

Tuesday 3 January, page 5: AUSTRALIAN CRICKET

THE TEAM FOR ENGLAND

Melbourne, Jan. 2.

The following ten players have been definitely selected as members of the team which is to visit England in the summer: - Duff, Trumper, Kelly, Hopkins, Gregory and Noble (New South Wales), Hill, Gehrs and Newland (South Australia) and Armstrong (Victoria).

The remaining four will probably be selected during the progress of the match between New South Wales and Victoria. Gehrs is a fine batsman and an excellent field at mid-off. Newland will be the second wicket-keeper. - Reuter.

Friday 27 January, page 9: The GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

There was a large attendance of members at the annual general meeting of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, which was held at Bristol yesterday.

Mr Harry Beloe, who presided, after alluding to the loss which the county had sustained by the death of Mr James Cranston, who for two years had directed the practice at the county ground, congratulated the members upon the fact that, for the first time since 1898, the receipts had exceeded the expenditure. The gates generally had improved and there had been an increase in the amount of subscriptions.

The profit on the season had amounted to £300, and the sum would have been nearly doubled but for the unfavourable weather experienced at Cheltenham. Still, in spite of there being no play on the last day, the takings during the festival amounted to £650. The expenses had been systematically cut down and the only matter in which the committee had been in any way extravagant was in giving winter pay to nine of their professionals.

He expressed the hope that H Wrathall, who was to have the Lancashire match at Bristol for his benefit, would reap the reward he deserved. He made an earnest appeal to those gentlemen who had resigned to renew their subscriptions.

Mr G L Jessop spoke of the promise shown by several of the young players who were introduced to the team last year. He alluded particularly to the brothers Barnett and Mills, and said that Gloucestershire's prospects would be much brighter than usual if those promising cricketers could play regularly in the early matches.

Tuesday 31 January, page 11: THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual report of the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, issued to the members yesterday, states that there was a deficiency on the year's working of £144 0s 10d, but in view of the heavy expenditure on painting and repairs, the committee do not consider this unsatisfactory.

The income for the year was £4,215 0s 4d, chiefly made up of match receipts, which amounted to £1,644 0s 6d, and of members' subscriptions, which amounted to £2,130 12s 6d. Match expenses absorbed £2,227 10s 4d, talent money £116 5s, and the ground staff £623 7s 4d, while £29 16s 9d was handed to Wilfred Flowers as his share of the gate money at the Nottinghamshire and Middlesex match in August.

The annual meeting will be held on February 8.

Tuesday 7 February: THE BOARD OF CONTROL

The Board of Control for the test matches between England and Australia during the forthcoming season will meet at Lord's at 5 o'clock this afternoon, when, among other business, the Selection Committee will probably be chosen and the proposition as to the toss for innings in the test games dealt with.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (SECOND DIVISION)

At a meeting held yesterday, the M.C.C. Committee sanctioned an alteration in "Law 54" so that in the Second Division Championship next season the closure may be applied at any time instead of only on the second day.

It was definitely decided that the match at Lord's on Whit Monday between Middlesex and Somerset should be played for the benefit of George Burton, on terms that will allow him to be retained as a member of the extra ground staff.

Wednesday 8 February: THE BOARD OF CONTROL

The Board of Control for the Test matches during the coming season met at Lord's yesterday afternoon, those present being Lord Granby (president), Lord Lichfield, Lord Alverstone, Lord Harris and Mr R E Foster, representing the M.C.C.; and Mr J Horner (Lancashire), the Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire), Mr J R Mason (Kent), Mr G MacGregor (Middlesex), Mr W E Denison (Nottinghamshire) and Lord Winterton (Sussex). Mr F E Lacey attended as secretary to the board.

It was decided that the times of play, the division of profits and the system of appointing umpires should be exactly the same as in the Test matches in 1902. The sub-committee to select the England teams was app, the choice falling on Lord Hawke, Mr J A Dixon and Mr P F Warner. It was agreed that the professionals picked for England should, as in 1899 and 1902, be paid "20 "per" match and the umpires £10 "per" match.

Lord Harris's proposition as to the toss in the Test matches was withdrawn; but a recommendation, which will come in due course before the M.C.C. Committee, was passed that the M.C.C. should make the last sentence of "Law 1" read: - "The choice of innings shall be decided by tossing unless otherwise arranged."

With regard to the question of the closure in the Test match at the Oval in August, which, if the rubber depend on it, will be played out to a finish, it was suggested that the existing laws - 53 and 54 - should apply.

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Wellington, Feb. 7.

Noble will act as captain and Hill as vice-captain of the Australian team until its arrival in England. The team is now visiting Rotorua. A match with fifteen of Auckland will begin on Friday. - Reuter.

Thursday 9 February: THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club was held yesterday at Nottingham, Major Robertson presiding. Lord Belper, in moving the adoption of the report, described it as of a very satisfactory character. It was true that the working showed a small deficit, but very heavy expenses had been entailed in putting the ground and buildings in a proper state of repair.

The club gave a gratifying display in last year's matches and, without being too sanguine, he hoped that this year the result would be even more satisfactory, there being many good young players coming on. The keenness of the fielding had been a conspicuous feature in the work of the team. The club had done all that was possible to induce promising young players to stay in Nottingham through the medium of the club and ground scheme.

One of the test matches was to be played at Trent-bridge, and he heartily congratulated Mr J A Dixon upon his having been chosen for the selection committee. Mr W E Denison, in seconding the resolution, alluded to the double defeat of Surrey as one of the best performances by Nottinghamshire last season.

Mr T J Birkin was nominated as president for the ensuing year. It was announced that among the Nottinghamshire fixtures this season would be a match at Oxford at the invitation of the University.

CRICKET IN THE WEST INDIES

A team representing the whole of the West Indies was to-day defeated by Lord Brackley's XI, by an innings and 17 runs. Captain Wynyard made 101, Mr Simpson-Hayward 67 and Mr Ebdon 78. In the first innings of the Colonials, Mr Simpson-Hayward took three wickets for 22 runs and Thompson took six for 37.

Saturday 11 February: CRICKET IN NEW ZEALAND

Auckland, Feb. 10.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/131/131816.html)

A match was begun here to-day in beautiful weather between the Australian team for England and Fifteen of Auckland. The meeting is attracting considerable local interest and there was a good attendance.

The home team won the toss and went in on a splendid wicket. Mason, who came in first wicket down, made a fine score of 79, when he had the misfortune to be run out. The rest of the side, however, made a poor show against the bowling, especially against Cotter. When play closed for the day, the whole side was out for 175.

Monday 13 February, page 5: CRICKET IN NEW ZEALAND

Auckland, Feb. 11.

The match between the Australian team for England and Fifteen of Auckland was resumed to-day in perfect weather. Duff and McLeod opened the Australian innings.

THE KENT COUNTY FIXTURES

The revised list of the Kent cricket fixtures for next season has just been issued. Kent will meet the same counties as last season; the M.C.C. at Lord's and the Australians at Canterbury, while a new match at Oxford with Oxford University has been arranged for May 29, 30 and 31.

Tuesday 14 February, page 12: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Auckland, Feb. 13.

The first innings of the Australian team in their match against fifteen of Auckland closed to-day for 442 runs.

When stumps were drawn Auckland, who were a man short, had all been dismissed in their second innings for 107. The visitor thus won by an innings and 160 runs.

Friday 17 February, page 9: THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual report of the Warwickshire County Cricket Club announces a loss of £659 on last year's working, the explanation being disappointing attendances at the matches.

Considerable expenditure had been undertaken in the finding and training of the players, but there had been little, if any, growth in the patronage of the public during the last ten years. Unless

this is forthcoming, the committee state that there is little prospect of the club being able to pay its way.

The committee had felt it imperative to consider the means of lessening the expenditure, but efforts must again be made to increase the receipts rather than run the risk of a diminution of efficiency. The gate receipts were £1,894 and the subscriptions £2,070, a falling off as compared with the two former years. There were 1,775 full members and 110 lady members.

As an exceptionally strong programme has been arranged for the coming season, the committee appeal for increased support, failing which a less ambitious policy must be pursued, and that would assuredly mean a serious weakening of the team.

Oxford University have invited Warwickshire to play them at Oxford on June 19, 20 and 21, and the fixture will probably be arranged.

Monday 20 February, page 9: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR ENGLAND

MATCH WITH WELLINGTON

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/131/131817.html)

Wellington, Feb. 17.

A match between the Australian team for England and a fifteen of Wellington was begun here to-day. The weather was fine and the wicket was in good order. There was a moderate attendance. When stumps were drawn Wellington, in their first innings, had made 177 for the loss of 11 wickets.

February 18.

There was a marked improvement in the attendance to-day, and the weather was again fine and the wicket in good condition. The Wellington innings closed soon after play was continued for 183, only six runs being added to the overnight score.

The Australians then went in and gave a magnificent batting exhibition, Hill's display being a particularly fine one.

Tuesday 21 February, page 12: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR ENGLAND

MATCH WITH WELLINGTON

Wellington, Feb. 20

The match between the Australian team for England and a Wellington fifteen has ended in a draw. The home team made 183 and 214 for nine wickets, while the visitors in their single innings scored 433. - Reuter.

THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

At their meeting yd the M.C.C. committee decided to recommend to the general body of the club the addition to "Law 1" suggested a fortnight ago by the Board of Control. The alteration consists in adding to the last sentence in "Law 1," "The choice of innings shall be decided by tossing," the words, "unless otherwise arranged."

The matter will be decided at a special meeting, following the annual general meeting of the M.C.C. at Lord's on May 3.

Saturday 25 February, page 11: CRICKET IN THE WEST INDIES

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6645.html)

At Barbados, on Monday, February 6, Lord Brackley's Eleven began a match against a team representing the whole of the West Indies.

Lord Brackley won the toss, and he and Captain Wynyard opened the innings on a perfect wicket. Their partnership did not last very long, as Lord Brackley was bowled by Hoad, a slow right-handed bowler, when the score stood at 15. Hayes then joined Captain Wynyard and the score was increased slowly, both batsmen playing with great caution. Layne, a medium-paced right-handed bowler, who made the ball get up off the pitch very fast and come back quickly, was put on instead of Hoad; and the change was successful, as Hayes, in attempting to hit, was well caught in the deep field.

Mr C P Foley played a bright innings, but he was dismissed with the score standing at 114. Captain Wynyard had made 51 at the luncheon interval, and afterwards the score began to mount more quickly. The play on the leg side was very safe and near, and Thompson hit with some power. The West Indian fielding was very good and it was hard to get the ball away.

Thompson was bowled by Sheppard, and Mr C H M Ebden, who came in next, started off well. With Captain Wynyard well set it looked as if a long stand might be made; but this was not the case, as Captain Wynyard, after having completed his century, was caught at the wicket off a ball that got up rather quickly. His innings had been quite faultless and most attractive to watch, and the delight of the crowd at his dismissal was very emphatic.

Mr Somerset did not stay very long, but Mr Simpson-Hayward and Mr Ebden took the score to 300, when Mr Ebden, in attempting to hit Goodman, was caught at extra cover. He had played a good innings without giving a chance, and he made a number of fine strokes on the off-side. Mr Simpson-Hayward hit brilliantly, making 67 in a very short time, and eventually the innings closed for 353 and play ceased for the day.

On Tuesday, when the West Indian side went in to bat, the bowling honours rested with Thompson, who was brining the ball back very quickly. The West Indian batting broke down altogether, and it became almost a certainty that they would have to follow on quite early in the day. Goodman made 20 and stayed a long time, but Austin, who is quite the best bat in the West Indies, was "yorked" by Thompson before he had scored.

Thompson had bad luck and was continually beating the batsmen and missing the wicket. Eventually the innings closed for 107, and the West Indian side followed on 246 runs behind.

In the second innings Ollivierre played brilliantly for 36, making some beautiful strokes, but he threw his wicket away by running down the pitch to Mr Simpson-Hayward. Thompson again proved very difficult to play, and he got five wickets for 63 in spite of the bad luck which he experienced. Austin played splendidly, and he was last out for 83. The innings closed for 229, leaving Lord Brackley's team the winners by an innings and 17 runs.

The attendance was good, but not so good as in the match against Barbados, and the enthusiasm of the crowd was very great, advice being shouted from the spectators to both fielders and batsmen. Probably the second match against the whole of the West Indies will be closer, as Smith, the best bowler of Trinidad, was unable to play in Barbados.

Tuesday 28 February, page 11: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR ENGLAND v CANTERBURY

Wellington, Feb. 27.

Owing to rain, play in the match between the Australian team and Eleven of Canterbury was delayed. The New Zealanders' second innings closed for 183. The Australians, requiring 137 to win, scored the required total with the loss of two wickets.

Thursday 2 March, page 12: THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Warwickshire County Cricket Club was held at Birmingham last night.

Mr Cartland, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the anticipation in which they had indulged at the beginning of the season had not been fulfilled. Their players had not vindicated themselves quite as well as had been hoped, and the club had met with many disappointments. This year, however, they were looking forward most hopefully to a very successful season.

Although a considerable loss had been sustained, they hoped for greater prosperity in the future. At the present time they had a balance in the bank of £440, with surplus assets of £2,545, and during the present year economies would be effected amounting to about £400.

Last season's batting constituted a record, Mr Glover, Mr Fishwick, Quaife and Kinneir each having scored over 1,000 runs in first-class matches. They were unfortunate in regard to their bowlers. The criticism which had been levelled against them for not providing sufficiently attractive games would be tested this season, when 22 first-class matches would be played.

The report was adopted and the Earl of Warwick as re-elected president.

Saturday 4 March: AUSTRALIAN ELEVEN v OTAGO XI

Dunedin, Otago (New Zealand), March 3.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6649.html)

A match was begun here to-day between the Australian team for England and an Eleven of Otago. The weather was dull, but there was nevertheless an excellent attendance.

Noble won the toss, but put the home team in first on a slow wicket. The Australian captain and Cotter soon disposed of the Otago men, who only succeeded in making 55.

Trumper and Duff opened the Australian innings, and soon passed their opponents' total. A long partnership was dissolved by Trumper being caught after making a score of 87, which included 14 fours. Duff's wicket subsequently went for 74. After four more wickets had fallen with a slight addition to the score, stumps were drawn for the day, the Australians having then lost six wickets for 201.

Monday 6 March, page 7: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM v OTAGO

Dunedin, March 4

The match between the Australian team for England and an Eleven of Otago resulted in the victory of the former by an innings and 173 runs. The wicket was good.

LORD BRACKLEY'S TEAM IN THE WEST INDIES

Georgetown, March 4.

The team of English cricketers captained by Lord Brackley, which is touring in the West Indies, has beaten a team representing British Guiana by 234 runs. Hayes made 100 and T G O Cole made 62 in the visitors' second innings. Thompson took six wickets for 37 runs in the home team's second innings.

Tuesday 14 Match: THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS IN NEW ZEALAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6651.html)

Christchurch, March 13.

It was raining this morning, and play in the match between the Australian cricketers and combined New Zealand was not resumed until half-past 2. The wicket was greasy and there was a poor attendance.

The New Zealanders concluded their first innings for 138. Being 395 runs behind on the first innings they followed on, and when the match terminated had made 112 for the loss of seven wickets. The game thus ended in a draw.

THE KENT COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Kent County Cricket Club was held yesterday afternoon, at the Grand Hotel, Charing-cross. Mr C Fitch Kemp (president) took the chair, and among those present were Lord Harris, Lord Camden, Lord Darnley, Mr J R Mason, Mr F A Mackinnon, Mr W H Patterson, Mr G Marsham, Mr G J V Weigall, Major Spens, Mr F Marchant, Captain McCanlis, Mr W B [Pattison] Mr K McAlpine, Mr F W Farley (hon. treasurer) Mr T Pawley, General Trevor, the Hon H A Milles-Lade, the Hon J R Tufton, Mr A J Lancaster (secretary).

The report of the committee and the accounts were adopted, the chairman making reference to the highly satisfactory position in which the club stood. The balance-sheet for 1904 showed a profit of £1,362 7s 6d, the season being the most successful the club has ever had.

It was announced that the new president would be Mr Frank Penn. At a meeting of the committee, before the general meeting, Mr C H B Marsham was appointed captain for the forthcoming season, it being doubtful if Mr C J Burnup would return to England.

Thursday 16 March, page 11: THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of this club was held at Leicester yesterday evening, Mr C Marriott presiding. The chairman moved the adoption of the report of the committee, which showed a loss on last year's working of £266, thus increasing the deficit to £871. He stated that in some respects they had improved that position.

The team had done better, although it was a misfortune that Knight was injured at Lord's. The membership was 1,632, and they should aim for 2,000 next season. They had engaged young men on the ground staff, with Pougher as coach.

It behoved them to consider how they could reduce the debt on the club. The report was approved, and thanks were accorded the officers of the club for their services during the past year. Mr J W Logan was elected president for the ensuing season.

A resolution was passed urging members to increase their subscription for the present year or to make a donation to wipe off the deficit now existing in the club's accounts.

THE DERBYSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The committee of the Derbyshire County Cricket Club, in their annual report issued yesterday, state that they are pleased to be able to present the report in a more hopeful strain than in the year before, although the financial working of the club still causes them anxiety.

Thanks to the improved play of the team and better weather, the gate receipts show an increase of £510 17s 9d over 1903. The subscriptions show a further net increase of £103 18s 6d, and the sum of £303 4s 6d has been received as donations. There was a loss on the past year's working of £36 17s 6d, the total deficiency now standing at £321 5s 9d.

Reference is made in the report to last season's results, and to the individual performances of the players, it being claimed that no county can boast a better pair of fast bowlers than Bestwick and Warren.

The annual meeting will be held on March 24.

Friday 17 March, page 9: THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS v COMBINED NEW ZEALAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6652.html)

Wellington, March 16.

The Australian cricketers for England to-day began a match against Combined New Zealand. The home team, who went in first, were all dismissed for 94, and when stumps were drawn for the day the Australians had made 51 for one wicket.

Saturday 18 March, page 9: THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS v COMBINED NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, March 17

The match between the Australian team for England and an eleven of Combined New Zealand was continued here to-day in fine weather, but with only a moderate gate.

The visitors resumed their first innings on a wicket which had by no means improved since yesterday, and had become sticky. Notwithstanding this, when stumps were drawn they had compiled 519 runs for seven wickets. Trumper score of 72 included 20 fours and four sixes. Clement Hill made 129. He hit ten fours, five sixes and made 26 off one over. In the New Zealand first innings yesterday Howell did the hat trick.

Monday 20 March, page 10: AUSTRALIANS v NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, March 18

The match between the Australian cricketers for England and Combined New Zealand was continued this morning. The weather was beautiful and the wicket good. There was a large attendance.

With the score at 593 for nine wickets the Australians declared their innings closed. Combined New Zealand in their second innings were all out for 141, and the visitors thus won by an innings and 358 runs.

Tuesday 21 March, page 12: CRICKET

Lord Harris has addressed the subjoined communication to a correspondent who drew his attention to a speech by Mr F S Jackson at Darlington some time ago, when Mr Jackson denounced the special preparation of wickets, which made it almost impossible for a bowler, however good, to get the slightest work on the ball.

These wickets, said Mr Jackson, were the invention of the southern counties. In Yorkshire they always tried to play the game as they believed it was meant to be played - on absolutely turf wickets. Mr Jackson also expressed a hope that the M.C.C. would take up the matter instead of bringing forward all sorts of ideas of tinkering with the implements of the game: -

"8, Old Jewry, E.C., March 16, 1905.

"Dear Sir, - In reply to your questions - (1) whether 'special preparation' of pitches prevents bowlers from getting work on the balls, I cannot speak for personal experience, not having played in a first-class match since 1897; but, judging from what I have seen from the benches and from what I have heard from those who do play, there is no possible doubt that special preparation does handicap the bowler;

"(2) whether I think that the practice should be discontinued, I am under the impression that what may have been the practice a few years ago is so no longer. I do not think it would be possible to lay down a law on the subject, because there are some grounds naturally fiery, and actually dangerous in some seasons, where more preparation is necessary than on other grounds, and I doubt its being possible to define what is meant by 'special preparation.'

"I think there is at present a pretty general condemnation of such a preparation as Mr Jackson was complaining of, and I think experience will show that what was really becoming a blot on the game will be satisfactorily minimized without any resort to legislation.

"Yours faithfully,

"HARRIS."

Thursday 23 March, page 12: THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Advisory County Cricket Committee will be held to-day, at 3 o'clock, at Lord's Cricket Ground.

The following is the agenda: -

1. To consider the proposed alterations to the Laws of Cricket -

(a) "Law 1." - The choice of innings shall be decided by tossing, unless otherwise arranged. (It is proposed to add the last three words.)

(b) "Law 4." - Mr G W Ricketts's proposal to add "the fielding side may at any time, on giving notice to the batsmen, provide a new ball."

