucestershire fielding was excellent, but the two catches dropped were expensive.

Gloucestershire had a lead of 60 upon the first innings, but at the close of play they had by no means the better of the draw.

3 August: KENT v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6304.html)

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

The 62nd festival at Canterbury was begun yesterday under every promise of success. Although the heavy rains of the early hours made cricket impracticable before 1 o'clock, it was altogether a bright, fine day, and the wind from the west was not sufficiently strong to be disagreeable. With the wicket soft, it was unlikely that the first match of the week would furnish much in the way of batting triumphs, and so far the results have been in keeping with what might be expected.

Essex are essentially a fast-wicket side, and their men did little better than scramble for their runs during the time of their innings, which began at 1 o'clock and lasted until just after 4. Mr Fane was in a long time, but the only really good bit of work for a slow wicket was that of Mr Kortright, who timed the ball with much success and drove and hit to leg with great power. He was certainly the only batsman to show a faculty for playing Blythe, who kept a superb length and got a lot of work on the ball. Blythe was unchanged throughout the innings and his bowling was quite a feature of the day's cricket. The Kent fielding was brilliant, Mr Dillon, Mr Mason and Mr Blaker being especially good.

Kent, in an hour and three-quarters, got to within 34 of the Essex score, with three men out. Alec Hearne played with much steadiness, but the best cricket near the close of the day was the driving of

Mr Burnup. Mead bowled very well and required a great deal of playing. At the other end, Mr Kortright, Mr Douglas and Reeves were not so difficult.

One of the important elements in the success of the Canterbury Week has always been the social side of the function, and the county families of Kent and the Zingari and the Band of Brothers Clubs gave every patronage to this part of the festival, as well as to the more material work on the St Lawrence ground; and the Old Stagers, who are of course inseparable from Canterbury Week, have issued a strong programme for their four nights at the theatre. Last night they played Our Flat, which they will repeat on Thursday, while this evening and on Friday they will give Mr Anthony Hope's Pilkerton's Peerage. The county balls are to be held at St Margaret's-hall to-morrow and Friday nights.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 10)

The batting of Mr Mason and Mr Day yesterday at once raised the cricket to a high degree of excellence, for nothing could be better than their one hour's stand for the fifth wicket when they were adding 91 runs. Mr Mason found his game immediately, and his driving and cutting were as good as ever, and Mr Day, too, although not scoring so quickly, played a great innings. He had gone in overnight, but 57 of his runs were got yesterday, and he was fifth out at 206.

This batting was done on a wicket that was appreciably helpful to the bowlers, although it was less false than on Monday. The Kent batsmen altogether played a fine winning game. Mead bowled well but, although Mr Douglas met with some success, the rest of the bowling did not seem difficult. Kent, who finished up 203 ahead, were only three hours adding the 237 to their overnight score.

Essex made a courageous struggle in their losing fight, and the last three hours were occupied by them in hitting off 158 of the arrears at the cost of five wickets. The batting was dull to watch, but the keenness of the Kent bowling and fielding gave some brightness to the play. The weather yesterday was generally dull and threatening and the wind blew strongly from the west, but the attendance at the St Lawrence ground was as large as on Monday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 10)

The first match of the week ended yesterday in the victory of Kent by ten wickets. Essex were outplayed from the start at all points of the game and, although they did well in their second innings, they had virtually lost the match through the brilliant batting of Kent on the second morning.

Yesterday only 100 minutes were taken to finish the match. Mr McGahey played steadily to the end of the Essex innings and was last out, having occupied over three hours in making his runs. Mr Burnup and Mr Dillon wound up the game with a brilliant piece of hitting to get the runs in the fourth innings necessary to win.

Page 196: LEICESTERSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6305.html)

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

Mr J A Lester played a splendid innings at Leicester yesterday. Heavy rain had softened the turf and the weather turning fine the wicket became difficult, but the Philadelphian captain mastered the county bowling with wonderful skill. Going in when one wicket had fallen for two runs, he carried out his bat, scoring 126 out of 198 put on during the three hours he was batting. He did not give chance and hit with wonderful certainty all round the wicket, his drives being very hard and clean. Mr King helped Mr Lester to add 45 runs in 50 minutes, but the other batsmen were sadly at fault.

Leicestershire also did very badly on the treacherous pitch, Mr King bowling with such effect that half the side were out for 71. Then, however, King and Whitehead turned the game slightly in favour of the county. They added 49 without being separated, and Leicestershire finished the day 80 behind with half their wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 10)

This match was left in an interesting position at Leicester, yesterday, the home county, with a complete innings to play at the drawing of stumps, required 324 to get to win.

Against a total of 200 by the Philadelphians, Leicestershire had on Monday scored 120 for the loss of five wickets, but yesterday the outstanding five wickets went down for 44 runs. King was only able to add a single to his overnight score of 52, when he was caught at the wicket. Whitehead went on batting very vigorously, but after he left at 161 the innings quickly came to an end, the last three wickets falling for three runs.

Holding a lead of 36, the Philadelphians started their second innings in excellent form. The first pair of batsmen - Mr Graves and Mr Sharpless - took the score to 97 before Mr Graves, who was batting an hour and a half, left after playing a fine free innings. Mr Lester and Mr King added 59 for the third wicket. The former gave one chance but he made a number of beautiful strokes. Mr Wood and Mr Bohlen hit out at everything and scored so well that when the fifth wicket went down the score had reached 259. Then came a startling collapse in the batting order, however, the last five wickets only adding 28 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 10)

The Philadelphians beat Leicestershire at Leicester, yesterday, by 101 runs. They had set the home side the heavy task of getting 324 in the last innings.

Owing to a stand by Mr Wood and Knight, which produced 87 runs, after Whitehead had left with only six scored, there seemed every prospect of a good finish, but, after Knight played a ball into his wicket at 134, there was nothing in the batting beyond a little hitting by Mr V F S Crawford and Gill. Mr Wood and Knight both played faultlessly and Knight's cutting was particularly good. Mr Cregar bowled with much success and the fielding was smart.

3 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6306.html)

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

Somerset did badly yesterday at Taunton at the start of their innings, six wickets going down for 59 runs. The remaining batsmen, however, retrieved the position, Mr Daniell and Cranfield putting on 91 for the last wicket in rather over an hour.

At the outset, a strong wind was blowing across the ground, with the result that Mr Hunt was enabled to obtain a considerable amount of swerve, while J T Hearne also bowled finely, the ball coming quickly from the pitch. Mr Palairret and Robson made the first stand of any length, adding 45 for the seventh wicket. Afterwards Mr Daniell and Cranfield made the bowling look very simple, the former driving and hitting to leg in fine style, while Cranfield made several good cuts.

Middlesex had 50 minutes' batting, and Mr Warner and Mr Moon, who opened the innings, drove with gratify power, 50 going up in 22 minutes. The latter was caught in the long field on the boundary, while Mr Warner just before the close was taken at slip.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 10)

Although unmarked by any outstanding individual performance, yesterday's play at Taunton was always attractive and the state of the match interesting. Overnight Middlesex had lost Mr Warner and Mr Moon for 88 runs and, continuing, the game proceeded in an even condition, eight wickets going down for 255.

Trott, however, with a characteristic innings, compiled in 25 minutes, gave his side an advantage. Mr Wells made several fine strokes on the off side, but had a lot of luck. Before scoring he offered a possible chance in the slips, and when he had made 39 he should have been easily stumped. Braund

bowled well and was unlucky in not getting better figures, while the catch with which Mr Palairet disposed of Mr Beldam was a magnificent piece of fielding.

Somerset at the start of their second innings again began badly, Mr Palairet and Braund being out with 43 scored. Lewis helped Mr Phillips to add 50 for the third wicket, but when the latter was out four wickets were down for 127. This brought Mr Johnson and Mr Lee together, and the pair by increasing the total to 221 considerably improved their side's position.

Mr Johnson played the best innings so far of the match. He drove with tremendous power and his strokes to leg were beautifully timed. It was chiefly owing to his resolute hitting that Somerset at the drawing of stumps, with half their wickets in hand, held a lead of 170.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 10)

Middlesex at Taunton, yesterday, accomplished a fine performance, going in to get 313 with three hours and a half remaining for play. The side batted with such resolution that ten minutes before time the task had been accomplished with two wickets in hand.

Overnight Somerset, after having had somewhat the worst of the game, left off in the good position of being 170 runs ahead, with half their wickets in hand; and yesterday the not-outs, Mr Lee and Mr Daniell, by adding 96 for their partnership materially improved the home side's position. Mr Lee's innings, although marred when he had made 64 by an easy return to Mr Wells, is the best as well as the biggest he has played for his county. Afterwards Mr Woods hit vigorously; and at the close Middlesex appeared to have little chance of winning.

From the start of their innings it was evident, however, that the visitors intended making a big bid for victory. After Mr Warner had lost Mr Moon with only ten runs scored the batting order was changed, Mr MacGregor going in at the fall of the first wicket. The Middlesex captain forced the game, while Mr Warner seized all opportunities of scoring, and the stand realized 67 in 35 minutes. Both players left at the same total, and with Mr Douglas out at 129 Somerset held the advantage.

Mr Bosanquet, however, drove with tremendous power, hitting 13 fours during his 65-minutes stay; and when Mr Beldam left, sixth out, after a fine innings, only 50 were required, with three-quarters of an hour left for play. The fall of two more wickets caused some excitement, but the result towards the finish never appeared doubtful.

3 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6307.html)

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

The Surrey and Nottinghamshire match at the Oval, although it has lost some of the interest which attached to it in former years, always arouses a great deal of attention, and a very large crowd, as usual, watched the first day's cricket yesterday. At the close of play, Nottinghamshire were left with a great attractive, for they had got seven of their opponents out and were still 132 runs ahead. The ground was very wet in the morning, but although it dried considerably as the day went on, under the influence of a hot sun and a rather strong wind, it never became as difficult as might have been expected.

Nottinghamshire were extremely lucky to have first innings, but they fully deserved the advantage which they gained. They batted and bowled better than their opponents, while no comparison could be made between the fielding of the two teams. The fielding of Surrey, in fact, was such as should never be seen in a first-class match. Even the safest of fieldsmen at times drop catches, but the number of chances which Surrey threw away yesterday was unpardonable. Some were very easy, others more difficult, but there were at least half a dozen which should have been caught.

The early part of the Nottinghamshire innings was interesting to watch. Iremonger played beautiful cricket, and John Gunn, although he was lucky, made several fine strokes. He and Mr Branston were together at lunch time, when the score was 140 for three wickets. After lunch, Mr Walker put Richardson on at the Vauxhall end, and this policy was at once successful. Mr Branston, of Charterhouse, who had shown good defence and who on a fast pitch must be a fine player, was caught at

the wicket, John Gunn was out to a difficult catch by Mr Dowson in the country, and Mr Dixon was caught in the slips, six wickets being down for 163.

The cricket afterwards became painfully slow; all the bowlers could get a certain amount of work on the ball and runs seemed very difficult to get. The last four wickets added 58, and George Gunn, who was last out, in the circumstances must be considered to have given a good display, although he was certainly not interesting to watch.

Surrey started with Hayward and Mr Dowson to the bowling of John Gunn and Wass. Hayward, considering the state of the wicket, did rightly to try to force the game, and he made a number of beautiful strokes before he was caught in the deep field. After he was out, no one except Lockwood could do much with the bowling. J Gunn, who was unchanged, bowled very well indeed. He kept a fine length and bowled his faster ball with great judgment.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 10)

The second day's play in the Surrey and Nottinghamshire match at the Oval left Nottinghamshire with the advantage. Their opponents up to a certain point retrieved the bad start which they had made on Monday, but at the close of play they required 269 runs to win with all their wickets in hand, a task which is not unlikely to prove beyond their capabilities to-day on a wicket that will probably be far from perfect.

Overnight Surrey had made 86 for seven wickets, but they managed to bring their total up to respectable proportions, and at the end of the innings they were only 52 behind. The credit of this performance was entirely due to Moulder and Lees, who added 68 for the ninth wicket.

Nottinghamshire on going in again batted very consistently against bowling which never looked simple; and, at one time, when they had made 166 for three wickets, it seemed as if they were in for a large score. Iremonger and William Gunn both played beautiful cricket, and John Gunn, although he was again lucky, gave an interesting display, at times hitting finely. He was out off a high hit to a very good catch by Captain Bush, who had to run a long way and took the ball practically at arm's length.

At about 4 o'clock rain fell heavily and the game was delayed for half-an-hour. Afterwards Richardson at once "yorked" Mr Branston, and Mr Dixon was soon bowled by Smith from a ball which seemed to come back considerably. The last five wickets added 63, and Surrey were put in soon after 6 o'clock to get 296. Much of the Surrey bowling was good on a wicket which was not really difficult. Perhaps Smith was the best. He always appeared to make the ball turn a great deal, but his length is not sufficiently good to make him very deadly.

Mr Walker and Mr Dowson started the Surrey innings and played out time. Both had some very narrow escapes of being bowled, but Mr Dowson made two or three beautiful drives past extra-cover.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 10)

Nottinghamshire beat Surrey at the Oval yesterday by 118 runs. All through the match they had held an advantage and their opponents never looked like getting the 296 runs necessary to win in the last innings.

Overnight Mr Dowson and Mr Walker had made 27, and they carried the score to 43 before Mr Dowson was out. Afterwards wickets fell regularly, and the only stand of any length was made by Captain Bush and Hayes, who added 43 for the fifth wicket. Captain Bush played a very pretty innings, but no one else stayed very long. John Gunn and Wass bowled unchanged throughout. The latter, from the Vauxhall end, maintained a great pace and often got up uncomfortably high, while Gunn, as in the first innings, bowling extremely well, altering his pace judiciously and keeping just about the right length. In the match he got 14 wickets for 132, and certainly he had as large a share as anyone in winning the game for his side.

There were one or two chances missed, but as a whole the Nottinghamshire fielding was good, and Mr Jones caught Lockwood with a very fine catch at third slip, low down with one hand.

3 August: WARWICKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6308.html)

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

Some remarkable cricket was witnessed at Birmingham yesterday, the ball beating the bat in such a degree that in the course of the afternoon 24 wickets fell for an aggregate of 184 runs. Heavy rain had fallen during the night, and under the influence of a hot sun the wicket became so difficult that bowlers had matters all their own way.

Going in first, Warwickshire were all out in less than two hours and a half, Devey and Charlesworth, both of whom batted exceedingly well, alone showing any capacity to play the bowling.

Badly as Warwickshire had fared, Worcestershire did even worse against the bowling of Hargreave and Moorhouse. Arnold and Mr H K Foster made 40 of the runs, and to the former clearly belonged the honours of the day. He withstood all the efforts of the Warwickshire bowlers for an hour and 35 minutes and, in addition to saving his side from a bad collapse, he took in the course of the day 12 wickets at a cost of less than five runs apiece.

When an innings on each side had been completed Warwickshire held a lead of 31 runs. In the last half-hour of the day, however, they met with nothing but disaster, and when stumps were drawn they had lost four of their best batsmen and were only 42 runs ahead. Arnold took the four wickets that fell and had only six runs hit from him.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 10)

Worcestershire gained a brilliant victory at Birmingham, yesterday, by nine wickets. They were fortunate in finding the wicket in better condition for run-getting when they went in a second time than it had been previously in the match; but Mr Foster and Bowley did a splendid performance to score 114 after the bowlers had had matters all their own way. Mr Foster had played quite faultlessly, and Bowley gave only one chance, when he had made nine, their vigorous and certain hitting coming as a great change to the slow cricket of the home batsmen.

Arnold had dismissed four of the Warwickshire team for 11 runs on Monday evening and, although the turf had dried appreciably, he was still extremely difficult to score from. He took two more wickets and made his record in the match 13 wickets for 79. Quaife showed great skill in defence and his patience was inexhaustible. He scored only 27 runs in two hours and a quarter; but there appeared to be fair opportunities of making runs which he failed to utilize, and a little hitting would have been of more service to the side, for when Worcestershire batted after lunch the wicket was much faster if not quite true.

3 August: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6309.html)

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

There were about 25,000 spectators at Bradford yesterday to see the return meeting of the Yorkshire and Lancashire elevens. The proceeds of the match are for the benefit of Tunnicliffe, who is in his 13th year of service with the Yorkshire team. Yesterday's receipts were about £900, so that the benefit is an assured success.

The wicket was soft from the effect of the rain in the morning, but it improved gradually. Lancashire won the toss and batted first. Rhodes and Hirst bowled admirably to begin with, but they were not properly supported in the field, three chances being missed in the first hour. Mr Spooner and Mr MacLaren scored 57 for the first wicket, then three more wickets went down for ten runs, and at lunch the score was 84 for four wickets.

Mr MacLaren was bowled in the first over after the interval, and as Mr A H Hornby and Sharp both failed, seven wickets were down for 97. Some brilliant batting, however, by Mr Eccles and Cuttell greatly important the Lancashire position, and the last three wickets added 136. Mr Eccles should

have been caught when he had made 57, but Cuttell gave no chance. Haigh and Rhodes both bowled well, especially the former.

Yorkshire had three-quarters of an hour's batting, and at the close of play they were 187 runs behind, with all their wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 10)

At Bradford, yesterday, the Yorkshire and Lancashire elevens were engaged in a characteristically keen struggle; only five runs divided the teams on the first innings, but when Lancashire went in a second time some brilliant bowling by Rhodes enabled Yorkshire to hold the stronger position at the close of the day.

The home side with all their wickets intact were 187 runs behind at the resumption of play. The innings was not completed until after 4 o'clock. Hirst played the highest and best innings of the day. He was at the wickets for two hours, giving no chance. Mr Ernest Smith should have been caught before he had scored, Cuttell failed to take an easy chance at short slip. Rhodes also received two lives, but not until he had made 20. Although some chances were missed much of the Lancashire fielding was admirable, the catches by which Denton and Lord Hawke were dismissed being especially good ones. The Lancashire bowlers did not put the advantage of the wicket, upon which rain had fallen in the early morning, to as much use as they ought to have done.

The bowling of Rhodes when Lancashire went in a second time emphasized this fact. He bowled from the same end as Barnes had done, and in an hour and a half he took six of the seven wickets that fell. Thus at the close Lancashire, with three wickets to go down, were only 83 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 10)

A splendidly fought match between the Yorkshire and Lancashire elevens ended at Bradford at five minutes past 4 yesterday in a victory for Yorkshire by five wickets. A brilliant innings by Sharp in the morning made the fight much closer than had appeared probable.

A wicket fell to the first ball delivered on the resumption of play, and Lancashire then had eight men out and were only 83 runs ahead. Sharp's hitting and Heap's steady defence resulted in 80 runs being added for the last two wickets. Rhodes bowled very finely all through the innings.

Yorkshire wanted 163 runs to win. They began indifferently, three wickets being down for 48 runs and four for 78, while 53 were still required when Mr Smith was out to a bad stroke to third man off an equally bad delivery by Barnes. Hirst and Rhodes by cautious play hit off the runs in an hour, the winning stroke being made by the former. Hirst made 127 runs in the match, and thus played a great part in Yorkshire's victory. His batting was sound and excellent in each innings.

The match receipts and collections, which are for the benefit of Tunnicliffe, amount to £1,839 12s.

Tuesday 4 August, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Tyldesley and Braund have accepted the invitation of the M.C.C. to go to Australia. Braund's acceptance, however, is still subject to the approval of the Somerset committee.

Thursday 6 August, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

It is officially announced that, owing to pressure of business, Lilley has found himself compelled to decline the invitation of the M.C.C. to join the English team for Australia.

6 August: ESSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6310.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 10)

The cricket in this return match, at Leyton, yesterday, went all in favour of Nottinghamshire, and at the drawing of stumps they held a lead of 107 runs with only three wickets down. Against the bowling of Taylor and John Gunn Essex gave a very feeble display and were all dismissed in two hours and a half, the last five wickets falling after luncheon for 37 runs. The only batsman to play the bowling at all confidently was Mr Douglas, who went in second wicket down and was not out at the close of the innings. John Gunn again bowled very finely and he has this week taken 20 wickets at a cost of just over nine runs apiece.

Iremonger and Mr Jones made a good start for Nottinghamshire, and subsequently Mr Jones and William Gunn gained a complete mastery over the bowling. The Essex total was passed in an hour and 35 minutes with only one wicket down, and Nottinghamshire were 40 ahead when Gunn was bowled. Mr Jones, who hit in reckoned fashion towards the close of his innings, was at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes. On the whole the fielding of both sides was good, and the only real chances missed were a sharp one to Oates at the wicket and one by Mr Douglas which John Gunn offered in the last over but one of the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 12)

As on the first day, play in this return match at Leyton, yesterday, went all in favour of Nottinghamshire, and Essex, at the close of play, still required 46 to avoid an innings defeat with six of their best batsmen out. Nottinghamshire, who were 107 ahead with seven wickets to fall, when play ended overnight, increased their lead to 251, the innings not closing until five minutes after luncheon. George Gunn played stylish, but slow, cricket, and, with Oates, made a good stand for the ninth wicket.

Essex did better in their second innings than in their first, but at no time did they appear likely to save the game. Mr Perrin was the only batsman to face the bowling with real confidence, and he was not out at the close with 105 to his credit - his third century of the season against Nottinghamshire. Mr Fane and Mr Lucas also batted fairly well. It should be mentioned that Young was unable to take the field yesterday owing to an attack of influenza.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 10)

Fifty minutes' play sufficed to finish this match at Leyton on Saturday, Nottinghamshire winning, for the first time on the Essex ground, by an innings and two runs.

Mr Perrin had only added five to his overnight score when he was caught and bowled by John Gunn, who thus claimed his hundredth wicket of the season. Mr Perrin was batting three hours and ten minutes for his runs, and he gave only one chance at 48. John Gunn bowled very finely, his record on Saturday being four wickets for 18 runs.

6 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6311.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 10)

At Bristol, yesterday, Gloucestershire gave, perhaps, their best bowling and fielding display of the season upon a good and true wicket. They dismissed Middlesex for a moderate total in the course of four hours and 20 minutes.

At no time during that period did the batsmen ever fairly settle down to their work, and even Mr Wells, who made the highest score, had to exercise great care. He was never thoroughly at home and some of his strokes were decidedly poor. He found his best partner in Mr MacGregor, with whom he put on 59 for the eighth wicket. Mr Beldam was very patient, as usual, and took an hour and a half to make his runs.

Roberts was the bowler who gave most trouble. He kept a consistently good length and his performance, considering the wicket gave him no assistance, was a very good one. The fielding after the first quarter of an hour, during which two catches were dropped, was excellent. Gloucestershire lost some of the advantage which they had gained from their good work in the field by losing 322 in the last hour of the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 12)

Langdon and Board, who have been two of the most disappointing batsmen in the Gloucestershire team this season, accomplished a fine performance at Bristol yesterday. They became partners when seven of their side were out for 156, and in the course of two hours they put on 166 runs.

To begin with, they batted very quietly, Langdon taking an hour and three-quarters to make his first 50. After lunch, however, he scored at a great rate and made his last 66 in 50 minutes. All through his innings he showed capital form and never gave anything approaching a chance. Most of his runs were obtained in front of the wicket, but he did not rely upon any one stroke. Board also did very well and showed much more restraint than usual. Mr Sewell was the only other member of the side who met with any success, and he played beautiful cricket. Gloucestershire had a lead of 81 on the first innings; they were helped no doubt by the inability of Trott to bowl owing to a strain, for his assistance would have been invaluable.

Middlesex lost three wickets before they cleared off the arrears, in spite of a patient display by Mr Warner. It was only when Mr Douglas and Mr Bosanquet got together that any headway was made against the admirable bowling of Dennett and Roberts. When stumps were drawn Middlesex, with six wickets in hand, were 70 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 10)

At Bristol, on Saturday, Middlesex made ample amends for the moderate character of their play in the earlier stages of the match with Gloucestershire, and gained a remarkable victory by 272 runs. Such a result as this hardly looked possible when the game was resumed, for, with six wickets in hand, the visitors were only 70 runs ahead. Mr Douglas, however, who had gone in at a critical period overnight, batted in splendid style and enabled the innings to be closed with six men out.

Gloucestershire were thus left with 273 to get with two and a half hours for play; but so badly did they fare against the fine bowling of Mr Bosanquet and Mr Wells that in less than two hours they were all dismissed. Their batting was of a most feeble character, Sewell alone making any stand. It was certainly a most extraordinary ending to a remarkable match, and the way Middlesex played up at the finish afforded ample evidence of what a great side they have become.

The chief honours went to Mr Douglas, although his runs would have been unavailing if they had not been supplemented by the successful bowling of Mr Wells and Mr Bosanquet. Mr Douglas's score was made in five hours and a quarter. During the hour and 59 minutes that Mr MacGregor was in with him, he played very quietly, but after lunch, with the aid of Mr Wells, he put on 124 in an hour.

6 August: KENT v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6312.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 10)

Yesterday was an ideal Ladies' Day and the St Lawrence ground never looked better. There was a splendid day's play on a hard wicket. The scoring was comparatively small, but the batting was sound.

It was a great feat on the part of the Worcestershire eleven to get such a side as Kent out on a good wicket in three hours. It was largely the work of Arnold, who, except for one over, bowled right through the innings, keeping a splendid length, varying his pace and getting a lot of spin on the ball.

In the batting Alec Hearne played in his own finished, quiet style right through the innings, timing the good ball with precision and invariably waiting for the ball from which to score. The earlier part of his innings saw him at his best, but when things began to go badly for Kent he was additionally cautious. Mr Mason was in some time for his runs and he made a few hard drives, and Mr Hutchings, who helped Hearne to add 53 for the sixth wicket, played extremely well. Kent had 140 up with only five men out, but the tail for once failed.

Worcestershire found the Kent bowling and fielding very difficult to score quickly against, but Mr H K Foster and Bowley made 51 by fine cricket for the first wicket. Both men were then out, and at 73 Mr R E Foster also left. Mr Caldwell batted very Woolley, and the end of a Ken day's cricket left Worcestershire in a better position, seeing that they are only 59 behind with six wickets to fall.

It was something like a record attendance for the St Lawrence ground, for nearly 10,000 people paid for admission, in addition to which there was a very large muster of members of the Kent County Club. The mayor (Sir George Collard) and the mayoress held a largely-attended reception in their tent on the ground during the afternoon. The Old Stagers played Our Flat at the theatre last night. Tonight they will play Pilkerton's Peerage again, and will bring their 62nd season to an end with the epilogue.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 12)

The great stand by Mr Burnup and Alec Hearne for Kent's first wicket in the second innings in the last two hours yesterday came as a great relief from the tedious cricket played by the Worcestershire batsmen during the early part of the day. Kent had gone in a second time with arrears of 82, and they finished yesterday evening 64 ahead with all ten wickets in hand.

The batting of Mr Burnup and Alec Hearne with their different styles was very good to watch. Mr Burnup's cutting and driving was splendid, and Hearne played with all the finish which marked his game on Thursday. His strokes on the leg side were very clever and in late cutting, too, he came out strongly. They got their runs at a quick rate against some fine bowling, but Arnold and Wilson, with all their length and spin, could not keep the scoring within the normal average.

From half-past 11 until approaching 4 o'clock the remainder of the Worcestershire first innings was very dull, and this was singularly marked during the partnership of Mr Bromley-Martin and Wheldon, who, when they were well set on the beautifully true wickets, seemed to lack completely the faculty of forcing the game. In two hours and a half they increased the score by only 97 runs, while Mr Bromley-Martin was batting only 15 minutes short of three hours to get 38. Worcestershire threw away their chances of establishing a big advantage on the innings.

Mr Burnup altered his order and went in first, and he and Alec Hearne by their batting revived the interest in the game. The fielding of both teams reached a high degree of excellence.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 10)

Kent beat Worcestershire by 196 runs on Saturday. It was a remarkable victory after the position in which things had been left on Friday evening; for in spite of the big stand by Mr Burnup and Alec Hearne, who had then made 146, Kent were only 64 to the good.

The partnership ended in the morning with the score at 168, when Hearne mistimed a ball that broke back and hit the off stump. Hearne had played extremely well, and when he had gone Seymour batted strongly. But everything in the way of batting was surpassed by Mr Burnup, who forced the game at a great pace by driving and cutting all the bowlers with equal ease. He was second out at 231, when, playing forward to a rising ball, he was caught at point. Subsequently Mr Mason, Mr Day and Mr Hutchings all hit hard, and runs had been made so quickly that Mr Burnup felt that Kent were strong enough at 3 o'clock to close their innings and leave Worcestershire roughly three hours in which to get 273.

No one was prepared for the remarkable cricket that took place in the first quarter of an hour of the last innings. The wicket was still hard and true, but Fielder, bowling at a great pace and aided by the wind, got four men out in his first four overs for 12 runs. Mr H K Foster and Mr Caldwell were caught in the slips in the first and second overs before a run had been scored, and in the third and fourth overs Mr R E Foster and Arnold were bowled.

From this collapse Mr Bromley-Martin and Bowley tried to rescue their side with some steadiness, and Fielder and Blythe were given 20 minutes' rest, Hearne and Mr Mason taking up the bowling. Hearne got Mr Bromley-Martin leg before at 41, and then Fielder and Blythe were put on again, and they rapidly finished off the innings, the last five wickets adding only 25 runs. Worcestershire had played their innings through in a couple of hours.

The hard wicket just suited Fielder; it was a wonderful piece of bowling, and the pace and length seemed to make him quite unplayable. Kent fielded splendidly, and of the five catches in the slips three were made by Mr Mason.

Thus Kent wound up a Canterbury Festival that had been all round eminently successful. The weather had been good all the week; Kent had won both matches on the cricket field; and the Old Stagers had done their part very well at the theatre on the four nights, and there was a record "house" for the second performance of Mr Anthony Hope's Pilkerton's Peerage on Friday, which was followed by the Epilogue. There was a collection on the ground on Saturday for Hearne, which amounted to £41, and in view of the subsequent events it was decided that Fielder and Blythe should share in the money.

6 August: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6313.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 10)

The return match between these counties was begun at Old Trafford, yesterday. Derbyshire were at the wickets three hours and a half, and they were mainly indebted to Mr Wright for their score. Mr Ollivierre showed free and finished cricket and made his runs in 65 minutes without a chance. After Mr Wright's dismissal the last six wickets fell for 23 runs. Hallows, who twice took two wickets in the same over, had an excellent analysis.

In the last hour and a quarter Lancashire batted in moderate form, for after Mr MacLaren had been twice missed, Mr Spooner, who had also an escape, was bowled at 64, while Tyldesley and Mr Findlay left to successive balls at 66, the former being well caught.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 12)

The Lancashire eleven were seen in their best form at Old Trafford yesterday, and beat Derbyshire by nine wickets. The partnership which began on Tuesday evening between Mr MacLaren and Mr Hornby was not broken until they had put on 104 for the fifth wicket, Mr MacLaren then being caught at mid-on. He gave two chances overnight, but yesterday he played fine cricket. Mr Hornby as the seventh to leave, after playing freely and faultlessly. Hallows also batted well, but he could get no one to stay with him.

The visitors were disposed of in their second innings in rather less than two hours. Hallows bowled Storer at 23, and three remarkably fine catches dismissed Mr Wright, Mr Ashcroft and Mr Ollivierre, a series of disasters which demoralized the side. Mr Lawton offered some resistance, but Barnes was put on at 81 and secured for of the last five wickets for three runs. He dismissed Mr Lawton and Warren with successive balls, and almost bowled Cadman with the next. Throughout the innings Hallows bowled with great accuracy.

Wanting 98 to win, Mr MacLaren and Mr Spooner batted so well that they seemed likely to hit off the runs, but at 97 Mr Spooner was caught at mid-off.

6 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6314.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 10)

The return match between Leicestershire and Yorkshire was favoured by delightful weather at Leicester, yesterday. Leicestershire won the toss, and on a perfect wicket scored their runs in a little over four hours.

They started badly, having three wickets down for 27 runs, but then Mr Vivian Crawford by fine hitting scored 77 in three-quarters of an hour. Later in the day Gill played a similar innings. Mr C J B Wood was, however, the top scorer, and he carried his bat through the innings. Although he made many good strokes, it was not a sound display. He was three times missed; he should have been caught and bowled by Rhodes when he had made eight, he was missed at mid-off by Hirst at 30, and behind the wicket by Hunter at 83.

By taking Mr Odell's wicket Hirst brought his season's aggregate up to 100 wickets. He has thus for the fourth time in his career scored over 1,000 runs and taken 100 wickets in one season.

Brown and Tunnicliffe opened the Yorkshire innings at a quarter past 5, and when play ended Yorkshire were 223 runs behind with all their wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 12)

The Yorkshire eleven gave a steady display of all-round batting at Leicester yesterday. They had scored 99 without losing a wicket on Thursday evening, and yesterday the partnership of Brown and Tunnicliffe for the first wicket was carried to 112, when Brown was caught at mid-off.

He had played sound cricket, but his innings was eclipsed by Hirst, who got his runs in two hours. Hirst ought to have been caught in the slips by Whitehead at 86, but this was his only blemish in a fine display of batting. Rhodes also contributed an admirable innings. There was some good hitting by Denton and Lord Hawke, but the latter was twice missed.

Mr H Wilkinson created a good impression by his steady defence; he was batting for an hour and three-quarters, and was out to a magnificent running catch by Knight at deep square leg. Yorkshire passed their opponents' score with three wickets in hand, and finally held a lead of 93 runs.

It was obvious before their innings closed that the wicket had become unsound, and when Leicestershire went in a second time a good score was not looked for. Their display, however, was extremely weak; they had two wickets down for 22 runs. Knight and King were each missed, but they were separated at 46. Then three more wickets went down for 11 runs. At the close Leicestershire with only four wickets in hand wanted 31 to save an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 10)

The Yorkshire eleven gained their second victory of the season over Leicestershire, at Leicester, on Saturday. The home side was in a hopeless position when play was resumed, for, with six wickets down in their second innings, they required 31 runs to save an innings defeat.

Mr R T Crawford and Mr Davis only added 13 on Saturday morning, before the former was caught at second slip. Then Gill was missed at deep long-on by Brown before he had made a run. This escape enabled Leicestershire to escape the innings defeat, for Gill scored 16 afterwards. Haigh bowled finely and got a lot of work on the ball from the off. The Yorkshire fielding was repeatedly at fault during the match, and in all the visitors dropped seven catches.

Brown and Tunnicliffe scored the runs which were required in ten minutes, Yorkshire winning at a quarter past 12 by ten wickets. This is their sixth consecutive victory.

6 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6315.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 10)

With the exception of Mr Johnson none of the Somerset batsmen played the Sussex bowling with any degree of confidence at Taunton, yesterday. It must be admitted, however, that the home side's

difficulties were due to the excellence of their opponents' work in the field, for the wicket appeared in perfect condition. Both Relf and Cox kept an accurate length, the former at times coming back with a great deal of spin.

After Mr Johnson left, fourth out, the batting to the end of the innings was poor. Mr Palairet, although he made top score, batted in far from his customary manner, making several bad strokes. The Sussex ground fielding was smart all round, Relf at cover-point being brilliant.

The visitors had half an hour's batting, during which Mr Fry, when he had scored 18, should have been caught and bowled by Cranfield.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 12)

At Taunton, yesterday, Sussex kept the home side in the field the whole of the day, the last wicket of the visitors falling a few fixtures before the time fixed for drawing stumps. The foundation for the capital score was laid by Mr Fry and Vine, the pair, who overnight had made 38, putting on 121 for their partnership before Mr Fry was bowled by a ball which broke sufficiently from leg to beat the bat. Mr Fry, except for a chance which he gave overnight when he had made 18, batted faultlessly and displayed more variety of strokes than is usual with him.

Afterwards Killick and Vine added 74 for the second wicket, the latter, who had shown sound defence during his stay of two hours and 45 minutes, being out through mistiming a half-volley. He displayed remarkable patience in waiting for the loose balls. Killick, whose cutting was clean and safe, was third out at 198, and afterwards Mr Brann, with a bright innings, placed his side in what appears to be a safe position. He was batting a little over two hours, and hit well all round the wicket without making a bad stroke until he was bowled in attempting to hook a short ball.

In spite of their long outing the Somerset bowlers maintained their length well, and Braund, considering that he had to bear the brunt of the attack on a splendid wicket, came out with capital figures.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 10)

An innings by each side had been completed when play was resumed at Taunton on Saturday, but Somerset so far had much the worst of the game. Owing chiefly however to brilliant batting on the part of Mr Johnson and Braund, the home side were extricated from their bad position, and when stumps were pulled up and the match left drawn Somerset, with two wickets in hand, were 269 runs ahead.

Mr Palairet and Braund made a good start by putting on 80 in 55 minutes for the first wicket, but again Mr Palairet failed to show at his best, his mastery of the bowling never appearing complete. Braund, however, at once settled down to good cricket and played his best innings of the season. He hit well all round the wicket, without offering anything approaching a chance, his cutting being safe and his strokes to the on marked by great power.

Mr Johnson's innings was no less meritorious. Chiefly by well-timed, straight drives, he got his runs in two hours and 25 minutes, without making a bad stroke.

6 August: SURREY v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6316.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 10)

The Philadelphians kept Surrey in the field during the whole of the cricket hours at the Oval yesterday, and at the close they were left in a position which in ordinary circumstances should be sufficiently strong to enable them to avoid defeat.

It was a perfect wicket for run-getting, but in the morning the Philadelphians did not make the most of their opportunities. From the start the Surrey bowling looked very simple, but the batsmen played almost entirely a defensive game, with the result that the first two hours' play only produced 95 runs. Mr Graves and Mr Sharpless put on 53 for the first wicket; but the cricket was painfully slow,

although the former made some good strokes. Mr Sharpless was second out at 119, after batting just over two hours and a half for his 30.

Subsequently, however, there was a great improvement in the rate of scoring, for after Mr Lester had left at 140 Mr King and Mr Bohlen by good cricket added 62 in less than an hour for the fourth wicket. The best innings, however, was played by Mr King, who made the majority of his runs on the leg side. When he and Mr Wood were together 116 were put on in an hour and a quarter, and the bowling was severely punished without either batsman really making a bad stroke. Mr King was sixth out at 118, while Mr Wood was caught at third slip shortly afterwards.

As will be seen by the score the batting of the Philadelphians was very consistent, and they received little help from the field. The only chance that was missed was when Mr Dowson let off Mr Bohlen late in his innings. The batsmen seldom lifted the ball, and when they did it was generally clear of the fieldsmen.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 12)

The Philadelphians were again seen to advantage at the Oval yesterday, for they fully maintained the strong position in which they were left overnight, and at the close of play they held a lead of 227 runs with eight wickets in hand. The innings of the Philadelphians was brought to an end without incident.

When Surrey went in the wicket was still in splendid order for run-getting, and there was no reason why they should not have made an equally good score. But their batting was very feeble against the bowling of Mr Clark and Mr King. They made a very bad start by losing Captain Bush, Hayward and Mr Dowson for 23 runs, and so badly did they fare that seven wickets were down for 106, and it was only the resolute batting of the tail that eventually enabled the score to reach fair proportions. Of the earlier batsmen Lord Dalmeny was the only one to meet with any degree of success, and he made some good drives.

The turning point in the innings was reached when Lees was joined by Stedman. Lees in particular played good cricket. He was much quieter than usual and his play in consequence was much sounder. While the two were together 64 runs were added, when they were much needed, in 45 minutes. With Smith in runs continued to come freely, and he and Lees put on 70 for the ninth wicket. With the addition of a single, the innings was brought to a close.

Holding a lead of 146, the Philadelphians on going in again started none too well by losing Mr Graves and Mr Wood for 23. Then, however, Mr Bohlen and Mr King came together and by good cricket played out time.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 10)

After a very interesting finish, the Philadelphians beat Surrey at the Oval on Saturday by 110 runs. Their victory was thoroughly deserved in every respect, and was the result of some fine all-round cricket. They had gained such a strong advantage at the close of play on Friday - they were 227 runs ahead with only two wickets down in their second innings - that their position was perfectly safe.

Continuing their innings, Mr King and Mr Bohlen by some splendid cricket enabled the Philadelphians to declare their innings closed, leaving Surrey with 398 to get to win with about four hours left for play.

Although the wicket was still in splendid condition, the task of getting the runs was practically an impossible one. There was really no reason however why Surrey should not have been able to play out time, but this they just failed to do. The majority of the side again showed their inability to play the bowling of Mr King and Mr Clark, with the result that seven wickets were down for 117. It is true that Mr Walker and Lees were run out through smart work in the field, but there was no object to be gained in trying to make short runs and, as subsequent events proved, their want of judgment practically lost Surrey the game.

At this period there appeared every probability of the match being over at about half-past 4, but a great change came over the game, and Hayward and Stedman kept together for an hour and a half and put on 134 without making a mistake. When Richardson came in there was still half an hour left for play, but the end was reached at 20 minutes past 6.

It was a fine day's cricket, for nothing could have been better than the batting of Mr King and Hayward. Mr King, who received valuable assistance from Mr Bohlen - the pair putting on 130 in less than two hours for the third wicket - showed plenty of power and, except for a chance of stumping shortly after he had reached double figures, his innings was free from fault. Hayward was seen quite at his best. His timing was perfect from start to finish [and] he always appeared to be master of the situation.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	32	2163	234	5	80.11
Hirst	26	1264	153	2	52.66
Quaife	24	894	130	4	49.70
K S Ranjitsinhji	28	1160	162*	4	48.33
Mr P F Warner	22	849	149	4	47.16
Mr P Perrin	29	1210	170	3	46.63
Mr A C MacLaren	40	1539	204	6	45.26
Tyldesley	36	1446	248	4	45.18
Iremonger	30	1280	210	1	44.13
Mr H K Foster	33	1266	120	2	44.06
J Gunn	33	1351	294	2	43.90
Mr A O Jones	32	1311	296	2	43.70
Mr E M Sprot	16	634	103	1	43.26
Mr G L Jessop	28	1151	286	0	41.46
Mr L O S Poidevin	18	638	172*	1	40.47
Mr B J T Bosanquet	22	845	103	1	40.73
Killick	32	1102	116	3	38.00
Mr E M Dowson	31	1097	135	2	37.82
Denton	40	1473	133	1	37.76
Hayward	50	1765	156*	3	37.55
Knight	34	1158	144*	3	37.35
W Gunn	28	1004	139	1	37.18
Bowley	34	1176	164	2	36.75
Hayes	45	1456	145	5	36.40
Mr C McGahey	31	948	144*	4	35.03
Lord Hawke	24	628	79	6	34.85
J T Brown, senr.	34	1118	125	1	33.72
Mr L G Wright	29	940	133	1	33.57
Llewellyn	27	715	148	5	32.80
Arnold	35	863	128	5	32.10
Mr G W Beldam	23	673	118	2	32.04
King (Leicester)	35	1023	167	3	31.05
Wheldon	30	890	112	1	30.68
Mr C J Burnup	37	1071	134	2	30.60
Mr R H Spooner	37	1085	247	1	30.13
Braund	35	999	111	2	29.38
Mr A Eccles	29	673	126	6	29.26
Mr C J B Wood	40	1064	118*	3	28.48
Mr F L Fane	27	734	90	1	28.23
Mr F M Lee	25	696	83	5	27.80
Rhodes	36	858	98*	5	27.67
Mr H G Garnett	28	581	122	1	27.66
Mr J Daniell	17	330	64&	5	27.50
Sharp	33	746	120	4	26.84
Sewell (Essex)	34	833	90	2	26.03
Dr W G Grace	19	482	150	0	25.89
Lilley	23	535	59	2	25.47
Vine	38	911	80	2	25.30

Mr A H Hornby	33	759	91	3	25.30
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BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hirst	538.2	149	1279	102	12.83
Blythe	657	227	1287	91	14.14
Hargreave	754.4	232	1488	105	14.17
Rhodes	1025.2	339	2011	134	15.00
J T Hearne	694	231	1566	103	15.20
Mead	794	289	1475	95	15.53
Mr W H B Evans	282.2	72	751	48	15.54
Moorhouse	290.5	73	693	43	16.11
Young	253.2	95	825	49	16.85
Mr B J T Bosanquet	307.1	68	953	57	16.89
Fielder	383.1	112	1036	60	17.26
Arnold	841.5	258	1937	109	17.77
Lockwood	454.4	80	1306	73	17.87
Haigh	618.3	188	1483	81	18.30
Barnes	923	335	2104	114	18.45
J Gunn	882.5	264	1935	103	18.78
Hulme	268.2	57	800	42	19.04
A E Trott	489	99	1542	80	19.27
Field	329.2	74	1005	52	19.32
Relf	788.4	271	1755	90	19.94
Bland	469.4	114	1212	60	20.20
Lees	643.4	182	1610	79	20.37
Cranfield	566	111	1896	93	20.38
Richardson	731.2	152	2122	103	20.69
Hallam	647.2	219	1258	60	20.95
Braund	753.5	161	2245	106	21.17
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	405.4	91	1148	54	21.25
Roberts (Gloucester)	442.1	138	1047	49	21.36
Warren	445.5	79	1473	68	21.66
Buckenham	217	53	936	44	22.40
Bird	407.4	73	1155	51	22.64
Mr W Brearley	506	98	1683	73	23.04

THE PHILADELPHIANS - ALL MATCHES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr J A Lester	24	790	126*	3	37.61
Mr J B King	23	639	113*	1	29.04
Mr N Z Graves	27	684	103*	2	27.36
Mr F H Bohlen	25	640	93	0	25.60
Mr C C Morris	21	396	164	1	19.80
Mr F C Sharpless	19	325	54	1	18.05
Mr A M Wood	24	368	50	2	16.72
Mr P H Clark	25	351	67	4	16.09
Mr E M Cregar	21	217	55	2	11.43

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr J B King	484	119	1321	87	15.18
Mr J A Lester	188.3	43	487	28	17.39
Mr P H Clark	539.2	88	1589	82	20.59
Mr E M Cregar	168.4	17	609	28	23.42
Mr P N Le Roy	63.3	9	254	8	31.75

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	11	7	0	4	7	100.00
Yorkshire	21	12	4	5	8	50.00
Sussex	17	5	2	10	3	42.85
Nottinghamshire	18	6	3	9	3	33.33
Worcestershire	16	7	4	5	3	27.27
Lancashire	21	7	5	9	2	16.66
Essex	16	6	5	5	1	9.09
Warwickshire	15	4	4	7	0	0.00
Kent	14	6	6	4	0	0.00
Surrey	20	6	8	6	-2	-14.28
Somerset	13	4	6	3	-2	-20.00
Derbyshire	13	4	7	2	-3	-27.27
Hampshire	8	1	6	1	-5	-71.42
Leicestershire	15	1	7	7	-6	-75.00
Gloucestershire	16	0	9	7	-9	-100.00

10 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6317.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 10)

After a slow and uneventful batting display by Hampshire at Southampton yesterday, the innings lasting just upon four hours, a sensational turn came over the game, Warwickshire during their 50 minutes' batting losing seven wickets. A considerable quantity of rain had fallen overnight, but the wicket, although always soft, was never difficult, so the collapse of the visitors' batting can scarcely be accounted for.

To Langford, a medium-pace right-hand bowler, who was given his second trial for the county, the unexpected success of Hampshire is due, the young professional taking his five wickets at a cost of 13 runs. He batted, too, in sound and attractive style, and his partnership with Mr Johnston for the eighth wicket, when matters were apparently going badly for his side, realized 65 runs. As the game now stands Warwickshire require 57 to save the follow-on.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain, no play was possible yesterday in the matches between . . . Hampshire and Warwickshire, at Southampton.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 9)

At one stage of the game yesterday, at Southampton, victory appeared well in sight for Hampshire; but a defensive partnership by Santall and Moorhouse, during which 42 were added in one hour for the eighth wicket, saved the situation. Warwickshire, at the close of play, with two wickets in hand, were 55 behind.

The same pair of batsmen in the visitors' first innings also were responsible for saving the follow-on, and this in no small measure spoiled the home side's chances, Hampshire having to bat a second time when the wicket was in its worst condition. Mr Bacon was the only player on the side to show any confidence, forcing the game so well that he made more than half the total in three-quarters of an hour.

The wicket, considering the quantity of rain which had fallen on the previous day, dried rapidly as the afternoon advanced; and when Warwickshire went in to get 202 to win, with two hours and three-quarters left for play, the ball appeared to come along fairly easily. It was at once evident that an attempt would be made to get the runs, and so well did the first pair, Quaife and Devey, bat that

the task appeared quite likely to be accomplished. From this point, however, Langford followed up his success of the first wicket, and seven wickets were down for 102 runs. Then Moorhouse and Santall came together, and the two resisted all the bowling until, just upon time, Santall was then caught in the slips.

10 August: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6318.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 10)

Kent accomplished a capital performance at Taunton yesterday, upon a wicket which had been saturated by heavy rain on Sunday and by a further storm in the morning. Play was out of the question at the usual hour, but the ground recovered quickly and, after an early lunch, a start was made just after half-past 2.

The wicket for a time played badly, and during the first hour and a half, while runs were scored at a fair rate, wickets also fell fast. With the total at 85, half the side were out, and that in spite of a capital display by Seymour.

Then Mr Mason and Mr Hutchings made a remarkable stand. The latter was very uncomfortable to start with, but he soon got set and forced the game with the utmost confidence. In 85 minutes no fewer than 183 were added to the total, of which his share was 106, his first hundred for the county. Hard as he hit, he never made a mistake and treated all the bowling in much the same way. Mr Mason also batted admirably, making most of his runs on the off side.

Somerset, who are trying a new bowler named Coyle, from Halifax, did not field particularly well, and their bowling fell off considerably as the afternoon advanced.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain, no play was possible yesterday in the matches between Somerset and Kent, at Taunton . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 9)

After Tuesday's rain, the wicket at Taunton yesterday was in a treacherous state, and as Kent's only chance of winning was by making Somerset follow on, Mr Burnup at once declared the innings closed.

At one period this policy seemed likely to succeed; for, after a late start, two men were out at lunch time for 29. In the afternoon, however, Braund and Mr Phillips made a splendid stand, and in spite of the capital bowling of the visitors they put on 68 in an hour. Braund made most of his runs to leg by clean, hard hits, but he was by no means so safe in his off-side play. Mr Phillips's innings was the more attractive of the two and his cutting was brilliant.

After the pair were parted, Blythe had matters very much his own way again. The follow-on, however, was avoided, and only 50 minutes were left for play. Kent at the close, with eight wickets in hand, were 199 runs to the good.

10 August: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6319.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 10)

The first day of the Surrey and Derbyshire match at the Oval was practically spoiled by rain. Play was only possible in the intervals between the showers in the morning, and soon after luncheon a heavy thunderstorm swamped the wicket and the game was abandoned for the day.

Surrey won the toss, and started with Hayward and Holland to the bowling of Bestwick and Warren. The wicket did not appear to be very easy, Bestwick especially getting up very quickly, but 30 had been scored before Hayward was caught at the wicket. After lunch Hayes hit beautifully; he actually scored 50 out of 66 runs, and it was mainly due to his fine forcing play, exactly the right game in the circumstances, that Surrey had laid the foundation of a good score when play had to be abandoned.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 9)

Very little cricket was possible at the Oval yesterday, owing to the rain, and the game was definitely abandoned for the day soon after 4 o'clock. In the time available for play Surrey added 68 runs to their overnight total. Mr Dowson and Captain Bush added 34 for the fourth wicket before the latter was caught and bowled, and afterwards Mr Walker hit freely.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 9)

The match between Surrey and Derbyshire, at the Oval, yesterday, was drawn. So little progress had been made during the first two days that no other result seemed probable, as the wicket, although soft, was easy.

Surrey, who overnight had lost four wickets for 174, added another 160 runs, and then shortly after half-past 1 their innings was declared closed. Mr Walker helped Mr Dowson to put on 75 for the fifth wicket before he fell to a good left-handed catch at point. Then Lockwood and Mr Dowson punished the Derbyshire bowling severely; but this was the only other stand of any note. Mr Dowson's innings was a very lucky one, as he was several times missed, but, at the same time, he made many good strokes. The Derbyshire fielding was very uncertain and their bowling weak.

When Derbyshire went in wickets fell fast and six men were out for 69, Mr Ollivierre being the only one of the earlier batsmen to offer any resistance to the bowling. Subsequently, however, Needham and Cadman considerably improved matters.

On going in again, 199 runs behind, Derbyshire fared a little better, but all interest in the match had vanished. As there was no object to be gained in prolonging the game stumps were drawn at a quarter past 6.

10 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6320.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 10)

Lancashire began their last southern tour this season at Brighton yesterday. Sussex won the toss and remained at the wicket for five hours and a quarter. Lancashire tried eight bowlers and generally had a sorry time, as Sussex never offered any catches that were not taken.

Mr Fry and Vine made 141 for the first wicket, the former then being taken in the slips. Before lunch Mr Fry played delightfully free and faultless cricket, but after the interval he was quite unable to time the ball with his usual accuracy. K S Ranjitsinhji was very slow at first, playing nine successive maiden overs from Cuttell, but afterwards he showed his customary form. He and Killick added 162 for the third wicket, when Killick was bowled.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 9)

Owing to rain, which finally brought play to a close at a quarter-past 1, the game at Brighton was only in progress yesterday for an hour and 25 minutes. During this period Sussex added 79 to their overnight score and lost one more wicket, that of Mr Heygate, who scored his runs in an hour and 20 minutes by very slow cricket. K S Ranjitsinhji, who has been batting nearly four hours without a mistake, is still not out and has his 23 fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 9)

At Brighton yesterday morning the Sussex innings was declared closed and Lancashire, batting on a drying wicket, scored 163 before lunch for the loss of Mr MacLaren. Subsequently, a great change came over the play. Tyldesley was immediately captured after the interval, the second wicket having put on 119. Tyldesley had batted well, and Mr Spooner also played admirably; but wickets fell rapidly and 65 minutes' play after the interval saw Lancashire lose their outstanding nine wickets for the addition of 48 runs. Relf was very effective during the afternoon, getting six wickets for 15 runs.

Following on, 211 runs behind, Lancashire saved the game, mainly owing to Mr MacLaren.

10 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6321.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 10)

Everything else at Worcester yesterday was dwarfed by the magnificent performance of Knight, who was batting the last five hours of the day for an all but perfect innings, which was still incomplete when stumps were drawn.

Knight went in at the fall of the second wicket for 43, and gained a complete mastery over the Worcestershire bowling, and apart from a chance in the slips to Mr H K Foster at 64 he scarcely made a faulty stroke. King helped Knight to add 150, which was the largest partnership of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 9)

Leicestershire, who were batting the whole of Monday at Worcester to make 419 for the loss of seven wickets, finished off their innings yesterday, the last three wickets adding 46. In making his highest score in first-class cricket Knight was batting five hours and 40 minutes, and he played magnificently throughout.

With practically nothing better than a draw to hope for, Worcestershire were set a formidable task, and half the side were out at half-past 4 for 118. Mr Caldwell, however, played a great game towards the close. With Wheldon he added 72, and then with Gaukrodger another 45 for the sixth wicket, which was still standing at the drawing of stumps. Mr Caldwell deserves every credit for his skilful defence in the face of much good bowling for over four hours and ten minutes.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 9)

Owing to some determined batting by Bowley and Arnold, Worcestershire drew their match with Leicestershire at Worcester yesterday. The home county were assisted by rain, which interrupted play for nearly an hour and a half in the afternoon, but they did well to escape defeat.

Against Leicestershire's big total they had scored 235 for six wickets, still requiring 81 to save the follow-on. They failed, however, to get the runs, the four outstanding wickets going down for the addition of 59. Mr Caldwell's stay at the wicket lasted altogether four hours and 20 minutes.

Following on 171 runs behind, Worcestershire for a time fared very badly, three wickets falling for 13 runs; but, as it happened, they met with no further disaster, for offering a strong defence, Bowley and Arnold resisted all the efforts made to separate them, and when the game was given up they had added 85 runs.

10 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6322.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 10)

When Middlesex defeated Yorkshire at Lord's rather more than two months ago neither county was represented at its full strength. It was satisfactory, therefore, that both counties should command their best elevens for the all-important encounter which opened at Leeds yesterday. Except for a slight shower and a short period of delay owing to the bad light there was nothing to interfere with the game, and the attendance of over 16,000 people witnessed an enjoyable day's cricket.

Brown and Tunncliffe by steady cricket laid the foundation of what proved to be a most useful score for Yorkshire. For once in a way Tunncliffe hit out vigorously in the first few overs, and when Rawlin and Mr Bosanquet had given way to Mr G W Beldam and Mr Wells runs were made at a good rate. Fifty were scored in as many minutes, and although Denton and Mr Jackson were got rid of rather easily Yorkshire had scored 106 for three wickets at the interval.

Tunncliffe was twice missed in his innings, which included eight fours. He and Hirst put on 53 runs in three-quarters of an hour and, by a singular coincidence, Mr Smith remained with Hirst while the same number were added for the sixth wicket in half an hour. Hirst once more played fine cricket, his 52 being the best innings on the Yorkshire side. Haigh and Hunter made a most useful stand for the last wicket, putting on 42 in 35 minutes.

The innings closed after four and a quarter hours' play. The chief bowling honours were carried off by J T Hearne, who kept an excellent length throughout.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 9)

Some exciting play was witnessed at Leeds, yesterday, in the match between Middlesex and Yorkshire. As a result the home side left off in a very strong position, and at present they hold a lead of 407 runs, with four wickets in hand.

The day's play opened in a very sensational manner. Hirst and Rhodes bowled so well that Lord Hawke had no occasion to make a change. Hirst made the ball swerve in an extraordinary manner at the beginning of the innings, and with only 20 runs scored had Mr E A Beldam missed off him at short-leg. Had Lord Hawke held this catch Hirst would have been credited with the "hat trick," for the Yorkshire captain, fielding in the same position, caught Mr MacGregor and Mr Warner off successive balls.

Middlesex lost five wickets for 30 runs, while the first 50 were made in an hour and a quarter. Mr Bosanquet hit freely at times, but he did not stay long. Mr E A Beldam, on the other hand, batted steadily for an hour and three-quarters. He went in at the opening of the innings and was seventh out. The Yorkshire fielding was admirable all through.

The home county had a lead of 174 runs on the first innings, but Lord Hawke did not avail himself of the follow-on rule. Consequently the usual Yorkshire pair, Tunncliffe and Brown, opened the second innings. Tunncliffe was out before the luncheon interval, but Brown and Denton subsequently added 37 runs for the second wicket. Brown played steady cricket for nearly an hour, but Hirst for once in a way failed.

The home county lost half their wickets for 134 runs. Mr Jackson was missed by Mr Douglas in the long field when he had made 42, and this mistake proved very costly. Mr Jackson and Mr Smith hit the Middlesex bowlers all over the field. The pair put on 94 runs in an hour, Mr Smith's merry innings including seven fours. The best innings of the day was that of Mr Jackson. He was somewhat slow at starting, but always played correct cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 9)

Yorkshire atoned for the reverse which they met with at Lord's in June last by inflicting a crushing defeat upon Middlesex at Leeds yesterday. It was the first time that Middlesex had been beaten during the present season.

It was generally expected that Lord Hawke would declare the innings at an end when the game reached its final stage, and this was what happened. Middlesex were called upon to make 408 runs to win.

They made anything but a promising start against the bowling of Hirst and Rhodes, for Mr Moon fell to a catch at short-leg before a run had been scored, while Mr Warner and Mr G W Beldam always found run-getting exceedingly difficult. This pair, however, made the best stand of the day. Mr Warner gave difficult chances to Tunncliffe at short slip at 24 and again at 39. Fifty runs were scored in

three-quarters of an hour, and the partnership continued until Mr Jackson clean bowled Mr Beldam. The pair scored 83 runs for the second wicket.

Mr Warner made his 50 in two hours, but he lost Mr Douglas and Mr Bosanquet before the interval, when four wickets had fallen for 120 runs. Mr Warner, who was the first to leave after the interval, played by far the best cricket on the Middlesex side. Making run-getting quite a secondary consideration, he played fine defensive cricket for upwards of two and a half hours.

After his departure Mr MacGregor offered some resistance to the bowling, being at the wickets close upon three-quarters of an hour for his runs. His was ultimately caught at short-leg off Mr Jackson, and the end came when Hirst bowled Rawlin off his pads. Yorkshire thus won by 230 runs.

Wednesday 12 August, page 9: THE PHILADELPHIANS' TOUR

Yesterday, at Edinburgh, the Philadelphians finished their last important match in this country. From first to last their visit has been a decided success; and they have shown themselves, as was confidently expected, the best team that has yet come to England from Philadelphia.

The great features of their cricket have been the bowling of Mr King, one of the finest amateur bowlers in the world, and Mr Clark, and the batting of Mr Lester. The results of the matches and the averages are given below: -

Seventeen matches. - Played, 16 - won, 7; lost, 6; drawn, 3; abandoned, 1.

BATTING - ALL MATCHES

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr J A Lester (Capt.)	25	794	126*	3	36.69
Mr N Z Graves	28	791	107	2	30.42
Mr J B King	24	653	113*	1	28.39
Mr F H Bohlen	26	720	93	0	27.69
Mr C C Morris	22	411	164	1	19.57
Mr F C Sharpless	20	349	54	1	18.36
Mr A M Wood	24	388	50	2	16.72
Mr P H Clark	27	354	67	4	15.39
Mr E M Cregar	22	219	55	2	10.95
Mr T C Jordan	19	99	22	9	9.90
Mr R D Brown	15	137	34	1	9.78
Mr P N Le Roy	11	87	25	3	9.66
Mr F H Bates	11	70	24	1	7.00
Mr H A Haines	16	88	20*	3	6.61
Mr J H Scattergood	7	12	5	2	2.40

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr J B King	523	133	1397	93	14.91
Mr J A Lester (Capt.)	211.5	54	514	32	16.06
Mr P H Clark	570.2	95	1743	85	20.50
Mr E M Cregar	172.4	20	625	26	24.07
Mr P N Le Roy	66.3	10	285	8	33.12
Mr F C Sharpless	54.5	17	198	5	39.80
Mr N Z Graves	9	0	45	1	45.00
Mr H A Haines	7	0	45	0	--
Mr F H Bates	19	5	66	0	--

The following bowled in one innings only: - Mr T C Jordan (3 overs, 0 maiden, 17 runs, 0 wicket); Mr F H Bohlen (2 overs, 0 maiden, 8 runs, 0 wicket); and Mr R D Brown (1 over, 0 maiden, 2 runs, 0 wicket).

Thursday 13 August, page 9: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Mr R E Foster has, at the request of the Marylebone Club, consented to undertake the office of financial manager of the cricket tour in Australia; and Mr Murdoch, assistant secretary of the M.C.C., will go as his assistant.

13 August: ESSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6324.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 9)

On a bowlers' wicket at Leyton yesterday Lancashire played a fine winning game, and they finished the day 181 runs ahead with nine wickets to fall in their second innings.

This strong position was chiefly due to the easy way in which Mr Garnett adapted himself to the conditions of the false turf. From the moment that he went in he timed the ball beautifully, and his driving and leg hitting were very clean. Mead, who bowled right through the innings, was always difficult to play.

Essex failed very badly in batting. Nothing could be done with the bowling of Barnes, and the Lancashire fielding, both in the ground work and in catching, was far above the average. In the last hour of the day there was a fine innings by Mr MacLaren, who brought into play the great variety of strokes which he possesses. In the afternoon the light became bad, and finally, from this cause, stumps were drawn a quarter of an hour earlier than usual.

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

Owing to the weather no play was possible in three matches yesterday, the scores in each case, therefore, remaining as follows: -

Leyton. - Lancashire, 168 and 84 for one wicket; Essex, 71 . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 9)

Essex were beaten by Lancashire at Leyton on Saturday by 119 runs. The softness of the ground and the recurring showers for many hours made it extremely improbable that there would be any cricket; but eventually, at 20 minutes past 4, Essex began the last innings of the match, Mr MacLaren having declared Lancashire's second innings closed in the position in which it was left on Thursday night.

Essex, who wanted 182 to win and had only a little more than two hours left for play, again showed incapacity to bat on a slow wicket, and Lancashire got them out with 25 minutes to spare. Barnes again bowled slower than usual for him, and met with such success that his record for the match was 14 wickets for 70 runs, while the Lancashire fielding was unerring. Mr Hornby made two splendid catches in the country, and also caught Mr Douglas very low down at forward point.

13 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6325.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 9)

The feature of the first day's play in the annual Cheltenham festival was the bowling of Roberts. This is his 17th season with Gloucestershire, and he dismissed five Kent batsmen for 15 runs. It is true his figures suffered a little later in the day, but for a man of his years the feat was a remarkable one.

Owing to his success the visitors had by far the worst of the play, for they are still 171 behind and have lost half their wickets. Mr Day and Mr Hutchings alone made any stand, and the latter was lucky in being missed when he had made 15.

The Gloucestershire batting was very consistent at first, 200 being scored for five wickets. A collapse occurred afterwards, however, and only 58 more were added.

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

Heavy rain at Cheltenham yesterday morning curtailed play in this match by nearly two and a half hours. It also had a serious effect on the wicket, with the result that considerable progress was made.

Kent, who had fared badly against the bowling of Roberts, managed to save the follow-on, but their last five men only made 44, and they were 127 behind on the first innings. The one redeeming feature of their batting was the stand made by Mr Day and Mr Hutchings for the sixth wicket, which yielded 60 runs in 40 minutes, but the latter was lucky in being missed at 15. Apart from this mistake, the Gloucestershire fielding was good and a number of excellent catches were made.

On going in a second time, Gloucestershire lost Wrathall before a run was scored, but from that time they did well. Mr Townsend adapted himself to the conditions which prevented very cleverly and played a fine innings. Mr Rice gave him excellent assistance, and after they were out, Mr Jessop, first with the aid of Sewell and afterwards with that of Langdon, continued the good work. In the last 45 minutes of the day, 69 were added to the total. As the game now stands, Gloucestershire, with six wickets in hand, are 273 ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 9)

Gloucestershire gained their first victory of the season at Cheltenham on Saturday, when they defeated Kent by 219 runs. Even when allowance is made for the fact that they had slightly the better of the wicket, it must be admitted that they fairly outplayed their opponents.

Their lead of 121 runs upon the first innings was increased to 347 before the second closed, and this number would probably have been larger but for the fact that on Saturday time was as valuable as runs. There was every prospect of rain coming on in spite of the gale of wind which blew, when the final stage was entered upon, so the last six Gloucestershire batsmen hit freely, and in less than an hour they were disposed of for an addition of 74 to the total of 146.

Going in for the last time, Kent required 348 to win in four hours and a half. They aimed at a draw, and after two wickets had fallen cheaply, Mr Burnup and Mr Dillon by keeping together for 65 minutes made such a result possible. They were parted just before half-past 3, and then Dennett bowled so well that, in an hour, the remaining seven men were dismissed. Mr Burnup received very poor support after Mr Dillon left, but he made a great effort for his side. He was ninth out, brilliantly caught at third man, after batting for two hours and three-quarters.

August 13: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6326.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 9)

Mistakes in the field contributed considerably to the strong position held by Sussex at the close of play yesterday at Portsmouth, as Mr Fry, when he had made 15, was badly missed at point, and K S Ranjitsinhji, at 2, was let off at mid-on. Both catches were dropped from Langford, who bowled so brilliantly against Warwickshire during the early part of the week. K S Ranjitsinhji scored chiefly by powerful hits to thee on, while Mr Fry obtained his runs with well-timed drives.

The best display of the day, however, was given by Mr Sprot. All through the innings of the home side the wicket, which had scarcely recovered from Tuesday's heavy rain, was far from easy; but Mr Sprot mastered the difficulties of the pitch and played fine cricket. Relf bowled very well, and for the first time in his career secured an aggregate of a hundred wickets for one season.

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

Only one hour's play was possible at Portsmouth, yesterday, and in this time the visitors gained a lead of 43 runs. Again Hampshire suffered through mistakes in the field, K S Ranjitsinhji being badly missed at 73 by Langford off Llewellyn at mid-off, while Mr Brann was let off by Llewellyn in the slips from the first ball sent down by Mr Sprot. This latter mistake made no material difference, as the batsman played on soon afterwards.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 9)

It was evident at the close of play at Portsmouth on Friday that Sussex, given fine weather, would have little difficulty in defeating Hampshire. The sodden wicket during the hour in which play was possible had been badly cut up, and a strong drying wind during the night had caked the wicket and made it extremely treacherous. The roller had little effect, and from the start the batsmen found the greatest difficulty in scoring.

Langford obtained four of the six outstanding wickets for 14 runs, and when the innings closed Sussex had gained the useful lead, in the circumstances, of 71 runs. K S Ranjitsinhji played fine cricket, but he was fortunate in being twice missed.

The remainder of the batting on both sides calls for little comment. Mr Steele and Bowell put on 23 runs for the first Hampshire wicket, but after Mr Steele was dismissed by a catch in the slips half the side were out for the addition of four runs. Mr Bacon attempted to avoid the single innings defeat by forcing the game, but shortly after the luncheon interval Sussex had won by an innings and 20 runs.

13 August: LONDON COUNTY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6327.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 9)

The return match between these sides opened very quietly at the Crystal Palace yesterday. The wicket had not entirely recovered from the recent rain, and Dr Grace, winning the toss, put Leicestershire in. Although soft, the pitch was never difficult, but it improved in pace as the day advanced.

There was little in the cricket worthy of comment, and play generally ruled slow. Knight, the top scorer for his side, was batting two hours and a quarter for his runs. His play from start to finish was sound, although tedious to watch. At the close of the Leicestershire innings at a quarter to 6 play ceased for the day.

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

Owing to the weather no play was possible in three matches yesterday, the scores in each case, therefore, remaining as follows: -

. . . Crystal Palace. - Leicestershire, 221.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 9)

The match between London County and Leicestershire at the Crystal Palace on Saturday was left drawn. Rain completely spoiled the game.

On Friday no play had been possible, while on Saturday the actual time for cricket was a little more than three hours, and then the wicket was very soft. In the circumstances, with no chance of a definite result, little interest was shown in the closing stage.

Quaife, who was eighth out at 150, played correctly throughout and was never in trouble with the bowling, but he was slow to watch. He and Hayes put on 63 for the fifth wicket. Apart from these two, however, the batting was featureless. Mr R T Crawford was the best of the Leicestershire

bowlers, and he dismissed Quaife, Mr Posthuma and Mr Bradley in four balls. Leicestershire had 20 minutes' batting before stumps were finally drawn.

August 13: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6328.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 9)

Nottinghamshire for their last home match of the season proved in strong batting form yesterday. Their large score was chiefly due to the fine innings of Iremonger and J Gunn. The former was at the wickets over two hours and hit with great power. Gunn also batted very well, never making a mistake throughout his stay, and was out to a splendid catch at long-on.

Nottinghamshire were not all dismissed until past 5, and in the short time left for play the visitors lost Mr Warner's wicket.

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

The wicket at Trent-bridge yesterday was very wet after the heavy rain which fell during the morning; but when play was resumed at half-past 3 the visitors at once set about making runs at a fair pace, Mr Moon and Mr G Beldam taking the score to 53 before the latter was out.

When Mr Bosanquet and Mr Moon were together runs came quickly, although the bowlers were receiving some assistance from the wicket. The pair added 76 in 40 minutes. Half the side, however, were out for 189, while Mr MacGregor was run out three runs later, and this was the beginning of something like a collapse.

The follow-on, however, was easily avoided. Mr Moon batted steadily and at times brilliantly, but he met with some luck on several occasions. The innings closed just before time, leaving Nottinghamshire with a lead of 122.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain no play was possible on Saturday at Harrogate and Nottingham. The matches were in consequence abandoned . . .

August 13: SOMERSET v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6329.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 9)

There was a very even day's play in this match at Taunton yesterday. Somerset won the toss, but Mr Woods decided to put his opponents in. Worcestershire in the circumstances did fairly well, chiefly owing to the batting of Mr H K Foster and Pearson. At luncheon time seven wickets were down for 132, but the later batsmen gave considerable trouble.

The feature of the day, however, was the batting of Mr Palairet, and it was entirely his fine innings which enabled Somerset to leave off with none this week worse of the day's play.

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

Owing to the rain it was impossible to make a start with the second day's play in this match until 3 o'clock. A great deal of progress, however, was made in the time available for cricket, and at the close Somerset in the fourth innings required 66 to win with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 9)

After an interesting match Somerset beat Worcestershire on Saturday at Taunton by four wickets. They required 105 runs to win in the fourth innings, and they had made 39 of these overnight for the loss of three wickets.

It soon became apparent, when play was resumed, that Somerset would get the runs, and the match was over well before luncheon. The best thing in the Somerset batting was the innings of Mr Phillips.

13 August: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6330.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 9)

There had been a slight fall of rain early yesterday morning at Harrogate, and Yorkshire batting first made a bad start. Tunnicliffe was out at once, but Denton and Brown added 40 runs for the second wicket. The best innings on the side, however, was played by Mr Ernest Smith. Later Haigh and Rhodes put on 50, and there was another useful partnership for the last wicket.

Derbyshire were batting rather over an hour before the close.

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

Owing to the weather no play was possible in three matches yesterday, the scores in each case, therefore, remaining as follows: -

. . . Harrogate. - Yorkshire, 220; Derbyshire, 53 for three wickets . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain no play was possible on Saturday at Harrogate and Nottingham. The matches were in consequence abandoned . . .

Saturday 15 August, page 9: THE CHAMPION COUNTY v THE REST OF ENGLAND

A match has been arranged to take place at the Oval on September 14, 15 and 16 between the champion county and the Rest of England. The proceeds of the match will be divided between the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society and the London Playing Fields Committee.

A large number of cricketers having expressed a wish that this should be an annual fixture and that the Cricketers' Fund should participate in the proceeds, there is little doubt that the Surrey Club will fall in with the suggestions.

Monday 17 August, page 9: THE TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

It was freely stated at Nottingham on Saturday that John Gunn would be picked to go to Australia in place of Mr C B Fry. He has not yet, however, received an official invitation.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
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Mr C B Fry	34	2304	234	5	79.44
K S Ranjitsinhji	30	1399	152*	5	55.96
Hirst	29	1333	163	2	49.37
Quaife	27	1094	130	4	47.56
Knight	36	1440	229*	5	46.45
Mr A C MacLaren	44	1868	204	8	46.83
Iremonger	31	1380	210	1	46.00
J Gunn	34	1470	294	2	45.93
Tyldesley	40	1569	248	5	44.82
Mr P Perrin	31	1248	170	3	44.57
Mr P F Warner	26	914	149	4	43.52
Mr A O Jones	33	1346	296	2	43.41
Mr G L Jessop	30	1271	286	0	42.36
Mr H K Foster	37	1471	216	2	42.02
Mr E M Dowson	32	1197	135	3	41.27
Mr E M Sprot	20	715	103	2	38.72
Killick	34	1199	116	3	38.67
Mr B J T Bosanquet	25	902	108	1	37.58
Hayward	51	1773	156*	3	36.93
Hayes	47	1545	145	5	36.78
W Gunn	29	1011	139	1	38.10
Denton	43	1509	133	1	35.92
Bowley	38	1238	164	3	35.37
Mr L G Wright	31	981	133	2	33.82
King (Leicester)	37	1142	167	3	33.58
J T Brown, senr.	27	1200	125	1	33.33
Mr C McGahey	33	963	164*	4	33.20
Lord Hawke	26	634	79	6	31.70
Mr C J Burnup	41	1194	134	3	31.42
Arnold	30	1028	128	6	31.15
Mr G W Beldam	26	746	118	2	31.08
Mr R H Spooner	41	1208	247	1	30.20
Wheldon	33	952	112	1	29.75
Braund	39	1089	111	3	29.69
Llewellyn	31	769	148	5	29.57
Mr H G Garnett	25	673	122	2	29.26
Mr A Eccles	29	673	126	6	29.26
Mr L J Moon	21	514	122	3	28.55
Mr C J B Wood	42	1085	118*	3	27.82
Rhodes	39	899	08*	6	27.24
Mr F L Fane	29	739	90	1	26.39
Mr F M Lee	28	590	83	5	25.65
Vine	40	967	80	2	25.44
Sharp	34	755	120	4	25.15
Tunnicliffe	31	729	97	2	25.13

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hirst	588.5	162	1380	112	12.32
Hargreave	601.5	245	1603	114	14.10
Rhodes	1091.5	361	2415	143	14.79
Blythe	750.4	249	1571	105	14.96
Mead	828.2	297	1544	101	15.28
Moorhouse	328.5	85	811	51	15.90
J T Hearne	789	254	1814	114	16.81
Young	353.2	85	828	49	16.85
Lockwood	570.5	84	1335	76	17.58
Fielder	422.1	119	1175	66	17.80
Barnes	1101.1	359	2321	129	17.99
Arnold	913	273	2127	118	18.02
Relf	867.1	298	1932	105	18.40
J Gunn	916.1	272	2004	108	18.55
Mr B J T Bosanquet	345.1	60	1134	61	18.59
Haigh	634.3	191	1525	81	18.82

Hulme	768.2	57	800	42	19.04
Roberts (Gloucester)	488.1	154	1129	58	19.46
Cranfield (Somerset)	746.1	135	2108	108	18.51
Field	234.2	75	1045	52	19.51
A E Trott	541.2	108	1684	84	20.05
Bland	469.4	114	1212	60	20.20
Lees	685.4	188	1884	83	20.28
Richardson	742.2	156	2163	103	21.00
Braund	819.5	176	2402	114	21.07
Hallam	661.2	223	1293	61	21.27
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	432.4	97	1210	56	21.60
Bird	482.5	89	1795	58	22.32
Clode	377.4	83	1102	49	22.48
Robson (Somerset)	371.5	88	1196	53	22.56
Warren	484.5	87	1589	70	22.77
Cuttell	642.5	212	1273	55	23.14
Gill	289	72	1070	45	23.25
Mr W Brearley	521	101	1727	73	23.65

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	13	7	1	5	6	75.00
Yorkshire	23	13	4	6	9	52.84
Sussex	19	6	2	11	4	50.00
Nottinghamshire	19	5	3	10	3	33.33
Lancashire	23	8	5	10	3	28.07
Worcestershire	18	7	5	6	2	16.66
Essex	17	6	6	5	0	0.00
Warwickshire	16	4	4	8	0	0.00
Kent	16	5	6	5	-1	-9.09
Somerset	15	5	6	4	-1	-9.09
Surrey	21	6	8	7	-2	-14.78
Derbyshire	15	4	7	4	-3	-27.27
Hampshire	10	1	7	2	-6	-75.00
Leicestershire	16	1	7	8	-6	-75.00
Gloucestershire	17	1	9	7	-8	-80.00

17 August: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6331.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 9)

Although cricket at Chesterfield yesterday was limited to about two hours, a fair amount of progress was made. In getting their runs Warwickshire were very largely indebted to Devey, and in a less degree to Mr Fishwick and Mr Loveitt. These three batsmen alone succeeded in mastering the difficulties of the pitch.

Devey in particular played extremely well. He was sixth out at 151, after a stay of an hour and 55 minutes. He gave no chance and scored with great skill on the leg side. After Quaife had been dismissed in the first over, Devey and Mr Fishwick added 46 runs, and when five wickets had fallen for 82 Mr Loveitt helped to put on another 69.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather . . . there was also no play at Sheffield and Chesterfield . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 9)

As was only to be expected after the complete loss of Tuesday through rain, the match between Derbyshire and Warwickshire at Chesterfield yesterday was left drawn. Although they managed to save the game, however, Derbyshire had rather an anxious time, and when the end came they were still 103 runs behind with lonely four wickets to fall.

The Warwickshire innings, in which, on Monday, 152 had been scored for the loss of six wickets, was finished off for an addition of 74 runs. Mr Loveitt and Moorhouse, the not-outs, batted exceedingly well. Moorhouse played the more attractive innings, but Mr Loveitt gave a fine display of sound, steady cricket for an hour and 35 minutes.

In a quarter of an hour before lunch Derbyshire lost two batsmen for three runs, but owing to some free hitting by Mr Lawton, who was ably supported by Warren and Mr Ollivierre, the follow-on was avoided. Holding the useful lead of 131, Warwickshire went in a second time, and when 13 runs had been scored in a quarter of an hour the innings was declared closed, Derbyshire being left with 145 to get in an hour and 25 minutes.

For a time Derbyshire met with nothing but disaster, and with three wickets down for 22 they seemed in danger of defeat. However, Storer and Mr Ashcroft stayed together long enough to make a draw certain, and stumps were finally pulled up at 20 minutes past 6.

17 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6332.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 9)

Two remarkable bowling performances were accomplished yesterday at Cheltenham, when the second match of the annual festival was started in dull weather. Batting first upon a wicket which was slow and somewhat in favour of the bowlers, Gloucestershire were dismissed in two hours and three-quarters.

Owing chiefly to the patient displays on the part of Mr Rice and Mr Townsend and some lively hitting by Mr Jessop the total reached 120 with only four men out. Then Wilson bowled with such deadly effect that he took six wickets in the afternoon for 15 runs, getting the last four in five balls.

Good as was Wilson's performance, it was entirely eclipsed by Dennett's bowling later in the day. He and Roberts got Worcestershire out in 80 minutes, and Dennett had a wonderful analysis. The batsmen were in trouble from the start, and Mr W L Foster, who alone succeeded in getting double figures, was missed twice in making his runs. Dennett kept a most accurate length and made the ball turn very quickly.

Gloucestershire went in a second time for 20 minutes and, without losing a wicket, increased their lead to 113.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 10)

There was a repetition at Cheltenham, yesterday, of the extraordinary play witnessed during the first stage of the match with Worcestershire. The bowlers again had matters very much their own way, and although only 15 wickets fell, as compared with 20 on the previous day, the number of runs scored was reduced from 210 to 183. Heavy rain during the night was responsible for this, for at one period of the afternoon the pitch was extremely difficult.

To begin with, Gloucestershire, who had a lead of 118, increased this number to 190 before lunch for the loss of two wickets. This was due to a fine innings by Wrathall, who gave a brilliant display, making 73 out of 95 in an hour and three-quarters. His departure started such a sensational collapse that the whole side were out for another 17 runs. After the interval eight men were dismissed for 26. Of these, only six were obtained from Wilson, and he got out five batsmen. The wicket certainly helped him, but, at the same time, he did his work in brilliant style and brought up his record for the match to 12 wickets for 83.

In spite of the failure of so many men, Worcestershire required 217 to win. Arnold and Mr W L Foster made a great effort to make it possible for the runs to be scored. They were not well supported, however, and at the drawing of stumps Worcestershire had lost half their wickets and still wanted 132. Arnold scored his runs out of 52 in an hour, while Mr Foster spent a hundred minutes in making 14.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 9)

Only half an hour's play was necessary at Cheltenham yesterday to bring the match with Worcestershire to a close, Gloucestershire winning by 100 runs. The home county were in a safe position overnight, but still the visitors were expected to make rather a better fight than they did.

Owing to a heavy storm a few minutes after play had started the pitch was always soft, but Roberts bowled with such deadly effect that he dismissed the whole of the remaining batsmen at a cost of 18 runs.

Not since 1898 have Gloucestershire won both matches at the Cheltenham Festival. The chief honours of the week belonged to Roberts, as in the course of the two engagements he took 22 wickets at a cost of eight runs apiece.

17 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6333.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 9)

Owing to the wet state of the wickets, play was impossible in the following matches yesterday: -
. . . Leicester. - Leicestershire v Hampshire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather, it was again found impossible to make a start with the Leicestershire and Hampshire match at Leicester yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 9)

After the loss of Monday and Tuesday owing to rain, five and a half hours' cricket took place at Leicester yesterday, but there was not time to bring about a definite result. The cricket was bright

and attractive; the few batsmen who met with much success on a treacherous pitch getting their runs rapidly.

Mr Steele and Bowell began by scoring 81 in an hour, the professional driving with great power. Wickets subsequently fell fast, and after lunch the last four added only 24 runs. The pitch was at its worst when Leicestershire went in, and Langford dismissed Mr de Trafford and Knight in the first over, while six men were out in 50 minutes for 24 runs. Then the character of the cricket completely changed, Gill and Mr R T Crawford forcing the game with such effect that in 35 minutes they added 80 runs.

Hampshire led by 103 with eight wickets in hand when the match was left drawn.

17 August: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6334.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 9)

Owing to the wet state of the wickets, play was impossible in the following matches yesterday: - Lord's. - Middlesex v Lancashire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 10)

No play had been possible at Lord's on Monday, and yesterday a start was not made with the Middlesex and Lancashire match until after 2 o'clock. Good progress was made in the afternoon, however, and there seems just a chance of the match being finished to-day.

The afternoon's play was most interesting, and Middlesex did very well to leave off only 62 runs behind with eight wickets in hand. For their good position they were indebted almost entirely to their two bowlers, and especially to Hearne. From the start it became evident that runs would be very difficult to get; the wicket helped the bowlers a good deal and the ball appeared to come off the pitch at rather varying paces.

Hearne, from the Pavilion end, took full advantage of his opportunities; he kept a beautiful length and made the ball whip back very quickly. Throughout the innings he was completely the master of the batsmen. Trott at the other end bowled well, but his performance was not to be compared with that of Hearne's, and, if anything, he was a little lucky in getting some of his wickets.

Mr MacLaren played a fine innings for his side, but nobody else did very much. After Mr Spooner was out, Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley carried the score to 42, and then Mr Garnett made some good hits before he was caught at deep square leg at 59. So far Lancashire had not done badly in the circumstances, but Mr Hornby was quite at sea with Hearne, and when Mr MacLaren was caught at square leg half the side were out for 65.

Sharp was bowled by a beautiful ball from Hearne, with only one run added, and with the bowlers at the top of their form it did not look as if Lancashire would reach the 100. Mr Findlay, Hallows and Cuttell, however, did a little better and brought the total up to more respectable proportions.

The wicket was still difficult when Middlesex went in to bat, but Mr Moon played a fine not-out innings and enabled his side to finish the day was a decided advantage.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 9)

The wicket at Lord's yesterday was so wet that no cricket was possible, and the game was in consequence abandoned . . .

SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6335.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 9)

Kent had the better of the opening day's play in this match at the Oval, yesterday; for, on a wicket which considerably helped the bowlers, they made quite a good score, and at the close Surrey were 160 behind with four of their best batsmen out.

A good deal of rain had fallen in the early hours, and the wicket was not fit for play until half-past 12; and then Kent fared so badly for a time that there seemed every prospect of their being dismissed for a small total. The batsmen had to fight very hard for their runs, and the first hour's cricket only produced 25. Then, however, a change came over the game, and the batsmen by degrees got the upper hand.

Although Kent did so well they were largely indebted to the Surrey fieldsmen, for missed catches assisted them in no small degree. As events turned out, Surrey gradually lost their hold on the game; and with the wicket getting less difficult and the Surrey bowlers to some extent losing their length, Kent were able to recover their position.

When Kent went in a series of disasters was in store for them. Mr Burnup was out in the first over of the match, Seymour was caught at mid-off at seven, while shortly afterwards A Hearne, who was batting 45 minutes for his runs, and Mr Dillon were both dismissed by good catches at slip. Thus four good wickets were down for 20.

Had another wicket fallen quickly it might have altered the whole aspect of the day's cricket. Surrey, however, lost their opportunities, for Mr Day, who had gone in third wicket down at 15, was missed by Lockwood at point when he had only made one. He was also missed by Mr Walker at cover-point at 11, and at 16 Lees failed to hold a low return. Subsequently, Mr Day settled down to good, sound cricket, and with Mr Mason put on 69 for the fifth wicket; and this proved the turning-point in the innings.

Mr Hutchings left at 115; then, however, Mr Day and Mr Blaker forced the play to such effect that they added 87 in just over three-quarters of an hour for the 7j. Although Mr Day had more than his share of luck, he made many good strokes, especially after passing his 50. After he left, Mr Blaker made the next 20 runs and was then out to a good catch at point. Mr Blaker hit out rather wildly at the beginning of his innings, but subsequently he played sound cricket, making his runs in just over an hour. He was badly missed by Mr Dowson at 40, but that was his only mistake.

Surrey went in a few minutes before 5 and, like their opponents, they started badly. In fact, Hayward, who made some fine strokes, was the only batsman to play Blythe and Hearne with any degree of confidence. Shortly after 6 o'clock defective light caused play to cease for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 10)

Surrey have the reputation of being a bad side on a soft wicket, and yesterday at the Oval they were quite outplayed by Kent, being beaten by no fewer than 292 runs. Their batting was feeble in the extreme, and during the day 15 of their wickets fell for 79 runs. At no time did any of their batsmen look like making a stand, and whether they were trying to hit or play steadily the result was always the same. Kent, on the other hand, batted soundly, their bowling appeared to be of quite a different class, and their fielding was much more keen and safer; in fact, they were much the superior side at all points.

A great deal of rain had fallen in the night, and when Surrey resumed their innings the pitch was very soft, and their six outstanding wickets fell for the addition of another 27 runs. It is almost needless to say in the circumstances that the batting was featureless, as it was simply a procession to and from the wickets. Blythe was the chief cause of the Surrey collapse, and his analysis was 4.3 overs, 1 maiden, 13 runs and 5 wickets.

Kent started their second innings at 20 minutes past 12. They began steadily, but when Mr Burnup was joined by Mr Dillon the bowling was collared, and 99 were put on for the third wicket in about an hour. Mr Dillon, who made some fine drives on the on-side, was seldom in difficulties with the bowling, and from start to finish he played very good cricket.