2. Correspondence and other business.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Sussex County Cricket Club is to be held, at the county ground at Brighton, on Monday next. In accordance with the rules of the club Lord Sheffield retires from the position of president. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon has been invited to accept the office and has consented to be nominated at the general meeting.

Last season was not a successful one financially for Sussex. There was a considerable increase in the number of subscriptions, but owing to a falling off in the gate receipts and the fact that a benefit year was given to Marlow, the year's working shows a deficit.

The programme for the coming season includes out and home matches with all the first-class counties except Worcestershire, single fixtures at home with Cambridge University and the Australians, and a match with the M.C.C., at Lord's.

It is expected that all the members of last year's eleven will be available again, and Mr K G Goldie, who played so well for the county a few years ago, will be in England on leave from his military duties.

The committee regret to report the death of two of two of their vice-presidents, the Rev W D Parrish and Lieutenant-Colonel F T Wisden.

PRESENTATION TO SIR SPENCER PONSONBY-FANE

An interesting ceremony took place on March 21, when Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, as "The Governor" of I Zingari, was presented with a portrait of himself painted by Sir S Johnstone Douglas. The funds were provided by the surplus of the money subscribed for the testimonial presented last June, but which arrived too late for that purpose, the donors being scattered over the face of the globe.

The presentation was made at the artist's studio in Chelsea by the committee of I Zingari, and reference was made in affectionate terms to Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane's long association with the club. It is hoped that the portrait will be accepted by the selection committee at Burlington House.

Friday 24 March, page 5: THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD CRICKET CLUB

By special permission of the King, the Royal Household Cricket Club held, at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday evening, a smoking concert on the occasion of the presentation of batting and bowling prizes won last season. The club, in which His Majesty takes keen interest, had a very good season, playing 20 matches, of which 12 were won and eight lost.

At the concert on Wednesday evening there was an attendance of over 250, including members of the club, the gentlemen of the Royal Household and a number of friends of the members. General Sir Dighton Probyn, V.C., Keeper of the Privy Purse, was among the gentlemen of the Household present; and in an interval between the two parts of the musical programme he handed the prize bat awarded for the highest batting average to F Gaines, of the Royal Mews at Windsor, and the prize ball for the best bowling average to J Slack, of the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace. The concert and distribution took place in the servants' dining-hall.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The County Cricket Advisory Committee met yesterday afternoon at Lord's, those present being Lord Granby (in the chair), Mr J Horner (Lancashire), the Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire), Mr W E Denison (Nottinghamshire), Mr J R Mason (Kent), Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire), Mr H D G Leveson-Gower (Surrey), Mr A E Lawton (Derbyshire), Mr C B Fry (Sussex), Mr H W Bainbridge (Warwickshire), Dr Russell Bencraft (Hampshire), Mr R H Mallett and Dr Earle Norman (minor counties), and Mr F E Lacey (secretary of the M.C.C.).

It was decided to support the proposed addition to the last sentence of "Law 1," "The choice of innings shall be decided by tossing," of the words "unless otherwise arranged," but to oppose Mr G W Ricketts's proposal to add to "Law 4" the words "The fielding side may at any time, on giving notice to the batsman, provide a new ball."

Both the suggested alterations will come up at the annual meeting of the M.C.C. at Lord's on May 3. With regard to the new ball question, the counties are to be asked for an expression of their views.

THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual report and balance-sheet of the Essex County Cricket Club have just been issued, the financial statement showing that there was a loss on last year's working of the club of £167 14s 6d, which sum has been carried to the deficiency account. The total sum collected to clear off the club's difficulties amounted to £1,801 16s 6d, and the committee hope that this will be increased to at least £2,000.

The annual meeting of the club will be held in the dining hall at Leyton on April 13, at 5.30 p.m. Mr F L Fane has consented to captain the eleven again, and Mr Green has engaged Lockwood and Peel to coach the members of the team and specially selected players for three weeks, beginning on April 12.

The match with Middlesex on August 3, 4 and 5 has been given to the wicket-keeper, T Russell, for his benefit.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM

The Australian cricket team sailed to-day for Fiji, en route for England. - Reuter.

LORD BRACKLEY'S TEAM IN TRINIDAD

Port of Spain, March 23.

Lord Brackley's team to-day defeated All Trinidad by an innings and 14 runs. In the first innings of the colonials Thompson took nine wickets for 40 runs and in their second innings seven for 21. The weather was very wet. - Reuter.

Tuesday 28 March, page 12: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR ENGLAND IN FIJI

Suva, March 27.

In a match played here between the Australian team for England and an 18 of Fiji the latter, who went in first, made 91. The Australians knocked up 212 in their first innings. - Reuter.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

Mr F Whitting, Vice-Provost of King's College, has been elected president of the Cambridge University Cricket Club, in the place of the late Provost of King's College, the Rev A Austen Leigh.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB

Colonel Champion, who presided at the annual meeting of the Sussex County Cricket Club, at Hove yesterday, referred to the large number of drawn games, remarking that he thought these detracted a great deal from the interest taken by the public.

The chairman went on to say that he thought the grass on the wickets was cut down too closely, making the wickets more like asphalt than grass, and bowlers could do nothing. He would like to see a little more grass left on wickets for he thought they would then finish more matches.

The report and balance-sheet was laid before the meeting. The chairman regretted that they again found themselves in debt, the amount being £285, but he hoped that the visit of the Australians would wipe off some of it.

The chairman expressed the indebtedness of the club to Mr C B Fry for his services as captain, and warmly acknowledged the great assistance and encouragement given to the club by Lord Sheffield.

The prospects of the club this season are considered good. Mr C B Fry will again assist, as will all last season's players, while Mr K O Goldie, who is returned home from India on leave, will also be available. The Duke of Richmond was elected president.

Wednesday 29 March, page 12: CRICKET

A correspondent drew the attention of Mr B J T Bosanquet to Mr F S Jackson's recent remarks on the subject of the special preparation of cricket pitches. Mr Bosanquet was asked if he thought that the special preparation of pitches prevented the bowler from getting any work on the ball, and the following reply has been received: -

"Dear Sir, - In answer to your inquiry, I should say that there is no doubt that the artificial preparation of wickets handicaps the bowler, in fact, it is obvious. However, the special preparation of wickets immediately before a match has been discontinued of late years, and it is very difficult to say what preparation a ground should undergo during the winter.

"It is necessary for a ground to be treated in some way during the winter months (or it could never stand the wear and tear of a season's cricket), and it would be impossible to fix limits for this preparation. It is just as important that wickets should not be dangerous as that they should not be too good. It is the golden mean that it is so difficult to strike.

"The real root of the evil is that there is a great deal too much first-class cricket and the strain on bowlers is too great. - B J T BOSANQUET."

Thursday 6 April, page 12: THE ANGEL GROUND, TONBRIDGE

At a special general meeting of the Tonbridge Cricket Club, held on Tuesday night, the action of the committee in purchasing the Angel Ground and thus saving it for county cricket was confirmed.

Mr T Pawley, secretary of the club and manager of the Kent County Club, mentioned the difficulties met with in the endeavour to acquire a new ground. Although they had received two offers, the expenses of drainage and of making entrances, &c., to the grounds would have been so great that, when

they again had the Angel Ground offered them, they abandoned all negotiations and ultimately decided to give the sum of £4,300 for the ground and some cottages at the entrance.

Mr C Fitch Kemp, who presided, pointed out the wisdom of this action and referred to the financial support already received, nearly £1,250 having been raised by subscriptions. Mr Kemp further stated that Lord Harris felt strong sympathy with them and would advocate, at the next meeting of the county club, that a circular be sent out to all the members of that club seeking their support. It is expected to raise about £3,000 by public subscription.

Friday 14 April, page 11: THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

Mr C E Green, in moving the adoption of the annual report, at the general meeting of the Essex County Cricket Club, at Leyton, yesterday, asked the indulgence of the members so that he might give them the exact circumstances in which Walter Mead severed his connection with the county eleven. There had been so many erroneous statements on the subject that he thought the moment opportune for explaining the whole situation.

At the end of the season of 1903, Mead, who had not long before made something like £700 from his benefit, sent two letters to the Essex Committee, demanding an increase of winter payment. The Essex Committee resented the dictatorial manner in which they were approached. The finances of the club, too, were in a bad way about this time, and the committee took the course which every self-respecting executive must have done.

But the Essex Committee had no quarrel with Mead. The door was open to him whenever he wished to withdraw the two obnoxious letters, and in such conditions Essex would be only too pleased to welcome their old servant back to their ranks. But it was for Mead to move in the matter.

Mr Green discussed the prospects of Essex cricket and urged the eleven to think more of the side collectively. They had a splendid batting team, but batting was useless unless the side fielded better than they had done. Dropped catches were mostly responsible for their poor show last year; and he hoped that in the coming season they would give more loyal support in the field to Mr F L Fane, who had again undertaken the captaincy of the eleven. They had a fine programme, including two matches with the Australians.

Lockwood and Peel had been engaged by Mr Green to coach the Essex cricketers for three weeks, and it was hoped that the services of these two great players would be beneficial.

The report and accounts were adopted, and the election of officers (with Lord Rayleigh as president) was followed by a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Green for presiding.

Tuesday 18 April, page 5: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Major R W Shepherd presided yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the Yorkshire County Committee, held in the pavilion of the Headingley Ground, Leeds. The following resolution was passed with regard to the reporting of cricket by county players: -

"That it is the unanimous opinion of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club Committee that the reporting of county cricket by county players taking part in matches is undesirable and not consistent with the best interests of the game."

It was decided to invite the following players to attend practices: - Deyes, of Thirsk, Ingleby, of Keighley, and Batefield, of Clayton.

With respect to the test match at Leeds, it was decided that seats be reserved for all three days for one guinea, including admission to the ground.

Regarding the matches with the Australians at Sheffield and Bradford, it was decided to reserve 350 seats at each ground at half a guinea for all three days, including admission to the ground. It was decided that 35 per cent of the gate money at home fixtures should go to the club on whose ground the match was played.

With respect to the proposed visit in 1906 of an Indian team, it was decided to play a match with them and guarantee £100.

Lord Hawke and Mr R W Frank were unanimously re-elected captains of the first and second elevens respectively.

THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

It is officially announced that Lord Dalmeny will captain the Surrey team in the early part of the season.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The Gloucestershire County Club had decided to start a cricket festival at Bristol this season with matches against Somerset and Australians on June 26 and June 29 respectively; but at a special meeting of the county committee yesterday it was decided to abandon the idea as the dates clashed with a charity carnival, organized by Sir George White, in connection with the Bristol Infirmary.

It was stated, however, that the Lord Mayor of Bristol would entertain the Australians. It is hoped that next season convenient dates would be selected to start the festival with every prospect of success.

Mr W Brearley, the Lancashire fast bowler, has received and accepted an invitation, sent by Mr Lacey on behalf of the M.C.C., to play for the Gentlemen of England against the Australians at Lord's on May 18, 19 and 20.

Friday 21 April, page 8: THE CRICKET SEASON

It has been said that the great international struggles between England and Australia dwarf everything else in cricket at the present day, and everyone interested in the game will look forward to the five Test matches, which will be played at Nottingham, Lord's, Leeds, Manchester and the Oval, as the leading feature of the coming season.

The composition and the abilities of the Australian team to visit this country have been widely discussed; and the general conclusions by those best qualified to judge seem to be that the team should be very strong in batting, without the tail that was so noticeable during the matches with the M.C.C. team in Australia in the winter of 1903-4, but that the bowling will be comparatively weak and certainly not so strong as that of the last two or three Australian sides that have visited England.

The loss of Mr H Trumble, who, during recent years, has been, perhaps, the best bowler of his type in the world, will, it is generally agreed, be incalculable; and, further, the absence of a left-hander and a lack of variety in the character of the attack make it probable that the Australians will have a much harder task to get out good sides on good wickets than in 1902 or in 1899.

Great interest will be felt in the doings of Mr Cotter, the fast bowler, and much would seem to depend on his abilities on English wickets. Mr Trumper, Mr Duff, Mr Hill and Mr Noble form a quartet of batsmen as strong as any four which England possesses, and in addition there will be Mr Gregory, Mr Darling, Mr Hopkins and Mr Armstrong, while Mr Gehrs, one of the men who have not visited England before, is believed to be a player of the highest class.

In fielding, and especially in throwing, the Australians have shown us what can be done, and it is much to be hoped that in this respect there will be no diminution of the high standard which they have set themselves.

The Australian team will arrive in England next week. Their first match begins at the Crystal Palace on May 4, and altogether they will take part in nearly 40 games. The dates of the five Test matches are as follows: - May 29, 30 and 31, at Nottingham; June 15, 16 and 17, at Lord's; July 3, 4 and 5, at Leeds; July 24, 25 and 26, at Manchester; and August 14, 15 and 16, at the Oval.

One of the most interesting events will be the game against the Gentlemen of England on May 18, 19 and 20, at Lord's. There are only three men in the team who have not visited England before, Mr Cotter, Mr Gehrs and Mr Newland. Of the rest, all, with the exception of Mr McLeod, were in the team in 1902.

The arrangements for the Test matches are substantially the same as in 1902, but the match at the Oval will be played to a finish, although this will not make a draw on the rubber impossible. The selection of the English team has been entrusted to Lord Hawke, Mr J A Dixon and Mr P F Warner.

During the winter there have been several matters of interest in the cricket world. The Australians on their way to England have played several matches in New Zealand and one in Fiji, while Lord Brackley's eleven, the majority of whom arrived home on Wednesday, had a most successful tour in the West Indies.

Two proposals have been made which will come before the M.C.C. at the meeting on May 3. The first, to add the words "unless otherwise arranged" at the end of Law 1, after "the choice of innings shall be decided by tossing," has met with support from the M.C.C. executive and the Advisory County Committee.

The second, to add to Law 4 the words "the fielding side may at any time on giving notice to the batsmen provide a new ball," has, of course, the laudable object of checking high scoring and giving some help to the bowler; but the general opinion seems to be that it might not work altogether satisfactorily.

Putting aside the games in which the Australians take part, the three great matches at Lord's are fixed for the following dates: - Oxford v Cambridge on July 6, 7 and 8; Gentlemen v Players on July 10, 11 and 12; and Eton v Harrow on July 14 and 15. The Gentlemen v Players at the Oval is fixed for July 17, 18 and 19, and thus will not, as it has done in the last two years, clash with Eton v Harrow. The Eton v Winchester match will be played at Eton on June 23 and 24.

Even in an Australian year there is little diminution of the interest shown in the county championship, and the number of counties, quite large enough already, will be increased by the inclusion of Northamptonshire.

It is a profitless task to forecast the doings of the counties, for "paper" form is so often misleading. From many counties comes the news that the same players will be available. Here and there a county loses one of its mainstays, the greatest loss being that of Somerset, for whom their great batsman Mr L C H Palaret will no longer be able to play except on rare occasions; while in other cases counties will be strengthened by new talent or the reappearance of players after a lapse of some years.

A few words may, perhaps, be said as to the newcomers in the competition. In one respect the addition of another county to the list is to be regretted. There is too much first-class cricket, and a decrease in the number of matches would be more welcome than an increase. From a cricket point of view, however, Northamptonshire fully deserve their promotion. In the last few years they have shown really good form and were, almost without doubt, the best eleven in the second division.

The mainstays of the side are Thompson and East, who in bowling have done nearly all the work and have had a large share in the batting as well. Thompson, who, in the West Indies, has been in great form this winter, is a fine all-round cricketer, and much of the side's success may depend on his efforts. Even if Northamptonshire are hardly likely to occupy a high place among the first-class counties at the end of the season, they seem to be a considerably better eleven than some of those near the bottom of the list in the last few years.

It is always extremely difficult to estimate the probable strength of University sides, and University cricket has a curious way of falsifying all calculations; but it certainly seems that the prospects of Oxford look the more promising, especially since it has been known that Mr W H B Evans, whose value is incalculable, will be in residence.

Mr K M Carlisle succeeds Mr Evans as captain, and besides these two, six of those who played against Cambridge last year - Mr Martin, Mr Burn, Mr Raphael, Mr Bird, Mr Branston and Mr Brownlee - will be available, as well as Mr Norris, who was selected to play but was unable to do so owing to an injury. Thus Mr Carlisle will have very few places to fill. As batsmen, besides Mr Evans, who may be considered in a class by himself, there will be Mr Raphael, a really good player, Mr Carlisle, Mr

Branston, Mr Norris - who may all be considered fairly sound - and Mr Brownlee, who is brilliant but uncertain.

In bowling three of last year's regular bowlers remain - Mr Evans, Mr Burn and Mr Martin - while Mr Branston and Mr Norris are both useful changes. It would appear as a whole that what is most wanted is a capable slow right-handed bowler; and if such a one is discovered, Oxford, with a strong batting team and a varied attack, should be quite up to the average of recent University sides.

Among the Seniors and Freshmen, as usual, there appears likely to be any amount of batting talent, but a dearth of bowling. Of the Seniors in batting Mr G G M Bennett, Mr A E Worsley and a number of others have done well; while in bowling Mr N R Udal, fast right, Mr F A H Henley, fast right, and Mr K G Whately, slow medium, seem the most promising.

The most capable batsmen among the Freshmen would appear to be Mr E L Wright (Winchester), Mr C N Bruce (Winchester), Mr G N Foster (Malvern), Mr H M Butterworth (Marlborough) and Mr Gresswell (Repton).

At Cambridge, as at Oxford, there will be a number of Old Blues in residence, seven of the side who played at Lord's last summer being available. Mr E W Mann is captain and Mr C H Eyre secretary, and, as all the members of last year's eleven who have gone down - Mr Wilson, Mr Marsh, Mr K R B Fry and Mr Phillips - were batsmen, Cambridge will start the season with the same bowling talent as last year.

Mr H C McDonell, Mr G G Napier, Mr Hopley, Mr Keigwin and Mr Mann should form a fairly strong attack, although the first two of these alone seem to be above the average; but there can be no doubt that a left-hander would greatly add to the effectiveness of the side.

It is proverbially difficult, however, to find bowling in the University; and among the Seniors P R May, fast-medium right hand, is the only Senior who has shown good form; while among the Freshmen the best on public school reputations, which are so often misleading, seem to be Mr C S Rattigan (Harrow), Mr C G Humphries (Shrewsbury) and Mr G L Mugleston (Rossall).

In batting Mr Mann, Mr Eyre, Mr Keigwin, Mr McDonell, with Mr Payne as a useful player and Mr Hopley to hit, form the nucleus of a fairly strong if by no means brilliant side. Among the Seniors C B Magnay alone seems much good as a batsman; but there would appear to be many promising Freshmen, among them being Mr R E H Baily (Harrow), Mr C Palmer (Uppingham), Mr W S Bolton (Harrow) and Mr R A Young (Repton).

Eton will not have many old choices, but the prospects on the whole look promising. Mr Tod will be captain, and Mr Astor, who was a sound batsman last year and a difficult man to get out, is also still at Eton. Harrow, too, have lost most of last year's eleven; Mr Crake will be captain, and of the others who remain Mr Bird has shown very great promise as a batsman.

Mr J H Gordon succeeds Mr E L Wright as captain at Winchester, but only five of last year's team, which was, perhaps, the strongest public school eleven of the year, are still available.

The chief fixtures for the season are: -

[Note: the full list of first-class fixtures can be found on Cricket Archive at http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1905_f_Match_List.html]

THE AUSTRALIAN TOUR

The fixtures of the Australians are given below: -

[Note: the full fixture list for the Australians can be found on Cricket Archive at http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/0/Australia_in_British_Isles_1905.html]

THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

The report and balance-sheet for 1904 of the Surrey County Cricket Club have been issued to members. In spite of the ill success of the eleven the support accorded by the public to the matches at the Oval was so liberal that the year's working of the club yielded a profit of £864 15s 4d. The most

attractive fixtures were those with Nottinghamshire (on the August Bank Holiday), Yorkshire, Lancashire, and the one between Gentlemen and Players. The testimonial fund on behalf of Abel amounted to £464 12s 3d.

In their report the committee draw special attention to the batting last season of Hayward and Hayes, the fine all-round play of Mr J N Crawford, and the good form shown among others by Nice, Gooder, Davis and Goatly.

The annual general meeting will be held in the pavilion at the Oval on Thursday, May 4, at 5 o'clock.

24 April: SURREY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6661.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 April, page 8)

The opening match of the season, between Surrey and an eleven representing the Gentlemen of England, was begun at the Oval yesterday in cold weather. It was rather a dull day's cricket, in which the bowlers for the greater part held the upper hand.

After making due allowances for want of practice, which was only too apparent, it must be said that the batting with few exceptions was very poor. The bowling, generally, never looked very deadly, but the fielding, although the players were handicapped by the cold, was decidedly good.