The batting honours were, however, carried off by Mr Burnup, who has few superiors in England on a soft wicket. His play was marked by sound defence, while he did not fail to punish the loose balls,

being especially strong in pulling anything like a short ball. He was sixth out at 179 to a catch at point after having been at the wickets for about two hours and a half.

At 4 o'clock Mr Burnup declared the Kent innings closed. Lockwood was the only Surrey bowler to meet with any degree of success, as the remainder were at times faulty in length. Even Lockwood, who was not bowling at his fastest, sent down a good many loose ones.

Surrey, who were 344 runs behind, fared even worse than they had done in their first innings, and Blythe and Hearne, backed up by some fine fielding, quickly brought the match to a definite result. Hayward was unable to bat, as he had had a small abscess removed from one of his eyes. In the match Blythe took 12 wickets for 67 runs and Hearne seven for 61.

17 August: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6336.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 9)

A rain-soaked pitch to begin with and bad light later in the day combined to curtail play in the return match between Yorkshire and Essex at Sheffield yesterday.

The wicket was still well on the soft side when Yorkshire opened their innings at half-past 3. Brown and Tunnicliffe played steadily and put on 41 runs for the first wicket in rather more than half an hour, but Denton and Hirst gave little trouble. Mr E Smith, however, helped Brown to put on a most useful 35 runs for the third wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 10)

. . . There was also no play at Sheffield . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 9)

Some sensational cricket was witnessed at Sheffield yesterday in the last stage of the match between Yorkshire and Essex. The wicket was always in favour of the bowlers, and consequently it was a day of small scores. Young and Mead took the remaining four wickets on the Yorkshire side in 40 minutes, Mead's three only costing six runs apiece. He bowled an excellent length throughout, constantly getting on enough break to beat the bat.

Essex started badly, losing Mr Fane's wicket with only three runs scored, but Mr Perrin and Sewell added 51 for the second wicket. Mr Perrin played a fine forcing game, but he was twice missed. At the luncheon interval Essex had lost half their wickets for 77 runs, and eventually they finished the innings nine runs behind their opponents' total.

Yorkshire held a lead of 85 when Lord Hawke declared the innings closed. Then came a most exciting finish; Essex fared very badly against the bowling of Rhodes and Haigh. There was less than an hour left for play, and at one period of the innings Yorkshire certainly looked like winning. In half an hour Essex lost six of their best wickets for 26 runs, and it may be fairly said that time alone robbed Yorkshire of victory.

Tuesday 18 August, page 9: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

It is officially announced that all statements as to the completion of the team for Australia are premature, no one having yet been invited to take the place of Mr C B Fry.

Wednesday 19 August, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Mr A E Knight, the Leicestershire batsman, has accepted the invitation of the M.C.C. to go to Australia. The team is now complete unless a fifteenth player should be taken, and consists of:

Mr P F Warner (Middlesex) (captain), Mr R E Foster (Worcestershire), Mr B J T Bosanquet (Middlesex), G H Hirst (Yorkshire), W Rhodes (Yorkshire), T Hayward (Surrey), H Strudwick (Surrey), J T Tyldesley (Lancashire), L C Braund (Somerset), E Arnold (Worcestershire), A A Lilley (Warwickshire), A E Relf (Sussex), A Fielder (Kent) and A E Knight (Leicestershire).

THE KENT TEAM IN AMERICA

The Kent team which is going for a short tour in America next month will include for certain C J Burnup (captain), Mr E W Dillon, Mr H Z Baker, Mr W M Bradley, Alec Hearne, Huish, Blythe and Seymour. Mr S H Day, Mr K L Hutchings, Mr E C Stewart and Fairservice may go, but they are at present doubtful. Mr T Pawley will accompany the cricketers as manager.

The team will leave Liverpool on board the Oceanic on September 9, and may be expected back in England about the middle of October. Only four matches will be played, one with the Colts of Philadelphia, two with Philadelphia and a two days' match with Baltimore.

Thursday 20 August, page 9; THE DERBYSHIRE AVERAGES

Derbyshire finished their season in the County Championship competition yesterday with a drawn game against Warwickshire. They have not improved upon the position which they held last year, but, at the same time, they have shown little decline, and on the whole it must be said the side has done fairly well, considering the talent at its command. The team is not strong enough in any one department to be really formidable; moreover, it is not a team which is likely to come out with a startling performance and cause a surprise by beating one of the counties at the head of the list.

Hulme, although past his prime, Bestwick and Warren are all good bowlers, especially Warren when he gets wickets to suit him; but beyond these three there is no one likely to do much damage. In the same way, there are three or four batsmen always likely to get runs, but the rest are only moderate.

In bowling this year Bestwick has done the greater part of the work, but Warren comes out with slightly the better record. Hulme, although he has been less expensive than last year, has taken fewer wickets. Averages in batting cannot be regarded as a safe guide to form, but the fact that only four men average over 20 runs is certainly some indication of weakness in run-getting. Mr Wright has been the mainstay, and Mr Ollivierre has played several fine innings, although he has not quite fulfilled expectations.

One of the best features of Derbyshire cricket has been the wicket-keeping of Humphreys, who should certainly have a successful future before him. The averages are given below: -

Played, 16; Won 4, Lost 7, Drawn 5.

[Note: County averages can be found on Cricket Archive via
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/0/County_Championship_1903/Team_Averages.html]

20 August: DERBYSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketaarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6337.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 9)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Derby. - Derbyshire v London County.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 5)

No play had been possible in this match on Thursday, but a start was made yesterday soon after 12 o'clock. For the most part the bowlers held the upper hand, and the London County, who went in first, fared badly. Knight played good defensive cricket, but no one else, with the exception of Dr Grace, did very much.

Chiefly owing to Storer's fine batting, Derbyshire held a decided advantage at the close, being only 43 behind with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

The Derbyshire eleven, at Derby, on Saturday fully maintained the advantage which they had gained in this match on the previous day, and in the end they won by eight wickets. Storer's fine innings on Friday and Mr Lawton's hitting gave them a useful lead of 56 on the first innings.

In London County's second innings knight, Mr W G Grace, jun., and Dr Grace were again the only batsmen to do much against the bowling, and Derbyshire were left with only 69 to get to win. These were easily hit off, Mr Lawton again playing a good innings.

20 August: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6338.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 9)

Play was impossible in the return engagement between these counties at Canterbury yesterday until after luncheon. Heavy rains during the early morning made the wicket unplayable at the usual hour, and allowed interrupted play in the afternoon.

Yorkshire fared badly against the bowling of Blythe and Alec Hearne. They lost Brown, Denton and Tunnicliffe with only 21 runs scored, and nothing like a stand was made until Hirst joined Mr Smith. This pair put on 35 runs for the fourth wicket, and up to the time of drawing stumps, they were the only batsmen who had reached double figures. It was not found necessary to change the Kent bowling until after the fall of the seventh wicket, when Hearne gave way to Fairservice. Blythe bowled unchanged from the Pavilion end, getting six wickets for 31 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 5)

There was . . no cricket at Canterbury . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

At Canterbury Kent had much the better of the game with Yorkshire, time alone saving the visitors from defeat. Yorkshire's troubles began when Lord Hawke ran himself out after only six had been added to their score of 71.

In reply Burnup and A Hearne made a determined stand. Both were lucky in being missed before making double figures, but afterwards they played finely. They passed Yorkshire's score before being separated, and at the interval Kent were 16 runs ahead with all their wickets in hand.

Forcing tactics were pursued subsequently, and seven wickets fell within the hour. Mr Mason and Mr Day put on 58 runs in 25 minutes. With seven wickets down the Kent captain declared the innings closed, Yorkshire being left with 102 runs to make to save the innings defeat.

They started badly, losing three of their best wickets for ten runs, and half the side were dismissed for 16. Mr Smith batted 25 minutes for a single, but it was left to Mr Wilkinson and Rhodes to save the match. The former was in an hour for 17 runs, while Rhodes was at the wickets ten minutes longer. Stumps were drawn at a quarter past five, when Yorkshire had eight wickets down.

20 August: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6339.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 9)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Lancashire v Nottinghamshire . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 5)

The Old Trafford wicket recovered so quickly that it was possible to begin this match at 12 yesterday. The most striking change in either team was the omission of Barnes from the Lancashire Eleven. Barnes declined to sign his agreement to assist Lancashire next season, and he therefore did not take part in the match. It is expected that he will return to Lancashire league cricket.

On a slow and easy wicket, Nottinghamshire began Woolley, scoring 55 before Mr Jones was caught at point. Indeed all the first four batsmen showed capital cricket, but in spite of this the side virtually collapsed, as the last seven wickets fell for 30 runs. Lancashire played three left-handed bowlers, but only Hallows, who came on at 36, met with any success. He bowled very well and thoroughly deserved his wickets.

With a hot sun on a drying pitch, the turf became quite sticky during the afternoon. Mr MacLaren determined to force the game and made his runs in 25 minutes. Most of the members of the team followed his example with success, the result being that at the close Lancashire were 98 ahead with one wicket to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

Lancashire beat Nottinghamshire at Manchester, on Saturday, by five wickets. When play was resumed, the Lancashire innings was quickly finished off, only nine runs being added.

Nottinghamshire thus went in to bat a second time 107 behind. They did well at the start, scoring 54 runs before a wicket fell. Afterwards for a time they fared disastrously, and seven wickets were down for 139. Then Hallam joined J Gunn, who all through played fine cricket, and the pair made a good effort to save the side. The chief cause of the Nottinghamshire collapse was the bowling of Hallows, who in the match took 12 wickets for 95 runs.

Lancashire only required 56 to win, but Hallam and Wass were so effective that half the side was out before the runs were obtained.

20 August: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6340.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 9)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the following matches: -
Lord's. - Middlesex v Sussex . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 5)

In spite of the fine weather in London yesterday, the wicket at Lord's was still so wet that no play was possible in the Middlesex and Sussex match, and the start was in consequence postponed until today.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

The Middlesex and Sussex match at Lord's, which had promised to be most interesting, was entirely spoiled by the weather. The rain had affected the wicket so much that play was impossible until 1 o'clock on Saturday, and in the circumstances a draw was the only possible result.

K S Ranjitsinhji, on winning the toss, decided to put his opponents in, and Middlesex did fairly well on a wicket which was not really difficult. Runs were made quickly in the conditions and, when the innings was declared closed, Sussex had just under two hours to play. Mr Moon, who has quite recovered his form, played an attractive innings; he lost Mr Warner at once, but Mr Douglas helped him to carry the score to 50, and later with Mr Bosanquet 47 were added.

Sussex started badly, losing Vine and Killick before ten were scored; but then K S Ranjitsinhji joined Mr Fry and, in spite of several bowling changes, they remained together until the close. Both played good cricket, but neither was quite as interesting to watch as usual.

Page 231: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6341.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 9)

Play was limited to less than an hour at Taunton yesterday. In this period Somerset made a good start. Braund played on before he had made a run, but Mr Palairet and Mr Johnson batted in capital style. The slow ground did not suit the Surrey bowlers, who were freely punished.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 5)

Surrey have rarely done well at Taunton, and yesterday's cricket proved no exception, for Somerset gained a lead of 73 runs on the first innings. The conditions in which the game was resumed were not very favourable to batsmen, as the wicket was soft and certainly difficult for a time during the afternoon.

Mr Palairet and Mr Johnson, who had done so well during the hour to which play was limited on Thursday, again batted very well. As soon as they were parted, however, Lockwood met with marked success, and no one except Mr Daniell showed any ability to play the excellent bowling.

Surrey started very badly, losing two wickets for nine, and they would have been awkwardly placed if the Somerset fielding could have been relied on. Hayward was let off twice, and Lockwood also received two lives. Mr Dowson alone batted with any confidence, and he took an hour and a quarter in getting his runs. In spite of the poor way in which he was supported, Cranfield bowled finely.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

Somerset, who have not lost a match against Surrey at Taunton since 1894, certainly did not have the better of the game which ended on Saturday in a draw. They did well in the early stages of the match, and batted with so much spirit on the last day that by 3 o'clock they had established a lead of 282. The innings was then closed. Two hours and fifty minutes were then left for play, but rain came on just before 5 o'clock and brought the game to a premature close.

Surrey in the fourth innings accomplished a good performance. Hayward, who had been very lucky in the first innings, showed greatly improved form. He was never in trouble with the Somerset bowling, which appeared far from difficult, Braund in particular being ineffective. Holland, who gave him valuable assistance, was twice missed in making his runs.

For Somerset, Mr Palairet gave a characteristic display. His driving was hard and clean and, although he lifted the ball more than usual, he only gave one chance - to Mr Walker at mid-on at 59. Apart from his work, there was little of note in the home innings except that what runs the batsmen got they got quickly.

20 August: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6342.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 9)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the following matches: -
. . . Birmingham. - Warwickshire v Hampshire . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 5)

Thursday had been a blank day at Birmingham, but although the ground remained very soft there was nothing to interfered with cricket yesterday, and a good deal of progress was made, an innings being completed on each side.

Winning the toss, Warwickshire stayed at the wickets for nearly three hours. By far the best batting of the innings was shown by Lilley and Mr Loveitt, who, without giving any chances, put on 80 for the sixth wicket. Llewellyn bowled with great success towards the close, taking four wickets after luncheon for 22 runs.

Mr Steele and Bowell started Hampshire's innings in a way that held out great promise, scoring 44 before they were separated. After this, however, Mr Sprot alone redeemed the innings from failure. He was badly missed at deep mid-on by Mr Loveitt at 31, but otherwise he made no mistake. At one time he hit out brilliantly, punishing Hargreave for four fours off successive balls. Warwickshire finished the day with a lead of 49 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

At Birmingham, on Saturday, Warwickshire gained a victory by 132 runs. An innings completed on each side had left them with a lead of 49, and they played such a successful forcing game that at lunch time they were in a position to declare their innings closed. After Quaife's failure Devey and Mr Fishwick scored freely, and Kinneir and Lilley hit so vigorously that they added 97 runs in 55 minutes. Kinneir, who has had an unsuccessful season, hit with unusual power.

Hampshire went in wanting 245 runs to win, with three hours and three-quarters remaining for cricket. Mr Steele and Bowell began well, and while the former stayed there seemed a possibility of the match being drawn. But after he left there was a complete collapse, the last six wickets falling for 18 runs. Hargreave brought about this sensational close to the game, taking five wickets in his last seven overs for 15 runs.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	35	2350	234	6	81.34
K S Ranjitsinhji	31	1450	162*	6	58.00
Iremonger	31	1380	210	1	46.00
Hirst	33	1357	153	3	45.45
J Gunn	36	1545	294	2	45.44
Mr A C MacLaren	47	1743	204	8	44.69
Knight	30	1509	220*	5	44.38
Mr P Perrin	33	1296	170	3	43.20
Quaife	30	1113	130	4	42.80
Mr A O Jones	35	1410	295	2	42.72
Tyldesley	43	1603	248	5	42.18
Mr G L Jessop	32	1287	285	0	40.53
Mr P F Warner	27	929	149	4	40.39
Mr H K Foster	39	1481	216	2	40.02
Mr L C H Palaret	18	629	114	2	39.31

Mr E M Sprot	23	784	103	3	39.20
Mr E M Dowson	36	1240	135	4	30.75
Hayward	54	1926	156*	3	37.76
Killick	32	1203	116	3	37.68
Mr B J T Bosanquet	26	928	108	1	37.12
W Gunn	29	1011	133	1	36.10
Hayes	51	1576	145	6	35.02
Denton	47	1540	133	2	34.22
Bowley	40	1261	164	3	34.08
Mr L G Wright	31	981	133	2	33.82
King (Leicester)	38	1145	167	3	32.71
J T Brown, senr.	41	1278	125	1	31.97
Mr C J Burnup	44	1303	134	3	31.78
Mr L J Moon	23	589	122	4	31.52
Mr C McGahey	35	969	144*	4	31.25
Mr G W Beldam	26	746	118	2	31.08
Arnold	41	1070	128	6	30.57
Mr R H Spooner	44	1271	247	1	29.55
Mr H G Garnett	26	687	122	2	28.62
Braund	41	1066	111	3	28.57
Wheldon	36	983	112	1	28.32
Lord Hawke	29	650	79	6	28.28
Llewellyn	35	844	148	5	28.13
Mr A Eccles	31	685	126	6	27.40
Mr C J B Wood	45	1114	118*	3	26.52
Rhodes	24	913	98*	7	26.05
Lilley	28	675	50	2	25.96
Mr P R Johnson	28	656	121	0	25.23
Mr F L Fane	31	762	80	1	25.06

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hirst	617.5	169	1460	115	12.74
Blythe	820.4	268	1638	130	13.06
Hargreave	887.1	271	1797	132	13.61
Rhodes	1145.5	371	2281	156	14.62
Mead	806.5	311	1618	110	14.70
J T Hearne	827	278	1862	120	15.51
Moorhouse	378.1	105	870	55	15.81
Young	267.2	86	855	52	16.44
Lockwood	646.2	98	1555	91	17.03
A Hearne	360.5	118	775	45	17.22
Roberts	526.3	168	1223	71	17.22
Arnold	547.2	285	2194	124	17.69
Haigh	562.2	197	1579	89	17.74
Fielder	422.1	119	1175	65	17.80
Barnes	1024	364	2339	131	17.85
Santall	399	120	859	47	18.27
Relf	889.1	303	1980	107	18.50
Mr B J T Bosanquet	350.1	60	1155	61	18.93
J Gunn	942.1	276	2083	109	19.16
Cranfield	789.4	141	2251	115	19.57
A E Trott	579.1	114	1757	90	19.85
Bland	469.4	114	1212	60	20.20
Hallam	687.3	226	1363	68	20.65
Lees	743	217	1857	88	21.10
Braund	857.1	178	2493	117	21.30
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	432.4	97	1210	56	21.60
Richardson	791.2	165	2300	108	21.85
Bestwick	678.4	178	1691	76	22.25
Cuttell	687.5	220	1352	61	22.65

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	15	7	1	7	6	75.00
Yorkshire	25	13	4	8	0	52.94
Sussex	20	6	2	12	4	50.00
Lancashire	25	9	5	11	4	28.57
Nottinghamshire	20	6	4	10	2	20.00
Warwickshire	18	5	4	9	1	11.11
Worcestershire	19	7	6	6	1	7.69
Essex	18	6	6	6	0	0.00
Kent	18	6	6	6	0	0.00
Somerset	16	5	6	5	-1	-9.09
Surrey	23	6	9	8	-3	-20.00
Derbyshire	16	4	7	5	-3	-27.27
Gloucestershire	18	2	9	7	-7	-63.83
Leicestershire	17	1	7	9	-6	-75.00
Hampshire	12	1	8	3	-7	-77.77

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AVERAGES

Nottinghamshire have had a fairly successful season. As present they are fifth on the list, with a good record, but one which shows too great a proportion of drawn games. This is, no doubt, in great part due to the weather, which has so often prevented cricket; but the perfect batting wickets at Trent-bridge have also had a great deal to do with bringing about such an unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Nottinghamshire have a good side, very strong in batting and fielding, and their chief weakness appears to be a lack of variety in bowling, and in this department they have not enough talent to fall back on when their first bowlers are collared.

J Gunn has had a great year, after a moderate season in 1902. He has taken nearly twice as many wickets, while his batting has shown great improvement. His bowling has been all the more valuable to his side as Wass, who has been unfortunate in finding few wickets to suit him, has been much less successful. Hallam has done a great deal of good work and comes out with about the same record as last year.

Iremonger, who heads the batting averages, has been the most consistent player on the side. He has developed a number of new strokes, and he is now certainly one of the soundest professional batsmen of the day. Mr Jones and J Gunn come next, both close together, and W Gunn has again had a splendid season for a man of his years. Mr Dixon has played very little, but G Gunn, although rather a slow batsman to watch, has shown much promise and should be of value to the side in years to come. The averages are given below: -

Played 20 - Won 6, lost 4, drawn 10.

[Note: County averages can be found on Cricket Archive via http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/0/County_Championship_1903/Team_Averages.html]

THE WARWICKSHIRE AVERAGES

Warwickshire are in some respects a disappointing side. They started their season with excellent prospects and they have accomplished several fine performances, but it might have been reasonably expected that they would finish with a slightly better record than a margin of one win in their favour.

Hargreave has bowled most consistently all through, and Moorhouse has shown great improvement. Santall, too, has done some excellent work. The side is sound in batting but not interesting to watch; and perhaps Warwickshire's failure to win matches may in some degree be put down to the inability of the batsmen to get runs fast.

The feature of their season has been the bowling of Hargreave, and his record is a really fine one, although the many occasions on which the wicket has helped him must be taken into account. Mr Loveitt has not played much, but he seems likely to be a valuable acquisition, and the best work in the batting has been done by Quaife and Lilley. Mr Byrne, who took over the captaincy this year, has also shown more consistent form. The averages are given below: -

Played 18 - Won 5, lost 4, drawn 9.

CRICKETERS v GOLFERS. - An interesting match will be played at Lord's, on Monday, August 31, in aid of the Professional Cricketers' and Golfers' Benevolent Funds. It will be between teams of "golf-cricketers" and "Cricket-golfers."

The former, captained by Mr G W Beldam, of the Middlesex cricket eleven and the Mid-Surrey Golf Club, will consist of those who play cricket, but whose chief game is golf. Mr Beldam has got together a strong side - namely, Mr H G Hutchinson, Mr H H Hilton, Mr C K Hutchison, Mr John Graham, jun., Mr H W de Zoete, the Hon O Scott, James Braid, J H Taylor, Alexander Herd and Jack White.

The "cricket-golfers," consisting of those who play golf, but who are best known as cricketers, will be: - Mr F E Lacey (captain), Mr F W Maude, Lord Dalmeny, Mr H Smith Turberville, Rev J R Leigh, Mr W N Roe, Mr Cecil Headlam, Captain W O Holloway, Mr A M Miller, Mr A E Wood and Mr A P Lucas.

24 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6343.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

Gloucestershire fared rather badly at Bristol yesterday, when they started their last home match of the season. Play was restricted to an hour and 40 minutes in the afternoon, and then a fresh wicket had to be prepared.

The new pitch, which dried rapidly under the bright sun, always favoured the bowlers, and Mr McDonnell in particular made excellent use of his opportunity. Mr Jessop sent his hitters in first, but they did badly, and five wickets were down in an hour for 71. Then Mr Rice and Board became partners, and by steady play kept together until stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 9)

Bowlers were seen to far greater advantage than batsmen at Bristol yesterday. The wicket so hastily prepared on Monday, when rain had ruined the one originally intended to be used for the match, proved to be in a most treacherous condition.

In a few minutes short of five hours no fewer than 28 wickets fell for 208 runs. When play ended for the day the visitors, with seven wickets in hand, still required 126 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 9)

The Bristol ground has never been a lucky one for Gloucestershire, and the victory which they gained yesterday over Surrey was the first they have won there for two seasons. The lowness of the scoring which had characterized the earlier stages of the game was maintained until the end. Surrey, who required 138 in their second innings to win, failed to get the runs and were beaten by 18.

The margin in favour of the home side would probably have been larger if it had not been for a storm of rain which delayed play from half-past 12 to 4 o'clock. The downpour was very steady; it made the wicket softer than ever, and it was wonderful in the conditions which prevented how well Roberts bowled. He overcame the slowness of the ground in a remarkable way, and brought his record for the match up to 11 wickets for 93, while Dennett took nine for 99.

The only batsman who played them with any confidence was Captain Bush, who made a great effort for his side. When five men were out for 28 he and Lees carried the score to 64. Eventually Captain

Bush was caught after batting for 85 minutes. After his departure the struggle was continued by Moulder and Mr McDonell, while the close was made interesting by the plucky efforts of Richardson and Strudwick to avoid defeat. The last wicket added 31, and great excitement prevented when Roberts brought the game to a close by bowling Richardson.

24 August: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6344.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain, no play was possible in the following matches yesterday: -
. . . Southampton. - Hampshire v Essex.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 9)

Except for a stand by Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey at Southampton yesterday the bowlers held the upper hand, runs always appearing difficult to obtain. With an overcast sky and an absence of wind the wicket dried slowly before lunch, and Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey, after starting unpromisingly, made good use of their opportunities, 118 being put on for the second wicket in an hour and 50 minutes.

During lunch the sun shone with some power, and its influence was marked after the interval. Mr Perrin was caught at cover-point in the first over, while immediately afterwards Mr McGahey returned a simple catch to the bowler. Subsequently Mr Douglas was the only batsman to overcome the difficulties of the wicket.

A slight shower fell during the interval between the innings, and the pitch rolled out better than was expected. Still, the ball required a great deal of watching, but Mr Steele and Captain Wynyard batted very steadily during the 55 minutes left for play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 9)

There was little interest in the concerning stage of this match at Southampton yesterday. All through the day a draw appeared to be the only possible result.

Captain Wynyard and Mr Steele, by taking the overnight score from 36 to 90, did much to place their side safe from defeat, but the latter was rather lucky. In addition to being twice missed, he played a ball off his pad into the wicket without removing the bail. Captain Wynyard, however, batted finely for over two hours and a half. After these two were parted the side collapse before the bowling of Mead and Reeves, the wicket, under the influence of the sun, helping the bowlers.

Essex started their second innings 47 runs to the good, and another stand by Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey enabled them to declare, when they were 129 ahead, and an hour and a quarter left for play. Captain Richards, who went in first with Mr Steele, was out at 13, but the latter and Captain Wynyard put the draw beyond doubt, so stumps were pulled up half an hour before the ordinary time.

24 August: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6345.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain, no play was possible in the following matches yesterday: -
. . . Manchester. - Lancashire v Leicestershire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 9)

Much progress was made with this match, which was begun at noon yesterday. After the continuous rain on Monday the wicket was very difficult and the game became a bowlers' battle. In two hours and a half Leicestershire completed their first innings, the last six wickets falling after lunch for 10.

For the first time this season Lancashire were dismissed for less than a hundred. Tyldesley played well, but the redeeming feature of the batting was another great display by Mr MacLaren. Opening the innings, he was ninth out, having made his runs out of 88 from the bat, and he never made a bad stroke.

At the end of the day the visitors lost half their wickets in 40 minutes, and at the close they were only 70 runs to the good.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 9)

The match at Old Trafford yesterday ended in an eight wickets victory for Lancashire. Leicestershire were cheaply dismissed in their second innings, owing to the fine bowling of Cuttell and Rowlands, who took every wicket in the two innings. Cuttell secured 12 wickets for 73 and Rowlands seven for 54. Mr Wood batted well for Leicestershire during an hour and five minutes, but he ought to have been caught off Rowlands.

Lancashire, fighting against impending rain as well as against their opponents, hit off the necessary runs in an hour and a quarter, although Mr Spooner and Mr MacLaren had both been sent back at 27. Tyldesley and Mr Hornby, however, played a strong forcing game and added 81 in the last 45 minutes.

24 August: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6346.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain, no play was possible in the following matches yesterday: -
Lord's. - Middlesex v Kent . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain and the sodden state of the wicket, no play was possible in this match at Lord's yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 9)

The wicket at Lord's had not recovered sufficiently yesterday to admit of any play in this match, which was, in consequence, abandoned without a ball having being bowled.

24 August: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6347.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

Less than an hour's play was possible in this match at Brighton yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 9)

In the match at Brighton yesterday, Sussex had considerably the better of the day's play. The wicket always favoured the bowlers, and Tate and Cox, helped by some excellent fielding, dismissed the remaining eight batsmen on the Yorkshire side for the addition of 50 runs.

Tunncliffe and Mr Smith put on 38 in 40 minutes. The latter played by far the best cricket on the Yorkshire side and, strictly speaking, he was the only batsman to meet the Sussex bowlers with anything approaching confidence. Three Yorkshire wickets fell with the score at 59, and in an hour and ten minutes the innings was brought to a close. Tate and Cox both bowled excellently, especially the former, who was unchanged.

Sussex started badly by losing Mr Fry and Killick with only 13 runs scored, and play went in favour of Yorkshire up to the fall of the fourth wicket. Then rain mad the pitch somewhat easier, and Mr Brann and Mr Latham, playing determined cricket, added 59 runs in just over an hour. Sussex had a lead of 60 runs on the first innings, and during the few minutes left for play Yorkshire lost Brown's wicket with only three runs made.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 9)

At Brighton yesterday Yorkshire sustained their fifth defeat of the season, and in consequence were relegated to the third position in the championship table.

Rather less than two hours' play was sufficient to complete the Yorkshire second innings and, as was the case on the second day, Mr E Smith was not only the top scorer, but again played the best cricket of anybody on the side. He was at the wickets an hour for 48 runs, but was missed at third man when he had scored two. Haigh and Hirst were dismissed before scoring, the latter for the second time in the match, and with the exception of Rhodes, who batted three-quarters of an hour for his runs, nobody on the side offered much resistance to the Sussex bowling. Cox and Tate bowled unchanged throughout. In the match Tate took ten wickets for 75 runs and Cox nine for 83.

Sussex only required 37 runs to win, but they lost Mr Fry and Killick with only six runs scored. Wickets fell rapidly against the bowling of Haigh and Hirst after the interval, but Vine accomplished a good performance in batting three-quarters of an hour for 20 runs. Sussex ultimately won by four wickets, thus beating Yorkshire for the second time this year.

Tuesday 25 August, page 9: THE LONDON COUNTY AVERAGES

With their match against Derbyshire on Saturday London County brought their season to a close. As usual a great number of players have taken part in the games, but of those who have played regularly Mr Poidevin, Mr Murdoch and Dr Grace in batting and Mr Posthuma and Mr Odell in bowling have done the best work. The averages are given below . . .

Wednesday 26 August, page 9: THE HASTINGS WEEK

In the opening match of the week - Lancashire and Yorkshire v the Rest of England - in September 7 the teams will be as follows . . .

The sides for the second match - Gentlemen v Players - on September 10 are as follows . . .

Thursday 27 August, page 9: THE YORKSHIRE AVERAGES

Yorkshire, who finished their county season yesterday, have lost the position which they held in the three great years when their supremacy made the rest of the county championship almost uninteresting. They are, however, still a great side, and undoubtedly on a certain kind of wicket without an equal.

What they appear to need is a little strengthening in their batting; the side has not recovered from the loss of Mr T L Taylor and Washington, both of whom it is to be hoped will again be seen in county cricket. Mr Jackson has not been always available, and there were few first-class reserves to fall back upon. The side depended too much on the bowlers, and early in the year, when Rhodes for a time was comparatively ineffective, the batting was not strong enough to stand the test, especially when Hirst, the safest batsman of the team, was disabled.

In fielding they are quite as good as any other county, and in bowling ahead of all the others. Rhodes and Hirst both have decided claims to be the best of their style in England; and, with Haigh, Mr Jackson, Ringrose and Lees Whitehead in reserve, to make runs against Yorkshire is still the highest ambition of the county cricketer.

Yorkshire started well by beating Essex and Gloucestershire. They then went to Taunton, and Somerset, the only county to defeat them in the two previous years, repeated the performance; and this was the forerunner of a series of disasters. Hirst was disabled in the match, and his absence from the side during several games seemed to make all the difference.

In June Yorkshire went down in turn before Middlesex, Sussex and Surrey. Subsequently Hirst was in splendid form, and the team reasserted themselves, and never looked like losing another match until the last two games against Kent and Sussex. Kent came very near to beating them, and Sussex yesterday gained a four-wicket victory.

Hirst, as the averages show, has been invaluable to the team. He has been the mainstay in batting, he is a magnificent fieldsman and with Rhodes he has borne the brunt of the bowling. Last year he lost his bowling in some degree, but Haigh was there to take his place. This year, when he had recovered it, Haigh, always a good bowler and a magnificent one on certain wickets, has not had so many chances.

Rhodes shows some decline; but towards the end of the year, with the wickets in his favour, he was as good a bowler as ever, while his batting has greatly improved. Hirst easily heads the batting averages, and next to him J T Brown and Denton have done the best work. Tunnicliffe has played some fine innings, but on the whole he has shown a falling off.

It was a pity that Mr Jackson has not been able to play more frequently, for when he appeared he at once showed his value to the side. Lord Hawke, who has again captained the team with great judgment, has also done excellent work in batting. The averages are given below: -

Played, 26. - Won, 13; lost, 5; drawn, 8.

THE LANCASHIRE AVERAGES

A good win over Leicestershire, at Manchester, yesterday, brought Lancashire's season in the County Championship to a close. Lancashire have such a large amount of reserve talent to draw from that they are always likely to finish fairly high. This season they are fourth, a gain of one place from last year.

Considering that they have had the services of several players of great ability, who were not available or only available on rare occasions last year, such as Mr Spooner and Mr Garnett, their record is not better than might have been expected. They have been a good side, at their best quite equal to any team in the country.

In bowling, Mr Steel, who has played very little, has been sadly missed, and with the exception of Barnes, and perhaps Cuttell and Mr Brearley, the regular bowlers have lacked consistency. Barnes, when sound, is as difficult to play as any bowler in England, and he comes out with a fine record. Mr Brearley, too, has been an acquisition to the side.

Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley have again been the mainstays in batting, while Mr Spooner has fulfilled the great promise which he showed when at Marlborough. Several of the others have done excellent work, and Mr Hornby, who is practically new to the team, should be of considerable service in future. A feature of Lancashire cricket is the number of first-class wicket-keepers which they possess. The averages are given below: -

Played, 26 - Won, 10; lost, 5; drawn, 11.

27 August: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6348.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

Mr V F S Crawford, on winning the toss, at Leyton, yesterday, adopted the hazardous policy of putting Essex in, and this met with only ill results for his side, for the Essex innings absorbed the whole of the cricketing hours.

It was a fine score on a slow wicket, and the chief honours were borne off by Mr Gillingham, whose century was made in three hours and a half, between the fall of the second wicket at 24 and the seventh at 242. From the time that he went in Mr Gillingham played fine cricket, hitting hard on the off side and pulling a great many balls with wonderful success. He took a good many risks in leaving his ground; but he was always too quick for the wicket-keeper in getting back.

His two most useful partners were Mr Perrin and Reeves, who were with him while 83 and 107 were made for the fifth and seventh wickets. Mr Perrin drove as well as ever and made some good strokes to leg, and Reeves played a plodding innings of no particular excellence. The Leicestershire fielding was rather slovenly and the bowling seemed to lack both length and sting, except perhaps that of Mr Odell. Rain set in heavily immediately after stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 9)

Leicestershire were playing a losing game throughout yesterday, at Leyton, and at the close, with five wickets down in their second innings, they were still 34 runs behind.

Their batting on the slow wicket was singularly dull. Knight showed much steadiness in both innings, and there was a little hard hitting by Mr Stocks; but the best thing in the day's cricket was the bowling of Mead, who kept a splendid length and got a great deal of work on the ball, and often missed the stumps after beating the batsman. So far in the two innings he is responsible for the dismissal of ten of the Leicestershire side. Essex fielded well, and Mr Douglas in the long field and Reeves in the slips made excellent catches.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 5)

Essex won their match, at Leyton, on Saturday, by ten wickets. There was some delay in going on with the game, owing to the wet condition of the wicket; but when play did begin the match was finished in a little over an hour.

Mead again bowled with great success; he took the last five wickets in Leicestershire's second innings for only 24 runs, and brought his record in this game to 15 wickets for 115.

27 August: HAMPSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6349.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

Play on the opening day of the Bournemouth festival was limited to three hours and three-quarters, rain falling heavily shortly before 5 o'clock. The bowlers had the best of the situation, the ball doing its work quickly.

Blythe found a spot and, coming back at times considerably, he took the first six Hampshire wickets. Although Captain Wynyard and Mr Sprot added 48 in 35 minutes for the second wicket, the side fared so badly against Blythe that six batsmen were out for 67. The remainder of the eleven, in some degree, retrieved the position.

Kent did badly at the beginning of their innings; only a run was scored when Mr Burnup was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back and, with the addition of another single, A Hearne was taken in the same position, Mr Robson running out wide to leg and bringing off a brilliant catch. Mr Day afterwards hit well and at the close Kent, with seven wickets in hand, were 71 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 9)

Hampshire collapsed in their second innings at Bournemouth yesterday, and at 4 o'clock Kent had won by an innings and 17 runs.

When Mr Day and Mr Dillon, who had scored 41 and 15 out of the overnight total of 83 for three wickets, resumed the Kent innings, the Hampshire bowling proved very weak. The pitch was soft and easy from the previous day's rain, while the bowlers appeared to have little command of the ball. Langford was not at his best and Llewellyn never found a length. The Kent batsmen took full advantage of these conditions, with the certainty that the wicket under the warm sun would eventually get difficult.

Mr Day and Mr Dillon at once forced the game, the latter being the first to leave. With Mr Hutchings in, the batsmen continued to increase their advantage. Mr Day left after batting an hour and 50 minutes. Afterwards Mr Hutchings hit freely, his first 50 being scored in 40 minutes. He timed the ball beautifully and made several fine cuts in front of point. He was missed by Mr Steele at 76, but otherwise he gave a fine display of clean forcing cricket.

It was evident when the home team went in just before lunch, 91 behind, that the wicket was becoming difficult at that time, and that after the interval Hampshire would have great difficulty in saving the innings defeat. This view proved correct, Blythe and A Hearne bowling splendidly. Captain Wynyard alone showed any confidence, pulling and driving finely. He was thrown out by a splendid return by Fielder.

27 August: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6350.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

With the county championship still undecided, the match between Surrey and Middlesex, which began yesterday, at the Oval, naturally aroused a great deal of interest. If Middlesex lose the match, Sussex still have a chance of finishing with a better record; but so well did Middlesex do yesterday, after a bad start, that at the end of the day they had made the probability of their being defeated most unlikely. They were batting during the whole of the cricket hours, and at the close they had still three wickets to fall.

The wicket was slow; runs seemed difficult to get, and for the most part the cricket was unattractive. The feature of the play was the batting of Mr G W Beldam. He was very slow at starting, but he kept his end up while things were going badly for his side, and the turning point of the innings came with his partnership with Mr Wells, when the score was carried from 55 to 112 for the fifth wicket.

Mr Warner and Mr Moon, as usual, started to the bowling of Richardson from the pavilion end and Lees. Both bowlers kept a good length and runs always came very slowly before luncheon. The start of the Middlesex innings was disastrous; Mr Warner was out in the second over, Mr Moon left at 13, and Mr Douglas, who began very well, was soon caught at the wicket off a ball from Richardson that got up rather quickly. Mr Bosanquet made some good strokes, but at 55 he too was caught at the wicket on the leg side off Mr McDonnell, who had gone on instead of Lees.

Then Mr Wells joined Mr G W Beldam, and by sound, steady cricket they took the score to 76 at lunch time. After the interval runs did not come quickly, but in the circumstances the stand of 57 by Mr Wells and Mr G W Beldam was a fine piece of cricket, and afterwards the batsmen held the upper hand until the close of play. The sixth wicket put on 70 and the seventh 46, Mr E A Beldam and Trott both making useful contributions.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 9)

The second day's play of the Surrey and Middlesex match at the Oval, which the latter won yesterday by an innings and 94 runs, was of a remarkable character. The winners accomplished one of the best performances of a successful season, and Surrey once again showed their inability to do anything good on a difficult wicket.

Overnight Middlesex had left off in a happy position, and by lunch time yesterday they were a winning side. In the morning, there was a fine piece of forcing cricket by Mr MacGregor, and the two Surrey innings were a triumph for the Middlesex bowlers. In the first, when the wicket was really difficult, Trott and J T Hearne took every advantage of their opportunities. They bowled unchanged throughout, and Trott's performance was sensational. The first wicket fell to Hearne, but Trott took the next six while only four runs were added.

In the second innings, Hearne, who, with the exception of a few overs, again bowled all through, and Mr Wells did most of the damage. Hearne made the ball come back very quickly, while Mr Wells, from the Vauxhall end, broke up the partnership between Captain Bush and Mr Dowson, when both were playing well and there seemed just a possibility of the innings defeat being avoided.

When Middlesex continued their innings in the morning, Mr MacGregor and Trott forced the game at once and runs came quickly. At 254 Trott was out, and Mr Hunt did not stay long, but Mr MacGregor and Hearne carried the score to 281, Hearne once again keeping his wicket up, while Mr MacGregor made the runs.

Surrey went in at about half-past 12, and 33 were made before a wicket fell. Then Trott got six wickets in quick succession, four men being dismissed when the score was 37 without the addition of a single run. Mr McDonell and Captain Bush then stayed together until lunch and carried the score to 53. Afterwards the innings was soon over, and Surrey at ten minutes to 3 went in with 224 to get to save the innings defeat.

Three wickets fell for 35, and then came the only piece of good batting in either Surrey innings. Mr Dowson joined Captain Bush, and 67 were added before they were separated. In the circumstances, for the wicket was still doing a great deal, both men played fine cricket, and Captain Bush made some beautiful drives past extra cover. He was finely caught, however, at 102. Lockwood was out immediately afterwards, and no one else, after Mr Dowson left for a most attractive innings, stayed long. Middlesex well before 5 o'clock had won the match.

27 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6351.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

Owing to the weather at Worcester it was impossible to make a start in this match until 20 minutes past 2. Worcestershire began batting, but soon afterwards rain again fell and play had to be abandoned for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 9)

Owing mainly to a capital first-wicket partnership by the brothers Foster and to some good forcing cricket by Mr Bromley-Martin and Wilson, Worcestershire fared extremely well at Worcester yesterday. On a soft pitch that gave the bowlers some assistance, they increased their overnight score of 28 by 253, and then got down four good Gloucestershire wickets.

While the ground was still slow the brothers Foster scored at a fine rate, both men making some powerful drives and clever hits to leg. Captain W L Foster, however, lost his wicket at 113, Mr Jessop making a wonderful pick-up and hitting the stumps with his return. Mr H K Foster went on forcing the game well, but after a stay of just over two hours and a half he was bowled. Subsequently Wilson made 55 of the last 59 runs scored.

So disastrously did Gloucestershire start that four wickets went down for eight runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 5)

Following up in fine style the advantage which they had gained on the previous afternoon, Worcestershire beat Gloucestershire, at Worcester, on Saturday, by ten wickets, the match ending 20 minutes before the time fixed for the drawing of stumps.

On Friday, Gloucestershire, against a total of 271, had lost four wickets for 58 runs. Forty minutes' cricket sufficed to finish off the innings, the remaining batsmen being dismissed for another 24. Wilson had most to do with this collapse and came out with a fine record.

Following on 189 runs behind, Gloucestershire gave a much better display, staying in until shortly after 5 o'clock. Wrathall and Mr Rice played well at the start, the latter being in for two hours and a quarter, but there was no feature in the rest of the batting. Wilson again bowled with great effect and took seven wickets, thus making his aggregate 13 for 116 runs.

Worcestershire were left with 30 runs to get to win, and Mr H K Foster and Bowley hit these off in 20 minutes.

27 August: YORKSHIRE v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6352.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

The Scarborough Festival had an unpromising opening yesterday, for rain limited play in the match between Yorkshire and the M.C.C. and Ground to an hour and ten minutes before luncheon. Lord Hawke won the toss for the sixth consecutive time and, as the wicket was soft, he departed from his usual custom and put his opponents in to bat.

The result was that the M.C.C. and Ground had three wickets down for 22 runs. Mr W H B Evans played fine free cricket afterwards and 30 were added without further loss before the rain brought the day's proceedings to an end.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 9)

Although the weather was again unseasonal at Scarborough yesterday, over four hours' cricket was possible. Lord Hawke's policy in sending his opponents in to bat was justified by the result, for the M.C.C. and Ground, who had scored 52 for three wickets on Thursday, were all dismissed for the addition of 48 runs. Mr Evans and Relf put on 57 for the fourth wicket in 40 minutes and, after they had been separated, Rhodes took the six remaining wickets for 24 runs.

Yorkshire lost Brown's wicket to Thompson's second delivery, but some fine cricket was afterwards shown by Tunnicliffe, Denton, Mr Jackson and Hirst. The visitors' score was passed when three wickets had fallen, and afterwards Mr Jackson and Hirst added 102 runs for the fourth wicket in 50 minutes. Play closed at half-past 5, owing to bad light. Yorkshire had then established a lead of 166 runs and had three more wickets to go down.

Carpenter in attempting a catch in the long field, offered by Mr Ernest Smith, damaged his hand and had to retire. Lees Whitehead, who acted as umpire during Thursday's play, was included in the M.C.C. and Ground team yesterday owing to the absence of Cranfield.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 5)

The first match of the Scarborough Festival ended at half-past 5 on Saturday afternoon, Yorkshire defeating the M.C.C. and Ground by an innings and 16 runs.

Yorkshire had gained a lead of 166 runs on Friday and had three wickets still to fall. Lord Hawke kept the M.C.C. and Ground in the field for another hour on Saturday morning and then closed the Yorkshire innings. In the meantime two more wickets had fallen, and the score had been increased by 65 runs.

Rothery and Haigh both batted well and between them added 54 for the eighth wicket. Rothery, who is new to first-class cricket, has a good and watchful defence and made several neat strokes behind the wicket, but he appeared to lack punishing power. The M.C.C. bowling was weak, with the exception of Thompson's.

The Club required 231 runs to save an innings defeat with nearly four hours to bat, and they had to play their second innings without Carpenter, who injured his hands in attempting a catch on the previous day. Thompson and Relf scored 79 for the first wicket, and afterwards there was some lively hitting by Lees Whitehead, who scored 59 in an hour and a quarter. Whitehead was twice missed, but not until he had made 40. His forcing tactics made a draw seem probable, but Yorkshire finally won with half an hour to spare.

Saturday 29 August, page 9: THE MIDDLESEX AVERAGES

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

Middlesex have won the county championship. Their victory was not assured until the end of their last match with Surrey at the Oval yesterday, for if they had lost the game Sussex would still have had a chance of a better record.

Judging by their last year's performance, there must have been a few people at the beginning of May who would have prophesied more than a moderately successful season for Middlesex. In August, when Mr Wells and Mr J Douglas, who make immense difference to the team, are available, they were expected to be strong, but until then their prospects looked the reverse of bright. The team, however, from the first got wonderfully together, played fine cricket from start to finish, and with very little new talent imported have changed their position from fourth from last to head of the list. The team were at their best on fast wickets, but they are not merely a fast-wicket side, for in wet weather as well they have been most formidable.

There seems to have been a great improvement all round. Always on their day a strong batting side, this year they have been most consistent, and they have got rid of the fatal tendency to collapse which has so often lost them many matches of late years.

Perhaps the most surprising improvement, however, has been in the bowling. Not for years have they been such a strong bowling side. J T Hearne has recovered his form and bowled almost as well as in his greatest years. Trott, too, has done several fine things, and when these two were collared there was plenty of reserve talent to fall back upon. Mr Beldam, Mr Bosanquet, the latter practically two bowlers, a slow and a fast, Mr Hunt and Mr Wells formed an attack as formidable as that of any side with the exception of Yorkshire.

In Mr Bosanquet and Mr Beldam the side possess two all-round cricketers of great merit, and of an entirely different character. Mr Beldam, although unattractive to watch and a rather slow scorer, has been one of the mainstays of the side in batting and most useful as a bowler, while Mr Bosanquet has been invaluable. He has very largely given up his fast bowling, and his deceptive slows have proved more serviceable to the side. He has also been in his best form with the bat, frequently getting runs just when they were wanted.

These two men have played all through the season, but Mr Wells did not come into the side until August; but since then he has, as usual, proved of the utmost value. Mr Douglas, too, has batted remarkably well. Mr Warner and Mr Moon have proved a most useful pair to open the innings. Mr Warner has batted well throughout, while Mr Moon, although not nearly so consistent, has played several fine innings.

The wicket-keeping has been done by Mr MacGregor and Mr Robertson, who have both at times been quite at their best. Mr MacGregor, too, has on several occasions been most useful as a bat, getting runs quickly or playing defensive cricket as circumstances required. Of the others, several have done some good things, while in Mr Hunt Middlesex have found a most useful, hard-working cricketer and a magnificent field.

Middlesex have only lost one match throughout the season, when they were quite outplayed by Yorkshire at Leeds. The most brilliant of their wins perhaps were those against Yorkshire at Lord's and Somerset at Taunton. In the latter case, they had over three hundred runs to get in the fourth innings and very little time in which to make them. The averages are given below: -

18 matches: - Played 16, won 8, lost 1, drawn 7, abandoned 2.

THE TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA v REST OF ENGLAND

It was rumoured that the team for Australia would meet the rest of England at Lord's on September 17, but, owing to the impossibility of getting together a representative England eleven, the fixture is not at all likely to come off. We learn, however, that there will probably be a first-class match of some kind at Lord's on the same date. [Note: there wasn't.]

Monday 31 August, page 5: CRICKET AT LORD'S

The idea, once entertained, of playing a match at Lord's on September 17, 18 and 19 between the team for Australia and the Rest of England has been abandoned, and the match provisionally fixed for Mr W Slatter's benefit on September 10 has been postponed until next year.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	37	2363	234	6	76.22
K S Ranjitsinhji	33	1457	162*	6	54.33
Iremonger	31	1350	210	1	46.00
J Gunn	36	1545	294	2	45.44
Mr P Perrin	35	1428	170	4	44.62
Mr A C MacLaren	49	1805	204	8	44.02
Hirst	35	1427	153	3	43.84
Tyldesley	45	1675	248	6	42.94
Quaife	30	1113	130	4	42.80
Mr A O Jones	35	1410	296	2	43.72
Mr H K Foster	41	1586	218	3	42.00
Knight	43	1563	229*	5	41.13
Mr P F Warner	28	932	149	4	38.83
Hayward	56	1845	156*	3	38.58
Mr G L Jessop	36	1382	263	0	38.38
Mr E M Sprot	25	815	103	3	37.04
Mr B J T Bosanquet	27	945	105	1	36.38
W Gunn	29	1011	139	1	36.10
Mr E M Dowson	40	1250	135	4	35.83
Killick	37	1204	116	3	35.41
Mr G W Beldam	27	858	118	2	34.38
Mr L G Wright	31	981	133	2	33.32
Bowley	42	1277	164	4	33.80
Denton	50	1609	133	2	33.52
Hayes	55	1600	145	6	32.65
Mr C McGahey	39	1088	144*	5	32.20
Mr C J Burnup	46	1303	134	3	31.02
King (Leicester)	42	1172	167	3	30.06
Arnold	42	1080	128	6	30.00
J T Brown, senr.	44	1235	125	1	29.88
Braund	41	1086	111	3	28.67
Mr R H Spooner	48	1253	247	1	28.51
Wheldon	28	869	112	1	27.68
Mr A Eccles	31	695	128	6	27.40
Lilley	28	675	58	2	26.96
Llewellyn	38	851	148	5	25.78
Lord Hawke	32	670	79	6	25.76
Mr C J B Wood	40	1184	118*	3	25.73
Mr P R Johnson	25	856	121	0	25.23

Also over 1000 runs: Holland, 1018 at 22.62.

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Blythe	851.4	276	1818	140	12.92
Hirst	674.5	192	1537	119	13.21
Hargreave	887.1	271	1797	132	13.61
Mead	871.3	355	1791	131	13.67
Rhodes	1213.3	387	2430	169	14.37
Moorhouse	373.1	105	870	65	15.81
A Hearne	383.2	123	837	51	16.21
Roberts	595	184	1380	84	16.42
J T Hearne	866.4	294	1912	127	16.59
Haigh	718.2	215	1685	100	16.85
Young	369.2	103	897	52	17.25
Arnold	899.2	313	2295	130	17.65
Barnes	1024	384	2338	131	17.85
Fielder	429.1	123	1185	66	17.95
Lockwood	688.2	104	1697	83	18.24
Relf	912.1	316	2014	108	18.84
Trott	608.1	125	1833	97	18.89
Mr B J T Bosanquet	350.1	80	1165	61	18.93
J Gunn	693.1	278	2089	109	19.16
Cranfield (Somerset)	629.4	141	2251	115	19.57
Cuttell	703.4	137	1455	73	19.93
Lees	785	227	1951	97	20.11
Bland	469.4	114	1212	60	20.20
Hallam	687.3	226	1363	65	20.85
G Wilson (Worcester)	617.4	164	1863	87	21.29
Braund	847.1	178	2493	117	21.30
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	532.4	97	1210	56	21.80
Richardson	833	177	2453	112	21.90
Tate	673.4	160	1487	67	22.19
Bestwick	678.4	178	1691	78	22.25

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	16	8	1	7	7	77.77
Sussex	21	7	2	12	6	66.66
Yorkshire	26	13	5	8	8	44.44
Lancashire	26	10	6	11	5	33.33
Nottinghamshire	20	6	4	10	2	20.00
Worcestershire	20	8	6	6	2	14.28
Warwickshire	18	5	4	8	1	11.11
Kent	19	7	6	6	1	7.68
Essex	20	7	6	7	1	7.68
Somerset	16	5	6	5	-1	-9.09
Derbyshire	16	4	7	5	-3	-27.27
Surrey	25	6	11	8	-5	-29.41
Gloucestershire	20	3	10	7	-7	-53.84
Leicestershire	19	1	9	9	-8	-80.00
Hampshire	14	1	9	4	-8	-80.00

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

Worcestershire on Saturday brought to a close the most successful season which they have yet had since they were included among the first-class counties. They did not start very well, losing two out of their first three matches, but Mr H K Foster got the team well together and their cricket has often been of the very highest class.

They have batsmen of all styles, many of them of great individual merit, and enough bowling of all descriptions to get their opponents out fairly cheaply. Mr H K Foster has had a great year and his run-getting has been one of the causes of the success of the side. Bowley, Wheldon and Arnold have all given him valuable assistance, and Mr Caldwell seems to be a player of great possibilities.

Captain W L Foster and Mr R E Foster have only appeared occasionally. Mr R E Foster was entirely out of form, but Captain W L Foster played a fine innings in the last match. Arnold, of course, is the great all-round cricketer of the team, for besides his value as a bat, he has this year probably been a better bowler than before.

For bowling G A Wilson, in the latter part of the season, did splendid work, his great pace often proving most destructive, and Keene and Bird were useful changes. Gaukrodger has again been an excellent wicket-keeper, while he has from time to time played a fine innings. The averages are given below: -

Played 20 - Won 8, lost 6, drawn 6.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

There have been very few features of merit in Gloucestershire cricket this year. Mr Jessop has of course been a brilliant exception, but until late in the year he was unfortunate in being unable to get together anything like a representative team; and in batting, until August at least, the side very largely depended on him for a respectable score. It was noticeable that when he failed the side on many occasions followed suit, although when he was getting runs he often found valuable assistance.

Until late in the year Gloucestershire were, in fact, a one-man team, and not even Mr Jessop's fine cricket could save the side from being perhaps the weakest in the county championship. In August the side was strengthened, and during this period they gained their only three runs.

The bowling of the side was very weak, for there was no one to back up Roberts. Dennett, late in the season, did good work, but it was chiefly on wickets which gave him considerable help; and on fast wickets he seemed to present few difficulties. Roberts and Dennett had a great deal to do with Gloucestershire's three wins and Roberts, for a man of his years, has bowled splendidly throughout. The others, however, were ineffective, and on good Querl Gloucestershire must have been as easy a side as any to score against.

No one, except Mr Jessop, has done much in batting; Wrathall, though always attractive to watch, has been disappointing, and Board, still a fine wicket-keeper, has had little success with the bat. The averages are given below: -

Played 20 - Won 3, lost 10, drawn 7.

THE ESSEX AVERAGES

After an unsuccessful season in 1902, Essex, who finished their last match at Leyton on Saturday, have this year shown decided improvement. The margin of one victory in their favour is all the more creditable perhaps as most of the games which they won were against strong sides. On the whole they may be considered a fair all-round side; but often their batsmen showed little ability to cope with good bowling on difficult wickets, and at times the fielding was not up to a high standard.

The bowling of the team has been chiefly done by Mead, Young and Buckenham. Mead, who during the greater part of the season has found wickets to suit him exactly, has been by far the most successful, and he has again shown that on sticky wickets he has few superiors. Young, although useful at times, has again not fulfilled expectations; but Buckenham, who is practically new to the side, should be a great acquisition and he has done some fine performances.

The side has a number of good batsmen; but Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey alone have shown anything beyond ordinary form. It was most unfortunate that Mr A J Turner was only very rarely available; Mr Gillingham, however, has proved a useful fine. All the same Essex were, as a whole, a little disappointing in batting, for the failure of Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey on several occasions meant the

failure of the team. Mr Perrin easily heads the averages with a much better record than last year, and he had the distinction of making three centuries against Nottinghamshire.

Mr Kortright, all things considered, may be congratulated on the progress made by the side during the first year of his captaincy. The averages are given below: -

Played 20 - Won 7, lost 6, drawn 7; abandoned 2.

31 August: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6353.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 September, page 10)

The second match of the Scarborough Festival - Gentlemen v Players - was begun yesterday. The Players have a strong side, especially in bowling, but the Gentlemen's eleven is not fully representative. Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Findlay were unable to play and their places were taken by Mr J C Hartley and Mr C Headlam.

Lord Hawke once more won the toss. Hirst, who bowled very fast at times, in company with Tarrant, got the first three wickets down for 16 runs; but some fine cricket was then shown by Mr F S Jackson and Mr P F Warner. They kept together for an hour and added 54 runs for the fourth wicket. Mr Warner's batting was the feature of the remainder of the innings. Excepting for one very fast over from Hirst, in which he gave two difficult chances, Mr Warner's defence was admirable and his hitting well-timed.

The Players had 70 minutes' batting before the close. Brown and Tunnicliffe scored 62 for the first wicket in three-quarters of an hour, and, when cricket ended, the Players were 104 runs behind with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 September, page 9)

There was a day of quick scoring yesterday in the match between Gentlemen and Players, only 11 wickets falling for 416 runs. The Players gained a marked advantage, for they held a lead of 244 on the first innings, and then got three wickets down in the Gentlemen's second innings for 63 runs. Thus at the close of play the Gentlemen wanted 176 runs to save an innings defeat with seven wickets in hand.

Some of the Gentlemen's bowling was of a very poor quality, Mr Bosanquet's especially so. On the other hand, Mr Ernest Smith, after keeping an indifferent length early in the day, improved considerably and at the close he had fine figures.

The principal scorers on the Players' side were Rhodes, Tyldesley, Hirst and John Gunn. Rhodes went in for hard, but accurate, hitting, and before his innings closed he had made his aggregate 1,000 runs for the season. Tyldesley played a beautiful innings and, like Rhodes, gave no chance; but Hirst should have been caught in the long field by Mr Spooner when he had made 51.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 September, page 10)

The second of the Scarborough Festival matches was concluded at ten minutes past 4 yesterday afternoon, the Players winning by an innings and eight runs. Rain delayed the start until 1 o'clock. The Gentlemen, with three wickets down, required 176 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

The wicket was slow, but not difficult, and all the batsmen adopted forcing tactics. Mr Spooner and Mr Jackson scored 37 in the first half-hour, but both were out before luncheon, when the total was 118 for five wickets. Afterwards Mr Warner, in making a high drive off Trott, was finely caught at long-on by Thompson. Then Mr Douglas and Mr Smith, by some big hitting, scored 45 in 25 minutes, but both left at 177.

Mr Bosanquet and Lord Hawke also hit well. As the result of this free cricket 59 runs were added for the last two wickets, but the Gentlemen were unable to escape the innings defeat.

31 August: HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6354.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 September, page 10)

Hampshire had the better of yesterday's play at Bournemouth, Somerset, with Mr Palairet out in their second innings, being 38 runs behind. The failure of the visitors was not to be accounted for by the state of the ground; for, although Soar and Langford at times came back considerably, the pace of the wicket always allowed for the ball being watched.

Soar has seldom bowled better. The Hampshire fielding too was conspicuously sound, every chance being accepted. Half the Somerset wickets were down for 28 runs, but a capital innings by Braund at this point saved the side.

Hampshire made a good start, their opponents' total being passed with only three batsmen out; but, after Llewellyn left at 105, Captain Wynyard, who had gone in first, alone met the bowling with any confidence. He was sixth out in a somewhat unfortunate manner, his foot in playing back touching a stump with just sufficient force to dislodge the bails. During his two hours' stay he showed a great variety of strokes. He timed the ball very well on the off side and pulled with great skill.

Somerset in their second innings had 25 minutes' batting. Mr Palairet was finely caught at mid-off at four, but Mr Johnson made several beautiful straight drives.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 September, page 9)

After having had all the worst of the play on Monday, Somerset yesterday at Bournemouth gained a brilliant victory over Hampshire by 109 runs.

The honours of the match were carried off by Braund. He went in at the fall of the second wicket, when his side were still 25 behind, and made his 100 in an hour and 25 minutes, out of a total of 148. Afterwards he slowed down, and when he was ninth out he had been at the wickets two hours and a half.

Braund and Mr Banks, an old Cheltonian, who was given his first trial for the county, made the biggest stand, 75 being added in 40 minutes. Mr Banks batted in promising style with a variety of strokes, but was caught at mid-on through over-anxiety to hit.

Hampshire went in at 4 o'clock 216 behind, and again indifferent batting was the prevailing feature of their display. Captain Wynyard, after 25 minutes at the wicket, was third out, and with his departure Hampshire's chances appeared hopeless. Five batsmen were out for 28, but Mr Jephson and Mr Johnston added 40 for the seventh wicket. Their stand brought on Mr Woods, and the Somerset captain quickly finished off the innings.

31 August: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6355.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 September, page 10)

The feature in the opening day's play in this match at the Oval yesterday was the batting of Knight; and it was almost entirely due to him that Leicestershire were able to keep Surrey in the field during the whole of the cricket hours. Knight, who went in first wicket down before a run had been scored, showed sound defence from start to finish, but his cricket generally was marked by more caution than the conditions warranted, for he was batting close on five hours for his runs.

At the beginning of his innings the wicket had not entirely recovered from the heavy morning dew, but as the day advanced the pitch was favourable for run-getting. He was always master of the situation, but he made no attempt to force matters until the last ten minutes or so. Nevertheless, he made many fine cuts near cover-point, and also towards third man, while his leg play was good. He is a batsman, however, who replies very little on the drive.

Apart from Knight there was little in the batting, although several of the side made useful contributions. Mr Wood was bowled in the first over of the match, but Whitehead then stayed with Knight until 42 were scored for the second wicket. At lunch, which was taken at half-past 1, the total had been raised to 61 without further loss. King was caught at the wicket for the addition of 34 runs, while half the side were out for 167. Mr De Trafford, who was missed in the long field at 23, hit as hard as usual and made his runs while Knight was getting six.

With six of the side out for 171, there seemed little prospect of Leicestershire's making as many runs as they eventually did. Gill, however, although rather lucky, stayed with Knight while 81 were added in 65 minutes before he was easily stumped.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 September, page 9)

Leicestershire had the better of the cricket at the Oval yesterday, for they finished up the day with a lead of 182 with seven wickets in hand. Overnight Leicestershire had scored 303 for eight wickets, and when play was resumed the innings was quickly finished off. Knight only added a single before he was out to a catch in the slips. Altogether he was batting five hours without a mistake.

With the pitch in good condition for run-getting there was no reason why Surrey should not have got as many runs as their opponents; but they made an indifferent start and never fully recovered, although some good cricket by Lockwood helped the total to reach fair proportions. Of the earlier batsmen Hayes was the only one to offer much resistance to the bowling, but Surrey were unfortunate in losing Hayward's wicket when he appeared to be well set. At lunch time half the side were out for 81, a curious point being that the umpire was called upon to give a decision in each instance.

After the interval Lockwood and Mr Walker considerably increased Surrey's prospects, for they stayed together an hour and 40 minutes and added 91 for the sixth wicket. Then, however, there was a collapse, and the last four wickets fell in 20 minutes for another 16 runs. The chief cause of this breakdown was the bowling of Mr R T Crawford, who dismissed four of the last five batsmen for 28. Lockwood was batting two hours without giving a chance. During the innings Mr Wood, trying to stop a ball, trod on it and sprained his ankle, and had to be carried to the pavilion.

Leicestershire went in a second time with a lead of 124, but they did none too well, although Knight again batted steadily, and at the close their lead was not so pronounced as at one time seemed probable.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 September, page 10)

After having had the worst of the game during the first two days, Surrey gained a fine victory over Leicestershire at the Oval yesterday by three wickets. When play was resumed, Surrey started well by finishing off the Leicestershire innings for another 97 runs, and then by some fine cricket they gradually assumed the upper hand; but the closing stage was not without some anxiety, for the winning hit was only made five minutes before time.

In the morning Knight again showed good form, but he was the only one on the Leicestershire side to meet with much success. But for him Leicestershire would indeed have fared badly. Mr Wood, on account of the injury to his ankle on Tuesday, was unable to take part in the day's cricket.

Surrey were set the task of getting 280 to win in about three hours and a half. Hayward and Holland made such an excellent start that, provided the runs could be got in the time, victory was practically assured for Surrey. They put on 108 before they were separated; then Holland drove a ball straight back and, as it rebounded off the bowler's foot, Hayward was run out. Holland was the second out at 152. Both he and Hayward showed fine form and always scored at a good rate.

Captain Bush and Mr Dowson were soon dismissed through trying to force the game, while Lees left at 207, and half the side were out with only an hour left for play. Much now depended on how long Hayes would stay. He found a useful partner in Lockwood, and when they were separated only another 19 runs were required.

Leicestershire, however, threw away any chance which they might have had of saving the game by mistakes in the field. Mr De Trafford missed Hayes at 92 from a high hit to point, while at 96 Mr R T Crawford gave him another life. Surrey, it is true, were well within time when these mistakes occurred, but some good bowling by Gill and Mr Odell just before the close helped to make the finish exciting.

31 August: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6356.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 September, page 10)

Having the good fortune to secure first innings on a wicket that was in splendid condition, Sussex, at Brighton, yesterday, made excellent use of their opportunities, staying in the whole of the afternoon. At one time Sussex looked like being out for quite a moderate total, four men being dismissed for 88; but at this point Mr Fry was joined by Mr Newham, and so fine a resistance was offered that in an hour and 40 minutes 122 runs were added.

For their score Sussex were mainly indebted to Mr Fry, who played a wonderful innings. At first he showed considerable care and took two hours and 20 minutes to score his fifty; but after this he completely changed his methods, his hitting in front of the wicket being very brilliant. Mr Fry was sixth out at 233, having batted for four hours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 September, page 9)

Yesterday's cricket at Brighton was of an even and interesting description, for when play ceased there was little to choose in the positions. The Sussex innings, in which overnight 280 runs had been scored for the loss of nine wickets, was finished off for an addition of three runs, and Kent then fared so well that at one point they looked like gaining a strong advantage.

With only one man out, the score was 174, but Mr Burnup then left, and such a collapse ensued that in half an hour four more wickets fell for 15 runs. Hardinge and Huish, however, offered a splendid resistance, staying together for an hour and adding 50 runs, and afterwards Fairservice and Blythe put on 42. Mr Burnup made his runs by a good variety of strokes, while the feature of Seymour's innings was powerful driving. Taken generally, the Sussex fielding was admirable, but the game might have taken a different course had Killick caught Hardinge before he had scored.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 September, page 10)

In making 101 not out at Brighton yesterday Mr Fry equalled the record of Dr W G Grace and Mr R E Foster of scoring on three occasions two separate hundreds in a match. The game, as was almost inevitable, ended in a drawn, and interest mainly centred in the doings of Mr Fry.

He began very carefully, taking over two hours to score his first 50, but afterwards he played free cricket. Throughout he maintained a fine control over the bowling and did not give a chance. Vine assisted Mr Fry to put on 74 for the first partnership in 70 minutes, and after Killick had left at 100, Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji scored 133 in 70 minutes.

As may be imagined, the batting was of a very high order. K S Ranjitsinhji played brilliantly, hardly allowing a single loose ball to escape him, and hitting with great force. With the total at 233 for two wickets, Sussex's second innings was closed and Kent were left with 230 to get to win.

As less than two hours remained for play, there was little chance of a definite result, but Kent had some anxious moments. Five wickets went down inside an hour and a half, and the Hardinge and Mr Dillon played out time.

Tuesday 1 September, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

The M.C.C. have decided after all to take 15 players to Australia, and have offered the last place in the team to Mr R H Spooner.

Wednesday 2 September, page 9: THE SOMERSET AVERAGES

Somerset are always interesting and, whether winning or losing, they play attractive cricket; they may make a wonderful fight against the strongest of the counties or go down before the weakest, but whatever happens they are always worth watching, and are never done with until the last ball of the

match is bowled. They finished the season yesterday with a win over Hampshire, and on the whole they may be considered to have been successful.

No striking new talent has been developed, and while there has been a certain falling off in some directions there has been a corresponding improvement in others. The team certainly wants new bowling. Too much work has devolved on Braund and Cranfield. Both have done very well, but if they have a bad day there is not enough reserve behind, and a good fast bowler would be very welcome.

The batting has been of much the same character as before, sporting if not quite consistent. Mr Woods has been out of form, but one of the features of the year has been the great improvement of Mr P R Johnson. Always possessed of several beautiful strokes, especially a magnificent straight drive, Mr Johnson in previous years has never had a sufficiently strong defence or that ability to watch the ball to make him likely to be a consistent scorer. This year he is greatly improved in that respect, while he has lost none of his hitting powers, and on many occasions he has been of the greatest value to his side.

Braund has again been a splendid all-round player. His bowling has been invaluable, in batting he has done about as well as last year, while he is one of the best slips in England. Mr Lionel Palairt when he came into the side batted with all his old skill, and excellent work has also been done by Mr Daniell, Mr Phillips and Mr Lee. The averages are given below . . .#

18 matches - Played 17, won 6, lost 6, drawn 5, abandoned 1.

THE HAMPSHIRE AVERAGES

In a season which almost holds a record for wet weather and matches abandoned owing to rain, Hampshire have been the greatest sufferers, for in three games not a single ball was bowled. Apart from this unfortunate circumstance, although the position of the side is far from flattering, there are one or two features in Hampshire cricket which augur improvement for the future.

It is dangerous to prophesy great success for any player from a few startling performances, but in Langford Hampshire seem to Haverford found a bowler of more than ordinary promise. The side, too, has depended this season less on players of great individual merit who are seldom available, and have gone through the season more as a fixed, and not as an uncertain, quantity.

Mr Sprot, who took over the captaincy, has been the mainstay in batting, while Mr Barrett, Captain Wynyard and Mr Hill have proved of great value to the side on the few occasions on which they have assisted. Llewellyn has done some excellent work, but he has hardly been so good an all-round cricketer as last year, having shown a great falling-off in bowling. The averages are given below: -

18 matches. Played, 15; won, 1; lost, 10; drawn, 4; abandoned, 3.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND DIVISION

The competition for the second division of the County Championship this year has been particularly keen. After a close struggle Northamptonshire came out first, and are followed by Durham and Wiltshire.

Northamptonshire have been a thoroughly sound side throughout the season. In Thompson they possess a fine all-round player, worth his place in any side, and both in batting and bowling they are very sharp. Durham, too, are a good team, while Wiltshire both in 1902 and this year have been the best of the southern counties. In Overton and Smith they have two excellent bowlers, and they can always rely on a great amount of amateur talent in batting.

The final position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Won on 1st in.	Drawn	Points Poss.	Obt.	Percentage
Northamptonshire	11	7	2	0	33	23	69.69
Durham	8	5	0	0	24	15	62.50
Wiltshire	12	7	1	2	35	22	61.11

{Bedfordshire	12	6	3	0	36	18	50.00
{Glamorgan	10	4	3	2	30	15	50.00
{Northumberland	8	4	0	0	24	12	50.00
Monmouthshire	8	2	2	1	24	8	33.33
{Hertfordshire	8	1	4	1	24	7	29.16
{Surrey 2nd XI	8	2	2	2	24	7	29.16
{Bucks	8	2	0	1	24	6	25.00
{Cambridgeshire	8	2	0	1	24	6	25.00
{Yorkshire 2nd XI	8	2	0	0	24	6	25.00
Berkshire	8	1½	0	0	24	4½	18.75
Staffordshire	8	1	1	1	24	4	18.68
Oxfordshire	8	½	2	0	24	3½	14.88
Devon	8	1	0	1	24	3	12.50
Dorset	7	0	1	2	21	1	4.76

KENT TOUR IN AMERICA

The following 12 cricketers have been selected to go to America for a short cricketing tour; - Mr C J Burnup, Mr E W Dillon, Mr J R Mason, Mr K L Hutchings, Mr H Z Baker, Mr W M Bradley, Mr H C Stewart, Mr G J V Weigall, Alec Hearne, Huish, Seymour and Blythe.

The party will leave Liverpool on board the Oceanic on September 9. Four matches will be played as follows: September 18, 19 and 21, v Colts of Philadelphia, at Philadelphia; September 25, 26 and 28, v All Philadelphia, at Philadelphia; September 29 and 30, v Baltimore, at Baltimore; October 2, 3 and 5, v All Philadelphia, at Philadelphia. The Kent team will return home on October 7 on board the Germanic.

ABEL AND THE SURREY CLUB

We are requested by the Surrey Club to publish the following statement: -

"There seems some sort of idea still that the committee are not desirous of availing themselves of the valuable services of Robert Abel. Perhaps the following extract from the committee's minutes may set the matter once and for all at rest: -

'The hon. secretary reported that in reply to the instruction of the match committee that Abel should play in the match against Middlesex he had seen Abel, and Abel had said that he did not feel equal of playing county cricket during the present season.'"

Thursday 3 September, page 10: THE LEICESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

Leicestershire have been a disappointing team. For several seasons past, although, with certain exceptions, they have been a dull side to watch, they have always been fairly strong in batting, and with the addition of such a fine hitter as Mr V F S Crawford and a good player in Gill, considerable improvement in the fortunes of the team was expected.

They have, however, had a bad year, and only won a single match - against Derbyshire. It is rather hard to account for this, for the batting has been very sound; but perhaps the secret lies in the inability of several of the batsmen to make runs fast when required, combined with bowling that was never good enough to get strong sides out cheaply on anything approaching an easy wicket. Leicestershire are a team, in fact, more likely to save a match than to win one.

In batting Knight stands practically alone, and he has had a most successful season. He is a characteristic professional bat, very correct and very sound. He watches the ball closely and his scoring has been most consistent, but he is devoid of originality and has little driving power, though his cutting is beautiful.

Mr V F S Crawford was out of form. Only on very few occasions has he come out with a brilliant innings, but, no doubt, with a season of fast wickets he will again be as good as before. King, Mr Wood and Whitehead have all done useful work, and Gill, on occasions, has hit finely.

The bowling has proved weak all round; Mr Odell has done the greatest part of the work, but he, like Gill, King and Mr R T Crawford, has been very expensive. The averages are given below: -

Played, 20; won, 1; lost, 10; drawn, 9.

THE KENT AVERAGES

No county finishes the season with more encouraging prospects for the future than Kent. When it was known early in this year that Mr Mason would only occasionally be able to play, it was felt that the loss of this great all-round cricketer would be almost irreparable. Mr Burnup, however, who succeeded him in the captaincy, has got the team wonderfully together, with the result that Kent have had a successful season and finish with a margin of one win in their favour.

They have always been strong in amateur talent, and this year there has been a great improvement in the professional element of the side. The value of the Tonbridge nursery has been thoroughly demonstrated, and several young players of the greatest promise have been found or have added to their reputations. The great discovery in the bowling has, of course, been Fielder, who has been considered good enough to be included in the M.C.C. team for Australia. It has not been a year for a fast bowler, and in the circumstances Fielder's performance is a remarkably fine one.

Blythe, certainly one of the best slow-medium left-handers at the present day, has found wickets constantly to his liking, and all through the year he has been the mainstay of the side in bowling. Of the others Alec Hearne has done some good performances on wickets which have given him some assistance.

In batting the team has been very sound, and even before some of their best players were available Kent were quite capable of making large scores. Mr Burnup was not at his best early in the year, but later he quite recovered his form and was again a great batsman on difficult wickets. Mr K L Hutchings has been a good find; a natural cricketer and a fast scorer possessed of any number of fine strokes, he should prove of much value to the side in future, if he is regularly available.

Seymour, too, has realized expectations, while Mr Day and Mr Mason have played several good innings. Hardinge is well spoken of, but he has scarcely played enough this year to show his real capabilities. Huish has again kept wicket finely, while he is a greatly improved batsman. The averages are given below: -

22 Matches. - Played, 20; won, 7; lost, 6; drawn, 7; abandoned, 2.

3 September: GENTLEMEN OF THE SOUTH v PLAYERS OF THE SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6357.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 September, page 9)

Strong elevens were got together yesterday for the concerning match of the Bournemouth festival, but the cricket throughout was slow and uneventful. The only feature of the day's play was a fine bowling performance by Arnold on a wicket which should have presented few difficulties to the batsmen. He proved almost irresistible. He was able to make the ball break at times, but his success was chiefly due to a good length, combined with well-judged variation of pace.

Captain Wynyard and Mr McGahey made an excellent start for the Gentlemen by putting on 51 in rather less than an hour, but afterwards six wickets were down for the addition of 32 runs. Mr Robson and Mr Steele improved the amateurs' position by some free hitting, but the side as a whole failed in their strong point.

In spite of the moderate bowling of their opponents, the Players found great difficulty at first in making runs. Knight and Sewell afterwards brightened the cricket with some good drives, and at the close they had placed their side in a favourable position.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 September, page 5)

Cricket at Bournemouth was limited to less than three hours yesterday, but in this time the Players obtained a great advantage. Overnight they had scored 95 for the loss of two wickets.

On resuming, Sewell and Knight soon left. Arnold and Braund, however, gained a mastery over the bowling and for the fifth wicket added 148 in rather less than two hours. Except for a high miss-hit off Mr Bradley's bowling, which fell between Mr McGahey at mid-off and the bowler, through each leaving the catch to the other, Arnold made no mistake. He played fine cricket throughout and hit well all round the wicket.

The honours of the innings, however, belong to Braund, who gave a really fine display. Just as he completed his hundred, rain prevented further play, and as the game now stands the Players, with four wickets in hand, are 157 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 September, page 9)

There never appeared much likelihood on Saturday of the concluding match of the Bournemouth festival being brought to a definite end, and when stumps were pulled up the game was left drawn in favour of the Players, the Gentlemen being 16 runs ahead with only three wickets in hand. Overnight the Players had lost six wickets for 312 runs, Braund having completed his hundred.

When the game was resumed Braund seemed unable to get runs and, after increasing his total by a single in a quarter of an hour, he was easily caught at slip. Afterwards Llewellyn and Wilson hit fearlessly, and at the luncheon interval the Players declared their innings closed.

The Gentlemen, who wanted 214 runs to avoid an innings defeat, fared badly from the start. Dr Grace was bowled off his body before a run was scored; Mr Beldam was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back at 10 and Mr Odell was bowled at 18. The partnership of Mr McGahey and Mr Burnup, however, retrieved the position, the pair adding 60 runs in 50 minutes.

After Mr McGahey left, Mr Burnup, who had hit brilliantly, slowed down, but Mr Sprot continued the high rate of scoring. Mr Sprot, for the first time during the Foster, showed his proper form, his timing being invariably accurate. Afterwards Captain Wynyard and Mr Hill saved the innings defeat.

3 September: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6358.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 September, page 9)

The first day's play of the Surrey and Sussex match at the Oval was entirely occupation with the batting of Sussex. They won the toss on a wicket which seemed to give the bowlers very little assistance and which was just about the right pace for run-getting, and all their first players came off and, at the close, they held a flattering position.

It was a fine performance, for although the bowling did not look difficult, it was never absolutely collared, but the batsmen held the upper hand all day and runs came at an even rate. Considering Surrey's long outing, their fielding was very clean and smart, and many of the bowlers kept a good length.

Mr Fry and Vine, as usual, started the innings. Both played well, and in spite of several bowling changes the pair were together at lunch. It was not until 153 had been scored that Mr Fry was caught in the slips off Lees for a fine innings. Killick then joined Vine and 56 were added before Killick, in running a rather short run to third man for Vine, who had made 98, was thrown out by Hayes. Almost immediately afterwards Vine made his hundred off a lucky stroke through the slips, and then he

got out at once. He had played fine cricket all through the innings. He was rather slow in getting the first 50, but afterwards he improved in this respect and made a number of fine drives.

K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Brann then stayed together until the close. When they were first in the scoring was slow, as Mr McDonell and Lees were both bowling well and keeping a good length; but later on K S Ranjitsinhji played beautifully on both sides of the wicket and Mr Brann made several fine strokes past cover point.

Surrey were trying a new bowler in Rushby. He comes from a good height and bowls rather above medium pace. Yesterday he did not seem difficult, but it is quite possible that on certain wickets he might be of service to the side.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 September, page 5)

The second day's play of the Surrey and Sussex match at the Oval yesterday was very like the first. The wicket was still fast and true, the scoring was abnormally high and there was nothing remarkable in the cricket except the batting.

The feature of the day was a magnificent innings by K S Ranjitsinhji, who was not out overnight. From the very beginning he made the bowling look extremely simple and scored almost as he liked all round the wicket with every variety of stroke. Taken as a whole, the Sussex innings was a great batting performance, but perhaps K S Ranjitsinhji might have declared the innings closed with advantage earlier than he did. As it was, Surrey did not go in until 4 o'clock and, to win, the match, Sussex have practically to get their opponents out twice in one day.

In the morning, with only ten added to the overnight score of 332, Mr Brann was out; but K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Newham made another long stand and added 141 for the fifth wicket. Mr Dowson tried a number of bowlers, but none of them proved at all difficult and runs always came quickly, K S Ranjitsinhji doing most of the scoring. Mr Newham was at last bowled by Richardson just before the interval with the score at 483.

After luncheon the batsmen still continued to make runs quickly and only two more wickets fell, those of Relf and K S Ranjitsinhji, before the innings was declared closed. Of the Surrey bowlers, Mr McDonell, who never appeared to lose his length, had much the best figures. Rushby was, perhaps, unfortunate in not getting a wicket, but for a first trial to bowl against Sussex on a perfect wicket is a severe test.

The usual Surrey batting order was altered, Mr Dowson and Captain Bush going in first to the bowling of Cox and Relf. With the wicket still playing very well and the bowling rather plain, an excellent start was made. Mr Dowson was quite in his best form and he made several beautiful straight drives off Relf. Captain Bush, too, although he did not score so fast, played fine cricket. After Mr Dowson was out at 50, Hayward and Captain Bush stayed together until, at 20 minutes past five, owing to the bad light, play ended for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 September, page 9)

There was not very much interest in the last day's play of the Surrey and Sussex match at the Oval on Saturday. Owing to the heavy rain on Friday night cricket was not possible until after 1 o'clock, and at no time did anything except a draw appear possible. In the end the game was abandoned after Surrey had finished their first innings.

The wicket was too slow to be difficult and none of the Sussex bowlers seemed formidable, but it was a good performance by Surrey and the batting during the greater part of the afternoon was very attractive. Overnight Surrey had scored 96 for the loss of Mr Dowson's wicket.

On Saturday Hayward and Captain Bush carried the score to 161 before Captain Bush was out, and later Hayward, Holland, Hayes, Lees and Mr McDonell all played good cricket. The feature of the match as a whole was the extraordinarily high scoring, 965 being made for the loss of 17 wickets, an average of well over 50 runs a wicket.

3 September: YORKSHIRE v MR C I THORNTON'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6359.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 September, page 9)

This match, which began at Scarborough yesterday, is the concluding event of the first-class cricket season in the north of England. Mr Thornton was deprived of the services of Mr Leveson-Gower, Mr Findlay and Iremonger, but he succeeded in getting together a fairly strong side.

The day's play presented few features and at no time did it become brilliant. Rain stopped the game for half an hour before luncheon, when Yorkshire had scored 101 for three wickets. The pitch became difficult afterwards, and Tarrant bowled so well that the remaining seven wickets fell in an hour and for 82 more runs.

Mr Thornton's eleven had 65 minutes' batting. Mr Spooner was out at 31 to a magnificent catch behind the wicket, Hunter taking the ball wide on the leg side. Mr Douglas afterwards was caught at mid-off, and Mr Thornton's team might have lost John Gunn's wicket also, for he was missed at point by Lord Hawke. Play ended for the day at a quarter to 6, owing to bad light. Mr Thornton's team were then 121 runs behind and had eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 September, page 5)

A fine partnership between Hirst and Rhodes in the last hour of play at Scarborough yesterday proved of great service to Yorkshire in their match with Mr Thornton's eleven. Before these two batsmen came together, Yorkshire, with four wickets down in their second innings, only held a lead of 76 runs, but when stumps were drawn their lead had been increased to 181 and no other wicket had fallen. Hirst and Rhodes both played steadily for a time, but hit brilliantly afterwards and completely collared the bowling.

Only six runs separated the teams on the first innings. Captain Foster, who had made 37 on Thursday, added 21 before he was caught at the wicket off Lees Whitehead's first delivery. He played a patient and sound innings. Mr Bosanquet showed greater freedom, but no one else on Mr Thornton's side met with success. The Yorkshire bowling and fielding were admirable, and Hunter brought off two fine catches when he dismissed Mr Warner and Captain Foster.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 September, page 9)

Owing to the weather, no play was possible in this match at Scarborough on Saturday . . .

A SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM FOR ENGLAND

We are informed that a South African team will visit England next season under the auspices of Sir Abe Bailey. Lord Hawke has undertaken to arrange the programme, which is to be a very ambitious one, consisting entirely of first-class matches. There is indeed some idea of playing one match against a representative England eleven.

THE SUSSEX AVERAGES

The last county match of the year, between Surrey and Sussex, which was concluded at the Oval, on Saturday, leaves Sussex second to Middlesex in the County Championship, after a successful season.

They have been much the same sort of side as last year. Little new talent has been unearthed, possibly because little was needed, and with the exception that Mr Fry has had a marvellous year, no one has shown marked improvement. With their two great batsmen in form and an eleven who could nearly all get runs, Sussex have been a very hard side to beat, although to avoid being defeated by them perhaps was an easier task in proportion.

Tate, Cox, Relf, Killick and Bland, however, who have been the regular bowlers, have done fairly good work, and with wickets to help them, Sussex were good enough to get any side out cheaply. On fast

true wickets, however, they were not difficult to score against, and another bowler would be very useful.

Mr Fry, of course, easily heads the batting averages, and his cricket has been one of the striking features of the year. Time after time, on wickets of all descriptions and against every variety of bowling, he proved himself master of the situation; and so consistent was his scoring that with him a single-figure innings was almost as conspicuous as a century. K S Ranjitsinhji's performances have this year been a little dwarfed by those of Mr Fry, but he has done many fine things and is still as brilliant and as attractive to watch as ever.

Although these two were the mainstays in batting, the side was not entirely dependent on them. Vine has proved a splendid player to go in first, Killick has done well, and Mr Brann, who on one occasion against Yorkshire came out with a great innings when the side was failing, and several others have been most useful. Relf's batting has shown some decline, but his bowling has improved and, although not brilliant, he has shown himself a very good all-round cricketer and a magnificent field.

In bowling no one has remarkable figures; Relf has been the most consistent as a whole. Cox has been a better bowler than before, but Tate has not nearly maintained his form on last year.

The Sussex record shows a margin of five wins in their favour. The number of drawn games is unhealthily large, but in many cases the weather and not high scoring was the cause. It was most disappointing that so little play was possible in their matches with the champion county, but they had the distinction of twice beating Yorkshire - the second time on a wicket if anything more favourable to Yorkshire's chance than their own, when their bowlers rose to the occasion and got out their opponents twice for under a hundred. The averages are given below: -

24 matches. Played 23, won 7, lost 2, drawn 14; abandoned 1.

THE SURREY AVERAGES

Surrey, for so long a power in the land, have sadly fallen away of late years, and the season which they concluded on Saturday was from many point of view most unsatisfactory. The team wants new blood and there seems to be very little forthcoming. The new players to whom a trial has been given have not realized expectations, and the long-felt want of a new bowler has not yet been supplied.

On a good, fast wicket Surrey are still a fine batting side; but on a sticky wicket their batsmen have shown an extraordinary inability to master the difficulties, while their bowlers have often failed to take advantage of their opportunities. Their fielding, too, on several occasions has been most faulty, and in certain matches was in no small degree responsible for their defeat.

Their batting as been, as a whole, more satisfactory than the bowling. Hayward, never at his best on slow wickets, has often played beautifully; but the feature of the year has been the gratifying improvement of Hayes, who is a fine, hard-hitting player, full of strokes. He is, at times, a little apt to throw away his wicket, but he is so attractive to watch that his success is always gratifying.

Mr Dowson came into the team after the University match; for a time he appeared to be rather stale and, although he played one or two fine innings, his best work of the year was not done for Surrey. Several of the others have done good performances at times, but none of them has been really safe.

The bowling figures show that the brunt of the work has fallen on the same men as before. Lockwood has found few wickets of the description which make him quite irresistible, but he has often proved most difficult; Richardson, except on certain occasions when he did work reminiscent of his best days, has been expensive, and so has Lees. Mr McDonnell, who came into the team late in the year, bowled well, and his good length and steadiness proved of great service. Several others have been tried, but with little success, and perhaps Surrey's weakness was more apparent in bowling than at any other point.