In the Surrey first innings wickets fell rapidly before the bowling of Mr Beldam and Mr Brearley, and Hobbs, who has recently qualified for Surrey, and Hayes were the only members of the side to offer any real resistance. When the Gentlemen of England went in there was but little improvement in the batting. Mr Beldam played steadily for his runs, but the best form was shown by Mr Townsend, and it was chiefly due to his efforts that his side were able to claim a lead of 29 on the first innings.

Going in a second time Surrey did much better. Although bowling changes were frequent, Hobbs and Hayward, by the best cricket of the day, kept together until the close of play, when Surrey held a lead of 52 runs, with all their wickets in hand, in their second innings.

It is hard to judge of a player's ability from a first appearance, but Hobbs did sufficiently well yesterday to justify the belief that he will prove to be a useful addition to the Surrey eleven. He showed considerable resource and possesses a good number of scoring strokes, while his defence appears to be sound and, in addition, he is a good field.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 April, page 5)

The weather greatly interfered with the second day's play in this match at the Oval yesterday, as rain fell steadily during the luncheon interval and prevented any further cricket.

Overnight Surrey had scored 81 in their second innings without losing a wicket, and when the game was continued they again did fairly well. For their improved position Surrey were largely indebted to the good form shown by Hobbs, who again played excellent cricket. He was seldom in difficulties with the bowling and, except for a chance in the slips when he had made 75, his innings was free from fault. He was particularly strong on the leg side, but his runs were got by a good variety of strokes, and his play generally would suggest that he has a good future before him as a batsman.

Hayward, although not scoring at the same rate, also batted well, while Davis made a few good strokes and Mr Baily, who was captain at Harrow last season, played a good defensive innings. When play had to be abandoned for the day Surrey were 186 runs ahead with three wickets still in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 April, page 10)

The match between Surrey and the Gentlemen of England ended at the Oval yesterday in a draw. Although the weather greatly interfered with the game during the closing stages, some good cricket was seen.

During the morning Surrey, who overnight had made 215 for seven wickets, considerably strengthened their position. This was chiefly due to the batting of Mr Baily, who received good assistance from Stedman. The pair put on 71 for the eighth wicket, and in the end the Gentlemen of England were set 254 to get to win.

Dr Grace and Mr Beldam opened the innings, and from the first runs came freely. Dr Grace, after an indifferent start, played a fine forcing game, and among other strokes he hit Mr J N Crawford out of the ground for six by a fine on-drive. He and Mr Beldam, who was content to take matters quietly, put on 57 for the first wicket in 35 minutes. Mr Sewell was soon out, and at the luncheon interval the score was 75 for two wickets.

Owing to the rain it was impossible to continue the game until half-past 4, and even then the conditions were hardly fit for cricket. The light at times was bad, and a drizzling rain set in some time before stumps were drawn. The Gentlemen of England were unable to follow up the good start which they had made, and wickets fell so fast that at one time it appeared as if Surrey might win. Mr Odell, however, stayed with Mr Townsend for the last half-hour of the day, and thus the game was well saved.

Mr Townsend's batting proved of the greatest value to his side; he showed a very strong defence, while he did not fail to punish severely anything approaching a loose ball. The Surrey fielding was good, Lees making two good catches at mid-off and Davis one in the long field. When stumps were drawn the Gentlemen of England still required 90 runs to win with only three wickets in hand.

24 April: THE NOTTS COLTS MATCH

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

Potted score: COLTS 131 (E Beardsall 31; G Gunn 11/45, W Speak 8/23) and 92 (E Beardsall 21; Hallam 9.32, Pennington 4/7, W Speak 5/40). THE ELEVEN 128 (G Gunn 21, Hardstaff 48, Mr W Speak 30; H Shaw 3/13) and 27/6 (F Shipstone 3/14). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 April, page 8)

The annual Colts match was begun at Trent-bridge yesterday in fine but cold weather. There had been an unusually large application for places in the colts team, but on a slow wicket the selected side did very moderately.

Beardsall, a Nottingham man, batted an hour and a quarter for his runs, and Mr Curtis, W Chambers, of Kimberley, and Hind, a member of the ground staff, also showed promising form. Wass and John Gunn were not playing for the eleven, but George Gunn bowled with good judgment and Mr W Speak, a leg-break bowler, got eight wickets for just over six runs each.

The soundest batting display of the day was given by Hardstaff. Shipstone, of Bulwell, a fast bowler, bowled Mr Jones and Day with successive balls.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 April, page 5)

The feature of the second day's play in the Notts Colts' match at Trent Bridge yesterday was the astonishing collapse of both sides when they went in a second time. The eleven, who overnight had scored 95 for five wickets, were all dismissed for the addition of only 33 runs, Shaw, of Sutton-in-Ashfield, taking three wickets for just over four runs each.

Batting a second time with a lead of three runs, The Colts lost five wickets for one run and ten wickets for four, but Mr Curtis and Beardsall, who had shown promising form on Monday, again batted well, while Alletson, who has this year joined the ground staff, also hit hard.

Before the bowling of Webster and Shipstone and in a fading light the eleven fared badly, six men being out for 27, when the match was left drawn.

24 April: LEICESTERSHIRE FIRST ELEVEN v NEXT FIFTEEN

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

Potted score: NEXT FIFTEEN 159 (G Swain 42; Gill 4/25, King 4/20, Jayes 5/25) and 98 (Captain Challoner 22, Jameson 22; Coe 9/33, King 4/33). THE ELEVEN 141 and 52/1. Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 April, page 8)

This two-day trial was begun at Leicester yesterday in cold weather and on a dead wicket. The next fifteen, batting first, were all out for 159, of which number G Swain, of the Leicester Town Club, made 43 in good style. Several public school boys were tried, but they failed to distinguish themselves. Gill took four wickets for 25 runs, King four for 20 and Jayes five for 25.

At the drawing of stumps the eleven had scored 122 for the loss of five wickets. Of the bowlers for the next fifteen Burbage created the most favourable impression. He bowls fast and has a nice easy action.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 April, page 5)

The trial match at Leicester ended yesterday in a draw. The eleven, who had scored overnight 122 for five wickets in reply to a total of 159, were dismissed for 141. Burbage and Benskin, the latter of whom is fast and keeps a good length, were the most successful bowlers.

At their second attempt the fifteen were put out for 98, and the eleven had 116 to get to win. They had scored 52 for one wicket when the stumps were finally pulled up. For the fifteen Captain Challoner batted well for 22 and Jameson also made 22 by quiet cricket. Squire, of Repton, and Bunson, of Oundle, also showed promising form. For the eleven Coe took nine and King four wickets for 33 runs each.

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Mr J Darling, who came by the ordinary route from Sydney, has arrived in London and is staying at the Inns of Court Hotel. All the other players are on their way from New York in the Majestic, and are expected to be in London to-day.

Thursday 27 April, page 10: THE ARRIVAL OF THE AUSTRALIANS

With the exception of Mr Darling, who came by the ordinary route from Adelaide and reached London on Tuesday, the members of the Australian team arrived at Liverpool from New York yesterday afternoon in the Majestic, disembarking about 6 o'clock.

In answer to inquiry the expressed themselves as being all in the best of health and condition. Mr Frank Laver, the manager, however, is suffering from a slight injury to his shoulder, caused by a fall on board ship, and Mr Newland from a badly-bruised cheek, having been hit by a ball while practising.

The team had an unfavourable voyage from New Zealand to Canada, and could not get much cricket on board, but they were able to practise a good deal on board the Majestic. Mr Laver said he had nothing to communicate, but expressed a hope that the side would be successful.

The players went direct from the landing stage to the riverside station adjoining, and left for London at about 20 minutes to 7 in a special saloon carriage.

The important point as to the captaincy has not yet, it is announced, been settled. The choice, which is understood to rest between Mr Noble and Mr Darling, will, no doubt, be made within the next day or two.

The team arrived at Euston shortly before eleven o'clock, being met by Mr Warner and others. Practice will begin to-day at Lord's.

Monday 1 May: SOMERSET TRIAL MATCH

Teams captained by Mr S M J Woods and Mr Gerald Fowler played a trial game at Taunton on Saturday, the result being a win for Mr Woods's side by eight runs, the totals being 174 and 156. Braund and Cranfield both bowled well, and good form in batting was shown by Lewis, Mr S M J Woods, W Montgomery and J Hellard.

UMPIRES FOR THE TEST MATCHES

The umpires for the five test matches have been selected as follows: -

Nottingham, May 29. - Carlin and James Phillips.
Lord's, June 15. - James Phillips and Richards.
Leeds, July 3. - James Phillips and Titchmarsh.
Manchester, July 24. - Carlin and J E West.
Oval, August 14. - James Phillips and W A J West.

1 May: SOUTH WALES v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6662.html)

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

This match was begun at Cardiff yesterday. Owing to rain and the sodden condition of the ground a start could not be made until half-past 3.

South Wales, who won the toss, at first did very badly. Three wickets were down for 13 runs and five for 37. The improvement which was afterwards seen was mainly due to Mr Riches. He played a sound, steady game and was not out at the close of the day's play. He had then been batting for over two hours without making a mistake.

The Yorkshire bowling was good and Grimshaw brought off three excellent catches, but Denton missed a fairly easy chance at long on. With this exception the Yorkshire fielding was up to a high standard.

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

This match was continued at Cardiff yesterday in unfavourable conditions. The wicket was slow and difficult and few good exhibitions of batting were seen.

South Wales, who had lost seven wickets on Monday for 79, concluded their first innings for an addition of five runs. Mr Riches carried out his bat after a painstaking innings. He had gone in at the fall of the first wicket, and he was batting for two and a half hours without making a mistake.

When Yorkshire went in, Mr Jackson and Hirst, of the earlier batsmen, alone showed good form, and Mr Jackson was fortunate in being missed at mid-off by Mr J H Brain when he had scored eight. Seven wickets were down for 62, when Haigh came in and gave a good display of batting. He made his runs in three-quarters of an hour, chiefly by hard driving. He was rather unluckily out for, after stopping a ball from Steeples, he turned round with the intention of preventing the ball from rolling on to the wicket and in doing so he kicked it against the stumps.

Yorkshire led on the first innings by 29 runs, and the home side lost half their wickets in their second innings very cheaply; but owing to some good cricket by Mr J H Brain they held a lead of 31 runs and had three wickets in hand when play ended for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 May, page 12)

This match at Cardiff ended yesterday in a win for Yorkshire by seven wickets.

Tuesday 2 May, page 10: CRICKET AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

The Trinity College Freshmen's match began yesterday at Cambridge. Mr C S Rattigan was seen to great advantage, taking six wickets for 16 runs and afterwards making 39. R S Hall took four wickets for 15 runs.

[Note: no further details of this match are given on following days.]

1 May: SURREY ELEVEN v NEXT SEVENTEEN

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

Potted score: NEXT SEVENTEEN 149 (T Bowring 20, Bale 24, R Abel jr 34; Gooder 7/48, Davis 3/30, Lees 3/24, Hayes 3/13) and 121 (Meads [C P Mead?] 24; Nice 4/21, Hobbs 6/29). SURREY ELEVEN 365 (Holland 91, Hayes 39, Baker 110, Davis 37, Hayward 32; Webb 3/61, Rudd 3/57).

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

This match was begun at the Oval yesterday. The Next Seventeen, who went in first, were all out for 149, R Abel, jun., making 34. The Eleven made 296 for four wickets, Holland getting 91 and Baker 78 not out.

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

The match at the Oval yesterday ended in a win for the Surrey XI by an innings and 95 runs.

Tuesday 2 May, page 10: A fixture has been arranged between the Australian cricket team and a team representing Dublin University Past and Present. The match will be played on the College Park, Dublin, on June 19, 20 and 21. This will be the first visit of the Australians to Ireland since 1878.

Wednesday 3 May, page 12: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

The annual meeting of the M.C.C. at Lord's this afternoon will, after the ordinary business has been disposed of, be made special to consider the proposed additions to Laws 1 and 4.

It is proposed to add to the last sentence of Law 1, "the choice of innings shall be decided by tossing," the words, "unless otherwise arranged," and to add to Law 4, "The fielding side may at any time, on giving notice to the batsmen, provide a new ball."

Thursday 4 May, page 12: MR W BREARLEY AND THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB

It is announced from Manchester that the negotiations between the Lancashire County Club and Mr W Brearley have broken down, and that Mr Brearley will not be seen in the Lancashire Eleven this season.

THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club was held in the pavilion at Lord's yesterday afternoon. Lord Granby (the retiring president) took the chair, and among those present were the Duke of Buccleuth, Lord Harris, Lord Lichfield, Lord Jersey, Lord Alverstone, Lord Lawrence, Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, Sir A W L Hemming, Mr A G Steel, Mr V E Walker, Mr A J Webbe, Mr C E Green, Mr J R Mason, Mr C B Fry, Mr A W Ridley, Mr J Shuter, Mr H T Hewett, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr P F Warner, Mr E A Nepean, Mr C E de Trafford, Mr H Perkins, Mr W E Denison, Mr Denzil Onslow, Mr G J V Weigall and Sir T C O'Brien.

After the adoption of the annual report, the meeting was made special for the purpose of discussing and voting on the proposed additions to laws 1 and 4. The proposal to add to the last sentence of law 1, "The choice of innings shall be decided by tossing" the words "unless otherwise arranged" was so easily lost on a show of hands that no purpose would have been served by going to the ballot. Lord Harris moved the proposal, and among those who took part in the debate were Sir A W L Hemming, Mr A G Steel, Mr W E Denison, Mr P F Warner, Mr Denzil Onslow and Mr G J V Weigall.

The suggested addition to law 4 of the words, "The fielding side may at any time on giving notice to the batsmen provide a new ball" came to nothing, Mr G W Ricketts, in whose name the motion appeared, asking leave to withdraw it, as he understood that negotiations were pending which might in county cricket bring about the object he aimed at.

The new president of the Club is Mr C E Green. Lord Darnley, Lord Hawke, Mr M Turner and Mr A J Webbe retired by rotation from the committee, their places being taken by Lord Granby, the Hon F S Jackson, Mr G R Bardswell and Mr J Shuter. The annual dinner of the club was held in the evening.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6663.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 4 May, page 12)

The M.C.C. team established an advantage in the match with Nottinghamshire at Lord's yesterday, for when stumps were drawn the county, with two men out in the second innings, were 64 runs behind.

With the wicket very slow, runs were always difficult to make, and the best batting was certainly that of Captain Wynyard and King, who made a stand of 54 for the second wicket in the M.C.C. and Ground's innings. Captain Wynyard played excellently, for the ball took much watching, and later in the innings Mr Foley for a little time hit well. The M.C.C. and Ground seemed in for a respectable score until Hallam was put on to bowl, when three wickets were down for 90, and then there was something of a collapse.

Nottinghamshire had comparatively a weak batting side, and Thompson, bowling straight and pitching the ball well up, got several wickets with balls that ordinarily should have been hit for four.

Day 2 (report from Friday 5 May, page 12)

The M.C.C. and Ground beat Nottinghamshire at Lord's yesterday by ten wickets. Nottinghamshire began the day from a bad position, for with Mr Jones and Iremonger out in the second innings, they were still 64 runs behind. There was a little hitting by John Gunn and Mr Hemingway, but Mr Hesketh-Prichard and King found a good length, and the batsmen were continually beaten on the slow pitch.

The M.C.C. and Ground had only 19 runs to make in the last innings, and the game was over by half-past 1.

4 May: GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6664.html)

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

The Australians opened their tour yesterday at the Crystal Palace, where Dr W G Grace had got together an amateur team against them, which was strong in batting but - apart from Mr Brearley and Mr Odell - rather weak in bowling.

Having the good fortune to win the toss, the Australians kept the Englishmen in the field from shortly after half-past 12 until 20 minutes past 5, and during that time - three hours and three quarters of actual cricket - they made nearly 300 runs. This innings of the Australians comprised practically the whole of the day's cricket, for when the Gentlemen of England went in only one over

had been sent down when Mr Warner appealed against the light, and the umpires agreed that the conditions were unfit for play and stumps were pulled up.

Considering how little practice they had had since they landed at Liverpool last Wednesday week, the Australians had fair cause for satisfaction in the result of their efforts yesterday, especially as the wicket, if never giving bowlers any pronounced assistance, was so soft that the start of the game had to be postponed for half an hour. At the same time a total of 270 was rather disappointing after there had been 165 runs on the board with only two men out.

Mr Trumper failed, a "yorker" from Mr Brearley dismissing him with the score at six. Capital form, however, was shown by Mr Duff, who, after playing himself in carefully, looked well set when a catch behind the wicket sent him back.

The best stand of the day came when Mr Noble joined Mr Hill, these two batsmen taking the score from 43 to 162 before lunch, and afterwards taking it to 165. The partnership thus realized 122 runs. Mr Hill, who in the opening match of the Australians' tour in England three years ago was bowled first ball, enjoyed good luck yesterday, giving a possible chance to Mr Warner at short-leg at 30, in addition to making two or three . . . [Note: the rest of this report is virtually illegible.]

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

The second day's play in this match at the Crystal Palace, yesterday, enabled the Australians to establish a strong position, for after obtaining a lead of 114 on the first innings, they did so well on going in a second time that at the close of play they were 315 runs ahead with eight wickets still to fall. It may at once be said that their advantage was thoroughly deserved, for in batting, bowling and fielding alike they were much the better side.

They were, perhaps, rather lucky to dismiss the Gentlemen of England for so small a score, as Mr Warner and Mr Fry were both out in rather an unfortunate manner, but misunderstandings in running are bound to occur, and are only the fortunes of cricket. It was especially to be regretted in Mr Fry's case from an English point of view, as Mr Fry has seldom shown his real ability against Australian bowling. He is a batsman who has few if any superiors at the present day on a soft wicket, and at the time he was run out he had settled down to his usual correct game.

A glance at the score would naturally suggest, when the Gentlemen of England were batting, that the state of the wicket was chiefly responsible for their downfall, but such was not the case. It was soft and easy, with the result that the ball was never able to do its work quickly, and the comparative failure of the side to make runs was in a large degree due to their indifferent batting, owing probably to a want of practice.

In addition to Mr Fry, Mr Lawton showed good form, and he made his runs in such a manner that it was hard to account for the earlier failures. So badly did the Gentlemen of England fare that at one time it appeared uncertain whether or not they would be able to save the follow on, as six wickets were down for 71 runs. However, this was avoided for the loss of another wicket, and then a useful stand by Mr Brearley and Mr Lawton helped to make the score larger than at one time appeared probable.

The Australian fielding was very close, and nothing could have been better than the way in which the fieldsmen both gathered and returned the ball. It is harder to speak of the bowling. Mr Cotter, the new fast bowler, possesses undoubted pace, although yesterday he was rather uncertain in his pitch; this was especially noticeable in his fastest deliveries, but probably he will be suited better by harder wickets.

Going in a second time, the Australians gave a good display. Mr Duff played very attractive cricket for his runs, but the best form, as in the first innings, was shown by Mr Hill and Mr Noble. Mr Hill started none too well, while Mr Noble took some time to play himself in, but when once they had got a good sight of the bowling they made runs very quickly. They came together when two wickets were down for 55, and in the last hour and a half of the day they put on 146 without being separated by very attractive play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 May, page 12)

The first match of the Australians' tour, against the Gentlemen of England, at the Crystal Palace, ended, on Saturday, in a draw.

At the close of play on Friday the Australians had established such a great advantage - they were 315 runs ahead with eight wickets still in hand - that there appeared just a possibility of an interesting finish. This, however, was not the case, for the Australians preferred to complete their innings rather than to declare it closed, and thus interest lay only in individual performances. Nevertheless, the cricket was always bright, and during the day just over 450 runs were scored.

It was the general opinion that the Australian team of 1905 would be a particularly strong one in batting, and it must be gratifying to the Australians that Mr Hill and Mr Noble should have got into their form at once. Well over 500 runs is a large score against any bowling. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the quality of the bowling against the Australians was decidedly weak, while the fieldsmen were kind to them in the matter of dropped catches; but, after making due allowance for everything, the Australians did more than enough to justify the belief that they will prove a very difficult side to get out twice in three days on anything approaching a batsman's wicket.

It is too early yet to speak with any degree of confidence of their bowling, but in fielding they should fully maintain the high standard set them by the other sides which have been over here from Australia.

When play was continued on Saturday Mr Hill and Mr Noble only added another 26 runs when the former appeared to be beaten in the pace of the ball and was bowled by Mr Brearley. In all they had put on 172 for the third wicket in just under two hours. Mr Hill, except for a few rather lucky strokes early in his innings in the slips, played splendid cricket and, as is usual with him, he made his runs by a good variety of strokes.

The best innings, however, was that of Mr Noble. He started slowly, while he played very carefully just before reaching his 100, but afterwards he hit out with great power. Some of his drives were very fine, and he hit out of the ground on three occasions. He was missed several times, but he was bound to take risks scoring at the pace which he did. He was fifth out at 368 to a catch at long on, after batting about three hours and a half. When he and Mr Darling, who played a fine innings, were together 140 runs were added in under an hour and a half.