One of the most satisfactory features of Surrey cricket has been the fine wicket-keeping of Strudwick, who throughout the year has been at his very best. The averages are given below: -

28 Matches, Played 27 - Won 7, lost 11, drawn 9; abandoned, 1.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	40	2683	234	7	81.30
K S Ranjitsinhji	36	1771	204	7	61.06
Hirst	39	1610	153	4	46.00
Iremonger	31	1380	210	1	46.00
Knight	46	1834	229*	6	45.85
Mr P Perrin	36	1428	170	4	44.62
J Gunn	38	1603	294	2	44.52
Mr A C MacLaren	49	1805	204	8	44.02
Tyldesley	46	1753	248	6	43.82
Quaife	30	1113	130	4	42.80
Mr A O Jones	35	1410	206	2	42.72
Mr H K Foster	41	1593	216	3	42.00
Mr G L Jessop	36	1382	286	0	38.38
Mr P F Warner	31	1020	149	4	37.77
Hayward	59	2070	156*	3	36.96
W Gunn	29	1011	139	1	36.10
Mr L C H Palairret	20	637	114	2	35.38
Mr B J T Bosanquet	30	1020	108	1	35.17
Hayes	58	1790	145	7	35.09
Mr E M Sprot	29	909	103	3	34.96
Mr E M Dowson	43	1348	135	4	34.43
Killick	40	1252	116	3	33.83
Mr L G Wright	31	981	133	2	33.82
Denton	53	1701	133	2	33.35
Braund	44	1353	132	3	33.00
Bowley	43	1283	143	4	32.89
Mr G W Beldam	29	857	118	2	32.11
Mr C McGahey	41	1144	144*	5	31.77
Mr C J Burnup	49	1443	134	3	31.36
Arnold	43	1153	128	6	31.16
Mr L J Moon	24	600	122	4	30.00
King	44	1209	157	3	29.48
J T Brown, senr.	47	1324	125	1	28.78
Mr J Daniell	18	373	64*	5	28.69
Mr H G Garnett	26	637	122	2	28.02
Mr R H Spooner	49	1337	247	1	27.85
Wheldon	36	961	112	1	27.68
Mr A Eccles	31	685	126	6	27.43
Rhodes	43	1064	98*	8	26.35
Lilley	28	675	59	2	25.86
Vine	46	1136	104	2	25.81
Lord Hawke	35	723	79	7	25.78
Mr C J B Wood	50	1184	118*	3	25.19
Llewellyn	41	904	148	5	25.11

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mead	971.3	355	1791	131	13.67
Hirst	733.5	206	1718	125	13.74
Blythe	925.4	292	1953	142	13.75
Langford	241.3	72	585	42	13.85
Hargreave	927.1	283	1878	134	14.02
Rhodes	1278	399	2565	175	14.65
J T Hearne	866.4	294	1902	127	15.29
Moorhouse	373.1	115	870	55	15.81
Roberts (Gloucester)	595	184	1380	84	16.43

Mr H C McDonell	377.1	76	996	60	16.60
A Hearne	389.1	124	848	51	16.62
Haigh	731.2	219	1705	102	16.72
Arnold	1032.1	381	2387	139	17.17
Young	380.2	102	897	52	17.25
Barnes	1024	354	2309	131	17.85
Mr W H B Evans	320.2	80	904	50	18.08
Fielder	460.2	133	1289	70	18.41
Relf	1005.1	351	2222	118	18.83
J Gunn	973.1	281	2189	113	19.37
Cranfield	723.1	147	2351	121	19.42
A E Trott	656.1	124	1987	102	19.48
Field	234.2	75	1015	52	19.51
Lockwood	621.2	107	1837	94	19.54
Cuttell	703.4	237	1455	73	19.83
Bland	469.4	114	1212	60	20.20
Mr B J T Bosanquet	372.1	61	1255	62	20.24
Hallam	687.3	225	1353	65	20.65
Lees	869.2	244	2168	104	20.84
Braund	687.4	186	2619	125	20.95
Mr G W Beldam	349.3	117	812	38	21.36
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	432.4	97	1210	56	21.80
G Wilson (Worcester)	640.4	156	1924	88	21.85
Bestwick	678.4	178	1694	76	22.25
Robson (Somerset)	404.5	94	1272	56	22.71
Warren	485.5	89	1639	72	22.76
Bird	478.5	92	1347	59	22.83
Tate	644.4	183	1652	72	22.94
Richardson	628	193	2732	119	22.96

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

With the match between Surrey and Sussex at the Oval the County Championship competition was brought to a close. The final position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	16	8	1	7	7	77.77
Sussex	23	7	2	14	5	55.55
Yorkshire	26	13	5	8	8	44.44
Lancashire	26	10	6	11	5	33.33
Nottinghamshire	20	6	4	10	2	20.00
Worcestershire	20	8	6	6	2	14.28
Warwickshire	18	5	4	8	1	11.11
Kent	20	7	6	7	1	7.68
Essex	20	7	6	7	1	7.68
Somerset	17	6	6	5	-1	0.00
Surrey	27	7	11	9	-4	-22.22
Derbyshire	16	4	7	5	-3	-27.27
Gloucestershire	20	3	10	7	-7	-53.84
Leicestershire	20	1	10	9	-8	-81.81
Hampshire	15	1	10	4	-9	-81.81

7 September: LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE v REST OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6360.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 September, page 9)

The Hastings Festival was opened yesterday in favourable conditions, the weather being all that could be desired. The ground had been saturated by rain on the previous day, but a start was made shortly after the fixed time.

Lord Hawke won the toss, and Lancashire and Yorkshire went in on a soft wicket. Although the sun shone with considerable power throughout the time cricket was in progress, the pitch remained easy. The best pleasing was that of Tyldesley and Denton, who added 100 runs for the third wicket in an hour and a quarter. Neither batsman, however, quite mastered the bowling. Denton gave three chances, while Tyldesley appeared unable to develop his best strokes. He got nearly all his runs to leg, only towards the end of his innings making one or two off-drives. Seven wickets were down for 173, but Rhodes and Cuttell improved matters considerably.

The Rest of England had 50 minutes' batting at the close, and lost Hayward with only five runs made.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 September, page 10)

A marked change in the weather at Hastings yesterday made the conditions for cricket unpleasant, but there was again a large attendance. The play, however, as on the previous day, was at times slow and without much interest. The only batsman on the Rest of England side to show any mastery over the bowling was K S Ranjitsinhji.

Overnight the Rest of England had lost one wicket for 27, and yesterday only five runs were added before Vine played a ball which kept low into his wicket. With K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Beldam in together the cricket for a time was very slow. Mr Beldam made five out of an aggregate of 16 in half an hour, but afterwards K S Ranjitsinhji scored with more freedom, although he was twice nearly bowled by Hirst. Mr Beldam, after batting an hour and 25 minutes for his runs, was out at 60. Braund, who followed, showed no confidence on the slow wicket and he seemed unable to time the ball with any accuracy. He only scored a single in half an hour, but K S Ranjitsinhji displayed his usual variety of strokes, making several magnificent cuts and off-drives.

At lunch time six wickets were down for 118 runs, and on resuming Dr Grace and K S Ranjitsinhji gave the brightest display so far seen in the match. The former drove with much of his old power, and during his stay of 25 minutes 50 runs were scored. K S Ranjitsinhji was ninth out to a catch at mid-off after playing a very fine innings.

Holding a lead of 82 runs, Lancashire and Yorkshire began their second innings shortly before 4 and, as in the first innings, Mr MacLaren and Mr Smith did little. Both were caught at mid-off, Mr MacLaren at four and Mr Smith seven runs later. Tyldesley and Denton, however, again retrieved the bad start, adding 89 by steady play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 September, page 10)

Play was impossible at Hastings yesterday until after 2 o'clock, but the match was finished before 5, Lancashire and Yorkshire winning by 87 runs. A strong wind during the early morning caused considerable damage on the ground, all the tents being blown down, while the heavy rain had so saturated the wicket that chances of further play in the match were improbable. Later, however, the sun shone with great power, while a breeze blew across the ground, and in these conditions the pitch dried enough to allow of the match being resumed.

During the afternoon the wicket became treacherous, and Lord Hawke's policy in declaring the innings closed early, leaving his opponents two hours and three-quarters for play with only 208 to get, was fully justified. Overnight Lancashire and Yorkshire had established a lead of 182 with only three wickets down, and yesterday Hirst and Denton started to force the game. With ten added, the former in hitting out gave a high catch to the wicket-keeper, but Denton batted well and reached his 50 after a stay altogether of an hour and a half. Lord Hawke then declared.

Hayward and Vine opened the Rest of England's innings. At the start, the pair batted well, and it appeared that an attempt would be made to obtain the runs. Hayward had several fine off-drives, but after 42 had been scored he was caught at long-off. From this point Rhodes and Haigh proved irresistible, John Gunn being the only batsman to display any confidence. Four wickets were down for 50 runs, Ranjitsinhji and Braund being well caught in the long field, but J Gunn, during his 40 minutes at the wickets, timed the ball accurately.

The fielding of Lancashire and Yorkshire was magnificent, the catch with which Cuttell dismissed Braund being really brilliant.

Wednesday 9 September, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Mr R H Spooner has intimated that, owing to business claims, he cannot accept the M.C.C.'s invitation to go to Australia.

THE KENT TEAM FOR AMERICA

The Kent cricket team will leave Euston to-day by the 11.50 boat express for Liverpool, where they will embark in the steamship Oceanic.

Thursday 10 September, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

It was officially announced that it was not likely that any player will be asked to go to Australia in place of Mr R H Spooner, who was compelled to decline the M.C.C.'s invitation; but the matter is not yet definitely settled.

THE KENT TEAM FOR AMERICA

There was a large company at Euston yesterday to see off the Kent cricketers who are going to America to play a short series of matches. The team consists of Mr C J Burnup, Mr E W Dillon, Mr J R Mason, Mr K L Hutchings, Mr H Z Baker, Mr W L Bradley, Mr H C Stewart, Mr G J V Weigall, Alec Hearne, Huish, Seymour and Blythe, with Mr T Pawley as manager.

The cricketers journeyed to Liverpool and sailed in the Oceanic. They return on October 7 in the Germanic.

The programme of the tour is: -

September 18, v Colts of Philadelphia.

September 28, v All Philadelphia.

September 29, v Baltimore.

October 2, v All Philadelphia.

10 September: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6361.html)

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

After a slow start the Players at Hastings yesterday gave a particularly bright display, but the conditions ere so depressing that the spectators showed little enthusiasm.

Hayward won the toss and went to the wicket with Vine. In half an hour the two batsmen only put on 23 runs, and of these four were made by Hayward from a bad stroke through the slips. At 56 Hayward was bowled in playing forward to a good ball. The wicket appeared easy, but Denton displayed the same inability to get the ball away, and at the luncheon interval 95 runs were scored as the result of nearly two hours' play.

A distinct change came over the methods of the batsmen after the dismissal of Denton and Vine, who were both out at 118. Braund was the first to play a forcing game. He hit out and made his runs out of 22 in eight minutes before being finely caught in the long field. Afterwards Hayes played a characteristically bright innings. With Hirst he made his runs out of a total of 83 in 50 minutes.

Afterwards the scoring was even faster. Hirst punished Mr McDonnell's bowling severely, and in two overs he hit the ball once out of the runs and three times for six into the road. In the last quarter of an hour, in spite of a light which was so bad as [eventually to] stop play for the day, he scored 43 out of a total of 55.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 September, page 12)

The storm, which visited Hastings on Thursday night, made the ground unfit for play yesterday until 3 o'clock, and then only 20 minutes' cricket was possible. When play was resumed, Hirst quickly completed his century and, with 37 added to the total, Hayward declared the innings closed.

Hirst was batting rather less than two hours, and his display was as good as anything that he has done this season. All through he scored quickly, and drove with tremendous power. Altogether Hirst and Rhodes added 92, and of these the former made 76. Just after the innings was declared another storm broke over the ground, and shortly before 4, stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 September, page 5)

Little interest was shown in the last day's play of the Gentlemen v Players match at Hastings. Rain fell so heavily on Friday afternoon that the game could not be resumed until half-past 2 on Saturday, while play was further curtailed for 20 minutes by a shower which fell during the partnership of Mr MacLaren and Mr Beldam.

By putting on 97 for the first wicket in an hour the pair made a capital start for the Gentlemen. Mr MacLaren, after being missed from his first ball, drove finely and made several splendid strokes to leg. He was the first to leave, and after he was out, from a fine catch in the long field, Mr Beldam, Mr Jones, Mr Smith and K S Ranjitsinhji were dismissed in quick succession.

Five wickets were down for 111, but eventually Lord Hawke and Dr Grace added 44 for the seventh wicket. At the close the Gentlemen, with three wickets in hand, were 180 behind their opponents' total.

Friday 11 September, page 5: MIDDLESEX v ENGLAND

The teams at the Oval on Monday next will be: -

Middlesex. - Mr G MacGregor, Mr P F Warner, Mr J Douglas, Mr C M Wells, Mr G W Beldam, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr L J Moon, Mr E A Beldam, Mr J H Hunt, A E Trott and J T Hearne.

England. - Lord Hawke, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr C B Fry, Tyldesley, Hayward, Hirst, Rhodes, Braund, John Gunn, Arnold and Strudwick.

Saturday 12 September, page 12: MIDDLESEX v ENGLAND

Mr C B Fry will not be in the England eleven against Middlesex at the Oval on Monday next. His place has not yet been filled up.

The King is having a cricket ground, with a pavilion and all requisites, prepared in the private grounds near Windsor Castle, for the Royal Household Cricket Club, in which he takes great interest.

Monday 14 September, page 5: THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING [Note: average 25 and over]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	40	2683	234	7	81.30
K S Ranjitsinhji	39	1870	204	7	58.43
Hirst	42	1768	153	5	47.72
Iremonger	31	1380	210	1	46.00

Knight	46	1834	229*	6	45.85
Mr P Perrin	36	1428	170	4	44.62
Tyldesley	48	1851	248	6	44.07
J Gunn	41	1651	294	3	43.71
Mr A C MacLaren	52	1886	204	8	42.85
Quaife	30	1113	130	4	42.80
Mr H K Foster	41	1593	216	3	42.00
Mr A O Jones	38	1422	296	2	39.50
Mr G L Jessop	36	1382	286	0	38.38
Mr P F Warner	31	1020	149	4	37.77
Hayward	62	2138	156*	3	36.23
W Gunn	29	1011	139	1	36.10
Hayes	59	1848	145	7	35.53
Mr L C H Palairret	20	637	114	2	35.38
Mr B J T Bosanquet	30	1020	108	1	35.17
Mr E M Sprot	29	909	103	3	34.96
Denton	56	1832	133	3	34.55
Mr E M Dowson	43	1348	135	4	34.43
Killick	40	1252	116	3	33.83
Mr L G Wright	31	981	133	2	33.82
Bowley	43	1283	143	4	32.89
Mr C McGahey	41	1144	144*	5	31.77
Mr C J Burnup	49	1443	134	3	31.36
Braund	47	1379	132	3	31.34
Arnold	43	1153	128	6	31.16
Mr G W Beldam	32	913	118	2	30.43
Mr L J Moon	24	600	122	4	30.00
King (Leicester)	44	1209	157	3	29.48
J T Brown, senr.	47	1324	125	1	28.78
Mr H G Garnett	26	637	122	2	28.02
Mr R H Spooner	49	1337	247	1	27.85
Wheldon	38	969	112	1	27.68
Rhodes	50	1101	98*	9	26.85
Mr A Eccles	33	691	106	7	26.57
Lilley	28	675	59	2	25.86
Vine	48	1258	104	2	25.20
Lord Hawke	37	761	79	7	25.36
Mr C J B Wood	50	1184	118*	3	25.19
Llewellyn	41	904	148	5	25.11

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mead	971.3	355	1791	131	13.67
Blythe	925.4	292	1953	142	13.75
Langford	241.3	72	585	42	13.85
Hargreave	922.1	282	1879	134	14.02
Hirst	772.5	221	1802	127	14.18
Rhodes	1248	419	2728	189	14.43
J T Hearne	866.4	294	1902	127	15.29
Moorhouse	373.1	115	870	55	15.81
Roberts (Gloucester)	595	184	1380	84	16.43
Haigh	775.2	225	1854	112	16.55
A Hearne	389.1	124	848	51	16.62
Arnold	1032.1	321	2387	139	17.17
Young	389.2	102	897	52	17.25
Barnes	1024	354	2309	131	17.85
Mr H C McDonell	405.1	84	1096	61	17.96
Mr W H B Evans	320.2	80	904	50	18.08
Fielder	466.2	133	1289	70	18.41
Relf	1050.4	385	2335	118	18.83
J Gunn	967.1	285	2213	115	19.24
Cranfield	723.1	147	2351	121	19.42
A E Trott	656.1	124	1987	102	19.48
Field	234.2	75	1015	52	19.51

Lockwood	621.2	107	1837	94	19.54
Cuttell	708.4	239	1467	73	20.02
Bland	469.4	114	1212	60	20.20
Mr B J T Bosanquet	372.1	61	1255	62	20.24
Hallam	687.3	225	1353	65	20.65
Lees	869.2	244	2168	104	20.84
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	432.4	97	1210	56	21.80
G Wilson (Worcester)	640.4	156	1924	88	21.85
Braund	973.4	192	2728	129	21.14
Bestwick	678.4	178	1694	76	22.25
Robson (Somerset)	404.5	94	1272	56	22.71
Buckenham	330	55	1023	45	22.73
Warren	483.5	89	1639	72	22.76
Bird	470.5	92	1347	59	22.83
Tate	644.4	183	1652	72	22.94
Richardson	928	193	2732	119	22.96

14 September: MIDDLESEX v REST OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6362.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 September, page 10)

The last match of the present cricket season, which was begun at the Oval yesterday, naturally aroused a great deal of interest. A team that has played together throughout the season, when opposed to players from all parts of England, starts in some degree, of course, with the advantage of combination; but for any county to meet a side so strong in batting and bowling as that which is representing the Rest of England at the Oval is a formidable task.

The first day's play was on a wicket of a fairly easy pace which did not give the bowler much assistance; and at the close the game was left in an even state, the Rest of England being 172 behind with eight wickets in hand.

Middlesex started very badly, but Mr G W Beldam and Mr Douglas retrieved the position and prepared the way for a fine hitting innings by Mr Bosanquet, and at one time it looked as if they were in for a large score. After Mr Bosanquet was out, however, the side practically collapsed before John Gunn and Braund, and the Rest of England went in for just under an hour's batting.

The last hour's cricket was in some respects the most interesting of the day. Middlesex bowled and fielded very well. The batsmen, except for a short time, when Hayes and Tyldesley scored freely off Mr Bosanquet and Mr G W Beldam, were never quite at home with the bowling, and another wicket or two would have made all the difference and have left Middlesex with the advantage.

Mr Warner and Mr Moon, as usual, opened the Middlesex innings to the bowling of Hirst and Braund. With only 12 scored Mr Moon was caught at square leg, and Mr Warner was clean bowled four runs later. Then Mr G W Beldam and Mr J Douglas came together and by sound cricket added 94 before they were separated. They both scored slowly at first, but in spite of several changes they gradually wore down the bowling and obtained the mastery.

At lunch time 71 had been scored, and afterwards runs came more quickly. At 110, however, Arnold bowled Mr Douglas, and with three wickets down a good deal seemed to depend on Mr Bosanquet. After starting rather shakily, he made a number of beautiful strokes all round the wicket and scored quickly while Mr G W Beldam at the other end kept up his wicket, playing quite the right game in the circumstances. At 166, John Gunn, who had gone on at the Vauxhall end, got Mr G W Beldam caught at extra-cover, and soon afterwards Mr Bosanquet was beautifully caught in the long field by Lord Hawke.

When he was out none of the others ever seemed comfortable and the innings soon came to an end, the last five wickets only adding 43 runs. Of the bowlers Braund had much the best figures, but John Gunn also did very well. He got out both Mr G W Beldam and Mr Bosanquet, when they were well set, and although he did not seem very difficult to score from he varied his pace judiciously and often had the batsmen in difficulties.

When the Rest of England went in, Hayward was caught in the slips off the first ball; but Hayes and Tyldesley both played good cricket and runs came fairly quickly, especially off Mr Bosanquet. It was not until 49 had been scored that Mr Hunt, who had been put on at the pavilion end, got Hayes caught in the slips. Arnold and Tyldesley then stayed together until the close.

The match is being played for the joint benefit of the London Playing Fields Society and the Cricketers' Benevolent Fund; and yesterday, in spite of the cold weather, there was a very good attendance of spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 September, page 10)

The second day's play of the Middlesex and Rest of England match at the Oval yesterday went in favour of the county, and at the close with only one wicket down in their second innings they were 176 runs ahead.

Middlesex played fine cricket all through the day. To dismiss a side so strong in batting that Rhodes goes in tenth for under 200 on a wicket which could not be called difficult is in itself a fine achievement, and when Mr Warner's fine innings is taken into account as well Middlesex must be considered to have done a remarkable performance. It is hardly likely that the Rest of England will fail again in batting as they did yesterday; but as the game now stands Middlesex are practically safe from defeat, and certainly possess some chance of victory.

Overnight the Rest of England had lost Hayward and Hayes for 58, and when play resumed Arnold was out in Mr Hunt's first over. Hirst was caught at deep square leg almost immediately afterwards and, four wickets being down for 64, Middlesex decidedly held the upper hand.

K S Ranjitsinhji then joined Tyldesley. The bowling was very good and runs came slowly. After a time, Mr MacGregor put on Trott and Hearne, and then came the turning point of the innings. K S Ranjitsinhji was out at 89 and the next three wickets only added ten runs. It seemed as if Middlesex would finish the innings with a large lead, but Rhodes, who has so often proved himself a fine batsman when things are going badly for his side, then joined Braund and the pair added 69 runs, a most useful stand at a critical point. It was not until some time after lunch that Hearne at last bowled Rhodes. Strudwick helped Braund to add 16, and the Rest of England finished their innings 46 runs behind their opponents.

Mr Moon and Mr Warner started the Middlesex innings to the bowling of Hirst and Arnold. Both played a sound game and seemed well set, when at 54 Braund, who had gone on at the pavilion end, bowled Mr Moon. Afterwards Mr Warner gave a fine display of free cricket and made all the bowling appear very simple, while Mr Beldam at the other end played a steady plodding game. Mr Warner made one or two good late cuts, but he got most of his runs by hard straight drives. Owing to bad light stumps were drawn shortly after 5 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 September, page 5)

The match between Middlesex and the Rest of England at the Oval yesterday ended in a draw, the Rest of England at the close, with five wickets in hand, requiring 72 to win. Middlesex on the first two days showed what a really fine all-round side they are this season, and at the end of the second day's play they held a decided advantage.

Yesterday, however, the great strength of the Rest of England batting asserted itself, and at the end they had the better of the draw, although no doubt Middlesex could have made more runs in their second innings had their batsmen adopted more careful methods. In the circumstances, however, it was naturally the right policy to hit and get runs quickly, on the chance of getting their opponents out in the fourth innings of the match. Altogether it was very unfortunate that so interesting a game could not be brought to a definite conclusion.

The third day's play was most attractive to watch, runs always came at a good pace, and the batting and bowling were both of a high-class character. In the morning Mr Warner completed his century and Mr Beldam played sound cricket all through the innings. The rest of the batsmen hit out at once and none of them stayed long, but 124 were added to the overnight score before Mr MacGregor declared the innings closed with eight wickets down, and sent the Rest of England in for a quarter of an hour's batting before lunch. Mr Warner's innings was throughout a very fine one, and it was in no small degree due to his batting that Middlesex were able to declare so early in the day.

The Rest of England went in to bat at a quarter past 1 with about three and a half hours to play and 301 to get. They lost Hayes, who, with only one run scored, was caught at the wicket off Mr G W Beldam before lunch; but afterwards there never seemed to be much chance of anything except a draw, although when Hirst was in with K S Ranjitsinhji and was hitting magnificently, there appeared just a possibility of the Rest of England getting the runs. After he was out, however, the scoring slowed down considerably, and at a quarter past 5 stumps were drawn for the day.

The wicket during the last innings was as good as at any time during the match, and the batting in the afternoon was most interesting. The feature of the innings was Hirst's magnificent hitting, but Tyldesley, Hayward and K S Ranjitsinhji as well all played beautiful cricket.

After Hayes was out, Tyldesley and Hayward remained together until lunch, when only four runs were scored. Afterwards runs always came more freely, and it was not until 98 were scored that Tyldesley was caught at cover point off Mr Bosanquet. Hayward did not stay much longer, and then came the best partnership of the innings - between Hirst and K S Ranjitsinhji. Throughout, Hirst hit very hard, and after reaching his 50 he hit at practically every ball and did much the larger part of the scoring. He was at last finely caught in the deep field by Mr Bosanquet when 107 had been added for the fourth wicket.

Braund then joined K S Ranjitsinhji, and after 12 had been put on the latter was run out by a fine return from extra cover by Mr E A Beldam. Arnold and Braund then stayed together until the close. Much of the Middlesex bowling was very good, and it never became demoralized, even when Hirst was hitting at everything. Trott, who injured his hand on Tuesday, was able to take part in the game yesterday, although he only bowled for a short time in the second innings.

It is to be hoped that the success of the game will lead to an annual match being arranged between the champion county for the year and the Rest of England.

THE END OF THE CRICKET SEASON

THE AVERAGES

[Note: the complete first-class averages for the 1903 season can be found under http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/1903_ENG.html]

The averages for the cricket season of 1903, which was brought to a close yesterday with the match between Middlesex and the Rest of England at the Oval, are given below. In bowling, of those who have done regular work throughout the year, Mead has secured the best average. The trio of slow medium left-handers - Rhodes, Blythe and Hargreave - come close together, and all have excellent records. Hirst has recovered his bowling, and a pleasing feature of the season has been the success of J T Hearne, who throughout has been in great form.

In batting, Mr Fry stands alone, and to secure an average of over 80 and make 2,683 runs in a year of wet wickets is certainly a wonderful performance. K S Ranjitsinhji comes second and, although his batting has this year been a little overshadowed by that of Mr Fry, he has lost none of his old skill and grace. Hirst has been most consistent, and Iremonger and Knight are both greatly improved batsmen.

A feature of last year's batting was the success of the veteran players. This year William Gunn alone holds a high place. He has confined himself exclusively to Nottinghamshire cricket, but his abilities seem still hardly impaired. Hirst, Braund, Arnold, John Gunn and Rhodes have all made over 1,000 runs and taken over 100 wickets. Rhodes as a batsman is not quite in the same class as the others, but he missed be considered unfortunate to have just missed taking his 200 wickets, and thus to have failed to equal Trott's records in 1899 and 1900 of taking over 200 wickets and scoring over 1,000 runs in one season.

Tuesday 15 September, page 10: THE SURREY CLUB

Mr C W Alcock, the secretary of the Surrey County Cricket Club, is making very satisfactory progress towards recovery, with every prospect of being able to resume his duties at the Oval in a few weeks.

Meanwhile Mr C A Stein, who, at the request of the committee, has been acting as hon. secretary during Mr Alcock's illness, is arranging Surrey's fixtures for next season, and communications on the subject should be made to him.

Thursday 17 September, page 6: THE PAST CRICKET SEASON

(From our Special Correspondent)

Cricket seasons in England in these days are sharply divided into two classes - those in which the Australians are touring in this country and those when they are absent. The five test matches here for interest and excitement stand in a class by themselves; the two picked and representative elevens of the world can be got together only for these games, because England can never send a thoroughly representative eleven to Australia.

This year there was no Australian eleven in England, consequently, even apart from the weather, the season was somewhat dull. The great international matches, occupying as they do such a leading position, have rather taken away popular interest in what was once the great match of the year - namely, Gentlemen v Players at Lord's - and an important county match like Middlesex v Yorkshire, at Leeds, created far more popular excitement than any other match of the season.

The apparently paramount claim of county cricket in some ways is to be deplored. If England is to beat Australia it is not only essential to have her best side, but it may be necessary for that side to be welded together by playing a few trial matches; but this seems to be impossible, owing to the claims of county cricket. This is a serious question, and when the Australians are next over here it will be worth careful consideration by the authorities, as all experience shows that an eleven may beat another that man for man is superior if they have had the advantage of frequently playing together.

Never, perhaps, in the history of cricket have so many matches been ruined by weather as in 1903. The rain has been almost tropical in character, and even on many days when it was fine overhead play has been impossible owing to the saturated condition of the ground. The state of Lord's ground must be a subject of anxiety to the authorities, and if anything can remedy this it must be done, for a more unsatisfactory season at Lord's has never been seen.

The water seemed unable to get through to the drains, or possibly the drains have collapsed; but something is wrong, as many matches were wholly ruined by the state of the ground, while in similar weather play was possible at the Oval. At one period of the season not a ball was bowled for a whole fortnight, and the committee were very lucky to have fine weather for the two great matches Gentlemen v Players and Oxford v Cambridge, and also for Eton v Harrow.

Notwithstanding the wet season the scoring has been high enough to make everybody wonder what it will rise to in the next dry season; and the belief that batting is difficult when the season is presumed to be more or less in favour of the bowler seems hardly to be true when the averages of Mr Fry and others are considered.

The chief match of the year is that between the Gentlemen and Players, at Lord's. Fortunately this had three fine days, and there was, on such wickets, the usual enormous mass of runs, and the unsatisfactory result of a drawn match, though not a minute of time was wasted. The bowling of the amateurs was weak and the Players on winning the toss put defeat practically out of the question by compiling a huge score. Knight's first appearance in these matches was a great success and he played a sound, chanceless innings that, combined with his excellent fielding and play throughout the season, amply justified his being selected to go out to Australia.

The Gentlemen failed in their first innings, but on following on showed batting that has never been surpassed. It should be mentioned that Hirst, perhaps the best bowler in England, could not play and Barnes only bowled one over, but against Braund, Hargreave, Trott and Arnold the Gentlemen scored 500 runs for the loss of two wickets, and the batting of Messrs Fry and MacLaren was wonderful.

It was said that the wicket was always difficult, and possibly this may be true in comparison with the modern wickets at Brighton, Nottingham and the Oval; but thirty years ago such a wicket at Lord's would have been considered easy, and it is inconceivable that it was really difficult. The ball now and again got up at the Nursery end, but not once was a shooter seen nor did the ball hang. The batting, however, was magnificent; but to those who think a drawn match after three full days'

cricket unsatisfactory the match was a disappointment, and to put in a side for an hour and a half's batting to make 250 runs to win must make the finish tame.

The University match was an exact contrast to the usual run of University matches. Neither side was strong - in fact, two worse batting sides have not been seen in this match for many years, Mr Dowson being the only batsman on either side of the first class, though Mr Evans may become one. The Oxford bowling, however, was distinctly better than anything seen since the time of Mr Woods; and it was a pleasure to see a match played on an easy wicket and good bowling meeting with its reward.

The Cambridge attack was not strong, but the Oxford batting was so weak that the scoring for these days was by no means high, and if it had not been for a careful, sound display by Mr Raphael there would have been a complete collapse in the opening innings of Oxford. In the second innings, when Oxford were in a more or less comfortable position, the batting was better, and Messrs McIver and Evans both played well; but a good batting side against the Cambridge bowling would very likely have made three or four hundred runs.

The high class of the Oxford bowling was seen when Cambridge went in a second time, and only the steady defence of Mr Godsell and some beautiful off-driving by Mr Wilson redeemed the batting from absolute collapse. Oxford thoroughly deserved their success, and their bowling undoubtedly made them a fair team, but their batting was too weak for any higher praise than this.

The Eton and Harrow match was for Eton a real triumph. In bowling Mr Hatfield showed a method and style more like an experienced professional's than a boy's; and the Harrow batsmen, with the exception of Mr Baily, never played him with any success, and the result was an overwhelming one-innings victory for Eton.

In Messrs Nicholl, Crankshaw and Williams they possessed three fine boy batsmen. The Harrow bowling undoubtedly looked inferior, but the batting was exceptional, and if the bowlers were demoralized this cannot be wondered at, and they were handicapped by one of their best batsman's state of health. Eton were, however, a really good eleven, probably the best school eleven of the year; and their double victory against Harrow and Winchester will go a long way to give the school confidence, as till this year Eton have latterly been very unsuccessful against Harrow.

The struggle for supremacy in the county championship has been very interesting, partly because there was not much to choose between the three leading counties, and partly because the almost monotonous regularity with which Yorkshire have lately secured the leading position was this year broken up. Middlesex went through the season with only one defeat; and, though they were not so good as the best of the recent Yorkshire elevens, they were nevertheless a very good all-round side; and it must also be remembered that their leading all-round player, Mr Wells, was not able to assist them till August.

Perhaps the great strength of Middlesex consisted in the all-round excellence of four of their leading players - Mr Wells, Mr Beldam, Mr Bosanquet and Trott; and Mr Warner on slow wickets had much improved and was a thoroughly sound and trustworthy batsman. J T Hearne once again showed what a fine natural bowler he was, and his work combined with that of Trott, Mr Beldam, Mr Wells and Mr Bosanquet put Middlesex on a higher bowling level than any other county except Yorkshire.

Sussex this year were a formidable side; their bowling was more efficient and the wonderful batting of Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji made them a side that no eleven could treat otherwise than with great respect. Twice they defeated Yorkshire; and all through the season they have played with the confidence that comes from the knowledge that they had two such great batsmen whose efforts might be relied on to win or save a match.

Mr Fry, indeed, was the great batsman of the year. As an undergraduate he did not promise to become the batsman he is; but, though not a purely natural bat as players like Messrs Yardley and Steel, by practice and by devoting all his intelligence to the science of the game he has become one of the leading players of his generation.

Yorkshire as a side were far more uncertain than they have been for several years, and it was their batting that showed a great falling off. Mr Jackson only played occasionally, and Messrs Taylor and Mitchell were altogether lost to the county, and finally the state of health of Washington, an exceedingly promising professional, deprived the eleven of much of their batting strength.

At the beginning of the year Rhodes was out of form as a bowler, and it was at this stage that they lost several matches. Later on he bowled as well as ever, and with the aid of Hirst and Haigh the bowling became so excellent that they seriously threatened the supremacy of Middlesex, whom they

defeated in one of the best matches of the year - a match in which Lord Hawke as captain showed at once both his knowledge of the game and appreciation of the capacity of his side. The batting, however, lacked stamina, and a bad defeat from Sussex relegated them to third place.

Of the other counties Lancashire were good, but not so good as might be expected from a county which has three such excellent batsmen as Tyldesley and Messrs MacLaren and Spooner. Barnes bowled well, and it is much to be regretted that a player of his skill should forsake first-class county cricket for the baser form of the game afforded by what is known as league cricket.

Notts, owing to the skill of Mr Jones, the three Gunns, Iremonger and Hallam, and the intermittent success as a bowler of Wass, the most variable of performers, were a good side; but they had a long batting tail and they badly need a consistent fast bowler. They are, however, an excellent fielding eleven, and as a team would probably be better if the Trent Bridge Ground was not so monotonously easy, as it is almost impossible for a bowler to bowl a difficult ball on it, and this makes also the batting uncertain when playing on other grounds.

Worcestershire were quite a good side, even though without Mr R E Foster. His brother, however, was one of the leading batsmen of the year, and Arnold as an all-round man has been surpassed by few. If Worcestershire could always command the services of the three Foster brothers they would be one of the strongest of the counties; as it is they can be congratulated on a very successful season.

Surrey, on a perfectly hard Oval wicket, were an eleven capable of making a good match with any side; but this year such wickets were few and far between, and their batting efforts on soft wickets several times verged on the ludicrous. Richardson, though nothing like the bowler he was, bowled with success, but the county wants fresh bowling talent to replace him and Lockwood; and though Mr Walker is a painstaking and conscientious cricketer, he has not the ability as a captain of Mr Shuter. What they really want, however, in wet years are a few batsmen with some capacity for watching the ball after it pitches and playing at the ball where it is, and not only where it would be if the ground were hard and fast.

Essex had a fair season; and Somerset, as usual, defeated Yorkshire once, and gave Middlesex their hardest match in a game which more than any other showed Middlesex to be a great side and Somerset to be, as they generally have been, a plucky side capable of a big effort for a big occasion. Their future is not without anxiety, for Mr Palairt cannot always play, nor can Mr Martyn, and Mr Woods has greatly fallen off, though it is to be hoped this is only a temporary loss of form.

Of the play of individuals the most striking feature of the season has been the fine all-round form of many of the players. This has always been a leading characteristic of professionals, but never to a greater extent than now. Hirst, Braund, Arnold, Rhodes and J Gunn are fine all-round players; and of these Hirst is the greatest, and it is impossible to speak too highly of him as a cricketer. He is, perhaps, the best bowler in England, one of the best fields, and good enough to represent the Players of England as a batsman alone.

Braund is the best of the leg-break bowlers, a beautiful field at slip and an excellent bat; and J Gunn has developed into a slower bowler than he was, but on perfectly hard and true pitches probably even better than Rhodes.

Besides the five mentioned there are Lockwood, Barnes, Cuttell, A Hearne, King, Trott, Llewellyn and Relf among the professionals, and Messrs Jackson, Wells, Beldam, Bosanquet, Mason and Dowson among the amateurs. All these are excellent all-round players, and there is plenty of batting ability, although on difficult wickets there are no batsmen of quite the same class as Shrewsbury, Messrs Steel, Webbe and Lucas. The weakness of England is in fast bowling, and for this the hard work on the too easy modern wickets is probably the cause.

For the first time in cricket history an eleven selected by and under the auspices of the Marylebone Cricket Club is going to Australia, and the interest of this tour is greater than it was for anything that has taken place during the past season. As must inevitably be the case, several of our amateurs could not undertake the journey; and the loss of Messrs Jackson, Fry and MacLaren is undoubtedly a most serious one. Otherwise the team appears to be well and carefully selected; but possibly some men were chosen rather early in the season, and this has caused the exclusion of some players whose later performances seemed to qualify them for places.

The weak point is the absence of a really first-class fast bowler with the exception of Hirst, who has not the speed of a Richardson or Jones; but of this article both England and Australia have none. Some of the players are an unknown quantity, such as Relf and Fielder; and though Hayward on

Australian wickets hitherto has been second to none, still for the last two seasons he has been somewhat out of form, and he has been selected mainly on account of his past reputation; but it is quite on the cards that he may play fully up to his old form.

Matches in Australia are played to a finish, and for this sort of match sound if somewhat slow batsmen who can play for hours seem to be essential. Knight was chosen because he fulfils this condition, and one or two more like him would have made the side stronger; but of this type of player England has not many, because in three-day matches the fast, dashing bat is more useful. On the whole, however, though John Gunn has great claims to be included, the M.C.C. have chosen wisely, and it is much to be regretted that any jarring note has been struck.

Mr Warner has been asked, and has accepted the distinguished, though in some ways thankless, part of captain; and as such he is entitled to all the loyalty and support of both players and the country generally. Mr MacLaren, however, seems to think that his right to act as captain of any English team both here and in Australia is paramount, and he has refused to go under Mr Warner. Mr MacLaren is a very fine batsman and may be also a good captain; but, after all, having taken up this position he has no right to complain if his credentials as to captaincy are examined.

Mr MacLaren has been captain over an English team in 14 test matches, and of this number two have been won, seven have been defeats and five have been drawn. Mr MacLaren may be an excellent captain, but surely these results do not give him a vested right to be captain of every representative English eleven to do battle against Australia; and it is much to be regretted that loyalty to the M.C.C. and the spirit of patriotism were not sufficient to make Mr MacLaren consent to do his best under another captain, and go to Australia and fight for the old country.

Mr Warner is, at any rate in the opinion of most of those qualified to judge, fully competent both as player and in knowledge of the game to act as captain; and the good wishes of all will go with him this winter.

Friday 25 September, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Eighteen members of the English team for Australia - Mr P F Warner (captain), Mr R E Foster, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Braund, Strudwick, Relf, Fielder and Knight - leave Tilbury to-day in the Orontes. Hayward, Hirst, Rhodes, Tyldesley, Arnold and Lilley will travel overland, and will join the ship at Marseilles or Naples. The boat train leaves St Pancras this morning at five minutes to 11.

Saturday 26 September, page 10: DEPARTURE OF THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

The first contingent of the Marylebone Club Australian team left Tilbury yesterday afternoon in the Orient-Pacific liner Orontes. There was a very large crowd to see the special train depart from St Pancras for Tilbury Docks. It was not due out until some minutes before 11 o'clock, but soon after 10 people began to assemble along the main arrival platform, from which, for the convenience of the many friends and to prevent a crush, the train was sent off.

The Lord Chief Justice, who is this year's president of the Marylebone Club, was present to say a last word to Mr Warner, but he could not stay to see the train depart; and there was also a large attendance of present-day cricketers and officials from the counties, including Lord Hawke, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Mr G MacGregor, Mr Ernest Smith, Mr S M J Woods, Captain W L Foster, Mr C I Thornton, Mr O R Borradaile (the secretary of Essex), Mr C A Stein (the hon. secretary of Surrey) and Mr C Headlam. Professionals were represented by J E West, G F Hearne, G Burton, Dick Humphrey, W Lees, T Richardson and E Hayes.

Mr P F Warner, Mr R E Foster, Knight, Braund, Strudwick, Relf, Fielder and Mr J A Murdoch, the manager, sailed yesterday. The cricketers and visitors were received on board the Orontes by Mr Fred Green, of the Orient Line, and before the boat sailed the company assembled in the smoking saloon and the toasts of health and success to the team were pledged after a speech by Mr Fred Green.

Mr Warner, in reply, thanked everybody for their good wishes. He felt sure that he had a splendid side to captain, and it would not be from lack of trying and keenness if they failed to do well. Mr B J T Bosanquet, Hayward, Tyldesley, Lilley, Arnold, Hirst and Rhodes will join the Orontes at Marseilles.

The official programme of the team is as follows: -

NOVEMBER

7-11. - v South Australia, at Adelaide.
13-17. - v Victoria, at Melbourne.
20-24. - v New South Wales, at Sydney.
27-30. - v Queensland, at Brisbane.

DECEMBER

2 and 3. - v Newcastle, at Newcastle.
4 and 5. - v West Maitland.
11-15. - First Test Match, at Sydney.
18-22. - Not arranged.
26-28. - v Bendigo.

JANUARY

1-5. - Second Test Match, at Melbourne.
8 and 9. - v Ballarat.
15-19. - Third Test Match, at Adelaide.

FEBRUARY

12-16. - v New South Wales, at Sydney.
19-22. - Not arranged.
26 to March 1. - Fourth Test Match, at Sydney.

MARCH

5-8. - Fifth Test Match, at Melbourne.
12-16. - v South Australia, at Adelaide.

Monday 28 September, page 10: THE ENGLISH TEAM LEAVES PLYMOUTH

On Saturday evening the Orient-Pacific liner Orontes left Plymouth, having on board Mr Warner, Mr Foster, Braund, Knight, Relf, Strudwick and Fielder, members of the English team of cricketers for Australia, and Mr J A Murdoch, who is responsible for the financial arrangements of the tour.

Before leaving, Mr Warner said the team could be relied upon to give a good account of itself. It was a good, all-round side, but the absence of Mr A C MacLaren and Mr C B Fry precluded the side from claiming that it was a thoroughly representative one.

CRICKET IN THE UNITED STATES

The match between the Kent cricketers and a team representing all Philadelphia was continued to-day, when the Kentishmen's first innings closed for 132 runs. The Philadelphians in their second innings made 194. This leaves the visitors 191 runs to make in their second innings to win.

The weather was beautiful and the wicket was in good condition. King, who took seven wickets for 39 runs, proved too much for the Kentishmen. Seymour, 42, made the highest score. - Reuter.

Thursday 1 October, page 3: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

The remaining seven members of the English team for Australia - Mr B J T Bosanquet, Hayward, Hirst, Tyldesley, Rhodes, Arnold and Lilley - left London yesterday morning by the 9 o'clock train from Charing-cross. They will join the other members of the party on board the Orontes at Marseilles to-morrow.

Friday 23 October, page 10: THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

A special general meeting of the Extras County Club will be held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool-street, on Tuesday, November 10, at 4 o'clock, the committee deeming it necessary, in view of the financial position of the club, to consult the general body of members.

The wet weather of the past summer had a disastrous effect upon the matches at Leyton, and at the present time the committee are confronted with a deficit on the year of at least £1,500. Moreover, there has been a falling off in the membership of the club and a steady decline in the support accorded to county cricket at Leyton. The committee will hold a meeting next week, and will probably decide on some proposal to be brought before the special general meeting on November 10.

To add to the embarrassments of the committee, Mead has resigned his position in the eleven on a question of winter pay. He applied for an increase of his usual allowance, and the committee, in view of the serious financial state of the club, could not see their way to add to their expenditure. His resignation will formally come before the committee next week.

Wednesday 28 October, page 12: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A meeting of the committee of the Yorkshire County Club was held at Sheffield yesterday afternoon, Lord Hawke presiding. The chief business was as follows: -

G H Hirst was granted a benefit for next season - namely, the Yorkshire and Lancashire match - and the Lancashire club having agreed to an exchange of dates, the benefit will take place on August Bank Holiday and the two following days at Leeds. A vote of thanks to Lancashire was passed.

The annual meeting of the Yorkshire County Club was fixed for Friday, November 27, at Sheffield.

It was decided to play an eleven against the East Indians, at Harrogate, the first eleven being engaged. The home engagement with Cambridge University, which had been arranged to be played at Hull, having been abandoned, the South Africans will be played on that ground instead.