Mr Cotter also showed that he could hit very hard, but he was decidedly lucky. There was no comparison between the fielding of the two sides, for the Gentlemen of England missed several catches, while their ground work, in both their pick up and their return, was not nearly so clean and accurate as that of the Australians.

When the Gentlemen of England went in a second time 640 runs behind there was only about an hour and a half left for play. Mr MacLaren made many good strokes, as did Mr Fry; but practically all interest had gone out of the game. When the match was left drawn the Gentlemen of England were still 511 behind with seven wickets to fall.

4 May: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6665.html)

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

[Note: unfortunately this report was totally illegible.]

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

At Taunton, yesterday, Rhodes increased the 97 which he had made on Thursday to 201, his highest score in first-class cricket. Playing splendidly for three hours and three quarters Rhodes timed his drives perfectly and, although he got the majority of his runs in front of the wicket, he cut and placed the ball to leg with great precision. Lord Hawke showed very good form, and altogether he and Rhodes put on 151 runs in about an hour and three-quarters.

Having increased their score of 380 by 169 for the loss of two more men, Yorkshire declared their innings closed at lunch time, after which the character of the cricket underwent such a complete change that in a little more than two hours Hirst and Rhodes got Somerset out for under 100.

Some improvement in the batting took place when the home county followed on 451 runs behind, but Hirst, whose great pace and swerve had beaten almost every one in the first innings, had to some extent lost his form. After the heavy scoring Hirst did a remarkable performance by taking seven wickets so cheaply, and Rhodes, although nothing like so effective, bowled well. As the game was left Somerset, with eight wickets to fall, required 357 to save the single innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 May, page 12)

As was only to be expected after the course taken by the game on the first two days, Yorkshire gained a decisive victory over Somerset at Taunton on Saturday by an innings and 224 runs.

4 May: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6666.html)

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

[Illegible] between Surrey and Essex was begun at the Oval yesterday. The game was never very interesting and throughout the bowler was always master of the situation, as may be judged by the low scoring. The wicket, although slow and helpful to the bowler, was not extremely difficult, but, no doubt, the failure of the batsmen may be attributed to want of practice.

Surrey batted first and Hayward and Hobbs made a slow but sure start, scoring over 50 before being separated. Afterwards Buckenham and Reeves carried all before them, and with the exception of a brightly hit innings by Holland, no one else did anything of note.

When Essex went in they could do no better than their opponents. Mr Perrin was unfortunate to be caught off a loose ball when he seemed to be playing with confidence, but perhaps the best batting of the afternoon was shown by Freeman, who scored his runs by some really excellent cricket. For Surrey, Lees and Nice bowled remarkably well, but the wicket was too slow for Mr Knox.

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

There was a much brighter day's cricket at the Oval yesterday. The weather was decidedly warmer while, in the absence of rain overnight, the wicket had become considerably faster and consequently more to the batsmen's liking.

This fact was amply proved by the good batting of Surrey, while later in the day Essex, although they made a bad start, improved their position afterwards. Hayward and Hobbs again gave Surrey a good start. After Hayward left, Hobbs continued to play fine cricket, ably assisted by Baker, while Nice and Lord Dalmeny gave Essex considerable trouble.

Hobbs had the satisfaction of making his first hundred for his county and, having accomplished this feat, he went on to add 50 more by some powerful hitting. It was a masterful innings, including a variety of strokes and marred only by one chance, at 80. There should be a great future before Hobbs in the cricket world.

Baker played a most valuable game for his side, having the misfortune to be run out, while Nice and Lord Dalmeny both made their runs quickly and well, the latter especially making some big hits. For Essex, neither Buckenham nor Reeves could find any length, and Tremelin alone met with any measure of success.

Essex began their second innings shortly before 5 o'clock in disastrous fashion, Carpenter and Mr Perrin losing their wickets very quickly, Lees bowling the latter with a very fine ball. The partnership of Mr Fane and Mr McGahey, however, considerably improved their position. Mr McGahey played a steady, if slow, game, and Mr Fane scored his runs by some bright cricket. Unfortunately, however, for Essex he lost his wicket just before the close of play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 May, page 12)

There was only a short day's play at the Oval on Saturday, when Surrey gained an easy victory over Essex by 185 runs.

4 May: THE SENIORS' MATCH AT OXFORD

Potted score: MR V H CARTWRIGHT'S SIDE 80 (T W S Maldon 34; N R Udal 6 wkts, E G Whately 5 wkts) and 139 (G E Grundy 26, V A S Stow 34; N R Udal 6/28). MR E G WHATELY'S SIDE 318 (P G Lewis 47, H Cosens-Hardy 20, E G Whately 33, A O Snowden 95, N R Udal 56*; G A Sandeman 4/50, F A H Henley 4/89). Mr E G Whately's Side won by an innings and 99 runs.

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

The Seniors' match was begun yesterday at Oxford. The wicket was never difficult, although slow, and want of match practice can alone account for the low scoring.

In the innings of Mr Cartwright's side, Mr Udal and Mr Whately, who remained unchanged, both bowled well, and Mr Udal, in spite of bowling a number of leg balls, kept a good length and was unfortunate in not getting more wickets. Mr Whately varied his pace well and made the ball come back a good deal, but both bowlers found the "yorker" the most useful ball. Mr Maldon made some excellent off drives, but his innings was marred by several chances. He was out to a good catch at point. Mr Stow was also well caught in the long field.

On going in to bat, Mr Whately's side started badly. Mr Bennett was out to a fine catch at slip, and three other wickets fell in quick succession. Mr Lewis and Mr Cosens-Hardy, however, changed the aspect of the game by good cricket. Mr Lewis seemed quite at home with the bowling and hit the ball clean and hard. Mr Whately came in for a quarter of an hour and made some good shots until the umpires decided that the light was too bad to admit of further play.

The ground fielding on both sides was good and few runs were thrown away. The wicket was too slow for Mr Henley, who was bowling very short, and Mr Sandeman, after starting well, lost his length.

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

On a wicket which had dried considerably and which was very easy Mr Whately's side had no difficulty in largely increasing their score at Oxford yesterday. Mr Whately and Mr Snowden continued their innings to the bowling of Mr Sandeman and Mr Henley.

Mr Whately did most of the scoring, and after playing well for his runs was out to a catch at cover point. Mr Snowden and Mr Udal remained together for some time, before Mr Snowden was bowled. After starting slowly he had settled down to good cricket and, although making several "upish" strokes, he played a very good innings, the feature of which was his off driving.

Mr Winterbotham and Mr Udal offered a determined resistance and put on 40 runs for the last wicket. Mr Udal gave an excellent display of good hitting, treating all the bowlers alike, and he proved himself to be a greatly improved batsman. All the bowlers, except Mr Sandeman, failed to get a length on a wicket much in favour of the batsmen. Few chances were missed and the fielding was decidedly good.

Mr Cartwright's side again failed badly before the bowling of Mr Udal. Mr Cartwright was "yorked" and Mr Lyle and Mr Marshall were both out to simple balls. After this, Mr Whately and Mr Udal gave way to Mr Snowden and Mr Winterbotham, who bowled steadily and kept a good length, but many balls on the leg side were missed by the batsmen, who scored slowly. Mr Grundy batted in nice style and played a very useful innings, but he was the only batsman who stayed for long, although Mr Stow made several good drives.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 May, page 12)

Mr Whately's side won this match at Oxford on Saturday by an innings and 99 runs. The game on the whole was disappointing.

The batsmen on Mr Cartwright's side with but two exceptions failed to justify their reputations, for the bowling did not appear very deadly. The wicket-keeping of Mr Stow and Mr Sheringham was quite creditable. The fast bowlers gave them plenty to do on the leg side, while the chances which the batsmen gave were few and difficult.

Mr Lewis, Mr Snowden, Mr Whately and Mr Grundy gave good displays with the bat and look likely to make many more runs this year. The ground fielding on both sides was smart, Mr Buxton and Mr Lewis being especially prominent, while several good catches were made and few were dropped.

Friday 5 May, page 12

[Note: there were articles entitled THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB (concerning the annual general meeting) and (briefly) DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE, but these were almost entirely illegible.]

Monday 8 May, page 12; THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT OXFORD

The following are the sides for this match, which begins at Oxford to-day: -

Mr K M Carlisle's Side. - Mr F C Rowe (Rugby and University), the Hon C N Bruce (Winchester and New College), Mr A Greswell (Repton and Hertford), Mr H M Butterworth (Marlborough and University), Mr S Burdekin (Armidale School, Australia, and Merton), Mr J N Horlick (Eton and Christ Church), Mr J K Hepburn (Westminster and Queen's), Mr H E Forrester (private and Oriel), Mr C A L Payne (Charterhouse and New College), Mr A Howard (Haileybury and Christ Church) and Mr D V Coote (Marlborough and Exeter).

Mr W S Bird's Side. - Mr O F Huyshe (King's School, Canterbury, and Keble), Mr G N Foster (Malvern and Worcester), Mr E L Wright (Winchester and New College), Mr H H K Worsley (Radley and Magdalen), Mr C G E Farmer (Eton and New College), Mr H C Brooks (Blundell's School, Tiverton, and Balliol), Mr J C Hutson (Steward's School, Oxford, and Trinity), Mr E C Cripps (Charterhouse and Oriel), Mr W W Hoskin (Grahamstown, South Africa, and Trinity), Mr W F Yoeman (Diocesan College, Cape Town, and Exeter) and Mr C F Younger (Winchester and New College).

8 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6667.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 12)

Yorkshire made a good start in their match with Gloucestershire at Bristol yesterday. They were batting all day, and at the close they had still one wicket to fall.

To begin with, play went in favour of Gloucestershire, Rothery, Grimshaw, Denton and Tunnicliffe being out for 83 runs; but a stand by Hirst and Wilkinson altered the aspect of the game, for they added 102. Neither man at first played with much confidence, and Hirst might have been caught at third slip when he had scored 46. Wilkinson improved as he went on, and used a square cut to much advantage.

Lord Hawke and Haigh added 50 in 40 minutes, and the professional, with the assistance of Myers, put on another 50 for the ninth wicket. Haigh drove with great power and three times hit balls from Dennett over the track for six. The Gloucestershire fielding was always good and the bowling never became slack, while Board kept wicket splendidly.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 4)

At Bristol yesterday Yorkshire gained an unexpectedly easily victory over Gloucestershire by an innings and 55 runs. Hirst and Rhodes were chiefly responsible for this result, for in the morning, when the home side started batting, they bowled in such irresistible form that the first five wickets fell for 15 runs, and in spite of some plucky batting by Mr Brownlee, Mr Thomas and Board the whole side were out for a very small score.

The wicket gave the bowlers very little assistance, but they kept a perfect length and at times made the ball turn in a surprising fashion. Some of the batsmen were beaten by the pace of the pitch, but Hirst and Rhodes may be said to have fairly earned their success.

They did not perform with the same deadly effect when Gloucestershire followed on, 242 behind, and the best figures were secured by Haigh. Nevertheless the side were put out a second time for a moderate number of runs. Mr Jessop was distinctly unfortunate in being run out, for he batted in excellent style, showing a stronger defence than he often exhibits without losing any of his hitting powers. He got his runs in 50 minutes.

8 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6668.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 12)

Considerable progress was made in this match, at Leicester, yesterday, 21 wickets going down for 309 runs. The explanation for so many failures, probably, was that the batsmen, after recent experiences of soft wickets, were beaten by the pace of the ground.

In their first innings, the Leicestershire men, with the exception of Coe, were singularly at fault with the bowling of Kermode, who kept a good length and made the ball come back. At one time Leicestershire had five men out for 18, but Whitehead stayed in with Coe while 42 runs were added.

Lancashire began by losing Mr Garnett and Tyldesley before a run was scored, but Mr MacLaren made a magnificent effort for his side. Quickly finding the pace of the ground he played in his best form, hitting the bowling to all parts of the field. In three-quarters of an hour he hit 51 out of 60, and altogether he was batting only an hour and 40 minutes for his runs. He was fifth out at 130. Mr MacLaren did not make any mistake and he got 64 of his runs by fours.

Although he only scored six runs Mr Poidevin rendered great service by keeping up his end while 65 runs were put on, and Sharp, who was in for an hour, played a valuable innings. In the end Lancashire secured the useful lead of 96, after being at the wickets for three hours and a quarter.

Going in a second time, Leicestershire made a good effort to pull the game round, and at the close, with nine wickets in hand, they were only 27 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 4)

Although Mr C J B Wood played an extremely fine innings at Leicester, yesterday, the home side never recovered from their poor display on Monday, and by 5 o'clock they were well beaten, Lancashire winning by nine wickets.

Mr MacLaren gave another skilful display, and in scoring 153 for once out he had a large share in the victory of his side.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6669.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 12)

The feature of the cricket at Lord's, yesterday, was the batting of Mr Fry. There was no lack of variety in the bowling against which he got his runs, and there seemed also two or three spots in the

pitch helpful to the bowlers; but Mr Fry played with great precision from the moment he went in, and he drove with great power.

Tarrant seemed to trouble him more than any one else, and it was he who finally beat Mr Fry with a good ball. But late in his innings Albert Trott had almost bowled him with a leg-break that got through his defence and just missed the stumps. Mr Fry got his runs at the rate of about 50 an hour and was sixth out at 304.

Relf at times played a good strong game, and was in with his captain while 159 were made for the fourth wicket; but the majority of the Sussex batsmen failed to do much. Tarrant, on the whole, bowled extremely well, and J T Hearne, who was not tried until the score was nearly 80, broke up what promised to be a long partnership when he got out Killick in his first over with a "yorker." There were some dropped catches by the M.C.C. and Ground team, and in several instances the fielding was slack.

In the last hour of the day there was some excellent batting by Mr Warner.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 4)

Mr Warner played a very fine innings for the M.C.C. and Ground at Lord's yesterday. In first-class cricket he had never before made 200 runs, although some years ago in the New Zealand tour he scored 211.

Yesterday his batting was particularly good from first to last; he is a player with plenty of strokes and he practised them with much precision on the good pitch and against the moderate bowling, and he made his runs at the rate of nearly 60 an hour. He was eventually out at 346, caught from a bumping ball that went off his glove into the hands of the wicket-keeper.

There were a few mistakes in the Sussex fielding, although altogether the side got through an exacting day's work with considerable credit. Mr Warner closed the M.C.C. and Ground's innings in time to give Sussex 40 minutes' batting and, at the finish, the county, with eight wickets in hand, were 117 runs behind.

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

The M.C.C. and Ground beat Sussex, at Lord's yesterday, by seven wickets. The closing stage of the match was made remarkable by Mr Fry's second three-figure innings, and he achieved the feat for the fourth time in his career of scoring two hundreds in the same game. Many cricketers possess the distinction of the "double century" in one match. Dr Grace and Mr R E Foster have three times secured it, but Mr Fry is alone in having four times performed the feat.

His batting yesterday fell far below the standard of his Monday's play. He was often in trouble in timing the ball, and Thompson and Tarrant beat him without bowling him in several instances. It must not be forgotten, however, that he was playing a losing game, for the question of the result of the match rested more or less on his failure or success.

As it was Vine, who helped him to add 109 for the third Sussex wicket, alone gave him much assistance, and when Mr Fry was fifth out at 221 the result of the game was practically certain. Relf was unwell, and neither fielded nor batted yesterday.

The M.C.C. and Ground had some trouble to get the 103 runs, and their task would have been greater had simple catches from Captain Wynyard and Mr Ebdon been held. In the match 1,212 runs were made, and it was a satisfactory feature of the game that with this high scoring a definite result was obtained.

8 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6670.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 12)

The second match of the Australians' tour was begun at Trent Bridge yesterday; and the first day's play was chiefly remarkable for the batting of Mr Armstrong and Mr Noble for the Australians, and of Mr Jones for the home side.

The Australians, who won the toss, made a bad start, Mr Trumper, Mr Duff and Mr Hill being dismissed for only 14 runs; but Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong kept together until luncheon and added 138. Mr Noble, who had been missed from a hard drive to Mr Dixon at mid-off when he had made 11, was it first ball after luncheon; but Mr Armstrong continued to hit brilliantly. The only mistake in his fine innings, which lasted just over two hours, was a difficult chance of stumping just before he reached his 50. He forced the game excellently, and from first to last he showed a complete mastery over the bowling.

Mr Darling and Mr Newland played very steadily, but Mr Cotter, who was missed by Mr Dixon before he had scored, hit out indiscriminately, J Gunn being punished for 17 in one over. The Australians' innings lasted three hours and three quarters. Wass and J Gunn shared the wickets, and the fast bowler's figures would have been better than they were had the chances been accepted, and certainly the Nottinghamshire fielding was not as good as it ought to have been.

Nottinghamshire lost Iremonger, who was magnificently caught by Mr Trumper when eight runs had been scored, but Mr Jones, who played delightful cricket, and G Gunn remained together until the close. Stumps were drawn at Trent Bridge at 6 o'clock yesterday, and it is stated that the Australians have decided that, owing to their heavy programme, they will limit the time of play in all their matches, apart from the Test matches, from noon to 6 o'clock each day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 4)

At one time yesterday there appeared a prospect of Nottinghamshire more than holding their own with the Australians in this match at Trent-bridge; but after an invaluable stand by Mr Jones and G Gunn, who had been partners for 63 minutes overnight, there came a bad breakdown in the batting, relieved only by the ninth-wicket partnership of Hardstaff and Hallam, who showed plenty of confidence and were extremely smart in running.

Mr Jones batted with greater restraint than usual, his innings occupying two and a half hours, but his cricket was always attractive and he made few bad strokes. He was, however, fortunate, when he had made 62, in skying a ball which neither Mr Cotter nor Mr McLeod could see owing to the sun. The Australian ground fielding was very fine, and Mr Trumper made two splendid catches, but on the good wicket there did not appear very much sting in the bowling. Nottinghamshire were greatly handicapped by the inability of Wass to take part in the game, owing to an injured hand.

The Australians, on going in a second time with a lead of 69, increased their advantage to 202 for the loss of two wickets. Mr Trumper played a delightful innings, but Mr Hill was quieter than usual.

It was officially announced before play started that Mr Cotter's score on Monday was 41 and not 39, only four having been credited to him for a hit which should have counted six. This increased the Australians' total to 283, and counted two more runs against J Gunn in the analysis.

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

This match at Trent-bridge, yesterday, ended in a draw, the restricted hours of play arranged in deference to the Australians and the perfect wicket combining to this end.

When the Australians continued their innings, with a lead of 202 and eight wickets in hand, it was obviously their policy to force the game, but Mr Hill was almost immediately caught low down with one hand by Mr Jones at slip, and, although Mr Armstrong and Mr Darling hit well, Mr Noble always played a safe game. Still the Australian captain was able to declare his innings closed before luncheon with a lead of 303 and three hours and a half in which to get Nottinghamshire out.

The Australians' innings lasted just over three hours, 101 being scored in an hour and a half yesterday. The Nottinghamshire attack was again greatly weakened by the inability of Wass to take part in the game.

Mr Jones and Iremonger made a brilliant start for Nottinghamshire, putting on 73 in 40 minutes before Iremonger returned a full pitch to the bowler; and then G Gunn and his captain, as in the first

innings, made another stand, which produced 139 in two hours. Indeed at one time there appeared just a chance of Nottinghamshire's winning, but Mr Jones was finely caught in trying to force the game, and with Gunn out shortly afterwards the home side were content to play out time.

Mr Jones, who had the distinction of scoring the first century against the present Australian team, was nearly two hours and three-quarters obtaining his runs and, although he ought to have been stumped when he had made 74 and caught by Mr Armstrong at 94, his innings was a very fine one.

8 May: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6671.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 12)

The first day's play of this match at the Oval, yesterday, left the game in a fairly even position, for at the close Hampshire were 53 runs behind with five wickets in hand. On the whole it was rather a dull day's cricket, and it was only the fine batting of Mr Sprot which varied the monotony of the game.

When Surrey went in there appeared to be nothing the matter with the wicket, but the scoring was very slow, in fact much slower than the circumstances warranted. Hayward, although he made many good strokes, was particularly quiet, as will be understood when it is stated that he was at the wickets for two hours and a half for his runs.

The batting of the rest of the side was featureless, no one doing anything worthy of comment. Of the Hampshire bowlers Mr Persse and Langford did best. Mr Persse, who was making his first appearance for his county, is a fast right-hand bowler with an easy action, and he certainly did enough yesterday to justify a further trial.

On going in to bat Hampshire, like Surrey, started badly, but when Mr Hill joined Mr Sprot, the bowling was collared and the best cricket during the day was seen. Runs came at a fast rate and, although Mr Sprot made a few bad strokes behind the wicket, his driving and cutting were very good. When these two batsmen were together 65 were added in 40 minutes for the third wicket.

At this point Hampshire had certainly the better position, but afterwards two good wickets fell; and, as Hampshire possess an undoubted "tail," there was practically nothing to choose between the sides when stumps were drawn. Mr Sprot was the last out at 128, having made his runs at the rate of nearly one a minute.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 4)

There was a much brighter day's cricket at the Oval yesterday, and apart from the improvement shown in the batting the game was always interesting, if only for its varying fortunes.

Overnight Hampshire had got within 53 runs of the Surrey first innings for the loss of half their wickets. When play was continued yesterday the Hampshire "tail" gave considerable trouble, and in the end the visitor were able to claim a lead of 41. For Surrey Lees bowled splendidly, taking eight wickets for just over 11 runs each, and he was backed up by some good work in the field.

Going in a second time Surrey did better, although they lost Hayward's wicket before hitting off the arrears, but their score was not a large one considering the excellence of the pitch. The features of their batting were the good all-round cricket of Hobbs and the hitting of Hayes and Lees.

For style and finish Hobbs's innings was by far the best, but Hayes played a fine forcing game and he made his runs at the rate of one a minute, scoring all but eight of them by fours. Lees, who was in only 25 minutes, also hit seven fours, while by way of contrast Baker was batting an hour and 20 minutes.

With 150 on the board and only three men out there appeared a chance of Surrey's making a good score, but afterwards the game took a turn in favour of Hampshire and, the last three wickets going down for one run, the visitors were only set 205 to get to win. Mr Persse again bowled well, and it would appear that he relies chiefly on his length to get him his wickets.

At the close of the Surrey innings Hampshire appeared to have the better position, but in spite of some fine hitting by Mr Sprot, who scored 34 out of 39, Hampshire fared so badly in the last 50 minutes of the day that at the close they still required 149 to win with four of the best wickets down.

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

After a good finish Surrey beat Hampshire, at the Oval yesterday, by 30 runs. Overnight Hampshire had been sent in to make 205 to win and had lost four of their best wickets for 56; thus, when play was continued yesterday, they still required 149.

Although the game hung in the balance, it was hardly expected that Hampshire would succeed in getting the runs, but, as events proved, the closing stage was not without its anxious moments for Surrey. Two additional wickets fell quickly, and Surrey appeared to have victory well within their grasp; but Mr Bacon and Llewellyn batted so well that so long as they remained together there seemed to be a chance of the tables being turned.

However, when they had added 67 in about three-quarters of an hour, Mr Bacon hit out recklessly and was bowled, while Langford was out in the same over, and eight wickets were down for 140. Another stand was made on Mr Persse joining Llewellyn, but Mr Knox, going on at 169, bowled Llewellyn two runs later, and afterwards the end was soon reached. Llewellyn batted splendidly, being very strong on the off side; he put plenty of power into his strokes, and whether he was cutting or driving the ball seldom left the ground.

For their victory Surrey was largely indebted to Lees. He bowled unchanged in Hampshire's two innings with the exception of losing one over through changing ends. In all he took 12 wickets for 154.

8 May: WARWICKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6672.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 12)

The most noteworthy feature of the cricket at Birmingham yesterday in the opening stage of the match between Warwickshire and Somerset was the batting of Mr Fishwick. Obviously short of practice, the majority of the Warwickshire batsmen found runs hard to get on a slow wicket, but Mr Fishwick hit with great vigour and scored his runs out of 70 in rather less than an hour. Lilley and Quaife batted confidently, but no one else met with any degree of success. Keeping an accurate length, Robson bowled with marked effect.

Had Warwickshire taken advantage of the opportunities afforded them when Somerset went in they would have left off with much the better of the game. As it was, however, three or four catches were missed off Santall's bowling, and at the close Somerset, with seven wickets in hand, were only 122 runs behind.

Warwickshire are giving a trial to Baker, a Lancashire batsman who had qualified by residence. He is left-handed, and last season showed promising form with the second eleven. It is 15 years since Warwickshire and Somerset last met, and neither was then among the first-class counties.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 4)

When a thoroughly interesting day's cricket came to an end at Birmingham, yesterday, Warwickshire had all the better of the position, as, with only two men out in their second innings, they held a lead of 190 runs.

The feature of the closing part of the Somerset innings, in which overnight three wickets had fallen for 82 runs, was the steady batting of Braund. He made no mistake of any kind, but he got his runs very slowly indeed, and altogether he was batting for over three hours and a half.

Keeping an accurate length, Moorhouse bowled with marked effect, and took his last three wickets in seven balls at a cost of only one run. Santall experienced very bad luck five catches being missed off him.

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

At one time at Birmingham, yesterday, Warwickshire seemed to have an excellent chance of beating Somerset, but owing to the patient batting of Mr P R Johnson, Somerset, helped by several mistakes in the field, easily saved the game.

8 May: THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT OXFORD

Potted score: MR W S BIRD'S SIDE 328 (H H K Worsley 24, E L Wright 52, H C Brooks 43, W W Hoskin 24, O F Huyshe 29*, W S Bird 66; H E Forrester 5/80, E A Greswell 3/59) and 158 (E L Wright 35, J N Horlick 21; C F Younger 6/63, H E Forrester 3/62). MR K M CARLISLE'S SIDE 306 (Hon C N Bruce 146, C A L Payne 44, S Burdekin 32, C F Younger 26; W W Hoskin 4/58) and 113 (Hon C N Bruce 43; W W Hoskin 5/34, H H K Worsley 3/15). Mr W S Bird's Side won by 67 runs.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 12)

Considerable interest was taken in this match, which was begun at Oxford yesterday. On quite a fast wicket Mr Bird won the toss, and Mr Worsley and Mr Yeoman started the innings against the bowling of Mr Younger and Mr Hepburn.

Mr Worsley scored rapidly, making some excellent cuts and drives. At 40 Mr Yeoman left for a steady innings. Mr Wright followed, and at once settled down to his usual game, making some beautiful strokes all round the wicket, and he was unfortunate in being run out. He had played good free cricket and was never in difficulties. Mr Brooks and Mr Hoskin made a very useful stand and shaped well, giving no chances.

Of the bowlers, Mr Forrester seemed to give most trouble to the batsmen, and Mr Greswell bowled steadily, but kept the ball too much on the off side. The innings closed at 6 o'clock, and Mr Carlisle's side had 20 minutes' batting.

Mr Burdekin was the most conspicuous of the fieldsmen on Mr Carlisle's side, several of whom tired towards the end of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 4)

In this match at Oxford yesterday, Mr Carlisle's side continued their innings with Mr Bruce and Mr Payne, and both might have been out early in their innings. Mr Hoskin and Mr Horlick began the bowling, but they could do little on the easy wicket.

Mr Payne was eventually bowled in trying to cut a straight ball. He made his runs well and his straight driving was very good. Mr Greswell, Mr Forrester and Mr Howard gave little trouble, but Mr Burdekin and Mr Bruce defied all the bowlers for an hour, until Mr Burdekin was caught at the wicket.

When Mr Younger and Mr Bruce came together another stand was made, until Mr Bruce, in attempting to hit Mr Brooks, was caught at mid-off. At the start he had been lucky, for he was missed off a simple catch at short leg. After this he showed sound form, scoring chiefly on the leg side, and he is undoubtedly a very good on-side player.

Mr Horlick bowled well but had no luck. Mr Huyshe, the wicket-keeper, caught two nice catches and let few balls go by him. Mr Bird's side had an hour's batting.

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

Mr Bird's side beat Mr Carlisle's side in this match at Oxford, yesterday, by 67 runs.

When Mr Bird's side continued their innings Mr Wright was the only batsman to offer much resistance, but he did not play such good cricket as he did on Monday. Mr Huyshe again batted steadily, but the side were out by half-past 3.

This left Mr Carlisle's side with 180 to make to win, and after a good start by Mr Bruce and Mr Butterworth it looked an easy task. Mr Bruce, however, was out to a weak stroke on the leg side, but he had batted well and was timing the ball better than on the day before. Mr Butterworth made a few good strokes, but no one except Mr Burdikin trouble the bowlers for long.

Nothing can account for the unexpected collapse except bad batting, for the wicket had not worn in the least abandoned as a draw the light was good. Mr Hoskin had bowled the best and kept the batsmen busy, while Mr Horlick, on being put on a second time, bowled quite well, but he was unable to hit the wicket, although the batsmen were continually beaten. Mr Huyshe kept wicket very well in both innings and will certainly be heard of again. Of the other bowlers Mr Younger and Mr Forrester were the pick, and in the early part of yesterday's play bowled well.

Mr Bruce and Mr Wright carried off the batting honours, while Mr Payne and Mr Worsley both showed promise. Mr Greswell appeared to be nervous and a bad starter, while Mr Foster seemed to treat the bowling without sufficient respect.

8 May: THE SENIORS' MATCH AT CAMBRIDGE

Potted score: MR W M GREENFIELD'S SIDE 203 (W M Greenfield 22, A L Gorringe 80; P R May 3/68, D R Osborne 4/58, C Powers 3/49) and 207 (L G Abrams 49, A F Morcom 34*, A L Gorringe 30, W W H Nash 21; P R May 6/54). MR E J MANN'S SIDE 376 (C C Page 115, W P Harrison 23, N D C Ross 49, T E Manning 22, L G Colbeck 21, D R Osborne 36, H L Brayshaw 21, P R May 26; A F Morcom 6/130) and 33/3. Mr E J Mann's side won by eight wickets.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 12)

For a time at Cambridge yesterday bowlers met with great success, Mr Osborne doing particularly well for Mr Mann's side, but after lunch the character of the cricket changed. Mr Gorringe, showing very good form, hit with considerable freedom, and Mr Cooper-Hunt helped him to add 68 runs for the last wicket - a side which gave Mr Greenfield's side a very useful score.

A still better innings was that of Mr Page, who scored his runs in an hour and three-quarters. Mr Page forced the game with great effect, and he hit 20 fours. Mr Ross also batted well, his partnership with Mr Page producing 109 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 4)

Mr E J Mann's side beat Mr W M Greenfield's side at Cambridge yesterday by eight wickets.

Thursday 11 May, page 7: THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT CAMBRIDGE

For this match, which begins at Cambridge to-day, the sides will be as follows: -

Mr E W Mann's Side. - Mr R A Young (Repton and King's), Mr R S Preston (Felsted and Clare), Mr C S Rattigan (Harrow and Trinity), Mr G Belcher (Brighton and St Catherine's), Mr A D Imlay (Clifton and Emmanuel), Mr W S Bolton (Harrow and Trinity), Mr G H Ireland (Marlborough and Trinity), Mr G M C Taylor (Cranleigh and St John's), Mr R Turner (Hurstpierpoint and Queens'), Mr F A Powell (Malvern and Trinity) and Mr L M Robson (Marlborough and Peterhouse).

Mr H C McDonnell's Side. - Mr F H Mugliston (Rossall and Pembroke), Mr R E H Baily (Harrow and Pembroke), Mr A P Scott (Marlborough and Peterhouse), Mr C G Humphries (Shrewsbury and Pembroke), Mr A T A Dobson (Clifton and Emmanuel), Mr E A Smythies (Cheltenham and Christ's), Mr F Johnstone (Charterhouse and St John's), Mr G J Willans (Framlingham and St John's), Mr T G Forman (Shrewsbury and Pembroke), Mr N L Clarke (Singapore and Christ's) and Mr G S Bryan Browne (Tonbridge and Downing).

MIDDLESEX COLTS' MATCHES. - George Burton, the old Middlesex slow bowler, having been deputed by the Middlesex County Club to unearth some promising young players, has arranged to play a few colts' matches. The first will take place on the ground of the Belsize Club on May 20, and cricketers wishing to play are desired to communicate with Mr A J Webbe or George Burton.

11 May: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6673.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 May, page 11)

The season opened at Old Trafford, yesterday, when the visitors got first innings on a wicket which did not play very easily after rain in the night. The Warwickshire batting was feeble. They lost their first five wickets for 46 runs, but the later batsmen did rather better.

Baker showed good defence, although he has not many scoring strokes. Hallows and Kermode bowled even better than their figures would suggest, while the Lancashire fielding was generally accurate, Tyldesley, after missing Lilley, making a brilliant one-handed catch at long-off.

When Lancashire went in Mr Spooner, who has been trouble with an injured hand, played exceedingly well, if with less power than usual. At the close Lancashire were 79 ahead with five wickets in hand.

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

Lancashire beat Warwickshire at Old Trafford yesterday by eight wickets. When play was continued the five remaining Lancashire wickets were responsible for 59 more runs.

Being 138 behind, the visitors fared better than before, and although none of the earlier batsmen scored heavily, they all contributed to the total. Baker again played a steady game, but Whittle, who was twice missed at the wicket, when he had made 20, hit freely, and it was chiefly due to him that the last three wickets yielded 102. Hallows bowled better than his figures would indicate.

11 May: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6674.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 May, page 11)

The first day's play of the Middlesex and Gloucestershire match at Lord's, yesterday, was on a fast wicket, which, however, gave the bowlers some assistance, the ball at the nursery end often getting up quickly.

During the day 316 runs were made for the loss of 16 wickets; but it may be said perhaps that, although there was some good bowling, especially by Huggins, it was weak batting more than anything else which accounted for the low scoring. At the close Gloucestershire were 26 runs behind with four wickets in hand, so that on the whole they had the better of the day's play.

Middlesex as a side are rather apt all to fail or all to succeed in batting, and yesterday very few of their players came off. Of the earlier batsmen no one exceptionally Mr C H M Ebdon, who was making his first appearance for Middlesex, did much, and it was left to the last two wickets to bring the Middlesex total up to a respectable size. Huggins and Dennett bowled practically throughout the whole innings, and the former was especially effective, getting his six wickets for just over 14 runs each.

There was not very much of interest in the Gloucestershire batting. They started badly, losing Wrathall with 15 scored, while Langdon, who was bowled by a beautiful ball from J T Hearne, was out at 45, and Mr Godsell left at 60. The latter had played a sound innings, although he did not score

quickly. He made several good strokes on the off-side, and he seems to be an improved batsman since he played for Cambridge University.

Hale and Board made a good stand, and when 130 was up it looked as if Gloucestershire would finish the day in a good position. Mr Bosanquet, however, who had gone on for the second time at the pavilion end, bowling fast, broke up the partnership; and afterwards Mr Thomas and Mr Brownlee were both dismissed before stumps were drawn at about a quarter past 6 owing to the defective light.

Mr Jessop strained himself during the Middlesex innings, and although he was able to continue playing, he fielded at point and seemed very lame.

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

Gloucestershire beat Middlesex at Lord's yesterday by nine wickets. They had gained a slight advantage on Thursday, when, with four wickets in hand, they were 26 runs behind the Middlesex total.

Yesterday, chiefly owing to Board, who carried out his bat after adding 70 to his score, and to Mr Jessop, who, in spite of his lameness, got his runs very well indeed, Gloucestershire were able to finish their first innings with a lead of 119. Hearne was the most successful of the Middlesex bowlers, and he was rather unlucky in not getting one or two more of the batsmen caught in the slips.

When Middlesex went in again, they never looked like doing very much. Two wickets were down for one runs, and the only stand of any length early in the innings was made by Mr Bosanquet and Mr Page. At one time it seemed doubtful if the innings defeat would be saved, but eventually Gloucestershire were given 14 to make to win.

The wicket was not easy at any time during the match. All the bowlers were able to get a certain amount of work on, and the ball at the Nursery end at times got up quickly and at other times kept very low. Huggins and Dennett took full advantage of their chances and were largely responsible for the victory of their side. They bowled practically unchanged throughout, the former in the match getting ten wickets for 134 and the latter eight for 131.

It was fortunate for Gloucestershire that these two were in form, for had they been "collared," with Mr Jessop injured, the side would not have had much other bowling to fall back upon. The wicket suited Huggins's pace and action exactly and he always seemed difficult to play, while Dennett, on the whole, kept a good length; but it seemed that the Middlesex batsmen hardly made the most of their opportunities of scoring off him. The state of the game in the Middlesex second innings of course tended to make the batsmen very careful, but it appeared that there were a number of balls from Dennett allowed to go unpunished which might have been hit for four.

Middlesex had not got a strong side, but it cannot be denied that they batted badly. In their second innings only Mr Bosanquet and Trott got runs, and many of the players were out to very bad strokes.

11 May: SURREY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6675.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 May, page 11)

Whatever may be the result of their match against the Australians, Surrey should at least be satisfied with their position at the close of the first day's play at the Oval yesterday.

It is true that their score was not a large one, but it proved sufficient to enable them to finish the day with little the worse of the game, seeing that the Australians had lost four good before the drawing of stumps and were still 127 runs behind. Nevertheless, they are such a strong batting side, every one of them being capable of making runs, that it is difficult to foretell what might occur.

Had the Australians, however, made the most of their opportunities they must have gained a substantial lead. They are such notably good fieldsmen that it is seldom that they err in this respect, but yesterday three catches were missed, two of which proved rather expensive for them.

Had Hobbs been out early in his innings as he should have been, the Surrey score would of necessity have been considerably reduced. Mr Armstrong was at fault, in the first instance, by missing him in the slips when he had only made 14, while Mr Noble might have caught him at point at 42. The other catch that was missed was of no consequence, as Hayes was out immediately afterwards.

Profiting by his good fortune, Hobbs played very fine cricket, making his runs all round the wicket by beautifully timed strokes. Apart from the display of Hobbs, who was fifth out at 166, there was little of note in the Surrey batting. Hayward made some good strokes on the leg side, and just when he appeared to be well set he played on.

The Australians' ground work was, as usual, very good, but the bowling as a whole was erratic, Mr Cotter in particular being unable to keep a length, being very short at times, while Mr Hopkins bowled several full pitches.

When the Australians went in, at 20 minutes to five, Mr Duff was soon out, but on Mr Hill joining Mr Trumper some fine cricket was seen. Just when they appeared to be in for a long partnership, however, Mr Trumper was out leg-before-wicket at 56. It is true that he only made a small score, but his batting was equal, if not superior, to anything seen during the day, his cutting and play on the leg side being wonderfully good.

Mr Hill left at 70, being beaten by a splendid ball from Hayes, while Mr Noble left six runs later. Mr Armstrong and Mr Darling then became partners, and they played out time. On the whole it was a fine day's cricket, and runs were for the most part put on at a good pace.

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

There was another keen day's play in this match at the Oval yesterday; and Surrey, after losing ground steadily, managed to recover their position, and at the drawing of stumps they held a lead of 77 with seven wickets in hand.

During the afternoon the Prince of Wales, accompanied by two of his sons, visited the ground and stayed about two hours. Shortly after his arrival play was stopped for a few minutes and the Australian team was presented to him.

Overnight the Australians had made 98 for the loss of four wickets, and when they continued their innings things for a time did not go too well for them. Mr Darling was caught at mid-on at 129, the partnership altogether having realized 53, while 20 runs later Mr Hopkins was run out. Mr Laver left shortly afterwards, and seven of the side were out for 155.

Just when there appeared a chance of Surrey's getting their opponents out for a comparatively small score Mr Armstrong, who had been batting very steadily, was joined by Mr McLeod, and this really proved to be the turning point in the innings. Both played finely, and the Surrey score was passed before Mr Armstrong was out. In all he was batting two hours and a quarter, and his cricket generally was marked by a wonderfully strong defence, combined with good hitting powers; and there is no doubt that he is a greatly improved batsman since he was last over here. When he and Mr McLeod were together 73 runs were added in about 50 minutes.

After Mr Kelly left Mr McLeod found a useful partner in Mr Cotter, and runs were put on at a fast rate, 51 being scored in less than 20 minutes before Mr McLeod's good innings was closed by a catch in the slips by Holland, who had missed him in the same position when he had made 38. The Surrey fielding was good and, although Lees did the brunt of the bowling, Hayes had by far the best analysis.

Surrey went in a second time 67 runs behind, and almost immediately lost Hobbs, and with Hayes out at 43 Surrey's prospects looked none too promising. However, with Hayward and Baker together a long stand was made, and they were not separated until 92 runs had been added for the third wicket.

Hayward played very well indeed. There was no object to be gained by forcing the game at such a critical time for Surrey, and there is no doubt that he fully realized the importance of keeping up his wicket, as so much must naturally depend on him when play is continued to-day.

Early in the Surrey second innings Mr Kelly injured his hand and had to retire, and Mr Duff kept wicket in his stead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 10)

The match between Surrey and the Australians at the Oval ended on Saturday in a draw. It was an interesting game, full of incident, and time alone saved Surrey for defeat. The Australians made a fine bid for victory, but luck was against them, and they were, perhaps, rather unfortunate in not being able to win.