It was decided to engage a coach for the training of the young cricketers of the county.

Thursday 5 November, page 10: CRICKET IN AUSTRALIA

Giffen declines to play for South Australia against Mr Warner's team, being dissatisfied with the expenses and allowance which it was proposed he should receive. - Reuter.

Friday 6 November, page 5: MR WARNER'S TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Adelaide, Nov. 5

Giffen has withdrawn his refusal to play for South Australia against Mr Warner's team on Saturday. He states that he will give his allowance for expenses to charity. - Reuter.

THE ENGLISH TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

OPENING MATCH AGAINST SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide, Nov. 7.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6366.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 9 November, page 12)

The opening match of the English team's tour in Australia was begun here to-day. Warm weather prevented, but at the start of the game only a moderate company had assembled. Of the 12 from whom it had been announced the South Australian Eleven would be selected Rees was left out, the English players to stand down being Knight, Fielder and Strudwick.

The wicket proved to be in excellent condition, and Warner, beating Hill in the toss for choice of innings, decided to go in. It should be mentioned that the field of play had been shortened by 50 yards, it being considered that the extreme dimensions of the Oval as ordinarily arranged constituted a severe handicap to hitters.

Warner took Hayward to the wickets with him, the two Englishmen being loudly cheered on emerging from the pavilion. Hill started his bowling with Travers and Giffen. Travers is a slow left-hander, but rises fast from the pitch.

From the first the batting was characterized by extreme caution. Travers kept an excellent length, and only one run came from the first five overs he sent down. Giffen proved much more expensive, Warner getting a somewhat uppish three past square leg off him, and, although the batsmen scored very evenly, each having made 12 when the total reached 24, 25 runs were obtained from Giffen while only two were hit from Travers.

Warner and Hayward continued to exercise the utmost care, and when they had been together an hour the score amounted to no more than 30. At this point Hay went on in place of Giffen, who had sent down 11 overs (four maidens) for 27 runs. Travers bowled seven maidens in succession, but in his 13th over Warner not only cut him for four, but drove him for four. Luncheon was taken just afterwards with the total standing at 45 for no wicket, Warner 25 and Hayward 19.

During the interval it was announced that a communication had been received from the Marylebone Club agreeing that throughout the tour the side leading by 200 runs should have the option of either making their opponents follow on or of going in themselves. It further transpired that Warner had been much handicapped in his batting through a blistered hand.

When the game was proceeded with after lunch Travers bowled at the opposite end to that from which he had been on all the morning, Reedman being tried at the wicket which Travers vacated. Despite some very keen fielding runs came more rapidly than before the interval, Warner timing the ball more accurately and playing altogether a freer game. When ten runs had been hit from him, Reedman retired in favourite of Hay, the score at this point standing at 69. The change should have separated the Batsmen, Warner, when he had made 42, giving a chance to Hack, who was fielding slip to Hay's bowling. Had this chance been taken the first wicket would have fallen at 77.

A little later Warner, having increased his score to 46, very nearly ran himself out. Travers, off whom 31 runs had been obtained, gave way to Giffen at 87, but this change proved no more successful than the others, and the Englishmen still had all ten wickets in hand when the hundred was reached, Warner being 52 and Hayward 49, and the exact total 103. At this point the innings had been in progress exactly two hours.

Runs coming freely, Claxton at 113 was called upon to relieve Hay, whose ten overs had yielded 31 runs. This last change took effect, Warner in Claxton's second over being out to an easy catch to Jennings at third man. Over two hours and 25 minutes the first-wicket partnership had extended, and it had produced 122 runs. All through the English captain exercised much caution, but included in his 65 were seven fours.

Hayward, who was 55 when Warner left, had Tyldesley for his next partner. The Lancashire man made a very brief stay, having only scored one when he placed a ball tamely into the hands of Giffen at point. The second wicket fell at 134, Hayward having by that time raised his figures to 65. Claxton so far had taken two wickets at a cost of only 14 runs.

Foster also failed, being smartly run out after making two. On his dismissal the tea interval was taken, the total having reached 149 for three wickets, and Hayward being not out 79.

Braund accompanied Hayward to the wickets afterwards, when the attendance had increased to about 6,000. Travers relieved Giffen, but met with no success, despite his steadiness. Hayward continued to play in excellent style and with much patience. Travers, off whose 27 overs no more than 34 runs had been obtained, gave way to Hay at 162. Five overs later Hill tried a further change, substituting Evans for Claxton, whose two wickets cost 29 runs.

A spell of rather slow cricket ensued as Hayward approached his hundred. Once again Giffen took the ball, the total at this time having been increased to 184, but four runs later Hayward, amidst tremendous cheering from all parts of the ground, brought his score to 100, after batting for three hours and three-quarters. Braund so far had made 16 and, after adding four more runs to his score, gave a hard chance to the outfield off Reedman, who had taken the ball from Evans.

With seven wickets in hand the second hundred was passed. Hayward never departed from the excellence and ease which had characterized his work all day. Braund after a time began to hit in nice crisp style. The total had reached 228 when Travers was tried once more, relieving Giffen, who had had 78 runs hit from him without taking a wicket. Hack at 232 went on for Reedman, but Hayward and Braund were still together at the drawing of stumps, when the score stood at 247 for three wickets, Hayward, who was loudly cheered on retiring, being 126 and Braund 47.

Apart from a difficult chance when 16, Hayward had played masterly cricket all day, and among his hits were 17 fours. The weather remained fine all day and the wicket was still in perfect condition at the close of play.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 10 November, page 12)

When the Englishmen went on to-day with the innings in which on Saturday they had scored 247 runs for the loss of three wickets, the weather proved sultry and threatening, while the wind raised a quantity of dust. Only a moderate company of spectators had assembled at the start.

Hayward, not out 126, and Braund, not out 47, faced the bowling of Hay and Giffen. It was soon clear that the pitch remained in splendid condition, and the batsmen at once settled down to a confident game. Only 19 runs, however, had been added when a ball from Giffen dismissed Braund, whose excellent innings of 58 included only five fours. The partnership for the fourth wicket had produced 117 runs, the score standing at 266 at the time of Braund's departure.

Hirst, who joined Hayward, had not been long at the wickets when the light became variable and there was every appearance of a storm brewing. Travers relieved Hay at 281, the retiring bowler having had 54 runs obtained off him without meeting with any success. The run-getting proceeded steadily, Hirst doing the major portion of such scoring as took place, and the Englishmen still had six wickets in hand when the total reached 300, Hayward at that point being 140 and Hirst 25. Two runs later Giffen gave way to Claxton, the one wicket he had obtained having cost 104 runs.

The total was increased to 322, when Hirst, who had made 37 out of the 56 added for the fifth wicket, was out - easily caught at mid-on in attempting to pull a ball from Claxton. He played a nice brisk game, his innings including five fours. Hayward, when Hirst left, was not out 148.

Bosanquet had just come in when rain drove the players from the field, but the interruption lasted only eight minutes. Before he had made a run Bosanquet was let off at slip from Claxton's bowling, and when two he enjoyed a similar piece of luck.

Hayward's great innings came to an end at 336, the batsman playing a ball from Travers gently into the hands of Hill at mid-off. For just over six hours Hayward had been at the wickets, and the only chance which could be urged against his play was a difficult one at 16. He batted with unwearied patience, in excellent style and with absolute soundness. Included in his 157 were 19 fours. Great cheering greeted him on his retirement.

With Lilley in, Bosanquet, when 13, gave to Travers a hot return which the bowler failed to hold. Giffen came on again instead of Claxton, whose three wickets had cost 56 runs. At the luncheon interval the total stood at 345 for six wickets, Bosanquet 13 and Lilley 1.

On the resumption, the weather was somewhat thundery and the light bad. The company had increased to about 4,000. Twenty-two runs had been added when Bosanquet played on to Hay, who had gone on in place of Travers. Seven wickets for 367.

Lilley, who, after giving a chance of being caught and bowled before he scored, had batted steadily, had Relf for his next partner, these two men being together when the total reached 400, the innings at that point having lasted seven hours. Lilley was 34 and Relf 14. Evans had relieved Hay and Reedman displaced Giffen, Relf batting in brisk fashion. Travers and Claxton took up the bowling, but 79 runs had been put on for the eighth wicket, when at 446 a clever catch at slip by Travers disposed of Relf.

When Arnold joined Lilley the pace of the run-getting slackened. Hack was called upon to bowl, and at 474 Hill went on himself, but had nine runs hit from his first over. When the tea interval arrived the total stood at 483 for eight wickets, Lilley not out 91 and Arnold 7. As it had been arranged for the match to close on Wednesday in order that the Englishmen might get away to Melbourne, Warner thereupon declared the innings closed. It had extended over nearly eight hours. Lilley hit 11 fours. Travers took one wicket for 95 runs . . .

South Australia began batting with Gehrs and Hack, who had Hirst and Arnold against them. Warner soon tried a change of bowling, putting on at 16 Braund for Hirst, after the Yorkshireman had sent down three overs for two runs. Braund in turn retired at 32 in favour of Bosanquet. The scoring proved very slow. Warner made a third change at 37 - Rhodes for Arnold - and the first ball sent down by the left-hander bowled Hack.

The Englishmen fielded with great keenness. Hill joined Gehrs, who was not out 16, and at once settled down to a charming game. When, however, the total had been increased to 66, Hill was beautifully stumped by Lilley. Giffen and Gehrs batted very cautiously. Rhodes sent down eight overs for 22 runs and one wicket, and then, at 84, gave way to Relf off whose third ball Gehrs, having made 31, was missed at slip by Foster. Gehrs had not increased his score when he was brilliantly thrown out from cover point by Warner, who was loudly cheered for this fine piece of fielding. Three wickets had thus fallen for 85.

Travers joined Giffen and when play ceased for the day the total stood at 93 for three wickets. The weather at the close was cloudy and the company numbered 5,000. The wicket remained in good condition.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 11 November, page 9)

The wicket was still in good order to-day, when the match between the Englishmen and South Australia was proceeded with, but the weather appeared very unsettled and the attendance proved extremely meagre.

Giffen 15 and Travers 4 continued the first innings of South Australia, in which, at the drawing of stumps on Monday, three batsmen had been dismissed for 93 runs. Hirst and Bosanquet shared the bowling, Strudwick fielded as substitute for R E Foster, who had received a telegram announcing the death of his sister.

Only eight runs had been added when Warner took off Hirst in favour of Arnold. The change took immediate effect, Giffen at 104 being smartly caught at the wicket off the new bowler. With Claxton and Travers together, Hirst went on in place of Bosanquet, whose one wicket had cost 38 runs. Claxton, having scored seven, gave a difficult chance to Arnold at point off Hirst's bowling. He failed to make much use of his escape, as the total had only been advanced to 123 when Arnold took his wicket, half the side being out at that point.

Jennings and Travers played very quietly for a time against some excellent bowling and admirable fielding. They added ten runs and then a "bailer" from Hirst brought Travers's innings to an end, the sixth wicket falling at 133. Other disasters for the home side speedily followed, Evans, who joined Jennings, failed to score, when he was out leg-before to Hirst, and a catch at the wicket off Arnold disposing of Reedman for a single. In this way there were seven men out for 144 and eight for 147.

Despite the success which had attended the efforts of Arnold and Hirst, Warner, when Jennings and Newland had put on ten runs, took Arnold off in favour of Braund and at 162 let Rhodes relieved Hirst. Runs came slowly, but the total had been raised to 171 when a catch at short leg sent back Newland. A single was added by Jennings, and then Braund bowled Hay, the innings, which had extended over two hours and 25 minutes, closing for 172.

Jennings, who went in fifth wicket down at 123, carried his bat for 26. Seven wickets had fallen during the morning for 79 runs. Rhodes took one wicket for 27 runs . . .

South Australia, 311 runs behind, followed on after the luncheon interval. Hack and Gehrs again opened the innings and Arnold and Hirst shared the bowling. The batsmen exercised great caution. Fourteen runs had been obtained when the first wicket fell, Arnold clean bowling Gehrs.

Hill thereupon joined Hack and began a truly superb innings. From the first the left-hander batted in his most attractive style, and he soon brought about a change of bowling, Bosanquet at 35 taking the ball from Hirst, eight overs from whom had produced 11 runs. The fielding continued to be maintained at a high standard, but the score reached 51 with nine wickets still to fall, Hill, with 24 runs to his credit, having already passed Hack, whose score was then 18.

One run later Arnold, whose 12 overs had yielded 35 runs and a wicket, made way for Rhodes. After this second change the rate of scoring slightly increased, although Rhodes bowled very steadily. Relf came on for Rhodes at 73, the Yorkshireman having sent down seven overs (four maidens) for five runs. The two Colonials, however, were still together at the tea interval, the total then standing at 84 for one wicket, Hill being 49 and Hack 23.

Directly after the resumption Hill completed his 50, having then been batting for an hour and a quarter. Arnold was then tried instead of Bosanquet, 11 overs from the amateur having produced 24 runs. Another change - Braund for Relf at 85 - took place, but the hundred was reached with the two batsmen still together, in an hour and 50 minutes from the start of the innings. Hill had raised his score to 56, with Hack 30, when the score stood at 102. Hill just afterwards had the satisfaction of making his 1,000th run for South Australia against the various English teams that have visited the Colonies.

Arnold, after his early success, proved rather expensive, 50 runs coming from 16 overs, and at 116 he gave way to Hirst. Hill continued to play splendid cricket, and Hack, although nothing like so attractive as his partner, batted very soundly. Warner next tried Rhodes at one end and Bosanquet at the other, but a little later the total reached 151, Hill's score standing at 82 and Hack's at 50.

The splendid partnership came to an end at 156, a catch by Hayward at player off Rhodes disposing of Hack. Hill and Hack had put on 142 runs for the second wicket. Hack in his 54 gave no chance. On his departure Giffen joined Hill. The total was then increased to 183, when Rhodes, who had bowled 13 overs (four maidens) for 18 runs and one wicket, was taken off in favour of Arnold, but at once went on at the other end.

Other changes - Relf for Arnold and Braund for Rhodes - followed, but Hill, amid tremendous cheering, completed his hundred in about two hours and 40 minutes. His score included ten fours. South Australia left off with eight wickets in hand and wanting 120 more runs to escape a single innings defeat.

The weather remained cloudy and the attendance did not exceed 2,000. The wicket was still in excellent condition.

Day 4 (report from Thursday 12 November, page 10)

Stumps were pulled up at 3 o'clock this afternoon in order that the Englishmen might get away to Melbourne for their engagement with Victoria on Friday, and consequently the opening match of the tour had to be left unfinished. The draw was greatly in favour of the Marylebone Club Team, South Australia having seven wickets down in their second innings and being only 32 runs to the good.

Some rain had fallen during the night and, although the weather had turned pleasantly fine when play began, the wicket was slow. Hill, not out 102, and Giffen, not out 16, proceeded with the second innings of South Australia, the colonials, with eight wickets in hand, requiring 120 more runs to escape a single innings defeat. The attendance was small.

Rhodes and Relf shared the bowling. Only 16 runs had been added when a splendid one-handed catch by Braund at slip brought Hill's masterly innings to a close. Batting for three hours and ten minutes, Hill had given nothing like a chance. He hit 12 fours. Three wickets for 207.

Claxton had only just joined Giffen when the latter was missed by Arnold at point off Rhodes's bowling. The mistake had no serious results, as Giffen had not added to his score when another catch by Braund at slip off Relf's bowling brought about his dismissal, four wickets being down at this point for 208.

When Claxton and Jennings came together, the scoring turned very slow, the ball travelling badly in the heavy outfield and the Englishmen striving admirably to keep down the runs. Still, with Jennings batting in skilful fashion, the total was increased to 243 when an appeal for leg-before was answered against Claxton. One run later a third catch at slip by Braund - this time off Rhodes's bowling - disposed of Reedman.

South Australia, with only four wickets to fall, required 67 runs to escape a single innings defeat. To add to their anxieties, the sun made its appearance, and for a little while the wicket gave the bowlers material assistance. Warner, however, when Jennings and Evans had put on a dozen runs, tried a double change, Rhodes, who had sent down 29 overs for 54 runs and two wickets, giving way to Hirst, and Arnold displacing Relf, who in the course of 19 overs had dismissed three batsmen at a cost of only 38 runs. These alterations in the attack meeting with no success, Braund at 276 relieved Hirst and Rhodes took the ball from Arnold, whose one wicket in this innings had cost 63 runs.

Jennings, who is quite a youth, continued to bat in excellent style, and soon the state of the ground improved. The partnership had produced 44 runs when, just before lunch, a catch by Hirst at long leg got rid of Evans. The interval was then taken with the total at 288 for seven wickets - 23 runs behind with three wickets to fall. Jennings, the not-out, had made 41.

The company had increased to about 1,500 when the game was resumed, Newland being Jennings's partner. Relf came on at the wicket from which Rhodes had been bowling and the latter changed ends. Jennings had only added a single to his score when Lilley made against him a confident appeal for a catch at the wicket off Rhodes. The umpire, however, decided in the batsman's favour.

Braund at 296 relieved Relf, but the 300 was reached, and Jennings completed his 50 with three wickets still to fall. Relf was put back again in place of Braund at 317, and two runs later Rhodes gave way to Bosanquet. The bowling remained steady and, the two colonials running no risks, the scoring was slow. With the total at 343 for seven wickets the game was abandoned as a draw.

Great enthusiasm was displayed at the finish over the performance of Jennings, who showed great promise, batting in most polished style and getting his runs by well varied strokes. Going in fourth wicket down at 208, he scored 77 out of the last 135 in two hours and ten minutes. His hits included five fours.

Arnold took one wicket . . .

There are conflicting opinions here as the Mr Warner's action in declaring the innings of his team closed on Monday. Mr Warner contends that the closure rule is applicable to matches for which three or more days are allowed, and suggests that the Marylebone Club should be applied to to make a

pronouncement in the matter, in view of the important bearing the question might have upon the test matches.

Tuesday 10 November, page 12: THE MINOR COUNTIES' CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Below will be found a set of rules recently approved by the committee of the Minor Counties' Cricket Association for providing a system of promotion by merit on the county championship and for the reclassification of the counties. The year 1905 has been selected as the starting point of the proposed scheme, having regard to the probable visit of an Australian team during that summer and to the difficulties of arranging full championship programmes which have been experienced on several occasions: -

1. In 1905 and in future years there shall be three divisions of counties in the competition for the county championship.
2. The first division shall consist of ten counties, and shall, in 1905, comprise the first ten in the first division of the competition at the end of the season of 1904.
3. The second division shall consist of eight counties, and shall, in 1905, comprise the last five in the first division and the first three in the second division of the competition at the end of the season of 1904.
4. The third division shall comprise all counties not in the first or second divisions and the second elevens of counties in either of those divisions.
5. Counties in the first and second divisions shall rank as first-class in the compilation of batting and bowling averages.
6. In the first and second divisions of the competition every county shall play out and home matches with every other county in its division.
7. In the third division of the competition every county or second eleven shall play at least four out and home two-day matches with other qualified members of that division.
8. In 1906 and in each subsequent year the last two counties in the first division of the competition at the end of the previous season shall be replaced by the first two in the second division at the end of the same season; and similarly the last two counties in the second division shall be replaced by the first two in the third division, provided they are qualified for promotion.
9. No county in the third division shall be qualified for promotion unless it shall have played at least six out and home two-day matches with other members of that division who are qualified for the championship. No second eleven of a county shall be eligible for promotion.
10. This scheme shall come into force at the end of the season of 1904.

SPECIAL RULE FOR THE SEASON OF 1904

No county in the second division of 1904 shall be qualified for promotion into the second division of 1905 unless it shall have played at least six out and home matches with other second-class counties or with second elevens who are themselves duly qualified competitors in the second division championship of 1904.

Wednesday 11 November, page 9: THE FOLLOW-ON RULE

As there has been mention of the follow-on rule, which will obtain in the matches played by the Marylebone Team in Australia, it may be of interest to state the facts.

The laws of cricket state that a side which leads but 150 runs shall have the option of requiring the other side to follow their innings. In Australia the law is that a side 200 runs behind on the first innings must follow on.

Realizing that some trouble might arise over the matter, the Marylebone Club communicated through Major Wardill with the three cricket colonies, and an agreement was come to that, in matches in the tour now in progress, the side leading by 200 runs should have the option of requiring the other side to follow their innings.

In short, a very sensible compromise appears to have been arrived at, considering how much heavier scoring is on the average in Australia than in England.

THE MATCH AGAINST VICTORIA

Melbourne, Nov. 10

The following team has been selected to represent Victoria in the match with Mr Warner's team, which begins here on Friday: - Trott, Armstrong, Bruce, Monfries, Laver, McAlister, Collins, Ellis, Tuckwell, Saunders and Giller, with Horan as emergency man. - Reuter.

THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

Yesterday, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool-street, a special general meeting of the Essex County Cricket Club was held, the committee, in view of the serious financial position of affairs, having felt bound to call the meeting in order that the matter might be placed before the members. Mr C E Green presided.

In opening the meeting Mr Green referred to the past unsatisfactory season. On nine days there was no cricket at all, while with other interferences from bad weather the club found themselves no less than £1,500 in debt. This money had to be raised by December 31.

It was not so much the bad weather, however, that had brought matters to this pass. During the last four years there had been a loss of 800 members. This being so, he questioned whether or not it was worth while going on with the county club.

Mr Green then referred to the misunderstanding that had arisen with Mead. He could not help thinking that Mead had been badly advised, and did not believe that the famous bowler had acted of his own free will.

With regard to the debt, he said that the club was at the present moment solvent, for they could sell out and pay off everything. Much as he regretted and deplored it, he felt that they would have to take this step unless the £1,500 was raised by the end of the year. They were there to invite suggestions on the point, but if the meeting failed to come to any decision the committee had a resolution to put forward.

Some discussion followed, and after being pressed for the resolution Mr Green said it was as follows: - "That unless the sum of £1,500 be raised before the 31st of December, the ground be sold." Eventually the following resolution was passed: - "That a committee be appointed to consult with the general committee as to the best means of placing the club on a sound financial basis."

TABLE CRICKET. - Yesterday, at Wisden's showrooms, Dr W G Grace and Mr A Weintrand gave an exhibition of a greatly improved form of the game of table cricket. The game has been invented by Mr Weintrand, with additions and rules by Dr Grace, and is suitable either to the house or the garden.

The wickets, which are, of course, of a very small size, are placed on a table, and a popping crease is marked out. The bowler delivers a ball, rather larger than the ordinary racket ball, from an instrument provided with a strong spring which he holds in his hand. This instrument has been cleverly devised, and the bowler, with practice, can alter the pace of the ball and get on a considerable amount of break either from the off or from the leg.

The batsman may play either with one or both hands; for a defensive game the latter method is the easier, but greater force can be put batting average the ball when only one hand is used. Fieldsmen are placed in convenient positions, and the batsman can be out in almost all the nine ways known in cricket. The scoring can be varied at will and, if the game is played out of doors, the batsman can run his runs in the ordinary way.

The game combines amusement with a good deal of real skill. With beginners the batsman certainly has an advantage, but when the method of delivering the ball has been thoroughly learnt the bowler, if anything, holds the upper hand.

Friday 13 November, page 9: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual report of the Yorkshire County Club was issued yesterday. During the past season 26 inter-county matches were played, of which 13 were won, five lost and eight were drawn. The second eleven played 11 matches, of which three were won, seven were lost and one was drawn.

Although deprived of the title of champion county, the committee feel that when it is remembered that the services of Mr T L Taylor and Washington were not available, and that the Hon F S Jackson could not play regularly, together with the serious mishaps which befell some of the players early in the season, the members were not to be in the least discouraged by the play of the team.

The second eleven matches have not been so successful as was anticipated, but it is considered advisable to continue these fixtures in order to afford facilities for young players to gain experience.

The programme for next season will include matches with all the first-class counties, in addition to fixtures with the M.C.C., Cambridge University, Oxford University, the South Africans and the Indian team.

John Tunnicliffe's benefit was a success, the gate receipts amounting to £1,790. Although the subscription list is not yet complete, it is hoped that a sum of about £1,600 will be realized.

The balance sheet shows that during the past year the club made a profit of £270 18s 6d. The balance in the bank at present stands at £369 13s 7d, but the club has a sum of £10,500 invested, which, with other small items, leaves the club £10,985 13s 7d on the right side.

The committee has set aside the Lancashire match, which will be played next year at Leeds, on August Bank Holiday and the following days, for George H Hirst's benefit, and trusts that this player will receive one of the most successful benefits yet played. Hirst's value to the county and the great services which he has already rendered will, it is confidently felt, appeal to all lovers of cricket.

The committee acknowledges with thanks the kindness of the committee of the Lancashire County Club, in consenting for the venues to be exchanged, so that the match can be played in Yorkshire on August Bank Holiday and the following days, instead of on Whit Monday and the following days.

13 November: VICTORIA v M.C.C.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6367.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 14 November, page 13)

Melbourne, Nov. 13

The English cricketers entered to-day upon the second match of their tour with a representative team of Victoria as their opponents. J Horan, who had been chosen as 12th man for Victoria, found a place in the Colonial team, J Giller standing down to make room for him. Warner tried three changes in the visiting side from the eleven that met South Australia, Braund, Lilley and Arnold giving way to Knight, Strudwick and Fielder.

Pleasant weather favoured the opening of the contest, but only a moderate company had assembled at the ground. Laver, who captained the Victorian team, beat Warner in the toss for choice of innings and, as the wicket appeared to be in good condition, he decided to go in. The umpires, Barrass and Crockett, although both local men, had been selected after the manner which obtains with the Marylebone Club in England.

Laver sent McAlister and Bruce in to open the first innings of Victoria, and Warner started his bowling with Hirst and Relf. The third ball sent down by Hirst dismissed McAlister, the first wicket falling without a run. Trott, who thereupon joined Bruce, was loudly cheered upon making his reappearance in important cricket. Another disaster speedily befell the Colonials, an easy catch at slip by Bosanquet sending back Bruce for four. In this way two wickets were down for ten runs when Armstrong partnered Trott.

These two batsmen shaped well, Trott batting in quite his old form, and they raised the score to 33. Relf, who had sent down eight overs for 18 runs and a wicket, then gave up the ball to Rhodes. The change met with immediate success, not another run having been added when a very smart piece of stumping on the part of Strudwick brought Trott's innings to a close for 20.

One run later a catch at short-leg disposed of Ellis, four wickets having fallen at that point for 34 runs. Laver and Armstrong, however, gave the Englishmen some trouble. Hirst, although in the course of 12 overs (five maidens) he had taken two wickets for 21 runs, was at 41 displaced by Bosanquet. This change proved quite ineffective, Armstrong and Laver staying together until lunch time, when the score stood at 67 for four wickets, Armstrong being 21 and Laver 20.

Lord Tennyson, the Governor-General of Australia, honoured the match with his presence after the interval. Fielder bowled in place of Bosanquet, with Rhodes at the other end. Fourteen runs were added, and then Armstrong's careful innings came to an end, a ball from Rhodes taking that batsman's wicket. The partnership had yielded 47 runs, half the side being out at the time of Armstrong's dismissal for 81 runs. Laver (bowled by Fielder) left at the same total.

With Horan and Tuckwell together the batting became even more cautious than before. The bowling of Rhodes and Fielder was admirable, and the two men received splendid assistance in the field from their colleagues. Further successes soon attended the efforts of the Englishmen, a catch by Bosanquet close in at short-leg disposed of Tucker, and Collins being out leg-before-wicket to the first ball he received from Rhodes. The seventh and eighth wickets thus both went down at 84, Rhodes at this point having dismissed four batsmen at a cost of only 16 runs.

Horan then received invaluable assistance from Monfries. Warner put on Bosanquet again at 91, Fielder, who had bowled ten overs for 12 runs and a wicket, making way for him. The 100 appeared when the game had been in progress for two hours and 23 minutes. Bosanquet again proving ineffective, Hirst took his place at 116 and Relf went on for Rhodes, whose four wickets had by that time cost 26 runs.

Some rather slow cricket ensued, the batsmen experiencing great difficulty in getting the ball away in face of the excellent fielding, which frequently elicited applause. A further change - Fielder for Hirst - was made at 136, but at tea-time Horan and Monfries had put on 55 runs, the total at the adjournment standing at 139 for eight wickets, with Horan 24 and Monfries 29.

Only six more runs were obtained on resuming before a catch at the wicket off Fielder dismissed Horan, the ninth wicket, which fell at 145, having yielded 61 runs. Horan batted patiently and in nice style for an hour and 20 minutes. With Saunders in, the total reached 162. Rhodes, then resuming, got Saunders caught at slip off the second ball he delivered, and so brought the innings, which had extended over three hours and 40 minutes, to a close for 162. Monfries played a strong, stubborn game, his 41 runs taking him 95 minutes to make.

Rhodes took five wickets at a cost of only 26 runs . . .

Warner selected Hayward to open the Englishmen's innings with him, and Saunders and Armstrong shared the bowling. The batsmen started very cautiously, but a neat left-handed catch by Armstrong at slip disposed of Hayward for six, the total at the fall of the first wicket being only 11.

Joined by Tyldesley, Warner increased his score to ten, and then should have been caught at the wicket off Saunders's bowling. Armstrong had sent down eight overs for 15 runs when Laver tried Collins in his place. No further success, however, attended the Victorians, Warner and Tyldesley being still together at the drawing of stumps, when the total stood at 32 for one wicket. With nine wickets in hand, the Englishmen left off 130 runs behind.

The weather remained fine and the company increased to 5,000. The wicket was playing well at the finish.

Day 2 (report from Monday 16 November, page 12)

The English cricketers achieved a great batting triumph to-day, raising their overnight score of 32 for one wicket to 376, and having still five wickets in hand when rain brought play to a close a little while before the usual hour for drawing stumps.

Very warm weather prevailed when Warner and Tyldesley, the not outs, with 18 and seven respectively, proceeded with the Englishmen's innings against the bowlers of Saunders and Armstrong. The wicket was in perfect condition. Warner added four runs to his overnight score, but off the fifth ball sent down by Saunders he was smartly caught in the slips by Armstrong, the second wicket falling with the total at 36. Foster then joined Tyldesley.

Against the bowling of Saunders and Armstrong Foster and Tyldesley laid the foundation of their big stand by some exceedingly cautious batting. Foster pursued these tactics for a long time, but Tyldesley after a while began to hit out. In one over from Saunders he scored 12 runs. This brought on Laver for Saunders, who had sent down 17 overs (nine maidens) for 35 runs and two wickets. Tyldesley had scored 36 to Foster's eight, when, with the total at 76, the former should have been stumped off Armstrong.

Foster was somewhat uncomfortable with the bowling, and 40 minutes after his arrival at the wickets he had only scored ten. Collins at 93 relieved Armstrong, who had bowled 21 overs for 28 runs, and, Laver proving unsuccessful, Saunders resumed. The 100 appeared on the board after the innings had been in progress an hour and 55 minutes. The Victorians at this period fielded in capital style.

Gradually Foster acquired more confidence and, hitting out with skill and finish, he brought his score up to 43 by the time Tyldesley was 48. At the luncheon interval the total stood at 125 for two wickets.

When the game was resumed the attendance had largely increased. Saunders went on for Trott, who crossed over to the end from which Collins had been bowling. Tyldesley completed his 50 in just over two hours. Foster reached that number in rather more than an hour and a half, making the last 40 in 53 minutes. Tyldesley had raised his score to 67 when, off Trott's bowling, he was badly missed at slip by Armstrong.

In rather less than three hours from the start of the innings the Victorians' total was passed with eight wickets in hand. Tyldesley, after his escape, settled down again to neat and effective work. Laver, at 168, tried a further change - Armstrong for Trott - but kept on Saunders. Another bad mistake in the field was made when Foster had increased his score to 67, Collins at extra mid-off missing him off Saunders's bowling. Saunders retired in favour of Laver at 193.

Three runs later the long partnership, which had added 160 runs, came to an end, Tyldesley at 196 being beautifully caught at mid-on by Laver. Tyldesley's 90 was a most finished display of batting, despite the two chances he gave. His innings included nine fours and occupied three hours and three-quarters.

Foster left at the same total as Tyldesley, but the decision which compelled his retirement gave considerable dissatisfaction to his colleagues. In playing Laver he put up a ball, and Collins, at extra mid-off, although falling over, successfully appealed for a catch. The Englishmen contended that the fieldsman took the ball off the ground. Foster had played a delightful innings of 71, which, however, only included five fours. He was at the wickets two hours and three-quarters.

Following upon the fall of both the third and fourth wickets at 196, Hirst joined Knight. With the score at 216 Collins relieved Armstrong, who at this point had sent down 32 overs for 46 runs and one wicket. The total rose at a fair pace, the batsmen, although exercising much care in their hitting, being very quick between wickets. Trott had just gone on for Laver at 243 when the weather underwent a sudden change, the light varying very much and a slight shower causing the players to leave the field. Knight was then 28 and Hirst 29.

The drizzling rain had not quite ceased when the game was resumed, Saunders and Armstrong then taking up the bowling. The two batsmen still played with marked caution. Knight, however, when 39 gave a chance at the wicket off Saunders's bowling. Ellis, at 292, was tried in place of Saunders, and met with immediate success, Knight off the second ball he sent down being taken at point by Trott. The partnership, extending over rather more than an hour and a half, had produced 96 runs. Knight had played a solid, painstaking game for his 47, the chief hits of which were two fours and three threes.

Hirst, who was 37 when Knight left, had Bosanquet for his next partner. The 300 appeared after three innings had lasted nearly five hours. Thirteen runs later Armstrong gave way to Collins. Hirst then began to pull to fine purpose, and completed his 50 after batting an hour and 40 minutes. Bosanquet then began to hit out, but with his score at 17 had a life given him by Trott at point.

A further change - Laver for Ellis - was tried at 343, but quite failed to check the run-getting, Bosanquet forcing the game in fine style. Laver gave way to Bruce at 369. The weather continued showery, and with the total at 374 rain again interrupted the progress of the match.

Although the players were only away for ten minutes, little play took place afterwards. Armstrong bowled in place of Collins, but after he had sent down two balls further rain brought the day's cricket to a close. Hirst, who was not out 81, had been batting nearly two hours and twenty minutes, and his hits included seven fours and nine threes. Bosanquet in less than 50 minutes had made 36, in which were four fours and three threes.

November 15.

A light but continuous rain fell last night, and the wicket is now soft. The weather to-day, however, has been fine and promising. - Reuter.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 17 November, page 11)

DEFEAT OF VICTORIA

Melbourne, Nov. 16

The game between the Marylebone Club team and Victoria ended to-day, the Englishmen declaring with eight wickets down for 443, and gaining a decisive victory by an innings and 71 runs.

Hirst (81) and Bosanquet (36) continued the Englishmen's innings, in which 276 runs had been scored for the loss of five batsmen. Armstrong and Saunders bowled. The weather was cool. At the start only a meagre company had assembled, but the numbers increased afterwards to about 5,000. Slightly slow, the wicket gave the bowlers some assistance.

Hirst and Bosanquet at once began to hit out, but had only added 20 runs to the total when, at the second attempt, Armstrong caught Hirst cleverly at slip. The sixth wicket, falling at 396, had produced 104 runs. Hirst played a fine resolute game for two hours and a half. He gave no chance and hit seven fours and ten threes.

With Relf in the total reached 400, the innings at that point having lasted rather more than six hours. Ten runs later Laver took the ball from Armstrong. The wicket becoming more difficult, Bosanquet set himself to force the game, making among other strokes a lofty drive for five off Saunders. The outfield remained very heavy.

The total was soon up to 441, when an easy catch by Collins at mid-off disposed of Relf. Rhodes joined Bosanquet but, with two runs added, the latter batsman brought his innings to an end by playing a ball from Laver on to his wicket. Warner thereupon declared the innings closed with the total standing at 443 for eight wickets.

Bosanquet had hit in most vigorous fashion for his 79, putting together that score in less than an hour and 40 minutes. His innings, marred only by a chance at 16, included a five, eight fours and five threes. Saunders took three wickets . . . Included among the extras were five no-balls, all called against Collins for going over the crease.

Wanting 281 runs to escape a single-innings defeat, the Victorians began batting with Bruce and McAlister. Hirst and Rhodes shared the bowling. The wicket for a time played much more easily than it had done at the start. Bruce and McAlister batted in nice, correct fashion, and had raised the score to 26 when Relf went on for Rhodes and the latter changed ends, displacing Hirst, eight overs from whom had realized 18 runs. Rhodes meanwhile had sent down seven overs for only eight runs. No wicket had fallen at lunch time, the total at that point standing at 31, Bruce being 21 and McAlister nine.

On resuming Bruce still did most of the scoring, McAlister taking an hour to make his first ten runs. The bowling was excellent and the fielding smart, but no wicket fell, so Warner at 54 tried Fielder,

instead of Relf, who sent down 11 overs for 17 runs. Bruce, with the total at 56, had a narrow escape from being run out, Strudwick dashing to short leg and returning the ball finely to Fielder.

The play continued to be of a quiet description, but Rhodes, having bowled 20 overs for 21 runs, gave way to Bosanquet at 62. Still the game progressed somewhat uneventfully. Hirst was given a second trial at 87, taking the place of Bosanquet, and Fielder retired in favour of Rhodes. This latter chance brought the partnership to a close, Bruce, from the first ball sent down by Rhodes, being caught at mid-off by Bosanquet. The stand for the first wicket had lasted two hours and five minutes, and had produced 88 runs. Bruce's share of this number amounted to 51 - a very steady piece of batting, in which were only two fours.

Trott, who followed, played a much brisker game, and the hundred appeared in two hours and 20 minutes. Bosanquet relieved Hirst at 110. Six runs later Trott returned a ball to Rhodes, the adjournment for tea taking place with the total at 116 for two wickets, McAlister not out 45.

The second ball sent down by Bosanquet, on resuming, dismissed McAlister, who had batted with marked caution for two hours and forty minutes. The Victorian's 45 included four fours. Laver, who then joined Armstrong, played an effective, if not particularly elegant, game, and the rate of scoring increased. Strudwick at this point kept wicket in especially dextrous style. A double change of bowling was tried at 158, Relf going on for Rhodes and Fielder for Bosanquet. Rhodes so far had bowled 33 overs for 46 runs and two wickets.

Armstrong scored steadily but, when 28, gave a chance to Fielder at mid-on off Relf's bowling. Fifty-six runs had been added by Armstrong and Laver, when Fielder got the latter batsman taken at slip, the batsman's umpire having to be appealed to before the catch was allowed. The fourth wicket fell at 172, Armstrong at that point being not out 31.

With Ellis in the total was advanced to 187, and the Rhodes resumed in place of Relf. The fourth ball sent down after the change got rid of Armstrong, who was taken at cover point. Half the side were then out for 188, and the score had not been altered when Ellis foolishly ran himself out. Directly afterwards a catch by Strudwick, standing back to Fielder's bowling, sent back Horan, the seventh wicket falling at 191.

Tuckwell and Monfries were next together, but could not get the ball away to any purpose in face of the smart and accurate fielding of the Englishmen. Still, they brought up 200 on the board when the innings had lasted four hours. Tuckwell, when six, was clean bowled by Fielder, but the umpire had called "no-ball." A smart catch at slip by Relf disposed of Monfries at 204.

Collins had come in when, at 208, Rhodes retired in favour of Relf, off whose first ball Tuckwell was dismissed, Foster bringing off a left-handed catch at slip. Saunders scored two before Relf bowled him, Victoria being all out for 210 and England being left victorious. The last six wickets fell for 38 runs.

The Englishmen were loudly cheered at the conclusion of the game. Fielder took three wickets . . .

Saturday 14 November, page 13: THE MATCH AGAINST NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney, Nov. 13.

The following team will play against Mr Warner's Eleven here on the 20th inst.: - Noble, Trumper, Kelly, Howell, C Gregory, S Gregory, Hickson, Duff, Hopkins, McBeth, Fisher and Mackay (emergency man). - Reuter

George Nash, the old Lancashire bowler, died yesterday, at Aylesbury, of paralysis. For many years past he had been associated with Buckinghamshire cricket. His claims to fame, however, rest mainly upon what he accomplished for Lancashire in the early eighties. His best season was that of 1882, when he took 62 wickets for ten runs apiece.

He dropped out of the Lancashire eleven in 1885. He first played for Lancashire in 1879, his career in first-class cricket thus extending over seven seasons.

Monday 16 November, page 12: THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

On Saturday the annual report and balance-sheet of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club was issued. The report states that the membership now stands at 1,292 - an increase of 139.

It is hoped that Captain W L Foster will be available to play for the county next season.

There was a loss on the year of £607, and the total debt, in spite of the reduction of £604 by a bazaar and other means, now stands at £2,694. Gate money last season produced £813; subscriptions, £1,118; donations, £81; and the bazaar and bicycle ballot, £900.

Friday 20 November, page 12: MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Middlesex County Club was held at the Charing-Cross Hotel, London, yesterday. Mr V E Walker presided, and amongst those present were Mr A J Webbe, Mr G MacGregor, Mr W J Ford and Mr E Rutter.

Middlesex will next season arrange the same programme as last year, with the addition of a match with the South Africans and possibly a fixture with the Indian team. Mr A J Webbe and Mr G MacGregor were appointed to represent Middlesex at the meeting of county secretaries at Lord's next month.

The accounts, which were duly passed, showed that the profit on the year had fallen from £228 in 1902 to £21.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr G MacGregor and Mr P F Warner for their services in captaining the champion county. It was decided to mark the successful result of the season's work by presenting with a memento everybody who had assisted the county in five or more matches. The professionals receive a bonus in addition to the usual donations.

The meeting passed votes of thanks to Mr V E Walker and Mr A J Webbe for their services as president and honorary secretary.

20 November: NEW SOUTH WALES v M.C.C.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6368.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 21 November, page 14)

Sydney, Nov. 20.

Mr Warner's team made a splendid start here to-day in the first of their two engagements with New South Wales. Putting their opponents in first, they dismissed them in two hours and a half for 108, and then ran up a score of 172 for the loss of three batsmen, thus leaving off 64 runs ahead with seven wickets in hand.

The weather was pleasant, but showers on the previous day had left the wicket in a condition favourable to bowlers, and Warner, who beat Noble in the toss for choice of innings, decided to run the risk of sending New South Wales in to bat. Lilley, Braund and Arnold resumed their places in the English eleven, Strudwick, Knight and Fielder standing down. Of the 12 from whom the New South Wales team was to be selected, Mackay did not play. The attendance, although it improved greatly after lunch, was only moderate at the start of the game.

Duff and Trumper opened the Colonials' innings against Hirst and Rhodes, and at first exercised great caution, but Trumper soon began to hit out, the pitch for the time playing somewhat easier than had been anticipated. The pace of the scoring becoming quite rapid, Rhodes at 35 gave way to Arnold. Duff played the fifth ball sent down by Arnold on to the stumps without removing the bails, but off the last ball of the over he was taken at the wicket by Lilley. Of the 35 runs which had been made at this point Trumper's share amounted to 20.

Noble, who came in first wicket down, had only scored one when from a difficult chance off Arnold's bowling he was missed by Braund at slip. Rhodes came on at 41 in place of Hirst, and no further change was found necessary. Trumper continued to bat in most finished style, but he soon lost the company of noble, who at 55 was taken at the wicket, Lilley bringing off the catch at the second attempt. So far Arnold had disposed of two batsmen for nine runs.

With Trumper and Hopkins together a dozen runs were added, and then a smart piece of stumping off Rhodes's bowling brought the former's innings to an end. His 46, which had been put together in 55 minutes, included five fours. Sydney Gregory came next, but immediately lost the company of Hopkins, who fell to a brilliant one-handed catch low down at slip by Braund. Four wickets were then down for 68.

Further success attended Rhodes shortly afterwards, the score only having been raised to 74, when an easy catch at point sent back Kelly. Rhodes at that point had had 34 runs hit from him, but he had taken his three wickets while only two runs were scored off him. Howell, who was Sydney Gregory's next partner, brought out loud cheering by lifting a ball from Rhodes for five. He had only scored nine, however, when he was taken at cover point by Arnold, the total at lunch time standing at 86 for six wickets.

Rhodes and Arnold continued to bowl admirably when the game was proceeded with, but Sydney and Charles Gregory brought up the hundred without further loss. Seven runs later Charles Gregory, jumping in to drive Rhodes, was beaten by the flight of the ball and stumped. The seventh wicket, falling at 107, had put on 21.

The last three wickets fell for the addition of a single run. Foster missed Sydney Gregory off Arnold's bowling when that batsman had made 24, but then a catch at cover point disposed of Hickson. Gregory was out leg-before-wicket, and Fisher was easily taken by Foster at slip, the innings, which had extended over two hours and a half, coming to an end for 108. Rhodes took six wickets . . .