The injury to Mr Kelly, their wicket-keeper, early in the Surrey second innings proved a serious loss to the Australians; for, had he been able to keep wicket, the number of byes would have been considerably reduced, and this, combined with other causes, probably just prevented them from being able to hit off the runs.

It almost goes without saying that the chief aim in cricket is to win as many matches as possible, and, although delays may occur which may mean all the difference between a draw or a win, it is to be feared that the Australians will find that these restricted hours for play will bring them a larger percentage of drawn games than would be the case if the usual hours had been adhered to.

On Saturday there is no doubt that Hayward was the means of saving the game for Surrey, and for that reason alone the value of his cricket cannot well be over-estimated. To carry his bat through the innings was a fine achievement in itself, and his play from start to finish was marked by great soundness. In all he was batting for over four hours and a half, and he scarcely made a bad stroke, while his placing was very good indeed.

Overnight Surrey held a lead of 77 runs, with seven wickets in hand, and when play was continued on Saturday they did sufficiently well as to foreshadow a drawn game. At lunch time their score had been raised to 251 for six wickets, but afterwards the rest of the side could do little against the bowling of Mr Laver and Mr Noble, and in the end the Australians were set 220 to get to win.

Towards the close of the innings Mr Hill, who was keeping wicket, received a severe blow on his cheek and had to retire.

When the Australians went in a second time only two hours and a quarter remained for play, but it soon became evident that they would make a big effort to win. Mr Trumper and Mr Duff, by splendid cricket, put on 50 in about half an hour for the first wicket. Then Mr Duff and Mr Armstrong treated the weak Surrey bowling with little respect, and so long as they remained together there seemed just a chance that the runs might be got. However, after 98 had been added in 50 minutes, the partnership was broken by Hobbs.

Although only 40 minutes was left for play and 72 runs were still required, the Australians did not give up hope, and they sent in Mr Cotter to force the game, but he was soon out, and from this point to the finish the Australians never looked like being able to win.

Mr Duff played very finely, putting great power into his strokes, while Mr Armstrong also batted extremely well. Considering the pace at which the runs were scored, the cricket of these two was singularly devoid of bad hits. It was a fine afternoon's play and proved a fitting termination to a very interesting match.

11 May: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6676.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 May, page 11)

Sussex opened their season when they met Nottingham at Brighton yesterday on a good fast wicket. The Sussex bowlers, especially Tate and Cox, took a good deal of playing, and had the home Eleven only accepted the chances that were offered to them the Nottinghamshire total would have been considerably less.

The visitors, who had first innings, started badly by losing Iremonger with the total at 18, but Mr A O Jones and J Gunn then made a fine stand, adding 89 runs before the latter left. Mr Hemingway was dismissed when he had made 20, but afterwards his display was characterized by determined, hard hitting.

One of the features of the Nottinghamshire innings was the fact that Butt accounted for the first five wickets.

Sussex started none too well, losing two wickets for 51, but Mr Fry and Mr Goldie materially improved the home side's position.

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

Nottinghamshire had all the better of the play in this match at Brighton yesterday, and at the close they were 336 runs ahead with five wickets in hand. When Sussex continued their innings no one except Mr Fry did very much, and the side were all dismissed for 31 runs less than the Nottinghamshire score.

On going in a second time Nottinghamshire did extremely well, chiefly owing to G Gunn and Hardstaff.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 10)

In dull, cheerless weather, this match ended at Brighton on Saturday in a draw. When Sussex went in, with 394 runs to get to win, Mr Fry and Vine, by good cricket, put on 125 for the first wicket, and then the former batsman and Killick added another 102 runs before the second wicket fell.

Mr Fry gave a magnificent display. At times he exercised great restraint, while at other times he cut, drove and hit to leg with equal precision and power, but perhaps the most remarkable point in his long innings was the power which he displayed when playing back.

As showing the wonderful form Mr Fry is displaying at present for Sussex, it may be mentioned that last week he made an aggregate of over 550 runs for three completed innings.

11 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6677.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 May, page 11)

Some curious play marked the opening of the match between Worcestershire and Yorkshire at Worcester, yesterday. A little rain had fallen in the morning, but not enough to affect the wicket seriously, and Lord Hawke on winning the toss did not hesitate to take first innings. To the general surprise Yorkshire fared so badly that, although Grimshaw and Denton put on 32 for the second wicket, in less than an hour and a half six batsmen had been dismissed for 71 runs.

As at Bristol earlier in the week, however, Hirst and Haigh came to the rescue of the side. By lunch time these two batsmen had raised the score to 105, and in all during a partnership which lasted over rather more than two hours they put on 141 runs. The Worcestershire bowling never becoming loose, they were compelled by the position of the game to exercise great care, but they scored freely at times. Drives were few, runs coming mainly by cuts and well-timed strokes on the leg-side.

After Haigh left two other wickets fell very quickly, and then at five minutes to 5 rain set in and brought the day's cricket to a close.

Cuffe, an Australian, qualified for Worcestershire by residence, had a considerable share in the downfall of the Yorkshire wickets before lunch. Bowling left hand medium pace as a rule, he can send down a very fast ball and also a good slow one.

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

The Worcestershire batsmen showed themselves to be in need of practice in their match with Yorkshire on the Worcestershire ground yesterday. They were beaten by the pace of the wicket, and in an hour and three-quarters completed their first innings for under 100 runs.

Yorkshire had one wicket to fall at the beginning of the day's play, and they added eight runs to their total. Bowley and Pearson made a promising start for Worcestershire, and scored 33 in half an hour before they were parted.

There was a succession of failures afterwards, and when the eighth wicket had fallen only 60 runs had been scored. Mr Foster and Burrows then added 33, thus depriving Yorkshire of the option of making the batting side follow on. Hirst and Myers bowled unchanged throughout the innings. Hirst took the first three wickets with swerving balls, while six of the last seven wickets were captured by Myers, whose bowling came very fast off the pitch. Yorkshire led on the first innings by 128.

They went in a second time after lunch, and again found the bowling good, but Grimshaw succeeded in playing a sound innings. He made most of his runs by hits to leg and cuts in front of point. This is the first time that he had scored 50 in county cricket.

The other chief scorers, Denton and Hirst, were fortunate, Denton being missed at the wicket before he had scored and Hirst being let off in the slips by Mr Foster when he had made a single. Lord Hawke was also missed three times. To-day Worcestershire will have to score 360 runs to avoid defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 10)

Yorkshire gained their third consecutive victory in the county championship at Worcester on Saturday, the home county being defeated by 65 runs.

Bowley made a magnificent effort to save the match for his side. He went in first with Pearson at the beginning of the day's play, and was fifth out at half-past 4 in the afternoon. In his four hours' batting he contributed 151 out of 222 runs. In the early part of his innings Bowley made several poor strokes, but, after scoring his first 50 runs, his cricket was almost perfect. At lunch time only two wickets had fallen and the score was 130, of which Bowley had made 96.

Mr Foster had been at the wickets for an hour for 15 runs before lunch, and he was content to adopt safety tactics while Bowley did the scoring, but after play was continued, after making one or two fine shots, Mr Foster was clean bowled. Bowley's innings was brought to a close by an easy catch at mid-off.

The result of the match was always in doubt when he was in, but afterwards the attack quickly got the upper hand. Rhodes bowled splendidly, keeping an excellent length, for the greater part of the afternoon.

11 May: [Oxford) THE ELEVEN v THE NEXT SIXTEEN

Potted score: THE NEXT SIXTEEN 294 (A E Worsley 79, H V Buxton 25, H H K Worsley 48, E G Whately 42; R C W Burn 6 wkts, E G Martin 5 wkts) and 153/10 dec (H H K Worsley 21, N R Udal 26; R C W Burn 4 wkts, E G Martin 4 wkts). THE FIRST ELEVEN 323 (J E Raphael 26, G G M Bennett 46, W H B Evans 43, O T Norris 70, W B Bird 78; N R Udal 4 wkts, E G Whately 3 wkts). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 May, page 11)

This match was begun at Oxford yesterday. Mr Whately won the toss and elected to send in the Sixteen on a fast wicket.

The start was surprising, for Mr Burn, with the help of a cross wind, quickly got three wickets with swerving balls. The score does not at all represent the batting, for, had the chances been made the most of, the side would probably have been out for under 200. Mr Bird behind the wicket was the chief offender, missing chances off nearly every bowler who went on. Mr Martin was inclined to keep too much to the off, but he bowled several good balls which came back fast.

Mr A Worsley batted the best on the side and gave no chance. He seemed at home to all the bowling, which he watched carefully, and he hit the loose ball hard. Of the bowlers Mr Burn bowled the best, especially at the start. Mr Evans met with no luck, while Mr Norris and Mr Branston both bowled moderately, but were inclined to overpitch the ball.

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

At the close of play in this match at Oxford yesterday, the First Eleven, with four wickets still to fall, held a lead of 22 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 10)

This match, at Oxford, on Saturday, ended in a draw.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY v THE AUSTRALIANS

The Oxford team in this match will be Messrs K M Carlisle (captain), W H B Evans, W S Bird, R C W Burn, J E Raphael, E G Martin, O T Norris, N R Udal, A E Worsley, the Hon C N Bruce and G G M Bennett. G T Branston cannot play owing to a strain.

11 May: THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT CAMBRIDGE

Potted score: MR E W MANN'S SIDE 326 (R A Young 29, W S Bolton 49, R Turner 65, G M C Taylor 20, F A Powell 41, A D Imlay 22, L M Robinson 34, E W Mann 46; C G Humphrys 3/72) and 228 (A D Imlay 86, R A Young 21, C S Rattigan 22, R Turner 47, F A Powell 27; E A Smythies 7/55). MR H C McDONELL'S SIDE 488 (R E H Baily 92, A P Scott 65, F Johnstone 24, A T A Dobson 24, F H Mugliston 78, G S Bryan 67, G J Willans 60, H C McDonell 22*; R S Preston 4/111) and 76/2 (A T A Dobson 48*, C G Humphrys 23). H C McDonell's Side won by nine wickets.

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 May, page 11)

Mr Mann's side had first innings, on a perfect wicket, in this match at Cambridge yesterday. After losing six wickets for 107, their total eventually reached over 300.

Mr Turner played a good forcing game after being missed in the first over. Mr Powell also played an attractive innings, and Mr Robinson and Mr Mann scored freely off the tired bowling at the end of the innings. Mr Young has a very sound defence, and he and Mr Bolton put on 81 for the third wicket. The bowling was varied but rather weak. Mr Smythies seemed about the best, but he had bad luck.

Mr McDonell's side had an hour's batting before the close, and Mr Baily and Mr Scott played in good style without being separated.

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

When this match was continued at Cambridge yesterday Mr McDonell's side spent nearly the whole day at the wickets. Mr Mugliston and Mr Baily played the best cricket, but the batsmen were never severely tested, for the bowling was for the most part very weak.

Mr Rattigan kept a good length and Mr Preston, a left-hander with an easy action, bowled fairly well at times, although he rather overdid the "off theory." Mr Imlay's wicket-keeping was excellent all through, and he finished the day by batting soundly at a critical time for his side.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 10)

At Cambridge, on Saturday, Mr McDonell's side beat Mr Mann's side by nine wickets.

15 May: LANCASHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6678.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 11)

For the third match in succession Lancashire lost the toss, and Essex batted first at Old Trafford yesterday, and they were dismissed in a bad light in two hours and three-quarters for quite a moderate total.

Mr Fane was deceived by a fast ball when the score was 12, while at 32 both Mr Perrin and Carpenter left. Mr McGahey made a few fine drives, but half the side had left for 57 runs. Mr Kortright hit hard, but he had the luck to be twice missed in the same over. Reeves was so enterprising that he scored all his runs except two from three overs; then he was caught by Mr Poidevin, who made three good catches in the slips. Kermode followed up his excellent bowling of last week by dismissing seven men, five of whom were caught behind the wicket off balls that were just outside the off stump.

Mr Spooner and Mr Garnett opened so well for Lancashire that 50 runs were scored in 30 minutes, but a quarter of an hour later, with the total at 75, both of them were out. Mr Spooner, who was caught at long-on, batted in fine style. Tremlin bowled so well that three wickets fell cheaply, but after batting an hour and 50 minutes Lancashire passed the Essex total with five wickets in hand. Of the later batsmen only Sharp was successful, and he made some lucky strokes behind the wicket.

When play ended for the day Lancashire, with a wicket to fall, were 55 runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 11)

Lancashire beat Essex at Old Trafford yesterday by six wickets. The first innings of the home county was soon brought to a close, and then Essex, who were 63 runs behind, batted with extreme care when they went in a second time.

At 45 Carpenter played on, and when Mr Fane was out to a bad stroke in the slips Essex were only one run behind. Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey played defensive cricket, as may be gathered from the fact that Mr Perrin took an hour for his first 19 runs. However, Sharp went on at 85, and this was the turning point of the game, for Cuttell, with a clever catch at short leg, dismissed Mr Perrin, who had stayed an hour and a half.

After lunch Sharp, bowling at a great pace and swinging in from the off, was irresistible. Altogether he took seven of the last nine wickets, and probably he has never bowled so well in a county match.

Requiring 103 to win, Lancashire lost Mr Spooner at two and Tyldesley 20 runs later, but Mr Garnett and Mr Poidevin took the score to 51, and the runs were hit off for the loss of four batsmen.

15 May: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6679.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 11)

The close of the first day's play of the Middlesex and Nottinghamshire match at Lord's yesterday left the game in an even position, Middlesex, with six wickets in hand, being 121 runs behind. On the whole it was a fairly interesting day's cricket, for, although the wicket was fast, the batsmen always had to play hard for their runs, and at no time during the day did the bowling look to be thoroughly collared.

Nottinghamshire started badly, losing Iremonger and John Gunn for two runs, and the side were chiefly indebted for their score to Mr Jones, G Gunn, Hardstaff and Anthony, who made 240 of the runs between them. Mr Jones's batting was, perhaps, the best feature of the day's cricket. He made a number of beautiful strokes and played all the bowling with confidence. G Gunn, too, who is in very good form at present, played an attractive innings. He showed sound defence combined with a number of good scoring strokes, and he promises to become a really fine batsman.

Hearne, who got his five wickets for 16 runs each and hit the stumps on each occasion, bowled excellently, keeping a splendid length, and very few of the batsmen played him with much confidence.

Two good catches were made in the innings, the first by Mr E A Beldam at mid-on, when he got out Mr Jones, and the second by Mr Bosanquet, who caught Oates with one hand low down from a very hard return.

Middlesex, like Nottinghamshire, started badly, John Gunn, who for a few overs bowled without a man in the deep field, getting Mr Ebdon caught at point from a very bad stroke with only eight runs scored. Then came a long stand between Mr G W Beldam and Mr Warner, who put on 108 runs before they were separated.

Mr Warner played attractive cricket. He never hit very hard, but he showed a command of a variety of strokes, but very seldom seemed in difficulties. Mr Beldam's batting, with the exception of one or two lucky strokes through the slips, was, as usual, very sound, though dull to watch.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 11)

The cricket at Lord's yesterday was considerably interfered with by the weather; for, after the Middlesex innings was over in the morning there was a delay of nearly half an hour, and then soon after Nottinghamshire had gone in rain came on again and no more play was possible until about half-past 4. At the close of the day's play Nottinghamshire were in a very good position, for with eight wickets in hand they were 227 runs ahead.

On Monday evening Middlesex, with only four of their batsmen out, were 121 behind the Nottinghamshire score; but yesterday Wass bowled very finely and, with the exception of Mr Beldam and Mr Stogdon, who got his runs quickly and well, no one could do much. At one time Wass took three wickets in four balls, and altogether he got six for just over 17 runs each. The Nottinghamshire side, where were as usual set a splendid example by their captain, fielded excellently, while Oates, the wicket-keeper, was in his best form.

Nottinghamshire scored 19 without loss before luncheon, and then rain put a stop to play. When Mr Jones and Iremonger went in again the ball on the wet ground came along at a great pace and travelled quickly in the outfield. The fieldsmen were at a disadvantage for, in addition to the wet ball, it was very cold and there was ample excuse for missed catches; but certainly Middlesex had to pay dearly for their mistakes in the field.

Mr Jones tried to make runs as quickly as he could. He took some risks and was twice missed fairly early, but Nottinghamshire's strong position at the close was largely due to him. He made a number of beautiful strokes all round the wicket, and in the circumstances his innings was a fine performance. After he was out the batting became slow and uninteresting.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 12)

Nottinghamshire beat Middlesex at Lord's yesterday by 198 runs. They were in a more or less winning position on Tuesday evening, and yesterday, chiefly owing to some fine batting by Oates, who scored 57 out of 74 for the ninth wicket in 35 minutes, they were able to declare their innings closed, and Middlesex were left with 408 to get in rather more than four hours.

Mr Warner was unavoidably delayed in getting to the ground, and with the "order" changed, Middlesex quickly found themselves in a bad way. But after three wickets had fallen for 38, Mr Bosanquet made a splendid effort to save the game. While Mr MacGregor was in with him he played carefully, but afterwards he hit in great style, driving hard and also cutting well. After Mr MacGregor left four wickets fell in three overs to Hallam, making seven down for 117.

The brilliancy of Mr Bosanquet's batting was mostly seen while Mr Foley was in, when 80 runs were added in 40 minutes. Mr Bosanquet was out to a beautifully judged catch in front of the pavilion rails, and then the end came quickly, Mr Foley being the last to leave, after a rather lucky innings.

Wass bowled at a great pace, with the wind dead behind him, and Mr Bosanquet alone played him with confidence; but it was Hallam who got most of the wickets, at the nursery end, where the pitch seemed to have worn a good deal.

15 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6680.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 11)

This match was begun at Oxford yesterday. Mr Darling won the toss and elected to bat. Mr Trumper and Mr Duff faced the bowling of Mr Burn and Mr Martin.

Mr Duff got the first ball away to leg off Mr Burn, but after Mr Martin had bowled one over he gave way to Mr Udal, who quickly got Mr Diff caught in the slips. Mr Burn bowled Mr Armstrong off his pads with a ball that swerved considerably, and two wickets were down for 23.

At this point Mr Trumper and Mr Noble became partners, and they were not separated until 141 runs were on the board. Mr Trumper was then well caught by Mr Carlisle. He did not make a mistake in his innings, and he cut and pulled the short balls very skilfully. Mr Noble did not survive long after lunch. He had played a sound innings, never taking any liberties.

Mr Darling was bowled by a very good ball from Mr Udal, and Mr Gehrs alone of the other batsmen offered much resistance to the bowlers. Mr Udal seemed the most difficult to play, and he has never bowled better. Mr Carlisle managed the changes very skilfully.

The University started with Mr Raphael and Mr Bruce, but in Mr Laver's first over the former was splendidly caught at short leg close to the ground. Mr Bennett, after making several good strokes, became impatient and was nicely taken at the wicket, while Mr Evans was soon out to a difficult catch high up in the slips.

Mr Carlisle and Mr Bruce then became partners, and they stayed together until 6 o'clock. Mr Bruce was missed early in his innings off Mr Laver, but otherwise he played faultless cricket and made some good strokes on the off side.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 11)

At Oxford yesterday, Mr Bruce and Mr Carlisle continued their innings to the bowling of Mr Laver and Mr Armstrong, but Mr Carlisle was out leg-before-wicket to Mr Armstrong just as he looked like getting set.

Mr Worsley and Mr Norris offered little resistance and Mr Bruce, after adding 22 to his overnight score, mistimed a ball, which broke back from the off, and played it on to his wicket. He had played with great confidence and had hit well whenever he was given a loose ball. His performance is all the more creditable considering it is his first appearance in first-class cricket.

Mr Bird and Mr Martin stayed together until the former was caught at slip, and the innings closed soon afterwards. Mr Laver bowled very steadily throughout, making the ball get up quickly from the pitch, and he got considerable work on the ball. The batting on the whole was weak, but it should be remembered that this is Oxford's first match this year.

On going in a second time, Mr Trumper and Mr Duff took the score to 104, when Mr Trumper played a ball on to his wicket. Both played attractive cricket, but, of the two, Mr Duff treated the bowling with less respect.

On Mr Armstrong and Mr Noble becoming partners another stand was made until the former was caught behind the wicket. None of the other batsmen offered much resistance to Mr Udal and Mr Evans, who bowled with considerable skill, altering their pace well and taking advantage of any help which was to be obtained from the wicket, which shows signs of wear.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 12)

The Australians won this match at Oxford, yesterday, by 200 runs. The University did badly in their second innings against the bowling of Mr Laver, who took full advantage of the state of the wicket. He hardly sent down a loose ball and altered his pace skilfully.

Mr Bruce again played on, and Mr Bennett was out in attempting to hit; but when Mr Raphael and Mr Evans came together the prospects looked brighter until Mr Raphael, just as he appeared to be set,

was clean bowled. Mr Carlisle played a useful innings, although he scored very slowly, but no one else, except Mr Norris and Mr Worsley, did much.

The University should not be dissatisfied with the result, for in both innings the Australians were dismissed for under 300 runs, while Oxford were short of practice and in addition had the worst of the wicket. The University promise to develop into a good side, especially as there appears to be no lack of bowling.

15 May: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6681.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 11)

The chief feature of the cricket at Birmingham, yesterday, was a brilliant display of hitting by Mr V F S Crawford. He went in third wicket down, with the total at 63, and he was fourth out at 227, having made his runs in an hour and three-quarters.

He began in rather an uncertain way, being more than once in difficulties, but when he had thoroughly settled down he batted with confidence and great vigour. He scored with equal ease in all directions, but the majority of his runs were made by clean, hard driving, and his innings included 21 fours.

In striking contrast to Mr Crawford's batting was the play of King, who was in for three hours. Mr de Trafford, on the other hand, hit in characteristic style, and these three batsmen scored between them 230, out of a total of 276.

Warwickshire made a disastrous start, losing Mr Fishwick and Mr Glover for ten runs - both caught in the slips - but Baker and Quaife stayed together until the finish.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket at Birmingham went in favour of Leicestershire, who when stumps were drawn held a lead of 190 runs with five wickets still to fall in their second innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 12)

After a most exciting finish, Leicestershire beat Warwickshire, at Birmingham, yesterday, by nine runs.

Leicestershire began the day in a strong position, as, with five wickets to go down, they were 190 runs to the good. All this advantage, however, was soon lost, Quaife bowling his leg-breaks so effectively that the remaining batsmen were dismissed for another 76 runs.

Warwickshire had only 267 runs to get in the last innings. The score was up to 67 before the second wicket fell, and later on with Quaife and Lilley together the prospects of Warwickshire were extremely bright. After Quaife left, Lilley found another useful partner in Whittle, 90 runs being added in an hour. When Lilley was out only 34 runs were required with four wickets still to fall.

Santall and Moorhouse, however, were soon dismissed, and then Whittle's fine innings was closed by a splendid catch on the leg boundary. The last man came in with 14 runs still required, but, after Hargreave hit a four, Field was bowled first ball and Leicestershire thus won.

15 May: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6682.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 11)

The Yorkshire eleven opened their home season at Bradford yesterday, their opponents being Derbyshire. It was a cold day, but the cricket did not suffer on that account.

The Yorkshire captain, for the fourth time in succession, won the toss. The home side were thus able to bat first on a fast wicket, of which they kept possession for four hours. A respectable score was made, but the batting was uneven. Mr F S Jackson played the best innings of the day and made his first hundred of the season. Up to lunch time, when he had made 56 out of 146, his batting was steady rather than brilliant. Afterwards he attacked the bowling with great vigour and made a number of brilliant drives.

Denton and Tunncliffe, of the earlier batsmen, also made good scores. Denton played brilliantly and, like Mr Jackson, was out to a ball which he pulled into his wicket. Tunncliffe's cricket was poor; he was missed by Dr Ashcroft at cover-point off his first stroke and behind the wicket off his second, while he afterwards made a number of other bad hits.

Haigh was the only other batsman who did anything worthy of notice, making 46 of the last 70 runs, chiefly by hard, clean driving. Warren and Bestwick bowled admirably, but were not well supported in the field, four catches being dropped off their bowling.

Derbyshire lost Mr Wright's wicket in Hirst's first over, and play was stopped for the day by bad light after the visiting side had been at the wickets for 25 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 11)

The Derbyshire eleven gave a weak display of batting against Yorkshire at Bradford yesterday, and at ten minutes past 4 they were beaten by an innings and 61 runs.

Although there had been some rain during the night, there was nothing in the condition of the wicket to account for their collapse. The majority of the batsmen were out to bad strokes.

15 May: THE FIRST TWELVE v THE NEXT SIXTEEN, AT CAMBRIDGE

Potted score: NEXT SIXTEEN 165 (H Mainprice 24, A P Scott 21, L G Colbeck 23; H C McDonell 8/63, A F Morcom 5/32) and 224 (H Mainprice 20, R E H Baily 23, W S Bolton 70, R Turner 20, A P Scott 37; A F Morcom 5/50, H C McDonell 7/61). FIRST TWELVE 356 (R A Young 86, E W Mann 87, C C Page 25, W P Harrison 37, R Meakin 35, M W Payne 30, H C McDonell 29*) and 36/0. First Twelve won by eleven wickets.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 11)

Batting first on a beautiful wicket at Cambridge yesterday, the six gave a poor display, as may be judged from the fact that 24 was the highest individual score. Mr Colbeck's was quite the best innings, he alone playing Mr McDonell's slow bowling with any confidence.

Mr Morcom bowled very well, keeping an excellent length and swerving in considerably from the off. Mr Page made some fine strokes in his innings at the end of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 11)

At Cambridge yesterday, the First Twelve gained a considerable advantage over the Next Sixteen. Mr Young, who had recovered from the blow which compelled him to retire on Monday, played a particularly good innings. He and Mr Mann increased the overnight score by 104 before being separated. Mr Mann played well, although he scored more slowly than usual, while Mr Payne made some beautiful strokes.

The Sixteen started fairly well in their second innings, Mr Baily and Mr Bolton playing careful cricket; but the side still require 131 to save the single innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 12)

This match was concluded in fine weather at Cambridge yesterday, the First Twelve winning easier by 11 wickets. H Morcom again bowled very steadily and well. He has a nice easy action, but he should try to put a little more variety into his bowling.

Mr Turner and Mr Scott made the best stand in the second innings of the Next Sixteen, putting on 57 runs for the fifth wicket, but neither played with much confidence. Mr Osborne and Mr Jobson made a few good hits, but on the whole, the batting of the Next Sixteen was disappointing.

Tuesday 16 May, page 11: THE COMING TEST MATCHES

A correspondent recently drew the attention of Lord Granby to a proposal in connection with the coming test matches that the selection committee should, for one of the games, select to do duty for England Mr Warner's team which managed to bring the "ashes" back to the old country. The correspondent, while being aware that the adoption of such a course would mean leaving out such great batsmen as Mr MacLaren, Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji, thought that, if it could be arranged for the same team to play in London, it would be a very popular choice and would give much satisfaction to the cricket-loving public.

Lord Granby was asked whether or not he thought it would be possible to select for one of the matches an eleven composed of members of the last team which did so well for England in Australia. The following reply has been received: -

"16, Arlington-street, S.W., May 11, 1905.

"Dear Sir, - Personally, I think that were it possible to arrange a match with the Australians in which the English eleven should be selected from those who composed Mr Warner's team in Australia, it would be a very popular undertaking.

"There are, however, I fear, insuperable difficulties in the way which render such a course impracticable, that is, as far as I am acquainted with the present condition of cricket affairs. Your suggestion is, in any case, worthy of all consideration.

"I am yours obediently, GRANBY."

Wednesday 17 May, page 11: GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND v THE AUSTRALIANS

The following eleven has been chosen to represent the Gentlemen of England against the Australians at Lord's to-morrow: - Mr P F Warner, Mr G L Jessop, Mr C B Fry, Mr H Martyn, Mr W Brearley, Mr H C McDonell, Mr W H B Evans, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr H Hesketh-Prichard, Mr G W Beldam and Mr H K Foster.

YORKSHIRE AND THE HOURS OF PLAY

At a meeting of the Yorkshire County Committee, presided over by Lord Hawke, at Bradford yesterday, the question of the hours of play in Yorkshire's games with the Australians was considered. It was decided to adhere to the rules governing the hours of play in county cricket in Yorkshire.

Thursday 18 May, page 12: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Mr Hill and Mr Kelly have recovered from the injuries which they met with at the Oval last week, and they are expected to play against the Gentlemen of England at Lord's to-day.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET EXECUTIVE

A Reuter telegram from Adelaide says that the South Australian Cricket Association has resolved not to join the board of control. It considers it undesirable, owing to the financial position of the board, that the latter should finance Australian teams in England. It also holds that players should have a minority representation on the board.

18 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6683.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 May, page 11)

The University season started yesterday at Cambridge in beautiful weather. Unfortunately Cambridge were only able to put a weak side into the field. Five Blues were absent, and it is probable that the weakness of the bowling will be apparent to-day with Mr Napier and Mr McDonnell away.

Cambridge made a promising start, 50 runs being scored before a wicket fell, and with the total at 140 for three wickets it looked as if a respectable score would be made, but the rest of the side, owing probably to inexperience and nervousness, collapse on an almost perfect wicket.

In spite of their performance yesterday Cambridge have much that is hopeful in their prospects. The two [freshmen], Mr Young and Mr [Mugliston], both shaped very well, and Mr Young is to be congratulated on a fine innings, and without him the side would have fared very badly.

Warwickshire lost two wickets in an hour's play, but Kinneir, who was missed off a difficult chance at the wicket, and Quaife then played out time.

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

This match was continued at Cambridge yesterday, and, as was anticipated, in view of the weakness of the University bowling, the Warwickshire batsmen had little difficulty in making a large score.

Baker made his first century for his county, but he started badly and was lucky in being missed twice at short slip off Mr May. Kinneir was also luck in being again missed, and perhaps the best cricket of the day was shown by Whittle. The University fielding was not good, but it should be remembered that the side had a long outing.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 11)

The University did a fine batting performance at Cambridge on Saturday, and were able to draw their match with Warwickshire. The chief credit was due to Mr Mann, who made his first century in first-class cricket, and by staying in three hours and a half made a draw almost certain.

Mr Mann was lucky in giving an easy chance when his score was 20 which, owing to a misunderstanding between the fieldsmen, was allowed to fall untouched, but otherwise he played correct cricket. Mr Payne and Mr Page also played good and valuable innings, and the latter especially batted brilliantly. After Mr Mann's dismissal wickets fell rather rapidly, but Mr Mainprice and Mr Morcom put the result beyond question, and stumps were drawn at half-past 4.

18 May: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6684.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 May, page 11)

Lancashire, who were without Mr MacLaren, Mr Brearley and Mr Findlay, as well as Hallows, had rather an anxious time at Derby yesterday. They had first innings, and in the second over of the match Mr Spooner and Tyldesley were out before a run had been scored.

Mr Garnett was out to a left-handed catch at point with the score at 12, but Mr Poidevin and Sharp put on 67 in 40 minutes by good cricket before the former was caught at mid-on. Of the others, Heap drove well to the off, but the visitors were all out in two hours for quite a moderate total. Cadman's bowling was always difficult to play and he thoroughly deserved his success.

Derbyshire, who gave a very feeble display, lost seven wickets for 21 runs, and although Mr Lawton hit with much power, the side were out in under an hour and a half. Lancashire had a lead of 60, and

when they went in a second time Mr Garnett played fine cricket, and at the close Lancashire were 202 runs ahead with six wickets in hand.

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

Lancashire beat Derbyshire at Derby yesterday by 161 runs.

18 May: GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6685.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 May, page 11)

It was gratifying that a strong side had been got together to represent the Gentlemen of England against the Australians at Lord's, for, apart from the test matches, the game which was begun yesterday in many respects is the most interesting of the Australian tour. Mr Jessop, who was expected to play for the Gentlemen of England, was unable to take part in the match, and Captain Wynyard took his place.

The first day's play was on a fast wicket, with the ball travelling very quickly in the outfield, and at the close the game was left in an even position, the Australians, with Mr McLeod out, being 247 runs behind. On the whole it was not a particularly attractive day's cricket. Runs at times were made at a good pace, but never very fast; there was a great deal of sound batting, but nothing brilliant; and in the same way the bowling as a whole was very steady, extremely few bad balls being sent down, but none of the bowlers looked very difficult.

Mr Noble had a long spell of bowling in the morning and he always kept the batsmen playing; but perhaps Mr Laver on the whole seemed to give the most trouble. Lord's is a ground on which a fast bowler in dry weather always has a chance, and therefore great interest was felt in what Mr Cotter would do. He started the bowling at the nursery end with the wind behind him, and he went on again at the same end after luncheon, when he met with his only success, for he clean bowled Mr MacLaren. He bowled very fast, but it cannot be said that he seemed to make the ball do much.

In batting, Mr Warner's performance stood out by itself. He started badly, and he was missed in the slips by Mr Laver quite early; and this mistake proved most costly to the Australians, for after Mr Warner settled down he played really good cricket and made a number of fine strokes all round the wicket.

Captain Wynyard was the only other member of the side who got over 50, and he was decidedly lucky. As a rule he makes his runs so quickly and well that his display yesterday was particularly disappointing. He deserves great credit for his innings, played at a time when things were not going very well for his side; but he gave more than one chance and he did not seem at home to several of the bowlers, Mr Armstrong in particular often having him in difficulties.

Of the rest, Mr Fry and Mr Evans perhaps played the best. The former, who started the batting with Mr Warner, settled down at once and looked to be in for one of his long innings when he pulled a ball from Mr Noble into his wicket.

A score of 300 on such a wicket cannot in these days be called a large one; and at lunch time, when Mr Warner and Mr Beldam were together with 128 scored and only one wicket down, a larger total seemed probable. Afterwards Mr Beldam was run out at 134, and from then until the close no long stand was made. Eight wickets were down for 277, but Mr Hesketh-Prichard, who is not always an easy man to get out, stayed while 20 runs were put on for the ninth wicket, and he and Mr Brearley were able to bring up the 300.

The catching of the Australians was hardly up to the high standard which one expects from them, and Mr Newland must be capable of keeping wicket better than he did yesterday; but the ground fielding and the throwing - and every one of the eleven seemed to be able to throw a long distance - were excellent. The Gentlemen of England were all out just before a quarter to 6, and thus the Australians had about 35 minutes' batting.

It is never an enviable position to have to go in with half an hour left for play, but Mr Gregory and Mr McLeod started with great confidence against the bowling of Mr Brearley and Mr Beldam. Mr McLeod, however, was bowled just before the close, and Mr Howell came in, and he and Mr Gregory played out time. Play will begin at 11.30 to-day.

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

Large scores are so common in cricket at the present day that the Australians' feat of scoring 555 runs for six wickets in their first innings against the Gentlemen of England, at Lord's, may not be regarded as so remarkable as it would have been a few years ago. At the same time it remains as a great performance.

The majority of the runs were made by three men - Mr Duff, Mr Armstrong and Mr Darling - who got 450 between them; and yesterday the Australians were able to declare their innings closed before 6 o'clock and give the Gentlemen of England about half an hour's batting after a long day in the field. Two wickets, those of Mr Warner and Mr McDonell, fell, and when stumps were drawn the Gentlemen of England, with eight wickets in hand, had 237 runs to get to avoid the single innings defeat; but with two such players as Mr Fry and Mr MacLaren the game to-day may possibly be saved.

Amateur bowling in England is not now up to a high standard; but a side which includes Mr Hesketh-Prichard, Mr Brearley, Mr Beldam, Mr Warner and Mr McDonell cannot be called weak in this respect, and there can be no doubt of the general batting strength of the Australian team this year. The cricket yesterday was in marked contrast to the rather unattractive display given by the Gentlemen of England on Thursday. Runs generally came fast - at times very fast indeed - and in the two long partnerships between Mr Armstrong and Mr Duff in the morning and between the former and Mr Darling in the afternoon the bowling was absolutely "collared."

Mr Armstrong has been in great form from the very start of the tour, but his innings yesterday must probably rank as the best thing he has done in cricket in England. He went in at the fall of the fourth wicket in the morning and he was not out at the close. From the start he played with great confidence, and he was not beaten by perhaps more than half a dozen balls all through his innings. He gave one easy chance to Mr MacLaren in the slips just before he got to 200. All through he showed a great mastery over the bowling, and his sound defence and his variety of scoring strokes marked him as a very great player.

Mr Duff's methods are well known in England, and while his innings lasted it was perhaps even more attractive than Mr Armstrong's. He timed the ball perfectly and made some astonishingly fine hits. Mr Darling started rather slowly, but when he "got going" he showed that he has lost none of his skill or power. It seemed that he and Mr Armstrong might have taken a few more risks towards the close and given the Australians rather a larger lead when the innings was declared. As usual the running of the men between the wickets was as good as it could be, and even when 500 was up not a single run was wasted.

On Thursday the Australians had made 53 for the loss of Mr McLeod's wicket, and when play was continued the Gentlemen of England at first did well. Mr Howell and Mr Gregory did not stay long, and when Mr Trumper was bowled off his pads by a good ball from Mr Hesketh-Prichard four wickets were down for 94; but here the successes of the bowling side ended, for Mr Armstrong and Mr Duff settled down and were not separated until just before luncheon, having added 176 runs.

Mr Noble was bowled soon after the luncheon interval by a really good ball from Mr Brearley, which came back quickly, but then Mr Darling joined Mr Armstrong, and the pair stayed together until the innings was declared closed, when they had put on 273 runs.

The Gentlemen of England started their second innings with Mr Warner and Mr Hesketh-Prichard, and the former played a ball from Mr Cotter, who again bowled from the nursery end, into his wicket with only fortunate runs scored. Mr McDonell, who came next, was clean bowled by a good ball from Mr Noble. Then, however, Mr Martyn and Mr Hesketh-Prichard played out time.

The Gentlemen of England's bowling never seemed to present any difficulty to the Australians, who for the most part made it look very simple indeed. Mr Brearley had a great deal of work to do, and on the whole he was the most effective, but Mr Evans looked harder to score off than most of the others. Mr McDonell was the most severely punished, having 62 runs made off his in seven overs, and a bowler of his type seems to have no terrors for Australian batsmen.

The ground fielding of the Gentlemen of England, even when the fact that Lord's is a difficult ground on which to pick up the ball cleanly is taken into account, was decidedly poor and many runs were needlessly thrown away. In this respect, however, Mr McDonnell was a notable exception.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 11)

Any hope that the Gentlemen of England had of averting defeat at Lord's was shattered by the rain which fell during the night, and which undoubtedly affected the ground slightly on Saturday. The wet did not make the wicket really difficult, but it probably altered the pace, and the Gentlemen of England seemed quite unable to adapt themselves to the change - small as it was - in the conditions, and the display of batting was extremely feeble.

When play was continued the Gentlemen of England, who had gone in overnight and lost two wickets for 18 runs, still required 237 to avoid a single innings defeat. Another wicket fell in the first over - Mr Hesketh-Prichard being bowled - with the figures unaltered; but Mr Fry, on joining Mr Martyn, played so well for the next half-hour that there seemed no reason why a great many runs should not be made.

The turning point came when Mr Cotter gave way to Mr Laver, for the new bowler caught and bowled Mr Fry from a hard, straight return in his first innings, at 45. This proved the forerunner of a series of disasters. Mr MacLaren and Mr Martyn played defensive cricket, and the latter was in for 40 minutes before adding a single to his overnight score, while he was batting altogether over an hour for his runs, and then Mr Laver bowled him at 53.

Mr Beldam, deceived by a slow ball, was out like Mr Fry - easily caught and bowled - at 57, while at 65 Captain Wynyard was taken in the slips. Thus all interest had gone out of the game, for only Mr Foster, Mr Evans and Mr Brearley remained to assist Mr MacLaren.

Still, as Mr Noble had not met with success since the first over of the day, Mr Darling put on Mr Howell, off whom the Lancashire captain was well caught at 65. The addition of a single - to Mr Evans - saw the close, for at 66 Mr Howell dismissed Mr Foster and Mr Brearley with successive balls, and shortly before 1 o'clock the Australians had won by an innings and 189 runs.

Mr Laver, as on Thursday, bowled finely, and Mr Howell had a wonderful analysis; but the easy nature of the victory, thoroughly deserved as it was, was brought about more, perhaps, by bad batting than by any special excellence in the bowling.

18 May: HAMPSHIRE v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6686.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 May, page 11)

At Southampton yesterday Northamptonshire began their first match as a first-class county, but their innings provided no feature of interest. They took four hours and a quarter in getting their runs and, while several batsmen made useful scores, no one seemed to obtain much mastery over the bowling.

Perhaps the best form was shown by Mr W H Kingston, who made several good strokes during his hour at the wicket. Although the bowling was never collared, changes were frequent, and during the innings no fewer than eight bowlers were tried.

Hampshire had 70 minutes' batting, and their cricket was in marked contrast to that of their opponents. Mr Sprot played very bright cricket and obtained his runs in three-quarters of an hour. At the close Hampshire, with three wickets down, were 121 behind.

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

At Southampton, yesterday, Northamptonshire gave a much improved display in their second innings, and when stumps were drawn they held a lead of 196 runs with six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 11)

On Saturday, at Southampton, Hampshire extricated themselves from a difficult position, as, when they began their second innings, three hours and three quarters remained for play while no possibility existed of the 354 runs required to win being obtained.

The side gave a good display, however, and when the match was left drawn Hampshire, with five wickets to fall, were only 63 behind.