Warner took Hayward in with him to open the Englishmen's innings, and McBeth and Howell shared the bowling. Warner with his score at three should have been stumped off Howell, but Kelly was too slow in putting down the wicket. Noble at 21 took the ball from McBeth, who had sent down six overs for eight runs. The batsmen played very cautiously, and a section of the crowd, annoyed at the slowness of the scoring, began to "barrack" them. Noble tried a second change - Fisher for Howell - at 24, and four runs later the first wicket fell, Hayward returned the ball to the new bowler. Hayward had batted very patiently for 55 minutes, the time occupied in making the first 28 runs.

Joined by Tyldesley, Warner, with his score at 17, was twice missed off Noble's bowling, badly in the first place by Howell at slip, and wretchedly two balls later by Charles Gregory at third man. After sending down nine overs for ten runs Noble retired in favour of McBeth. Great patience continued to mark the batting, the innings having been in progress an hour and a quarter when the total reached 50. One run later Trumper was put on to bowl.

Warner by this time was playing a much freer game, frequently jumping in to hit. With the score increased to 66 Hopkins relieved McBeth, who later on displaced Trumper, but the total had reached 80 before the second wicket fell. Warner then ran himself out, calling Tyldesley and being unable to regain his crease before he had been smartly thrown out from extra cover point by Charles Gregory. The English captain was at the wickets an hour and 40 minutes for his 46, and hit six fours.

Foster, the next batsman, began very quietly, and though Tyldesley made some hits, the run-getting slackened, the innings having lasted more than two hours when the hundred went up. Fisher and Noble took up the bowling, and later on Howell and Trumper shared the attack, but after Tyldesley had done the greater part of the scoring for a time, Foster began to hit out on the off-side in beautiful style, and the total reached 150 with eight wickets in hand.

Once more McBeth was called upon to bowl, and this time he succeeded in getting Foster caught at slip, the third wicket, which had added 82 runs, falling at 162. Foster was out at last to a miss-hit, but otherwise he timed his strokes on the off-side admirably. His 35, put together in 55 minutes, included six fours.

Braund and Tyldesley were together at the drawing of stumps, when the score stood at 172 for three wickets. Tyldesley, who left off 76 not out, played delightful cricket, hitting equally well on each side of the wicket. So far his innings includes 12 fours.

The weather during the afternoon was superb and the company numbered 10,000. The wicket had quite recovered. Towards the close of the day the cupola on the top of the grandstand, casting a shadow across the pitch, considerably handicapped the batsmen.

Day 2 (report from Monday 23 November, page 12)

Again showing fine cricket at all points, the English team to-day not only fully maintained the advantage they had secured yesterday, but at the drawing of stumps were almost certain of victory, New South Wales, with only four wickets to go down, still wanting 97 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Warm weather prevailed, and there was a good attendance when Tyldesley and Braund, the not-outs, with 76 and one respectively, continued the England innings. The wicket was in perfect condition. McBeth and Noble shared the bowling, and in the second over of the day a "swerver" from Noble dismissed Tyldesley, who was heartily cheered on retiring. He had played in a most confident and attractive style for nearly two hours and a quarter. He gave absolutely no chance and hit 13 fours. Four for 176.

Hirst came in and began "pulling" in great form, his play contrasting with that of Braund, who was at the wickets more than three-quarters of an hour without making a run. Hirst hit up his first 30 in 29 minutes. With the total at 209 Noble, having sent down 21 overs for 49 runs and a wicket, gave way to Hopkins, but Hirst continued to bat in vigorous fashion, and had made 41 to Braund's four when the score reached 220.

At this point Howell relieved McBeth, whose one wicket had cost 61 runs, and the pace of the run-getting slackened, the batsmen playing correctly and patiently. The fielding of the home team was very uneven. Fisher went on for Howell, and at 249 Noble took the ball from Hopkins and tried McBeth in place of Fisher. At lunch time, however, only four wickets had fallen and the score stood at 260, Hirst being not out 61 and Braund not out 20.

By the time the players returned to the field the company amounted to quite 15,000, and the numbers rapidly increased until late in the afternoon the crowd was estimated at 30,000. Howell went on instead of McBeth, and only five runs had been added when Hirst was bowled off his pads. Of the 89 runs added for the fifth wicket Hirst had made 66 in an hour and 26 minutes. He played a fine resolute game and gave no chance, his hits including a dozen fours. He was loudly applauded on retiring. Five for 265.

There came more cheering when, with 11 runs added, Howell at slip caught Bosanquet brilliantly with one hand. Lilley joined Braund, who by this time had only scored 23. The newcomer played a ball from Noble on to his wicket with the total at 280. Arnold, the next batsman, was caught at the wicket off a no-ball sent down by Noble. McBeth at 297 relieved Howell, and off his fourth ball Braund was grandly caught by Trumper at slip. For two hours and a half Braund had batted in correct and patient style. His 36 included four fours.

With Arnold and Relf together Noble gave way to Hopkins at 302. Seventeen more runs were added and then the innings came to an end, an easy catch at mid-off disposing of Arnold and Relf playing a ball from McBeth on to his wicket. The Englishmen had batted for five hours and three-quarters. The last five wickets fell for 54 runs. McBeth took three wickets . . .

Two hundred and eleven runs in arrear New South Wales began their second innings with Trumper and Duff, Arnold and Hirst bowling. Trumper scored 11 out of the first 12 runs, and then off Hirst's bowling was grandly caught one hand by Braund at square leg, the fieldsman being loudly cheered. Only two runs had so far been obtained off Hirst.

Charles Gregory, who was sent in next, had not scored when Hirst confidently appealed against him for leg-before, but the umpire decided in favour of the batsman. The Englishmen again fielded with much smartness, but some steady batting raised the score to 50 when Bosanquet took the ball from Hirst, off whom 18 runs had been obtained in eight overs for one wicket.

Lilley was at fault just afterwards, as, with the total at 57, he should have easily stumped Duff off Bosanquet. Rhodes relieved Arnold at 61. Duff had increased his score to 35 when Lilley unsuccessfully appealed against him for a catch at the wicket off Bosanquet. However, at 83 Lilley and Bosanquet in conjunction did bring Duff's innings to an end. The batsman put a ball up towards

point, and Lilley, running round, just managed to secure it in his outstretched hands - a splendid piece of work.

Sydney Gregory then joined his brother, but 16 runs later an easy catch at mid-on off Bosanquet disposed of him for eight. Three wickets had then fallen for 99. Hickson followed. Arnold at 101 went on for Rhodes, and off the fifth ball he sent down Charles Gregory was finely taken by Warner running from mid-on. The younger Gregory had batted very patiently for an hour and 20 minutes. He hit only two fours.

As Howell came in the fieldsmen spread out. Great cheering greeted a lofty hit for five by the new batsman off the second ball he received from Bosanquet. After making eight, however, Howell at 114 was caught at long-on, and before another run had been made Bosanquet got Fisher leg-before. Stumps were then drawn for the day. Bosanquet's three wickets have cost only 37 runs. There was nothing in the condition of the pitch to account for the poor scoring of the Colonials.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 24 November, page 12)

Having lost six wickets in their second innings at the drawing of stumps here on Saturday, and being still 97 runs behind, New South Wales had practically no chance of escaping defeat to-day. They succeeded in prolonging the game over the luncheon interval, but directly after the resumption the match came to an end, Warner's team gaining a well-deserved victory by an innings and 10 runs.

The weather was again fine and warm, but only a moderate company assembled. Hickson, not out 6, was accompanied to the wicket by Noble; and Bosanquet and Arnold shared the bowling.

Although the ground was in perfect condition, Noble and Hickson exercised extreme caution. The English team fielded admirably but, the score steadily rising, Warner tried a double change of bowling at 148, putting on Braund and Hirst. Up to this point Arnold had taken two wickets for 53 runs and Bosanquet three for 57.

Immediate success attended Hirst, the third ball sent down by the Yorkshireman, a real "trimmer," bowling Noble for 16. The seventh wicket, falling at 152, had added 38 runs. Hickson, who was then 26, had Hopkins for his next partner. Braund varied his bowling very skilfully and repeatedly had the batsmen in trouble. He should have got rid of Hickson for 27, but Foster, fielding at square leg, missed a difficult chance. Apart from this mistake, the work of the Englishmen was so smart and accurate that neither Hickson nor Hopkins could get the ball away to any purpose.

Only 12 runs had been added when a catch at long leg by Warner, fielding close to the boundary, disposed of Hickson, the eighth wicket going down at 164. Kelly, who followed, could make nothing of Braund's bowling, which stuck him up time after time. Warner at 185 let Arnold relieve Braund, whose one wicket had cost only 11 runs. At the same time Hirst, having dismissed two batsmen for 36, gave way to Bosanquet.

The latter change separated the batsmen, Bosanquet getting Kelly out leg-before-wicket. Play was then adjourned for lunch, the total standing at 197 for nine wickets; Hopkins, not out, 21.

Braund and Bosanquet shared the bowling when the players returned to the field, the latter in his first over making two unsuccessful appeals for leg-before against McBeth, who had joined Hopkins. Directly afterwards Hopkins jumped out to drive Braund, missed the ball and was stumped, and the match was over. Braund took two wickets . . .

The Englishmen were heartily cheered at the conclusion of the game. From start to finish they displayed exemplary keenness, which was the subject of praise in all directions. Warner's captaincy, too, came in for most favourable comment. All through he used his bowlers with splendid judgment.

Thursday 24 November, page 12: KENT COUNTY CLUB

Lord Harris presided yesterday at the Golden-cross Hotel, Charing-cross, over the full committee meeting of the Kent County Cricket Club held annually in the autumn. There were also present the Marquis of Camden, Lord Darnley, Major L T Spens, Mr G Marsham, Mr F A Mackinnon, Mr F W Furley, Mr S Christopherson, Mr K McAlpine and Mr F S W Cornwallis.

In the draft report, which was adopted, reference is made to the resignation of Mr J R Mason of the captainship and the succession of Mr C J Burnup, a hearty vote of thanks being accorded to the latter cricketer. The report also refers to the results of the past season and the successful tour in America.

Financially Kent have had an excellent season, for a profit on the year's working of nearly £600 was made. This has been utilized for paying off part of the debt on the pavilion account, which is now reduced to £700. From the satisfactory state of affairs the Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells weeks were very largely responsible.

In 1904 the same counties will be met as during the past season. Essex and Surrey are the teams for the Canterbury Week, Lancashire and Gloucestershire will play at Tonbridge, and Yorkshire and Sussex at Tunbridge Wells. At Canterbury, also, the South Africans will be met, and matches with the Indian team and Oxford University are expected to be arranged.

The usual match with the M.C.C. at Lord's will also take place. Catford-bridge, Gravesend, Beckenham and Maidstone are each to be allotted a match and, as a benefit to Hickmott, the Gentlemen and Players of Kent will meet at Mote-park. The circular of the Minor Counties' Association regarding the championship was read, but was not discussed.

Saturday 26 November, page 11: THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB

In their annual report the committee of the Lancashire County Club state that, in spite of the wretched weather and diminished attendances of last season, there is a surplus on the year's working of £253, which, the report adds, is the more gratifying in view of the growing claims for winter pay by the professional staff. In this connection the committee believe it to be the wiser policy to deal generously with the staff.

In reviewing the cricket of the county last season, the committee state that they realize their responsibility in the matter of bowling, Barnes and Webb having voluntarily severed their connexion with the club. The desirability of strengthening the bowling is apparent and the committee are devoting their earnest attention to the matter. The closing matches were not without promise, and the fact should not be overlooked that Kermode will be qualified in June next.

The balance-sheet shows subscriptions to the amount of £3,351, and gate and stand receipts to the amount of £4,527.

Monday 28 November, page 13: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club was held in She yesterday. Lord Hawke, in moving the adoption of the season's report, expressed the opinion that, considering the way in which the team were handicapped by injuries during the early part of the season, they had never presented a better record. Only in one respect was there a shortcoming. This was in the fielding, which was not up to the standard of the team's championship seasons.

The second eleven performances were much less satisfactory. They had lost £520 by the second eleven matches, but this was an expense which they were bound to continue in order that men might be trained for the first eleven. It had been arranged for next season to vary the system of training young players and to place them for a time in charge of a coach, whom the committee had yet to appoint.

The committee had to look forward to the possibility of having to find a ground of their own, on which a ground staff with a coach at their head would have to be maintained. If such a ground were purchased the committee would not take away matches from other towns whose support was indispensable to the county club.

Lord Hawke mentioned that the committee were allowing Hirst and Rhodes winter pay during their tour in Australia. In speaking of Hirst's benefit next season, he expressed the opinion that it would be the biggest ever obtained by a professional cricketer in England. He also stated that the number of persons who paid to witness the county matches in Yorkshire last summer was 191,501.

Lord Hawke was unanimously re-elected president. Certain alterations in the rules of the club were unanimously agreed to, the most important of these alterations being the restriction of members' privileges. Hitherto each member has been entitled to take into the ground and enclosure two ladies or two children. In future they would only be able to take one lady or one child.

THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Mr W G Nicholson, M.P., presided, yesterday, at Southampton, over the annual meeting of the Hampshire County Cricket Club. The financial statement showed that, in spite of the bad weather last season, there had been an increase of income of £380. This was mainly brought about by considerable additions to the membership and the portion of the proceeds of the test matches in 1902. On the other hand, however, the expenditure was heavier by %551 and there was an adverse balance of £478. The balance-sheet and report were adopted.

Mr Nicholson was re-elected president and Mr E M Sprot captain, while the name of Lord Alverstone was added to the list of vice-presidents.

Various suggestions were made with a view to improving the financial position of the club, but the proposal that the subscription be increased was not entertained.

It was decided to give Webb a benefit next season in acknowledgement of his ten years' connexion with the club.

Dr Bencraft announced that fixtures would be arranged with the same counties as last season, with the exception that Yorkshire would take the place of Essex. It was also announced that a match between Gentlemen and Players of the South would form part of the Bournemouth Festival.

27 November: QUEENSLAND v M.C.C.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6372.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 28 November, page 13)

The English team to-day began a three days' match against Queensland. Warner gave a rest to Hay, Hirst and Tyldesley, Miller standing down from the Colonial team. Atkins, who captained the home side, won the toss and sent in Patrick and Carew against the bowling of Fielder and Braund. A splendid wicket had been prepared. The weather was warm. The attendance was meagre, but increased later to about 4,000.

The game began in sensational fashion, Patrick being magnificently caught at slip by Braund off the first ball sent down by Fielder. Atkins followed and, with the score raised to 31, Bosanquet went on in place of Fielder. Fifteen more runs were added before a ball from the amateur dismissed Carew. Two for 46.

MacDonald came in and slow play ensued, but Warner did not try another change of bowling until 62, when he put on Relf instead of Braund. Five runs later Relf gave way to Arnold, who separated the batsmen, Atkins playing a ball on to his wicket. Three for 70.

Evans and MacDonald then began the one really big stand of the day. The two batsmen settled down to purely defensive work. At lunch time the score stood at 77 for three wickets, MacDonald not out 9 and Evans not out 7.

On resuming MacDonald and Evans still played a steady game. Rhodes, at 104, took the ball from Bosanquet, and then the character of the game underwent a change, for while the ex-Leicestershire batsman continued to exercise marked patience and devoted all his energies to keeping up his wicket, Evans began to hit out in such vigorous fashion that by the time the total reached 136 he had 55 runs to his credit. Rhodes met with very severe treatment, three overs he sent down yielding 25 runs; so Fielder came on again at 137 and Arnold gave way to Braund.

Still the score rose at a great pace. Warner put Rhodes back at 165 in place of Fielder. This change met with immediate effect, Evans off the first ball delivered after Rhodes resumed being smartly taken at slip by Foster. The partnership for the fourth wicket had produced 95 runs, Evans's

share amounting to 72. Evans always played excellent cricket and, when once well set, hit so hard that he put his fine score together in 65 minutes. He made most of his runs by on-drives, the smallness of the ground being much in favour of the dashing methods he employed.

MacDonald when he lost Evans had made 33. Fitzgerald came next. The fielding continued to be of a very smart description, but the bowling varied greatly, good at one time and loose at another. Fitzgerald hit up 12 of the next 13 runs, and then returned a ball to Braund, half the side being out for 178. The score had not been altered when a catch close in at mid-on sent back Crouch. Another wicket went down soon afterwards, an appeal by Braund for leg before against Griffiths being answered against that batsman, who had made eight of the ten runs added during his stay. At this point the players retired for tea, the total standing at 188 for seven wickets.

When the game was resumed, Foster joined MacDonald and Arnold bowled instead of Rhodes. With the score up to 199 Relf took the ball from Braund, who on 25 overs had dismissed three batsmen for 54 runs. Relf and Arnold did capital work, the latter sending down six maiden overs in succession. By the time the total reached 210 MacDonald had made 47. Foster, of Queensland, helped to put on 41 runs, and then at 229 he was brilliantly caught at slip by R E Foster.

Bosanquet meanwhile had displaced Relf, whose eight overs (five maidens) yielded only ten runs. With Byrne in Arnold retired in favour of Fielder, and at 241 another smart catch at slip by R E Foster, this time off the Kent bowler, disposed of Byrne. One run later the innings came to an end, an appeal for leg before wicket being answered against MacDonald.

MacDonald, going in second wicket down at 46, was last man out at 242, his innings lasting three hours and ten minutes. His 59 was a remarkable exhibition of painstaking and watchful cricket. It included six fours and was quite free from any chance. Braund took three wickets . . .

Warner took Braund in with him to open the Englishmen's innings. Henry and Byrne shared the bowling, the former, as Australian aboriginal, being possessed of tremendous pace. Only six runs had been made when at catch at point sent back Braund. Arnold followed, and with his captain played out time, the score at the close being 221 behind with nine wickets to fall. The weather remained warm and the wicket was in good order at the drawing of stumps.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 November, page 11)

The attendance to-day amounted to 13,000. The weather was pleasant and the ground in perfect condition.

Warner and Arnold went on with the Englishmen's first innings and increased the overnight total to 65 before the second wicket went down. Warner brought his innings to a close with a wretched stroke, hitting a loose ball from Griffith into the hands of MacDonald at square-leg. Foster, the next comer, hit very cleanly. He only made 21, but of these all but one were obtained in fours.

Four wickets were down for 101 when Bosanquet and Knight came together and put on 16 runs before lunch. Afterwards they settled down to admirable cricket. Knight brought off some delightful cuts and well-timed off-drives. A general opinion prevailed that he must obtain a place in the team for the test match. His innings came to an end on an appeal for a catch at the wicket, Knight being obviously dissatisfied with the umpire's decision.

The partnership for the fifth wicket yielded 71 runs, half the side being out for 172. A catch at long-off disposed of Bosanquet, who played lively and attendance cricket for his 37, driving on each side of the wicket with equal ease and power.

With five wickets in hand, the Englishmen had been within 70 runs of their opponents' total, but they finished off 27 runs in arrears, the batsmen playing so faultily at Byrne that the last five wickets went down for the addition of only 43 runs. Lilley was caught at long-off and Rhodes at mid-on. Evans next stumped Relf and a catch at square-leg disposed of Strudwick, the innings being all over for 215. Byrne, a left-handed slow bowler, took five wickets for 74 runs, showing great command over the ball and excellent judgment. Henry took two wickets . . .

The Englishmen expressed the opinion that Henry's tremendously fast ball was sometimes open to doubt as to its fairness.

When Queensland entered upon their second innings Braund and Arnold bowled with such remarkable effect that, despite the fact that the ground was still in good order, nine wickets went down for 90 runs. With half the side out the score had only reached 29. Only seven runs had been made when Carew was run out.

Braund repeatedly had the opposing batsmen in trouble with his slow leg-breaks. Arnold maintained an admirable length, so little being done with him that at one period he sent down nine maidens in succession. Both bowlers were splendidly supported in the field.

Evans and Crouch improved matters, the former again displaying capital cricket, and the partnership for the sixth wicket taking the score from 29 to 59. A catch at cover-point by Arnold then disposed of Evans and, Griffith being soon out, there were seven wickets down for 63. Crouch found a useful partner in Foster, the eighth wicket yielding 26 runs, but before the drawing of stumps both Foster and Byrne had been dismissed - the latter by a catch at short-leg. Queensland, having lost nine batsmen for 90, were 117 runs ahead with one wicket to go down.

Braund, to whom the breakdown in the Queensland batting was mainly due, when play ceased had sent down 18 overs (four maidens) for 50 runs and five wickets, Arnold's record at the same point reading 17 overs for 16 runs and two wickets. All round the Englishmen fielded superbly, Foster and Braund in the slips being especially brilliant. Relf did splendid work at leg, saving a lot of boundaries, and Knight was both energetic and untiring in the long-field. Strudwick kept wicket very smartly.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 December, page 11)

The fourth match of the English cricketers' tour in Australia came to an end here this afternoon, Warner's team winning by six wickets. Queensland were only 117 runs on with one wicket to fall. The ground remained in perfect condition. Only a moderate company assembled to see the finish.

In very hot weather the game was resumed, Crouch, not out 13, being accompanied to the wicket by Henry. The fourth ball sent down by Arnold brought the Queensland innings to an end for the addition of a single, the home side, after batting for two hours and 20 minutes, being all out for 91. The bowling figures were . . .

The Englishmen began their second innings with Warner and Relf, to the bowling of Henry and Byrne. Only 12 runs had been made when, in Byrne's second over, an easy catch at cover point disposed of Warner. Knight came in and Relf, when nine, gave a chance off Byrne to Foster at point. The mistake proved a serious one for Queensland, Relf and Knight carrying the score to 47 before they were separated. With the score at 45 for one wicket, Griffith took the ball from Henry and Relf off the third ball sent down by the new bowler was caught at point. Two for 47.

Foster joined Knight, who at that point had made 16. Knight again batted excellently, but when 19 runs had been added he played a ball from Griffith on to the stumps. Griffith, who had taken two wickets and had had only seven runs scored off him, is tall, bowls right hand, keeps a good length and gets on a useful off-break. Arnold joined Foster, not out ten, the total standing at 66 for three wickets, and at lunch time they had added ten runs and were still together.

On resuming, only 14 runs were obtained before Griffith got Arnold caught at mid-off. With four wickets down for 90, the Englishmen required only 29 runs to win. Bosanquet came in and soon finished the game. Hitting with great freedom, he scored 20 out of the last 29, and England won by six wickets. Foster carried out his bat for an excellent 34. Griffith took three wickets . . .

Wednesday 30 November, page 11: SOMERSET COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Somerset County Cricket Club was held at Taunton on Saturday, Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane presiding.

In the course of his opening speech the chairman said that, in spite of the very bad weather during the past season, Somerset were fortunate in getting many of their matches finished and in obtaining a creditable position in the county championship. He, however, would like to see some new talent in the county eleven, especially in the bowling department, but where it was to come from he could not say.

The balance-sheet showed that, while the year began with the club £63 in hand, it ended with a deficit of £412. The bad weather was held responsible for this. This will necessitated the guarantors being called upon for £3 4s each.

Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane was re-elected president, Mr S M J Woods captain, Mr Murray [Anderdon] and Mr Woods joint secretaries, and Mr Gerald Fowler treasurer.

At a meeting of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club Committee subsequent to the annual general meeting of members it was decided to grant, with a view to encouraging Essex County, a sum of £50 to that club's funds. Even should the response to the present appeal for financial help be successful and the club find itself free from debt before the beginning of next season, it is felt that this generous help on the part of Yorkshire will stimulate interest in the appeal for financial support which will be made on behalf of Essex within the borders of that county and elsewhere.

Thursday 1 December, page 11: WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Mr Stanley Baldwin presided at the annual meeting of the Worcestershire County Club, held yesterday, at Worcester. The report showed that the membership numbered 1,292.

The debt of the club had been reduced by £604 and now amounted to £2,694. With debentures the club owed about £4,000. Lord Coventry was re-elected president, Mr Paul Foley, honorary secretary, and Mr H K Foster, captain.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Lord Clarendon presided yesterday afternoon, at the Midland Hotel, St Pancras, over the annual general meeting of the Hertfordshire County Cricket Club.

A most satisfactory balance-sheet was presented. Subscriptions for the year amounted to £454 12s 6d - more than double the sum of five or six years ago - and the share of the club from the profits of the test matches was £48 0s 3d. Altogether the total income reached £578 19s 2d, and the balance in hand, after meeting all liabilities, was £59 8s 6d.

THE MINOR COUNTIES' SCHEME OF RECLASSIFICATION

At a meeting of the M.C.C. committee at Lord's yesterday the question of the reclassification of counties raised by the Minor Counties Association was discussed. Before giving any decision on the matter it was decided to wait until the views of the various counties had been ascertained.

The scheme, it may be remembered, consists in dividing the counties up into three divisions, while promotion at the end of each season is automatic.

The death occurred, yesterday, of Mr John Edward Kershaw, well known in Lancashire cricket towards the end of the seventies. Mr Kershaw played for Lancashire against the Australians at Manchester in 1878, and his best scores for the county were 66 against Sussex in 1877 and 51 against Kent in the following year. On two occasions he kept wicket while the late Richard Pilling was unwell.

2 December: NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES (EIGHTEEN OF WEST MAITLAND) v M.C.C. (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135173.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 3 December, page 9)

The English cricketers to-day began a two-days' match with Eighteen of West Maitland. The wicket was tricky at the start, but improved. Mr Warner, with Rhodes and Relf, stood down from the English team, which was captained by Mr Foster, who won the toss and sent his opponents in.

The local team had 18 men to bat and 13 to field. The English bowling was weak at first, but improved later. For the home team Mr P S Waddy, late of Oxford University, played an excellent innings of 83. His score included 12 fours and one five. Cameron hit vigorously, his innings of 43 including a six, a five and five fours. Nineteen runs were scored from one over sent down by Mr Bosanquet. The innings closed for 284. The Englishmen fielded brilliantly. Braund took eight wickets for 73 runs . . .

Hayward and Knight opened the batting for the Englishmen. Knight, after making five, was caught at square leg from a poor stroke. The bowling of the local team was weak, and Tyldesley, who came in next, at once set about him in vigorous style. He hit one six, two fives and eight fours, and had scored 81 not out when stumps were drawn. Hayward was not out 58 at the close, the score being 144 for one wicket.

Day 2 (report from Friday 4 December, page 9)

The match between Mr Warner's team and Eighteen of West Maitland and district was resumed to-day. The wicket was excellent, but was slower than yesterday.

Only two runs had been added when Hayward was bowled. The partnership for the second wicket had produced 130 runs. Tyldesley and Foster raised the score to 188 before the third wicket fell. Hirst had only made seven when he returned a ball to the bowler, and Braund was soon caught at slip, the fifth wicket falling at 214 and the sixth at 218.

Bosanquet and Lilley stayed together until lunch, when the score was 305. The fielding was faulty but the bowling improved.

After lunch 85 more runs were added before Bosanquet ran himself out. The stand for the seventh wicket had produced 172 runs. The partnership of Lilley and Arnold added another 58 runs before Arnold was caught at slip.

Fielder, after scoring five, was caught at long-on and Strudwick did not score, the ninth and tenth wickets falling at the same total. Lilley's innings was marred by six chances. The bowling was poor in the latter part of the innings and the fielding faulty. Twenty-two runs were scored in one over from Freeman. Maguire took four wickets . . .

The Australians made a bad start in their second innings, Moore being dismissed by a brilliant catch at slip by Foster off Arnold's bowling and Ebsworth falling to a catch at mid-off. With Hogue and Waddy together a good stand was made, till the former was out leg-before to Bosanquet. Waddy's brilliant innings was eventually brought to a close by Braund at mid-off off Lilley's bowling. His 102 included 13 fours, two fives and one six.

Lindsay and McGlinchy played out time. The match was drawn . . .

Thursday 3 December, page 9

The Leicestershire County Cricket Committee met yesterday afternoon, at Leicester, to consider a proposal placed before it as to the suggested new county cricket competition. The committee decided [generally to] approve the scheme provided a sufficient number of the counties enter and the details are arranged to the satisfaction of the clubs at the meeting of secretaries on Monday next. Mr C Marriott and Mr T Burdett were appointed to attend the meeting.

Below will be found details of the amounts which are expected to be realized for distribution from the games in the suggested new competition between the first-class counties. The proposal is that, in addition to and in no way interfering with the present county championship, there be instituted a new inter-county tournament, to be played in four rounds, the team beaten in each round falling out. The 15 first-class counties are to be invited to compete, together with one other team, which, in view of the fact that the scheme has the support of Dr W G Grace, may be London County.

The first round is to be decided by June 18, the second by July 16, the semi-final by August 13 and the final by September 3. In the first and second round the matches are to be played on the grounds of the counties drawn first in each tie, with hours of play from 11 o'clock to 7, and unfinished matches are to be decided on the first innings. In the semi-final and final rounds the games are to be contested on neutral grounds, with similar hours of play, or else four or more days are to be allotted to them.

In the first round the net profit of each match is to be equally divided between the two clubs, but in the succeeding rounds, the net profit are to be taxed in favour of a pooling fund, which is to be distributed, either among all the counties entered for the competition, or among those who do not reach the final round. The sum thus derived is expected to amount to more than \$5,000.

The money is expected to come as follows: - The profits on each one of the four matches in the second round is taken at £300, or £1,200 in all, and of this one-third - £400 - is devoted to the pooling fund. In each of the semi-final ties the receipts are taken at £1,500, made up by 10,000 people at 18d each on the first day, 5,000 on the second day and 5,000 on the third.

Against this sum expenses are reckoned to total £300, consisting of team's expenses, £150, advertising and ground officials, £50, and hire of ground, £100, leaving a balance of £1,200. Of this £420 will be discovered between the two contending counties, giving a remainder of £780 profit on each of the two matches. This gives £1,560 further available for the pooling fund.

The final tie is expected to yield £4,125 in gate and other receipts upon an estimate of 20,000 people on the first day at 18d a head, 20,000 on the second, 10,000 on the third and 5,000 on the fourth. The expenses are again reckoned at £300. The opposing sides take between them £685, leaving a further sum for the pooling fund of £3,140, or £5,100 in all.

In this optimistic calculation it may be noted that the possibility of bad weather or of a match being finished in two days is not taken into account. Further, that the cost of police, gatemen, umpires, scores and printing for a game which is to extend over four days and attract in all 35,000 people is estimated at only £50.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB

At a meeting of the Sussex County Committee at Brighton, yesterday, the following resolution respecting the proposed new county competition was passed: -

"The committee of the Sussex County Cricket Club are in favour of the principle of the proposed scheme, and will give it their support provided that the necessary details can be satisfactorily arranged."

THE DERBYSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A special meeting of the committee of the Derbyshire County Cricket Club was held at Derby yesterday, Mr Hughes Hallett presiding. The principal business which the meeting had to discuss was the new scheme for establishing a county competition on the knock-out principle. The following resolution was passed: -

The committee approve of the general principle of a county tournament as suggested by Mr C B Fry, and are prepared to give direct adhesion to the scheme on satisfactory details being arranged."

Derbyshire will play the same counties next season as in 1903 with the addition of Sussex, whilst the Indian and South African teams will also be met at Derby.

4 December: NEWCASTLE v M.C.C.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135174.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 5 December, page 13)

The English cricketers to-day began a two-days' match against a team representing Newcastle and district in fine weather. The attendance was small. Mr Warner again stood out of the team, and also gave a rest to Lilley and Arnold. The conditions were all in favour of the batsmen, as the ground was small, the outfield uneven and the wicket good.

The bowling the Englishmen had to face was not difficult and from the outset runs came at a great pace. When Mr Foster had scored 60 he gave an easy chance of stumping, which was not accepted. In 70 minutes 147 runs were scored, and then Mr Foster was caught at cover-point for a splendid innings of 105, which included one five and 19 fours. Hayward, who had batted in correct style, was joined by Tyldesley, and these two carried the score to 159 before lunch, when Hayward had scored 47 and Tyldesley five.

After lunch Tyldesley was quickly disposed of by an easy catch at mid-off, the second wicket falling at 159. Wickets after this fell fast. Knight was caught at the wicket after making five. Hirst, Bosanquet and Rhodes made no stay, all falling to catches in the slips, while Relf was caught at mid-on. After making 87 without a chance Hayward was clean bowled. Nine wickets were down for 247, but a useful stand was made for the last wicket, 59 runs being added before Strudwick was caught at slip. The home team had 12 men in the field.

In the afternoon the spectators numbered quite 2,000. Ripon and Hogue opened the innings to the bowling of Hirst and Relf. Ripon played a careful game, while his partner scored more freely; but the bowling was extremely good and the fielding so close that run-getting was difficult. At the close of play six wickets were down for 74, Hirst having taken three for nine and Relf three for 39.

Day 2 (report from Monday 7 December, page 11)

The match between the English team and 15 of Newcastle and district was resumed to-day before a moderate attendance. The weather was cool and the wicket remained excellent.

On Hogue and Dent continuing the Newcastle innings only six runs were added to the overnight total of 74 runs for six wickets before Hogue was caught by Rhodes at short leg off Hirst's bowling. The eighth wicket fell at 85 and the ninth at 104, but the tenth put on 33 runs and the 11th 47. The 11th wicket fell at 184 and the next two at 189. The English bowling and fielding were admirable. Hirst took five wickets . . .

The Englishmen then went in again, holding a lead of 103 runs. The wicket had crumbled but scoring was very rapid. Hirst's 51 included nine fours. He was caught from a miss-hit in the slips. At the tea interval the score stood at 220 for six wickets.

The wickets fell as follows: - One for 41, two for 52, three for 83, four for 89, five for 106, six for 195.

Tyldesley, who was not out 76 at the interval, afterwards increased his score to 127, playing in vigorous style and hitting finely on both sides of the wicket. He was missed at long-off when he had made 109, and again at slip at 125. His innings included 18 fours. Bosanquet was caught at long-on soon after the resumption of play, but Braund played a splendid innings of 64 not out and his nine fours and two sixes . . .

Tuesday 8 December, page 12: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE TEST MATCH

Sydney, Dec. 7.

The following team has been selected to represent Australia in the test match to begin here on the 11th inst.: - Clement Hill, Noble, Trumper, Duff, Kelly, Hopkins, Sydney Gregory, Howell, Saunders, Armstrong and Laver, with Jennings as emergency man. - Reuter.

MEETING OF COUNTY CAPTAINS

At Lord's, yesterday, the annual meeting of the captains of the first-class counties took place, Mr F E Lacey, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, presiding. Those present were Mr G MacGregor (Middlesex), Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire), Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire), Mr H K Foster (Worcestershire), Mr C B Fry (Sussex), Mr J F Byrne (Warwickshire), Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire), Mr S M J Woods (Somerset), Mr A O Jones (Nottinghamshire), Mr K J Key (Surrey), Mr W B Delacombe (Derbyshire), Mr V F S Crawford (Leicestershire), Mr C J Burnup (Kent), Mr H G Owen (Essex), Mr E M Sprot (Hampshire) and Dr W G Grace (London County).

The only business before the meeting consisted in the selection of umpires for first-class county matches next season. The following were appointed to act: -

W Attewell, R G Barlow, J Carlin, W Hearn, T Mycroft, J Moss, J Phillips, A Pike, W Richards, C E Richardson, A Shaw, V A Titchmarsh, J E West, W A J West, A White, W Wright, L Hall, A Millward, W Shrewsbury and A Rogers. The last four displace G Bean, F Martin, G Porter and G B Nichols. Martin, Porter, A D Pougher, S Brown and F Parris were chosen as supernumerary umpires.

THE PROPOSED NEW COUNTY COMPETITION

After the meeting of county captains, there was a meeting at Lord's to consider the proposed county competition on the "knock-out" principle. The proceedings were private.

Among those present were Mr J A Dixon and Mr A O Jones (Nottinghamshire), Mr H W Bainbridge and Mr J F Byrne (Warwickshire), Mr W B Delacombe (Derbyshire), Mr T Pawley and Mr C J Burnup (Kent), Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire), Mr H G Owen and Mr O R Borradaile (Essex), Mr E M Sprot, Dr Russell Bencraft, Mr H Hesketh-Pritchard and Mr F H Bacon (Hampshire), Mr A C MacLaren and Mr J Horner (Lancashire), Mr V F S Crawford (Leicestershire), Mr G MacGregor (Middlesex), Mr S M J Woods (Somerset), Mr K J Key (Surrey), Mr C B Fry, Mr W Newham and Mr G Brann (Sussex), Mr H K Foster (Worcestershire), Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire) and Dr W G Grace (London County).

After a discussion extending over several hours, Mr Fry announced that the minutes of the meeting were in a confused condition and that no report of the proceedings could be furnished to the Press. He stated further that the representative of several counties had expressed their approval of the scheme, provided that details could be satisfactorily arranged. A report of the meeting is being prepared and will be issued to-day.

Wednesday 9 December, page 11: MEETING OF COUNTY SECRETARIES

THE FIRST-CLASS FIXTURES FOR 1904

The meeting of county secretaries was held at Lord's yesterday, Mr F E Lacey, secretary of the M.C.C., presiding. The business was confined to the arranging of fixtures for next season.

Mr Lacey said that a match would be played between an eleven of England and the South Africans at Lord's, beginning on July 14, and he hoped that the counties would make it convenient to let off any professionals who were wanted, as it was desired to make the match fully representative. The first-class fixtures arranged for next summer are given below: -

[Note: the full first-class fixture list for 1904 can be found at:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1904_f_Match_List.html]

THE MINOR COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION

Before the secretaries' meeting the representatives of the minor counties held their annual meeting at Lord's yesterday, under the presidency of Mr P J de Paravicini (Bucks).

Others present were Mr R W Allen and Mr W W Marks (Bedfordshire), Sir C E M Y Nepean (Berkshire), Mr C R H Gresson and Mr H E Bull (Bucks), Major O Papworth (Cambridgeshire), Mr P Colville Smith and Mr H Gray (Cornwall), the Rev S U Featherstone (Devon), Mr W H Manfield (Dorset), Mr W R Wilson and Mr R H Mallett (Durham), Dr J Earl Norman (Hertfordshire), Mr Aubrey Butler (Monmouthshire), Mr A J Darnell and Mr P W Dale (Northamptonshire), Mr E G Buxton (Norfolk), Mr H W Turner (Oxfordshire), Mr W C Hancock and Mr H D Stratton (Staffordshire), Mr R L Hodgson (Suffolk), Mr C A Stein, Mr C W Alcock and Mr H D G Leveson-Gower (Surrey Second Eleven), Mr A M Miller (Wiltshire), Mr F C Toone and Mr R W Frank (Yorkshire Second Eleven).

After the officers had been selected, an alteration to Rule 9, which governs the scoring in the second-class county championship was proposed, an amendment amounting to practically the same thing being subsequently carried. This amendment was to the following effect: - "That matches in which both sides shall not have completed an innings shall not count in the percentage of possible points obtainable."

Mr Mallett, who was the only dissentient, said that it was a retrograde movement and would be an encouragement to teams to draw matches. The idea of adopting a new system of scoring had been to do away with drawn matches, and he pointed out that the system had been tried in two seasons that were abnormally wet. It was left to Dr Norman and Mr Mallett to draft the new rule.

Mr Mallett then spoke upon the proposed system of promotion by merit put forward by the Minor Counties Cricket Association. He pointed out that there was no glamour of gate money about the proposal, and from the way it had been received he thought that they had possibly been wrong in their methods of placing it before the counties. They had striven, however, to make it as simple as possible, and their aim had been to protect, as far as possible, those first-class counties who might be in danger of reduction, if the scheme were adopted. He said, however, that in a system of promotion it was impossible to avoid risks of this kind. The matter having been placed before the Marylebone Club, the second-class counties could do nothing further until they had received an expression of opinion upon the subject.

With regard to the cup competition scheme Mr Mallett had written, asking about the desirability of a qualifying competition for the second-class counties, but as yet he had had no reply.

Mr Marks, who did not oppose the promotion scheme, saw difficulties in the way of some of the minor counties owing to lack of money, as they could not afford to play almost twice as many matches in order to qualify for promotion.

Mr Darnell strongly supported the idea, and said that if Mr Fry and others had given it their consideration instead of advocating an opposition scheme they would have done far more in the real interests of cricket in general.

THE PROPOSED NEW COUNTY COMPETITION

The following are the details of the new inter-county tournament as drafted by representatives of counties favouring the principle of the new tournament. These details are to be presented to the county committees before coming before the committee of management for confirmation and possible revision: -

(1) That the number of competitors be not less than eight first-class counties, and not more than 16 competitors in all for 1904;

(2) that the first round be played by June 25, that the second round be played by July 31; that the semi-finals be played by September 3, that the final be played by September 17;

(3) that for the control of this competition there be appointed a committee of management consisting of one representative from each competing county;

(4) that in all matches up to and including the semi-finals play should start at 11 and finish at 7, when possible, each day, and if not finished matches shall be decided by the first innings;

- (5) that the final match be played to a finish;
- (6) that in the first two rounds and semi-finals the county which shall be first draw shall have choice of ground, and that the final shall be played on neutral ground;
- (7) that all expenses in connexion with players - amateur or professional - be paid by their respective clubs and not taken out of the gate-money, the only expenses to be paid out of the gate-money being umpires, advertising and ground expenses, gate-keepers and attendants, lunches and teas of players and acting officials;
- (8) that the rule relating to admission of club members be the same as that in force in the present county championship matches;
- (9) that in the first round, after the authorized match expenses as specified are paid, the net proceeds of the gate and stand money, sale of match cards, &c., of each match shall be equally divided between the two competing clubs; loss, if any, on the match to be equally borne by the two competing clubs;
- (10) that in the second round and semi-finals, after the authorized match expenses as specified are paid, one-third of the net proceeds of gate and stand money, sale of match cards, &c., shall be paid to each of the competing clubs, and the remaining third be placed in a pooling fund for subsequent division among all the competing counties;
- (11) that in the final, after the authorized match expenses as specified are paid, the two competing clubs shall receive 25 per cent each and the before-mentioned pooling fund 50 per cent of the net proceeds of gate and stand money, sale of match cards, &c., but it is provided that before any sum is placed to the pooling fund £75 shall be paid to each competing club to cover their team expenses;
- (12) that entries be sent in to the hon. secretary by January 31, 1904;
- (13) that Mr F H Bacon be the hon. secretary pro tem.

THE SUSSEX CAPTAINCY

K S Ranjitsinhji has recently resigned the captaincy of Sussex. The county committee have accepted his resignation, but fully anticipate that he will play for Sussex next season. Mr C B Fry was yesterday offered the position of captain, and although he has not yet given a definite reply it is confidently expected that he will accept the office.

Thursday 10 December, page 9: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR THE TEST MATCH

Sydney, Dec. 9.

Subject to weather conditions, Knight, Fielder and Strudwick will be omitted from the English team in the first test match. The umpires will be Crockett, of Melbourne, and Jones, of Sydney. The weather at present is threatening.

Mr Warner has received a telegram from Mr Lacey saying that he understood that the M.C.C. law relating to declaring would apply to all matches in Australia, but authorizing the waiving of the wicket in the test matches. - Reuter.

MINOR COUNTIES UMPIRES

The umpires to officiate in the second-class county matches next season were appointed at Lord's yesterday as follows: -

North. - C E Bartram, D Bookless, W Copeland, J Gregory, G P Harrison and M Myers.
Midland. - H Coulson, R Rogers, G Rye, A Stockwin, S Wrigley, T W Cherry, H Briscoe and Clifton.
South. - Griffiths, J Holton, W Hearne, R Humphrey, Mason, Willoughby, W Jennings (half time), Gladwin, Mills, C E Brown, H F Rogers, R Barber and S E Whitelaw.

11 December: AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND (First Test Match)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6375.html)

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

Sydney, Dec. 11, Noon.

The first test match between Mr Warner's team and a team representing all Australia began here to-day in fine warm weather. There was a large attendance. The Australian team is as already telegraphed, Jennings, the reserve man, being left out. Noble won the toss and elected to bat. The wicket is in good condition.

When only two runs had been scored Trumper was brilliantly caught in the slips off Arnold after only making a single. One wicket for two.

Hill joined Duff, but a few minutes afterwards the latter fell a victim to the same bowler, being caught at the wicket with his score at only three. Two wickets down for nine. Hill quickly followed, being caught at the wicket off Hirst for five. Three wickets down for 12.

Saturday 12 December, page 13: Sydney, Dec. 11.

The first of the five test matches between England and Australia was begun here to-day. Warm and fine weather prevailed at the start, but afterwards the air became thundery, slight rain falling, and the light at times becoming somewhat defective. There was a good attendance of spectators when the match began, which increased until the numbers amounted to 17,000.

Warner made no change from the side he had selected, Knight, Fielder and Strudwick standing down. The Australians did not use their twelfth man - Jennings, of South Australia.

Noble, who captained the Australians, won the toss and, the wicket being in excellent condition, took first innings, sending in Duff and Trumper. Hirst and Arnold started the bowling.

After each batsman had scored a single from Hirst, Trumper, off the first ball from Arnold, was brilliantly taken at slip by Foster, who, in making the catch, fell on his shoulder but managed to hold the ball. Foster was loudly cheered.

With the first wicket down for two runs, Hill joined Duff, but the score had only reached nine when a catch at the wicket sent back Duff, Arnold having taken two wickets for six runs. Noble came next. Three more runs were added and then another catch by Lilley - this time off Hirst - disposed of Hill. Thus three of the best batsmen in the side were dismissed for a dozen runs in the first 20 minutes of the game.

At this point Armstrong became Noble's partner and some extremely cautious cricket ensued. The Englishmen fielded superbly, Warner especially distinguishing himself by his work at cover-point. Noble took three-quarters of an hour to bring his score to ten, and when play had lasted an hour the total was only 30.

Braund at 36 went on in place of Hirst, who had bowled 11 overs (six maidens) for eight runs and a wicket, but after sending down one over he gave way to Bosanquet and crossed to the other end. Arnold's analysis then read: - 12 overs, three maidens, 29 runs, two wickets. Runs came more freely after these changes, Bosanquet meeting with some punishment.

Armstrong, with his score at 19, was appealed against by Braund for leg before wicket, but the umpire decided in favour of the batsman. At the luncheon interval the total stood at 59 for three wickets, Noble not out 23 and Armstrong not out 25.

When the game was resumed Arnold bowled in place of Bosanquet. There was a brief stoppage owing to a runaway advertisement kite falling in the arena.

Noble and Armstrong still played a strictly defensive game. Arnold bowled admirably, and not only came fast off the pitch, but occasionally got up awkwardly. However, he failed to separate the batsmen, so at 79 he retired in favour of Hirst. Armstrong made two splendid cuts for four in one over from the new bowler, and the hundred was reached when the innings had been in progress for two hours and a quarter, Noble being 44 and Armstrong 45.

Braund still bowled steadily, but Hirst at 108 gave way to Bosanquet, whose first over yielded nine runs. Noble just afterwards had a narrow escape from being run out. With the score at 117 Braund, after sending down 17 overs (seven maidens) for 22 runs, gave way to Rhodes, the latter being loudly cheered.

Only one more run had been added when, Bosanquet bowling Armstrong, the partnership came to an end. It had lasted nearly two hours and a quarter and had provided 106 runs, the fourth wicket falling at 118. Armstrong had played a steady game for his 48, in which were four fours. He gave no chance.

Hopkins joined Noble, not out 59. He was missed at deep point when only seven, and when 12 gave Lilley a chance of stumping him, which was not taken. Rhodes was the bowler on each occasion.

Noble continued to bat splendidly, and after Hirst had relieved Bosanquet the rate of scoring improved. Rhodes, having bowled eight overs (three maidens) for 11 runs, gave way to Arnold at 160 and, with the total unaltered, Warner put on Relf at one end and Braund at the other. At the tea interval the score stood at 160 for four wickets, Noble being 80 and Hopkins 20.

On resuming Hopkins drove Relf twice to the on for four in one over. Rhodes came on again at 184, four overs from Relf having yielded 15 runs. There was tremendous cheering when Noble reached his 100 after batting for three hours and 35 minutes. Two hundred appeared on the board with only four wickets down.

At this point Hirst took the place of Rhodes and disposed of Hopkins, who played a ball on to his wicket, half the side being out for 200. Lucky as he was at starting, Hopkins played bright, attractive cricket, making 39 out of 82 added for the fifth wicket in 65 minutes. His innings included eight fours.

The afternoon turned very dull, the light deteriorating and there being every appearance of a storm.

Howell joined his captain, but on Arnold relieving Braund, he was caught at long-on, the sixth wicket falling at 207. Gregory came next. Noble with his score at 100 should have been run out, but Bosanquet at mid-on returned wildly to Hirst, the bowler.

The light grew worse and a slight drizzle set in, but the rain was not sufficient either to stop the play or [affect] the pitch. Gregory batted very carefully. Hirst, who had taken two wickets for 46 runs, gave way to Relf at 231, and the latter in turn retired in favour of Braund. Rhodes next relieved Arnold, whose bowling at that point came out at three wickets for 64 runs.

Warner tried one more change - Bosanquet for Braund at 256 - and with three runs added Bosanquet bowled Gregory. The partnership had produced 52 runs. On Gregory's dismissal stumps were drawn for the day, the total standing at 259 for seven wickets.

Noble, 132 not out, was enthusiastically cheered, the English team joining heartily in the cheers. His innings, so far, includes 16 fours.

Apart from the two blunders made soon after Hopkins came in, the fielding of the Englishmen was very good. Warner at cover-point, Hirst at mid-off and Tyldesley and Hayward in the long field saved many runs, and Lilley was in brilliant form behind the stumps.

After the close of play a thunderstorm burst over the city, and at 8 o'clock this evening rain was falling heavily. - Reuter.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 December, page 13)

When the test match was resumed this morning the weather was still muggy, last night's storm having failed to clear the air. But there was again a large attendance.

Laver joined Noble at the wickets and the attack was opened by Bosanquet and Arnold, but after a run or two had been added Rhodes took Bosanquet's place, and at his third ball Laver was given out leg-before-wicket. The eighth wicket had only added four runs to the overnight score of 259. Noble's next partner was Kelly, but only a dozen runs had been added when the Australian captain at last met his fate, Foster again distinguishing himself by another brilliant catch at square leg.

Noble was accorded a great ovation. The score at his retirement stood at 271, and ten minutes later the last wicket fell for a total of 285, Kelly being caught in the slips off Rhodes.

Monday 14 December, page 14: Sydney, Dec. 12

The Englishmen accomplished a fine performance here to-day and left off at the drawing of stumps in distinctly the stronger position. They finished off, for the addition of only 26 runs, the Australians' innings, in which yesterday 259 runs had been scored for seven wickets, and, at the close of play, with six wickets in hand, were within 42 runs of their opponents.

Following upon the heavy rain which set in after the drawing of stumps last evening, the weather to-day proved muggy in the morning, but it cleared about lunch time, and for the remainder of the afternoon was bright and hot. The wicket at the start gave the bowlers material assistance, but it steadily recovered as the day advanced, and towards the close was in excellent condition.

A big crowd had assembled before play began, and when the game was resumed after lunch there were quite 25,000 people present, while late in the afternoon the company amounted to fully 36,000. The ground, indeed, was packed, and the ladies' enclosure, filled to its utmost capacity, presented a charming picture. All day long the play was followed with the keenest interest and attention.

Noble, not out 132, accompanied by Laver, continued the first innings of Australia against the bowling of Bosanquet and Arnold. It was soon obvious that the bowlers could make the ball "bite," and when four runs had been added Warner took off Bosanquet in favour of Rhodes. The change took immediate effect, Rhodes, with the third ball he sent down, getting Laver leg-before. Eight wickets were then down for 263.

Kelly joined Noble, but eight runs later a brilliant one-handed catch at square leg by Foster brought the Australian captain's splendid innings to a close. For rather more than four hours and 40 minutes had Noble withstood the English bowling, going in second wicket down at 9 and being ninth man out at 271. Shortly after completing his hundred he should have been run out, but he gave no other chance, his batting from start to finish being of the most skilful description, watchful to a degree at first and later on most brilliant at times. He hit 16 fours. He retired amidst tremendous cheering and was warmly congratulated by the Englishmen, Warner subsequently speaking of the innings in terms of the highest praise.

Saunders hit up 11 of the next 14 runs, and then, a catch in the slips disposing of Kelly, the Australian innings, which had extended over five hours and nine minutes, came to an end. Lilley did not give away a single bye, the three extras being no-balls.

England made a disastrous start against the bowling of Saunders and Laver, Warner, who went in first with Hayward, being caught at the wicket, before a run had been scored, off the third ball sent down by Laver. Tyldesley, who followed, at once began to hit out in brilliant style. In one over from Saunders he scored 11 runs by a "hook" stroke to leg, an on drive and a leg glance, and soon afterwards by drives he made eight runs in one over from Laver. He continued to bat in most plucky fashion, scoring very rapidly by drives and strokes on the leg side, and eliciting much applause.

Noble, at 37, tried Howell for Laver, and went on himself for Saunders. Twelve runs later a ball from Howell bowled Hayward, the second wicket falling at 49. Arnold, who came next, had not long joined Tyldesley when the luncheon interval took place, the total standing at 56 for two wickets, Tyldesley being 38 and Arnold 3.

Delightful conditions prevailed when the game was resumed and intense enthusiasm was displayed by the spectators. With a single added Saunders displaced Howell. Tyldesley still played most attractive cricket, but when the score had reached 73 a splendid ball from Noble took his wicket. Batting for only an hour, he made some glorious off-drives and neat strokes to leg, among his hits being eight fours. He retired amid hearty applause.

With Foster in Gregory was several times cheered for the accuracy of his fielding at mid-off, both in stopping the ball and in returning it to the wicket. Noble gave way to Laver at 67, and then Foster began to hit with freedom, the crispness of his cutting and his wrist work generally being much admired. Howell at 96 relieved Saunders, but the 100 was reached in 82 minutes. Armstrong was given a trial at 113 and then the play turned extremely quiet, both batsmen exercising considerable caution. Only four runs had been added, all of them off Armstrong, when a catch at short leg brought Arnold's innings to a close, the fourth wicket falling at 117.

Braund came next, and after Hopkins and Saunders had taken up the bowling, the former at 123 and the latter at 132, the tea interval arrived with the score at 135 for four wickets, Foster not out 30 and Braund not out 7.

When the players returned to the field Armstrong resumed and Laver went on in place of Hopkins. Foster and Braund successfully attempted some very sharp runs, but on one occasion Foster came into collision with Laver and fell at full length amid general laughter. Armstrong and Laver bowled very steadily and the batsmen took no risks for a time, Laver twice sending down four maidens in succession. Foster was watchful and cautious, while Braund, exercising much self-control, played thoroughly correct cricket and always made his strokes cleanly.

Noble tried two more changes, putting on Saunders for Armstrong at 160 and two runs later going on himself in place of Laver, but amid much cheering Foster completed his 50 in an hour and 54 minutes. Directly afterwards Foster enjoyed a piece of luck, as, with his score at 51, he was, from Saunders's bowling, missed by Gregory at mid-off. Howell relieved Saunders at 193, and with a single added Noble called upon Trumper to bowl.

The 200 appeared on the board when the innings had lasted just over three hours and a quarter. Trumper, after delivering one over, gave way to Hopkins and went on at the other end to relieved Howell, but he soon retired in favour of Armstrong. Braund reached his 50 in an hour and 55 minutes. Before this the bowlers had begun to tire and the batsmen were able to play with more freedom. Laver and Saunders were once morning tried, but to no purpose, Foster and Braund having added 126 runs and being still together at the drawing of stumps. So far Foster has hit seven 4s and Braund nine 4s.

The wicket when play ceased had every appearance of lasting well.

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

The Englishmen's total to-day of 577 is the second highest ever obtained in a test match, while Foster's innings of 287 beat all records in the test games between England and Australia. The weather was warm and bright, and the wicket in perfect condition - much faster than on Saturday. The attendance at the end of the afternoon was 12,000. At the drawing of stumps on Saturday the score stood - Australia, first innings, 285; England, 243 for four wickets.

Foster, not out 73, and Braund, not out, 67, went on with England's innings to-day, Noble and Howell bowling. After seven runs had been added Saunders took Noble's place, who crossed over to Howell's end. Foster showed far more freedom than on Saturday, and from the first batted splendidly. Braund was also in fine form, his off-drives being very powerful and well-placed.

When Foster had made 83 Saunders appealed against him for leg-before-wicket, but the decision was in the batsman's favour. Just after this ten runs were hit from Noble in one over. Having scored 82 Braund lifted a ball from Saunders and was missed by Hopkins on the boundary. At 282 a double change was tried, Howell going on again for Noble and Laver relieving Saunders. Braund was loudly cheered for a superb off-drive to the ring off Laver. The Australian total was passed when the innings had been in progress four hours and 40 minutes.

On completing their hundreds the batsmen were enthusiastically cheered. Immediately afterwards, with the total at 309, Braund, in attempting an off-drive, was bowled by Howell. The partnership for the fifth wicket lasted just over two hours and 50 minutes and produced 192 runs. Braund made few risky strokes. His innings included 15 fours. Foster, in scoring his hundred, was batting for a little over three hours and three-quarters.

Hirst came in next, but without making a run was bowled by a break back from Howell, who at this time was keeping a perfect length and getting on a lot of spin. When he bowled Hirst his record for the innings was three wickets for 46 run. Bosanquet joined Foster, and at 314 Noble bowled in place of

Laver, from whom so far 65 runs had been scored. A brilliant catch at slip soon got rid of Bosanquet, and at lunch the total stood at 318 for seven wickets. Foster was not out 109.

When the game was resumed Lilley went in, but was caught at long-off when the score had been increased to 332. From this point the batting completely mastered the bowling. Relf, the next in, played a defensive game and left all the run-getting to Foster, who, settling down again into his best form, gave a brilliant display, driving with great power and making a number of good late cuts. He was greatly cheered when he passed Noble's score of 133, his innings having then lasted nearly four hours and three-quarters.

At 347 Saunders took the place of Howell, who had so far to-day bowled 11 overs five maidens for 34 run and two wickets. With his score at 134 Foster gave a difficult chance to Hill at square-leg off Saunders's bowling. Relf had been at the wickets 21 minutes when he scored his first run. Foster, as time went on, caused several changes of bowling and was repeatedly cheered for his brilliant hitting.

At 365 Armstrong took the ball from Saunders and the field spread out for his leg-breaks, Hill, Duff, Trumper and Howell being placed on the boundaries. A little later Noble, who had taken three wickets for 72 runs, gave way to Laver. Relf continued to play with great patience and care, risking nothing, but Foster showed great freedom, all bowling coming alike to him. Trumper bowled for Armstrong at 381, Hopkins for Laver at 386 and Howell for Trumper at 395. When 400 went up the innings had lasted six hours and a half.

Noble put himself on again in place of Hopkins at 412. The regular bowlers having failed to get a wicket, Gregory was tried at Howell's end, some of the spectators shouting "Put on Hill." Then at 437 Saunders relieved Noble. Foster completed his second 100 after batting for just over five hours and three-quarters, his play at this time being most masterful and beyond reproach. The total having reached 447, Relf was caught at slip. At the tea interval Foster was 203 not out.

After tea Rhodes joined Foster, and Armstrong bowled instead of Gregory. Foster was cheered enthusiastically when he beat the record score in test matches - Murdoch's 211 at the Oval in 1884. Noble shook hands with him and there was a great demonstration. Runs came steadily, and at 480 Noble bowled again for Saunders. However at 493 he gave way to Laver. Foster was troubled by a sore finger and was evidently getting tired. When 500 went up the innings had been in progress just over seven hours and a half. Foster at this point had made 235 and Rhodes 17.

Howell went on at 515, but 16 runs were hit from him in one over, Foster getting 13 of them. There was great cheering when Foster's score reached 250. His mastery over the bowling was so complete that he did what he liked with it. Saunders went on for Howell at 558. Runs came very fast, and at 571 Noble took the ball from Laver.

At last the innings came to an end. Foster, amid tremendous cheering, equalled the Australian total off his own bat, but having made 287 he was caught at mid-off. His marvellous display extended over seven hours and included 45 fours. On Saturday he showed much self-restraint and played a very safe game, but to-day he adopted different tactics, batting with great dash and freedom. His timing and placing were excellent.

The Australian eleven joined heartily in the enthusiastic cheers that greeted him on his way back to the pavilion. Rhodes, in helping to put on 130 runs for the last wicket, played excellent cricket. England's innings of 577 lasted just over eight hours. The work done by Duff at mid-off, Gregory at forward cover-point and Hopkins in the deep field was very fine.

Kelly and Gregory started Australia's second innings, Hirst and Arnold bowling. With the score at 10 Rhodes and Bosanquet were tried, but the batsmen, playing very carefully, remained together till the close, the total being then 16. The wicket is still in good condition.

Day 4 (report from Tuesday 15 December, page 11)

On the resumption of play in the test match this morning, Gregory and Kelly, who yesterday opened the Australians' second innings, faced the bowling of Hirst and Arnold. Both played cautiously, and in nearly half an hour the overnight score of 16 had been raised to 29. At 36 Kelly, who had made 13, was bowled by Arnold, Gregory then having 18 to his account.

At the lunch interval the Australians had made 108 for the loss of two wickets. - Reuter.

Wednesday 16 December, page 13: Sydney, Dec. 15.

The Australians played a splendid uphill game to-day, and not only averted a single innings defeat, but left off with five wickets in hand and a lead of 75 runs.

In their second innings yesterday they scored 16 without losing a wicket. Gregory and Kelly, the not-outs, went on batting to-day in pleasant weather, to the bowling of Hirst and Arnold. The wicket, although still in good condition, appeared slightly worn. When the total had been raised to 34 a change was tried, Bosanquet taking Hirst's place. With two runs added, Kelly was bowled by Arnold.

Duff came in, and he and Gregory, being very quick and keen between the wickets, brought off some short runs. At 48 Hirst resumed for Bosanquet. The fielding became uncertain and was marred occasionally by wild returns. The score steadily rose, and at 80 Bosanquet was tried in place of Arnold. When the hundred went up the innings had been in progress an hour and 35 minutes. Both batsmen were playing good cricket, Duff pulling with great skill and Gregory making good late cuts.

As Bosanquet could not get his length, he gave way to Braund at 106 and Rhodes relieved Hirst. The latter of these changes proved successful, as off Rhodes's third ball Gregory was caught at the wicket. At lunch the score was 108, Duff having so far made 42.

Hill joined Duff, and at 116 Rhodes gave way to Hirst. Another change was tried at 134, Arnold taking the ball from Braund. Having made 54 Duff survived an appeal for leg before wicket by Arnold. The cricket was quiet for a time, and then 11 runs were hit from Arnold in one over. At 163 Warner made a double change, putting on Rhodes for Hirst and Bosanquet for Arnold. When he had scored 68 Duff nearly ran himself out. The batsmen were very smart between wickets, and the fielding - apart from Hirst at mid-off - became loose.

As no wicket fell, Relf was tried in place of Bosanquet at 184. Rhodes bowled very well, keeping an admirable length, and at 191 he got rid of Duff, who played a ball softly into mid-on's hands. Duff gave no chance in his innings, which lasted two hours and ten minutes. He hit vigorously and his timing was excellent. At the fall of the wicket Hill had made 37.

Trumper came in, and the fielding did not improve. Two hundred went up, the runs having been obtained in exactly 200 minutes. At the tea interval the total was 207, Hill being not out 46 and Trumper not out seven. When relieved by Hirst at 206, Rhodes had bowled 13 overs, five maidens, for 17 runs, and had taken two wickets.

Afterwards runs were steadily added, and at 232 Rhodes bowled again for Hirst and Braund relieved Relf, who had sent down ten overs for 21. The second of the changes brought about a sudden change in the cricket, 20 runs being scored in Braund's first over. Trumper made 16 of them by late cuts. In attempting to get a fifth run for an overthrow, Hill was run out, the wicket falling at 253.

The decision was given by Crockett, the Melbourne umpire. The crowd made a hostile demonstration and yelled their disapproval. Warner went towards the grand stand to address the spectators, but could not be heard through the continued hooting. The game was delayed for a long time. Hill was batting two hours for his 51 and only hit two fours.

When at last play was resumed, Noble joining Trumper, the "barracking" went on intermittently for some time. Trumper scored very fast and punished Braund for 18 runs in one over. He made four fours in succession - three leg hits and an off-drive. At 281 Braund gave place to Arnold. Cheers for Hill and groans for the umpire were called for at this point. At 309 Relf bowled for Arnold. With ten runs added, Bosanquet went on and Relf crossed over to Rhodes's end.

Trumper completed his 100 amid great cheering, after batting 94 minutes, having made his last 50 runs in 34 minutes. He had so far hit 17 fours. At 334 the fifth wicket fell, Noble being stumped off Bosanquet.

Armstrong came in, and no other wicket was lost before the drawing of stumps. Rhodes bowled again in place of Relf at 342, and then gave way to Braund at 366. Trumper was warmly cheered as he went back to the pavilion, and the spectators in the grand stand hooted Crockett. The wicket, though worn, is still good.

Mr Warner states than when going to the grand stand during the disturbance he intended to intimate that he would withdraw the English team from the field unless the "booming" ceased. He went on with the match out of appreciation for Mr Noble's attitude, the Australian captain expressing his regret for what had occurred. Crockett was escorted from the ground by two detectives, but no attempt was made to molest him.

Day 5 (report from Thursday 17 December, page 7)

Sydney, Dec. 16.

The splendid fight made by the Australians yesterday had the effect to-day of increasing the interest in the test match. The attendance before the close of the afternoon was 14,000. From the first ball to the last the struggle was most keen, and at the drawing of stumps England, with six wickets to fall, wanted 72 runs to win. The weather was gloriously fine and the wicket was in good condition.

For the loss of five wickets the Australians had yesterday in their second innings scored 367, and held a lead of 75 runs. Trumper, not out, 119, and Armstrong, not out, 14 went on with the innings to the bowling of Bosanquet and Rhodes. The total having reached 393, Armstrong was caught at slip. Of the 26 runs obtained, each batsman had made 13.

Hopkins came in and Trumper began to play a freer game. When 400 went up the innings had lasted five hours and a half. At 408 Hirst relieved Rhodes. Another change was tried at 419, Bosanquet giving way to Arnold. The score steadily rose, but when Trumper had made 146, he escaped being run out, Warner returning the ball badly from cover point. At 436 Rhodes took the ball again in place of Hirst, and from his bowling, with five runs added, Hopkins was caught at mid-off. Seven wickets for 441.

Laver was the next batsmen and Trumper made most of the runs. Knight was fielding for Tyldesley, who had strained his leg. Braund bowled at 450, but no other wicket fell before lunch, when the total was 460, Trumper being not out 171.

On the resumption of the game, Rhodes and Arnold shared the bowling. Eight runs having been added, Laver was caught at slip. Rhodes was in excellent form, and when he got Laver out his average stood at five wickets for 87. Howell was caught at the wicket at 473 and, Saunders being run out after getting two, the innings, which had extended over nearly seven hours, ended for 485.

Trumper had a great reception. His 185, not out, included 25 fours - chiefly off-drives and cuts - and he was batting for three hours and 50 minutes. The English fielding to-day showed a decided improvement.

Wanting 194 to win, England began with Hayward and Warner, the bowling being started by Noble and Howell. The batsmen were extremely cautious and Howell sent down four maiden overs in succession. The scoring was very slow but no wicket fell, so at 19 Saunders took Howell's place, who crossed over to Noble's end. Of the 19 runs, 17 had been hit from Noble. When Hayward had made 11 he gave a chance of Saunders's bowling to Gregory at forward cover point.

At 21 Warner left. Tyldesley went in and, being hampered by his strained leg, had Rhodes to run for him. He had scored nine, when, in attempting a drive, he made a false hit and was caught at slip, Noble securing the ball at the second attempt. Two wickets for 39.

Foster had a magnificent reception on leaving the pavilion. He started with extreme care and was at the wickets 17 minutes before he made his first run. During this time Howell and Saunders were bowling remarkably well. At 45 Laver was put on in place of Howell, who had bowled 15 overs, 11 maidens, for seven runs and a wicket.

The score rose steadily, and at 64 Saunders gave way to Armstrong. This change proved effective, as with 17 runs added Foster was stumped off the new bowler. He jumped out to drive the ball and missed it. His innings lasted 57 minutes and included two fours. Three wickets for 81.

Braund joined Hayward, and at 82 Howell resumed in place of Laver. Off Howell's third ball Braund narrowly escaped being run out through Noble's smartness at point, and from the fourth he was brilliantly caught by the same fieldsman. Four for 82. Howell had now taken two wickets for seven runs.

Hirst came in, and from the last ball of the same over, he was missed by Laver at square-leg before he had scored. The hundred was reached when the innings had been in progress two hours and 35 minutes. At 103 Saunders relieved Armstrong and Laver bowled for Howell. Having scored 17, Hirst had a second escape, being missed at leg by Hopkins off Laver. Noble and Howell bowled again, but nothing further happened, and at the drawing of stumps the total was 122 for four wickets. Hayward played with great patience and showed excellent defence. So far, he has hit four fours. The wicket is lasting well.

Day 6 (report from Thursday 17 December, page 7)

The concluding stage of the test match began this morning in glorious weather. The wicket, although somewhat worn, was still in good condition. At the end of half an hour's play Hayward and Hirst had carried their respective overnight scores of 60 and 21 to 70 and 25, which, with an added extra, brought the total up to 137.

The attack was opened by Howell and Armstrong, and the batsmen for a time treated both with great caution, but presently Hirst drove two successive balls of Howell to the off boundary. On the whole, however, runs continued to come slowly. Noble relieved Armstrong and at 156 Laver took the place of Howell.

A little later Saunders was put on and Hayward had to retire, being stumped by Kelly. He had made 91, and his partnership with Hirst had increased the total by 99, the score at the fall of the wicket being 181.

LATER

England won by five wickets, Hirst being not out 60. - Reuter.

Friday 18 December, page 12: VICTORY OF THE ENGLISH TEAM

Sydney, Dec. 17.

The test match here came to an end early this afternoon, England winning by five wickets. Some such result being fully expected to-day, the attendance was small. At the close of yesterday's cricket, England, with six wickets to fall, wanted 72 runs to win. Hayward, not out, 60, and Hirst, not out, 21, went on batting in glorious weather to the bowling of Howell and Armstrong. The wicket, though naturally worn after five days' play, was still in good condition.

In the course of the match the grass in the outfield had grown to a remarkable extent, making the turf rather rough. At starting both batsmen were cautious, but after a time Hirst drove Howell to the off twice in succession to the boundary. When the overnight score of 122 had been raised to 147 Noble relieved Armstrong. Runs again came slowly, but as no wicket fell, Laver displaced Howell at 156.

The batsmen continued to play steadily, and at 173 Saunders took the ball from Noble. This change proved successful, Hayward with eight runs added being stumped. Five wickets for 181. Hayward's admirable innings lasted just upon four hours and included six fours. So far, Hirst had scored 48.

Bosanquet went in and in just under a quarter of an hour the remaining runs were hit off without further loss. The innings was in progress for four hours and ten minutes. At the end of the match the England Eleven were warmly cheered. The Australian fielding was very good.

The teams were entertained in the pavilion after the conclusion of the match, Vice-Admiral Sir Harry Rawson and Mr G H Reid being present.

Mr Warner made a speech eulogizing Australia's plucky uphill fight; but he would gladly have torn from the book of memory the pages about Tuesday's demonstration. He also made a complimentary remark about Mr Crockett, the umpire, whose decision against Mr Hill gave rise to the "barracking."

Mr Noble expressed regret for the demonstration on behalf of the Australian team and the majority of the members of the ground, and said that Mr Crockett's umpiring had given every satisfaction. "If he

said that a man was out," added Mr Noble, his "integrity and ability assured the correctness of the decision." - Reuter.

Friday 11 December, page 11: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A meeting of the Gloucestershire committee was held last evening at Bristol, Mr H Beloe presiding, to consider the programme drawn up at Lord's. This was allowed to stand, save that Worcestershire are to be asked to transpose dates, the first to be played at Worcester and the second at Bristol. By an error the return matches with Yorkshire and Surrey were given as being fixed for Bristol, whereas they will take place at Cheltenham.

The draft rules of the proposed inter-county tournament were approved and it was decided to enter the competition.

The report of the sub-committee on finance recommending car economies was passed. It was also considered necessary that a guarantee fund should be formed, and in order that this might be done on the best lines it was resolved to call a general meeting of the subscribers early in January.

Saturday 12 December, page 13: THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Lancashire County Cricket Club was held yesterday in Manchester under the presidency of Mr J Stanning. Mr A N Hornby was re-elected president, Mr S H Swire honorary secretary and Mr J Horner honorary treasurer.

On the conclusion of the formal business of the meeting, Mr A C MacLaren announced that he had decided, after careful consideration, to resign his official position as assistant-secretary of the club. He did not think that the step which he had decided to take would affect in the smallest degree his playing for Lancashire. They all had a certain amount of pride, and during the last few months there had been things said and written about him that had not been true. There was no bitterness so far as he was concerned in regard to the treatment meted out to him by the Marylebone Club, but he had had an offer made to him, and he had decided once more to live in the North of England and take up a business profession.

In regard to the Marylebone Club and Australia, he had often been approached, especially in the South of England, as to his attitude. People had said, "I wonder you have never said anything after all the things you have seen in the papers. Why do you remain quiet?" He had told these people that there was a time for everything, and that he was biding his time. He preferred to speak to his own people in the North of England.

Mr MacLaren proceeded to say that in the case of his last team for Australia, two players whom he wished to take were not allowed to go. He was convinced that he would have won the second test match at Melbourne if Rhodes had been playing. He found himself without a bowler like Rhodes on the soft wicket, or the match, he thought, would have been over in a day and a half. Every member of the team, and the Australians themselves, agreed with him.

There was no doubt that a certain section in the South of England sought to make out that he was making a great deal of money by the Australian tours, but he assured them that out of the three visits he had paid to Australia he had not made any money at all. The last time that he was invited to go to Australia he had to inform the Marylebone Club that he was a married man and that he could not possibly afford to go and leave Mrs MacLaren at home, but he said that he would go if they could make her expenses his expenses.

The chairman, intervening, assured Mr MacLaren that they in that hall had every confidence in him and that his explanations were quite unnecessary to them. No justification of his action was needed.

Mr MacLaren said he merely wished to state that he had not made money by going to Australia. He had absolutely no ill-feeling against the Marylebone Club or against the present team in Australia, which he wished the best of luck; but there was one thing he and the other captains were determined to do. If the Marylebone Club were going to take upon themselves to manage the cricketing affairs of England, without consulting a sufficient number of those who played the game, the captains were not going to remain silent.

Things were not in a satisfactory condition. Three or four men had not gone to Australia because they were not asked or asked too late. He did not suppose he would play any more England cricket, but he and the other captains were determined, if they were not asked their opinions, to speak and make themselves heard.

Mr Stanning, Mr A T Kemble and Mr E Roper dissociated themselves privately from the views expressed by Mr MacLaren.

Thursday 17 December, page 7: THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

Of the £1,500 required by Essex to clear off the club's liabilities by December 31 a sum of just over £873 has already been promised.

Friday 18 December, page 12: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The committee of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, at a meeting held in Leeds yesterday, under the presidency of Lord Hawke, decided to send a telegram of congratulation to Mr P F Warner, captain of the English team in Australia, on the success of the side in the first test match.

A resolution was passed agreeing to the suggestion that the total number of first-class counties should be reduced to 14, and that at the end of the season the bottom club should be superseded by the top club in the minor counties' competition. In the event of a third division being formed, the same rule as to promotion should apply.

Friday 18 December, page 9: (Leading article)

The English eleven in Australia have followed up their early successes by winning the first of the test matches by the substantial margin of five wickets. The match will be a memorable one in cricket history, not only for the fact that several "records" have been broken, but also as a very complete and splendid example of cricket drama on a great scale.

The number of runs scored and the time occupied in getting them are both "records" for such matches, and so, too, is Mr R E Foster's magnificent innings of 287, which is higher by 76 runs than Mr Murdoch's 211 at the Oval in 1884. But more remarkable than the mere numerical eclipse of previous achievements is the general character of this week-long contest - its sustained and stubborn vigour, as the game was fought out hour by hour and day by day, without favour of fortune, under perfectly equal conditions, fairly and squarely to the end.

Our victory, it will be readily admitted, was chiefly due to the quite exceptional effort of Mr Foster; and it was contested, after the first three days, by an uphill fight of a kind for which the Australians are famous, and of which they have never given a finer example than this. There is only one thing to be regretted in the proceedings, and that is an unfortunate outburst of temper on the part of the Sydney "larrikins" over a decision by an umpire, in which even some of the members of the club seem to have joined.

Such exhibitions have occurred before in Sydney, and are not unknown even in England, where, however, they usually proceed only from the baser partisans in county games. The English captain, Mr Warner, took up a firm line in the matter, and we must trust to the determination of the captains, and of the respectable spectators, to see that there is no repetition of such a scene.

The composition of the English eleven, which was got together by the Marylebone authorities, was criticized with great severity in certain quarters before it left these shores. There were some who resented the selection of Mr Warner as captain in preference to Mr A C MacLaren, and the consequent refusal of the latter to join the party; there were others who considered that the absence of Messrs MacLaren, Jackson and Fry, not to mention Mr Jessop, would be fatal to the chances of the team. The good judges deplored the absence of these famous cricketers, in spite of all the efforts which had been made to secure their adhesion; but they considered that out of the material before them the M.C.C. had made the best possible selection both of captain and of men.

The team is indeed a very powerful combination; it is strong right through in batting, for Rhodes, the last man to bat at Sydney, made his thousand runs this year. It does not take the field without six bowlers, including the redoubtable Yorkshiremen, Rhodes and Hirst, now the two finest English bowlers, with the exception of Lockwood at his best. Above all, the men are, each and all of them, the right sort of cricketers for the task - keen, good-tempered, active and loyal, and, with hardly an exception, on the right side of their cricket prime.

Are we, then, to hope that Mr Warner's men will win the rubber and recover for the cricketers of this country the supremacy which they have temporarily lost? We must not be too sure. We must remember that both the last elevens which visited Australia from these islands won the first test match at Sydney, and that neither of them scored another win in the entire set. We must remember that, although Australia just now seems very weak in bowling, it is stated that her finest bowler, Mr Trumble, who did not play in the match at Sydney, has promised to appear in all the other four.

Let it be added that Australia possesses in two of her youngest players, Messrs Hill and Trumper, two batsmen who are without superiors anywhere in the world; and in all her representatives men of nerve, grit and determination not second to our own. When all is said, and when it is remembered that up till now the present English team have carried all before them, we do not believe that we have ever had a fairer chance.

It is the fashion, reasonably enough, to deplore the batsmen's matches of the present time, and to sigh for the days of the comparatively low scoring on imperfect wickets as the golden era of the game. Matches like that at Sydney are undoubtedly less entertaining to spectators; but nevertheless games in which no unplayable ball is bowled and in which a batsman does not get out until he makes a mistake, must be high test of science and skill.

This much is certain, that, whatever reform may be carried out in the way of heightening or widening the wicket, there will be no deterioration in the excellence of pitches, and that under present conditions we can only look forward, when we are next visited by our kinsmen, to those most unsatisfactory draws in the important matches which have been so common in their recent tours. In these circumstances we shall certainly hear more of the demand for more time to play out the contests.

If the exigencies of county cricket forbid the allocation of five weeks out of our short cricket season to the Imperial struggle, there is much to be said for reducing the rubber to three games as of old; but let them be real games, played out to a finish, not mere futile exhibitions of batting and bowling, with no chance, without assistance from the weather, of coming to a definite result.

19 December: MELBOURNE JUNIORS v M.C.C.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135175.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 21 December, page 7)

Melbourne, Dec. 18

The Englishmen began a match here to-day against 18 Melbourne juniors. Foster, Tyldesley and Arnold were left out of the team. The weather was perfect.

Warner won the toss, and in muggy weather he and Hayward opened the English innings to the bowling of O'Loughlin and Sharpe. Fifteen men fielded. Runs came steadily, but when Warner had made 13 he gave a chance at long-on to Manallack off Sharpe. Hayward was missed with his score at 29, but after adding eight runs he was caught at long-off, the first wicket falling at 62. Knight came in. Warner played in very attractive style, driving finely on both sides of the wicket. At lunch time the total was 98, Warner 49 and Knight eight. Six bowlers had been tried.

When the hundred went up the innings had lasted an hour and 23 minutes. By vigorous hitting the score was rapidly increased, a good many runs being thrown away through bad fielding. After batting for just two hours Warner was bowled at 157. His innings included six fours. Relf was next in. Of the various bowlers Sharpe, left-handed, was the best. At 177 Knight was bowled by a yorker. He had played a determined game, his off-driving being excellent.

Braund joined Relf, who made some skilful leg glances, but was missed at the wicket off Sharpe after making 14. The fielding continued to be loose. The bowlers were strange to a turf wicket, having played hitherto on matting pitches, and nine had been tried before the tea interval. Relf was caught at slip at 221.

After tea Hirst became Braund's partner. Runs were put on fast, Braund making one or two very clean off-drives and Hirst pulling cleverly. When the total had been raised to 250 a shower stopped play for 20 minutes. On the game being continued the fielding was very poor. Hirst did nearly all the scoring, and drove McSpeerin - the 11th bowler tried - for five.

At 283 Braund was caught at long leg and Bosanquet went in. After this Hirst, with his score at 52, had extraordinary luck, being let off three times in one over from Dwyer. Bosanquet was caught at cover point at 306, and Lilley went in. Among other hits Hirst lifted Dwyer straight for five. The seventh wicket fell at 332, Lilley being bowled. Hirst and Rhodes played out time.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 22 December, page 10)

The match between the English team and Eighteen Melbourne Juniors was continued here to-day in fine weather. The wicket was perfect.

Hirst, not out, 85, and Rhodes, not out, 7, went on with the overnight innings, the total standing at 349 for seven wickets. Dwyer and O'Loughlin bowled. Having added two to his score, Hirst was bowled. His innings, which lasted an hour and 35 minutes, included two fives and eight fours. He made his runs chiefly by off-drives and pulls. Rhodes and Fielder put on 36 together, Rhodes, who drove in graceful style on both sides of the wicket, making, among other hits, a five from Sharpe. The innings ended for 416.

The Juniors opened with Delves and Moon to the bowling of Relf and Fielder. Owing to a slight strain, Warner did not field, Arnold acting as substitute. Two wickets fell for five runs, Delves being caught in the slips and Moon caught and bowled. Howe and Kiernan did better, but on Rhodes's going on Kiernan was stumped, the score at lunch time being 33 for three wickets.

When play was resumed Braund and Rhodes bowled, but the latter soon gave way to Bosanquet. Cogle was bowled at 34 and Howe run out at the same total, the wicket being smartly thrown down by Bosanquet from mid-on. Wickets continued to fall fast, Hexter being run out at 39, Lanigan stumped in the same over with the total unaltered, and Grace caught at slip at 50. With seven runs added, Catannach was caught at slip. Lewis and McSpeerin took the score to 70, and then Lewis was caught at slip. At this point Fielder had taken four wickets for 23 runs. The bowling was admirable and the fielding excellent.

[Horgan] was bowled at 81, but McSpeerin found a good partner in Dwyer, and without further loss the total was carried to 99 before the tea interval. On play being resumed, Dwyer was run out at 107, Smith caught and bowled at 108 and McSpeerin stumped at 118. The rest of the batting was very tame and the innings ended for 124, O'Loughlin being caught and bowled, Sharpe caught at short leg and Manallack bowled.

The Juniors followed on, Howe and McSpeerin going in. Howe was beaten by the fourth ball bowled by Relf, the first wicket falling without a run. McSpeerin was caught and bowled at 18, but Delves and Kiernan improved matters, carrying thee core to 41 and being still together at the drawing of stumps.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 23 December, page 8)

This match ended to-day, the Englishmen winning by an innings and 99 runs. At the close of yesterday's play the Juniors, following on, had scored 41 for two wickets.

Delves and Kiernan, the not-outs, went on batting to-day to the bowling of Bosanquet and Fielder. The weather was warm and the wicket good. Delves made eight runs in Bosanquet's first over and did nearly all the scoring, till at 70 Kiernan was caught at long-off. Rhodes bowled Williams and Hexter before a run had been obtained from him, the fourth and fifth wickets falling at 76. Delves, after scoring 52 without a chance, was run out at 85. He hit six fours and five threes, getting most of his runs by off-drives.

Rhodes continued to bowl in capital form, keeping an excellent length and sending down seven maidens in succession. After this, however, Grace played freely, and at lunch time the total had, without further loss, been increased to 125; Grace had scored 38.

Afterwards Braund and Relf bowled. Runs came slowly, and at 145 Moon was caught at mid-off. With five added Grace was stumped. He only gave one chance in his 54, being missed at long-on by Hayward off Braund's bowling when 50. Eight wickets for 150.

From this point the batting broke down completely. Lanigan was bowled at 155, Catannach at 163 and Cogle caught at leg at 165. At 172 Lewis was caught with the left hand by Hirst at mid-off. Two other wickets soon fell, Dwyer being bowled at 174 and Smith caught at leg at 178. Horgan and O'Loughlin put on 14 runs, but after Horgan had been caught at long-on the innings quickly ended for 193. Braund bowled finely.

Tuesday 22 December, page 10: THE SECOND TEST MATCH

Melbourne, Dec. 21.

Hugh Trumble will play for Australia in the second test match, which begins here on New Year's Day. - Reuter.

SURREY AND THE PROPOSED NEW COUNTY COMPETITION

We have been requested by Mr Stein, the acting secretary of the Surrey Club since Mr C W Alcock's illness, to publish the following statement: -

"Having recently seen in stated in the Press that Surrey would probably join the new cricket tournament, I beg to state that at a meeting of the committee held on Thursday last it was resolved 'That the committee of the Surrey County Cricket Club do not see their way to concur in the scheme.'"

26 December: BENDIGO v M.C.C.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135176.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 28 December, page 9)

The English team commenced a match here to-day against Eighteen of Bendigo and District. Though meagre at first, the attendance increased before the end of the afternoon to 5,000. The weather was sultry and hot at the start of the game and remained very warm till the time for drawing stumps. Bosanquet, Tyldesley, Lilley and Arnold stood out on the English side, [Whitfield] completing the eleven.

Freeman won the toss for the Eighteen and opened the innings with Keogh, to the bowling of Rhodes and Hirst. In the second over, with the score at one, Freeman was bowled. Green was bowled when a single had been added, but Deravin stayed with Keogh, these two batsmen carrying the score to 28. At this point Deravin left, and Fielder, who in the meantime had gone on bowling, got rid of Keogh and Thomas Hall in quick succession, five wickets being down for 31.

Murray and Seelenmeyer scored slowly together and put on 21 runs before the former was bowled. Woolley was beaten by the next ball and other disasters soon followed. Seelenmeyer was caught at slip at 62 and Harry caught at the wicket at 73. The players then went to lunch. So far Fielder had taken seven wickets for 25 runs, his great pace completely baffling the batsmen.

After the interval the wicket bumped a good deal. No one could withstand the bowling and the innings ended for 94. Fielder, in taking 11 wickets for 32 runs, sent down 13 overs and four balls. He was much cheered.

Hayward and Warner began the English innings, Deravin and Thomas Hall sharing the bowling. Thirteen men fielded. Runs came quickly till, at 34, Warner was caught at long-on. Hayward and Knight then collared the bowling and hit in splendid style all round the wicket, Hayward's off-driving being

delightful. At last, when the total had been carried to 206, Hayward was caught at long-off. With his score at 80 he was missed being caught and bowled, but he gave no further chance.

Foster was bowled at 207, but Rhodes stayed with Knight, the score at the close standing at 217 for three wickets. Ten bowlers were tried, the form shown being poor. As the wicket is crumbling it has been arranged to water in to-morrow.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 29 December, page 5)

Owing to heavy rain the match here had to be abandoned this afternoon, the draw being immensely in favour of the English team. At the start the weather was oppressive, the attendance poor and the wicket wet after rain yesterday.

Knight, not out, 65, and Rhodes, not out, 10, continued the English innings, in which three wickets had fallen for 217, to the bowling of Moore and Deravin. Runs came rapidly till at 245 Knight was caught at point. He had been missed at point when 66. Whitfield, the substitute, was caught at slip, and when he left at lunch time the innings was declared closed. Deravin took two wickets . . .

The Eighteen began their second innings with Keogh and Green to the bowling of Rhodes and Braund, the wicket being in bad condition. Keogh was caught at slip and Harry bowled, both wickets falling at 15. Freeman was caught at cover point at 32 and Deravin at mid-off at 37. Seelenmeyer fell to a catch at the wicket at 53, Green was caught and bowled at 60 and Murray bowled at the same total. Boydell and Woolley had added four runs together when the tea interval was taken.

A heavy thunderstorm then burst over the ground and, as the rain continued for some time, the match was given up. Rhodes took four wickets . . .

Thursday 31 December, page 5: THE SECOND TEST MATCH

The Australian team for the second test match, which begins here on Friday, has been selected, and is as follows: - C Hill (South Australia), R A Duff, M A noble, V Trumper, A J Hopkins, S E Gregory, W P Howell and J J Kelly (New South Wales), and H Trumble, J V Saunders and W Armstrong (Victoria).

The substitution of Trumble for Laver is thus the only change from the team which did duty in the first test match. Gehrs, of South Australia, is the emergency man, and the umpires are Crockett and Argall.

Arnold's knee is troubling him, and he is consulting Sir Thomas Fitzgerald. Mr Warner intends to play the same team as at Sydney, omitting Knight, Fielder and Strudwick; but if Arnold should be unable to play his place will be taken by Fielder. - Reuter.