18 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6687.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 May, page 11)

Lord Hawke lost the toss for the first time this season in this match at Leicester yesterday, and Yorkshire were kept in the field all day. The conditions were ideal from a batsman's standpoint, but the Yorkshire bowling and fielding were maintained at a high standard throughout.

After the first wicket fell King had an old wound on the left thumb reopened by the second ball while he received from Rhodes. He had to retire, and he is not expected to take further part in the match.

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

The Yorkshire eleven had a severe struggle at Leicester yesterday to escape the follow-on, but a magnificent innings by Hirst enabled them to achieve this object.

The wicket showed signs of wear when play was continued, and runs were much more difficult to obtain than they had been on Thursday. Leicestershire had five wickets to fall in their first innings, and these were captured by Rhodes and Ringrose in an hour for another 45 runs.

Coe, who had made 98 on Thursday, succeeded in reaching three figures, and was then caught at the wicket. He had played free and attractive cricket, but he was fortunate in being twice missed. Mr Wood batted all through the Leicestershire innings without making a mistake. It was a fine exhibition in defensive cricket, but he carried caution to excess yesterday. Rhodes took the last three wickets for six runs.

When Yorkshire went in the batsmen at first did badly against Gill and four wickets fell in an hour before luncheon for 37 runs. Had an easy chance offered by Rhodes been accepted half the side would have been out for 38. As it was, the fifth wicket fell at 74.

Hirst and Haigh then stayed together for two hours, adding 144 runs without making the slightest mistake. Hirst continued to bat excellently and at a quarter past 6 the follow-on was saved with four wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 11)

The highest score ever recorded in Yorkshire cricket was made by Hirst in the match between the Leicestershire and Yorkshire elevens at Leicester on Saturday. Hirst had gone in to bat before lunch on Friday, when his side had made a disastrous start against the bowling of Gill. He did not complete his innings until ten minutes past 3 on Saturday afternoon.

In the seven hours that Hirst was at the wickets 493 runs were scored, and of this number he made 341. Before this innings the highest score made in county cricket by a Yorkshireman was 311, by the late J T Brown against Sussex, at Sheffield, in July, 1897. With the exception of an extremely hard catch to Mr R T Crawford, at square leg, when he had got 258, Hirst gave no chance.

Until he had passed the third hundred his cricket was wonderfully accurate, not a single really bad stroke being made. Later in his innings he took risks and made a few faulty strokes in consequence, but none went to hand. Among his hits were 53 fours.

18 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6688.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 May, page 11)

Owing largely to a fine bowling performance by John Gunn and a spirited partnership by Mr Jones and Iremonger, Nottinghamshire secured a distinct advantage over Essex in this match at Nottingham yesterday.

Essex had the good fortune to bat first on a typical Trent Bridge wicket, and so well did Mr Fane, Carpenter and Mr McGahey play that at luncheon the score was 163 for two wickets. The total reached 197 before the third wicket fell, but subsequently matters took a decided turn in favour of Nottinghamshire. John Gunn was chiefly responsible for the collapse. Going on a second time after lunch, he dismissed a batsman with the second ball of each of his first three overs, and also took five wickets in eight overs and one ball for nine runs.

Mr Jones and Iremonger started very confidently for Nottinghamshire, and they scored 136 in an hour and 40 minutes, and were still together at the close.

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

The cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday went all in favour of Nottinghamshire, who batted all day and increased their overnight score of 136 for no wicket to 508 for eight, so that they are now 264 runs ahead.

The outstanding feature was the batting of Iremonger, but it was not one of his best displays, as he was very slow and occasionally faulty in his timing of the ball. After lunch Iremonger, who had before completed his 100 in three hours and ten minutes, hit out finely, and with John Gunn 77 runs were scored in the first hour. Gunn, who made 60 out of 159 added for the third wicket, was batting for two and a half hours, but the brightest cricket was shown by Mr Hemingway, who made his runs in as many minutes.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 11)

Although the wicket was apparently as good as at any time during the match, the Essex batsmen collapsed so badly at Trent Bridge on Saturday that they were all out in two hours for under 100.

Overnight Nottinghamshire had obtained a lead of 264 runs with two wickets in hand, and, as was generally expected, Mr Jones declared before the time for continuing the game and sent in Essex again. Mr Fane and Carpenter obtained 29 off the bowling of John Gunn and Wass before Carpenter was out, but afterwards Nottinghamshire carried all before them. Mr Fane was magnificently caught by Hardstaff at extra cover from a hard drive and, in spite of a brief stand by Mr McGahey and Cooper, the side were soon out, and Nottinghamshire won by an innings and 172 runs.

John Gunn, as in the first innings, bowled very finely. Aided by a strong wind and bowling a much slower ball than usual he had the batsmen in difficulties throughout, and he finished off the innings by taking five wickets in six overs for ten runs.

18 May: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6689.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 May, page 11)

The opening day's play in this match at the Oval yesterday was confined to the Surrey first innings. Surrey have frequently relied on one or two men for anything approaching a large total, but such was not the case yesterday, for only two of the side failed to get double figures.

Considering the excellence of the wicket and the rate at which runs were scored, Hayward was particularly quiet during the morning, for at lunch-time, out of 129 for three wickets, he only could claim 42, but there was some excuse for him, as his shoulder was troubling him. Afterwards he put on runs at a much faster rate.

He and Hayes, who hit well, added 91 for the second wicket, but the best partnership was when Hayward and Holland were together. This realized 146 in about 100 minutes. Holland played a fine forcing game; his driving and cutting were both well timed and possessed plenty of power.

Lord Dalmeny and Lees also made their runs quickly, but the Surrey batting during the last half-hour of the day was much more cautious than the position of the game warranted.

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

Surrey beat Sussex at the Oval yesterday by an innings and 184 runs. The early termination of the match was rather unexpected, coming as it did after Surrey's large score on Thursday, and the visitors' collapse was chiefly due to feeble batting.

It is true that the wicket appeared to give the bowlers some assistance, as the ball "got up" at times, but after making due allowance for this, Sussex ought to have made many more runs.

Saturday 20 May, page 13: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

It was officially announced yesterday evening by Lord Hawke that the Hon F S Jackson has accepted the captaincy of the England eleven in the test matches.

22 May: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6690.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 11)

Mr A E Lawton, the Derbyshire captain, played a fine innings at Leyton yesterday. He went in at the fall of the fourth wicket at 156 and was seventh out at 315, having made his runs in 80 minutes. His driving and cutting were particularly brilliant, and he made a hit on the leg side off Reeves out of the ground.

Before Mr Lawton went in there was some steady batting and Derbyshire had done fairly well; but Mr Lawton's innings placed the side very quickly in a strong position. Tremlin achieved a fine bowling feat, and in spite of the hard hitting he never lost his length; but the Essex fielding left something to be desired, although, with the wind blowing so keenly from the north-east, there was plenty of excuse for not holding the ball.

The Derbyshire fast bowlers, Warren and Bestwick, did excellent work with the ball in the last hour. Warren bowled at a great pace and kept an excellent length, and when Mr Gillingham was bowled one of the bails was sent quite 40 yards. Freeman was struck in the chest by a ball from Warren and retired, and Essex finished the day in a bad position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 12)

A great innings by Mr C McGahey at Leyton yesterday completely changed the character of the match; and Essex, who had finished so badly on Monday night, were able to declare their innings closed and give Derbyshire 45 minutes' batting at the end of their long spell in the field.

To secure a lead of 140, after having five men out for 65, was in itself a remarkable feat. Mr McGahey had several helpers in rescuing Essex from their losing position, and he and Major Turner by putting on 167 for the sixth wicket laid the foundation of a large score.

The Derbyshire fast bowling took much wearing down, and Mr McGahey played sound, steady cricket, until the Derbyshire score began to be approached. Afterwards he brought into play his fine natural powers for hitting, and his straight driving off Warren and Bestwick must be set down as the great feature of his batting, although, of course, he is a player with a variety of strokes. The vigour of his game may be appreciated from the fact that, in addition to running five for a drive, he got 176 in fours.

Humphries made five catches standing back to the fast bowlers. Derbyshire last night had lost one wicket in the second innings and were still 111 runs behind.

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

Essex beat Derbyshire at Leyton yesterday in a single innings. It was a wonderful victory after the course that the game had taken on Monday, and even on Tuesday evening it was expected that Derbyshire, with nine wickets left, would make something of a fight.

But yesterday Buckenham's fast bowling was very effective; the ball got up a good deal, and there was an unfortunate accident to Needham, whose right forearm was seriously damaged. Mr L G Wright batted steadily for some time and the 100 went up with only five men out. But with Needham hurt and the rest of the batsmen doing little the match was all over by half-past 1.

22 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6691.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 11)

Except for a patient and sound innings by Iremonger, there was nothing of note in the batting of Nottinghamshire at Bristol yesterday. On a fast and true wicket they were out in three hours and three quarters for quite a moderate total.

The bowling was always good and the only long stand was made for the third wicket by Iremonger and John Gunn, who added 52. Dennett got the most wickets, and he would have done even better if all the chances had been held.

Gloucestershire, who had an hour and a half's batting, did not begin any too well, as Wass bowling and fielding Wrathall with the score at 27. Board, however, improved the outlook for his side, and Mr Brown assisted Mr Godsell to play out time. As the game now stands Gloucestershire, with eight wickets in hand, are only 125 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 12)

Mr R T Godsell accomplished a very fine performance at Bristol yesterday, when he carried his bat through the Gloucestershire first innings, making his runs in four hours and 40 minutes. Owing chiefly to his batting the home side held the useful lead of 57.

Mr Godsell was missed when he had made 28, and this mistake made a great deal of difference, for the visitors were at the time getting the better of the game, the home side having lost half their wickets for 123. Profiting by his good fortune, Mr Godsell batted with the utmost patience for the rest of the innings.

At a critical stage of the game Langdon gave him valuable assistance, the pair putting on 73 runs for the sixth wicket. No other stand of note was made, but most of the batsmen made some contribution to the score. Hallam was the only bowler who gave much trouble, and he kept a fine length.

Although Iremonger was soon out when Nottinghamshire went in again, Mr Jones and George Gunn cleared off the deficit before the second wicket fell. At the close Nottinghamshire held a lead of 82 with six wickets in hand.

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

By their decisive victory over Nottinghamshire at Bristol, yesterday, by eight wickets, Gloucestershire gave further evidence of the strength of the team they can put in the field this season. Their success was thoroughly deserved, for they played the better cricket in all departments. The bowling of Dennett was again an important factor in the dismissal of the visitors a second time for a moderate total.

Overnight Nottinghamshire had scored 139 for the loss of four wickets. Of the remaining batsmen, John Gunn and Mr Hemingway alone met with any success. The former gave a very patient display and was batting for nearly two hours. The collapse which followed his dismissal left the home side with only 163 to get to win.

The Nottinghamshire bowlers, however, got very little assistance from the pitch. In the course of an hour 61 were scored for the loss of Mr Godsell's wicket. The next quarter of an hour yielded 34, while the balance of 68 were got by Wrathall and Mr Jessop in less than half an hour. Wrathall, who went in first and carried out his bat, started badly, but afterwards he hit almost as hard and as cleanly as Mr Jessop.

22 May: LANCASHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6692.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 11)

The feature of the opening day's play in this match at Liverpool yesterday was the batting of M.C.C., Tyldesley and Hallows. When he had made 23, Mr MacLaren should have been caught by the wicket-keeper, standing back to Burrows, but this was the only mistake in an innings which was marked by splendid strokes all round the wicket.

Tyldesley played with great restraint, and it was remarkable that a batsman naturally inclined to free methods should only score four fours in an innings which lasted over two hours. Hallows played the brightest cricket of the day. He cut and drove with power, and he made some excellent strokes to leg.

When Worcestershire went in, shortly after half-past 5, they did badly against the bowling of Mr Brearley. In half an hour he dismissed Bowley, Cuffe, Pearson and Wheldon.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 12)

Although Worcestershire were 183 runs behind on the first innings, Mr MacLaren did not send the visiting side in again, at Liverpool, yesterday. For a while Lancashire fared badly in their second innings, Mr MacLaren, Mr Spooner, Tyldesley and Mr Garnett being all dismissed by Burrows before the total reached 30.

Mr Poidevin and Hallows added 74 runs in an hour, both batsmen playing sound cricket, and Kermode gave an unexpected display of hard hitting. He made his runs in just over an hour and his driving was very powerful. With the score at 202 for nine wickets Mr MacLaren declared the innings closed.

Worcestershire had 25 minutes' batting and, although Mr Brearley bowled very fast, they lost no wicket. At the close of play Worcestershire required 373 to get to win with all their wickets in hand.

In the first innings of Worcestershire Mr Hutchings showed most promising form, and his cutting was particularly clean.

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

The Worcestershire batsmen made a fine effort on the last day of their match with Lancashire at Liverpool yesterday. Going in on Tuesday evening to face the big task of getting 386 to win, Worcestershire had scored 13 without loss, and yesterday they played such a good uphill game that at one point they looked to have just a chance of winning.

This was when 190 runs were on the board with only four wickets down. The Lancashire bowling at this point was scarcely up to the county's usual standard. At 196, however, I'Anson bowled Wheldon, and at 226 Mr Foster was caught at second slip. He played a most plucky innings, marked in its early stages by very sound defence and later when there was a possibility of winning by free hitting.

Lancashire finally won by 97 runs, and certainly Worcestershire gave them a harder fight than any other county up to the present this season. Mr Brearley bowled well near the close, taking all the last four wickets.

22 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6693.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 11)

For their match against Kent at Lord's, which began yesterday, the M.C.C. and Ground had a strong bowling side, and they got their opponents out for a moderate score. Early in the Kent innings there was some very attractive batting by Seymour, and after seven wickets were down for 133 Huish and Fairservice came together, and they added 68.

The M.C.C. and Ground started badly, but some free hitting by Murrell did much towards saving the side; and when seven wickets had gone down for 176 Mr Hulton and Mr Hartley stayed together until the close and enabled the M.C.C. and Ground to finish the day with a lead of 21 and three wickets still to fall.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 12)

The M.C.C. and Ground won this match at Lord's, yesterday, by nine wickets. They finished their innings with a lead of 94, and they again got Kent out cheaply, Seymour and Mr A P Day alone offering much resistance to the bowling.

The M.C.C. and Ground were left with 105 to get in the last innings, and these were obtained for the loss of one wicket. Captain Wynyard played most attractive cricket, making a number of fine shots all round the wicket, and he got his runs very quickly, while Braund was content to play a very careful game.

22 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6694.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 11)

This match was begun at Oxford yesterday. The University won the toss and went in on a good wicket in very cold weather. The first three wickets fell quickly, after which Mr Branston and Mr Snowden made a good stand. The former chiefly with hard driving played well for his runs, and Mr Snowden showed plenty of confidence.

Later Mr Norris played a dashing innings, hitting well to leg, while Mr Bird, who started rather weakly, settled down to good cricket. The fielding, considering the cold weather, was fairly good. Dr Grace and Mr Knox did most of the bowling, the former having bad luck on several occasions in just missing the stumps.

On going in, the Gentlemen of England fared badly against the bowling of Mr Udal and Mr Henley in rather a bad light. Most of the batsmen showed poor form and seemed out of practice.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 12)

The Gentlemen of England continued their innings at Oxford yesterday. Mr Weigall and Mr Kenward played the bowling and fielding with confidence and took the score to 130. Mr Stow came in and hit well, after being favoured with a considerable share of luck. The innings closed at half-past 12.

Mr Carlisle decided not to let the Gentlemen of England follow on, and took in Mr Wright with him to bat. Runs came freely, Mr Wright especially treating Dr Grace's bowling with little respect, and in one over from him he scored 17. After Mr Carlisle was out Mr Branston and Mr Wright batted freely and took the score to 102, when Mr Branston was caught at slip.

Mr Wright was next to leave, being well caught in the deep field. He had played a very good innings, and he seemed "at home" to all the bowling. Later Mr Worsley and Mr Udal hit well, while Mr Burn's score included two sixes. Mr Marshal bowled well and has a deceptive flight.

The Gentlemen of England were left with over 400 runs to get in the fourth innings. Dr Grace and Mr Marshal made a fine start, and at the close of play they were still together.

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

Oxford University won this match at Oxford, yesterday, by 50 runs. Dr Grace and Mr Marshal, who had scored 140 for no wicket on Tuesday, continued their innings yesterday morning. Mr Marshal batted freely and did most of the scoring until at 168 he was out to a slow "yorker" on the leg stump.

Mr Martyn came in, but he never seemed "at home" to the bowling, and early in his innings he was missed by Mr Worsley at point and by the wicket-keeper, both off Mr Udal's bowling. Dr Grace gave no chance and he showed wonderful skill in placing the ball. Mr Weigall offered considerable resistance to the bowling and timed the ball well on the off side.

Mr Branston, on going on a second time, bowled very well. His bowling was difficult to see and, as he was making the ball turn considerably and keeping a good length, he caused much trouble to the batsmen. The fielding of Oxford was good and several smart catches were made, notably one by Mr Udal, which dismissed Mr Knox, and one by Mr Norris.

22 May: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6695.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 11)

The first day's play, in this match at the Oval yesterday, went slightly in favour of Surrey, for at the close they were 126 runs behind with eight wickets in hand.

It was a cold and cheerless day, and the cricket on the whole was not very interesting. From the way in which Warwickshire began their innings there seemed every prospect of the side making a much larger score; but the good start was not maintained, and the bowling of Lees and Hayes went a long way towards turning the game in favour of the home side.

The brightest cricket was shown during the first hour, when Mr Byrne and Kinneir put on 82 for the first wicket, Mr Byrne in particular being in good form. The Surrey bowling was deficient in length, and Mr Byrne made many good strokes on the off-side, while his hitting to leg was also well-timed and powerful. After he left the batting was rather feeble and no one stayed very long, although Santall made several good strokes on the leg-side.

Surrey went in at 5 o'clock, but the score was only 34 when Hayward was out. Then Hobbs and Hayes made a stand and put on 47 in less than half an hour for the second wicket. Afterwards Hayes and Baker played out time.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 12)

There was a much brighter day's cricket in this match at the Oval yesterday, and at the close Surrey held a considerable advantage, Warwickshire being 93 runs behind in their second innings with eight

wickets in hand. The wicket gave the bowlers no assistance whatever, and runs always came fast, 521 being scored for the loss of ten wickets during the day.

Overnight Surrey had made 109 for two wickets, and when they continued their innings it soon became apparent that they were in for a large score. The feature of the Surrey innings was the batting of Lord Dalmeny, who made his first hundred in first-class cricket, and Hayes.

Lord Dalmeny is a greatly improved batsmen, and yesterday he played an innings far in advance of anything which he has done before. He scored at a good pace throughout, and at times his driving was brilliant. He went in at the fall of the fifth wicket at 254, and was ninth out at 457, and during his stay at the wickets 203 runs in all were added to the score in an hour and three-quarters. Except for a chance in the long field at 81, his cricket was singularly free from bad strokes.

When Lord Dalmeny and Lees were together 75 were added for the eighth wicket in 28 minutes. Hayes also batted well, but he was lucky in being twice missed; he was bowled round his legs in trying to get his hundred. Most of the batsmen got their runs quickly and well, and in the end Warwickshire were sent in a second time, at a quarter past 4, 244 runs behind.

Mr Byrne and Kinneir played very well and, owing chiefly to them Warwickshire, were able to recover some of their lost ground.

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

The match between Surrey and Warwickshire ended yesterday, at the Oval, in a draw. It was a fine performance on the part of the visitor, as they had to fight a severe up-hill battle, and when stumps were finally pulled up they were 341 ahead with three wickets in hand.

For their position at the close Warwickshire were chiefly indebted to Quaife, who made his largest score in first-class cricket. In all he was batting for nearly six hours and a half and, except for two difficult chances before reaching his hundred, his cricket was singularly free from fault. He went in at a critical time for Warwickshire, and as there was nothing to be gained by fast scoring - for at the best there was nothing to hope for except a draw - he made no attempt to force the game, but he got his runs by a good variety of strokes.

Kinneir also batted finely, and when he and Quaife were together 125 runs were added for the third wicket. On Baker's joining Quaife another long stand was made, their partnership yielding 143 runs in an hour and 50 minutes, and it was really this stand that made the game safe for Warwickshire.

Afterwards all interest in the match vanished and Lord Dalmeny rested his usual bowlers, and, as a glance at the analysis will show, every member of the team had a turn with the ball. Towards the close runs came at a great pace, the last hour producing 126. During the match 1,299 runs were scored for the loss of 27 wickets.

22 May: SUSSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6696.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 11)

Sussex, at Brighton yesterday, had the better of their match with Leicestershire, for with one wicket down at the close they were 104 runs behind.

Leicestershire, who batted first, lost eight wickets for 45 runs in an unaccountable manner, as the wicket was in excellent condition, while the bowling of Cox, Relf and Vine did not look very difficult. The bad start was to a great extent retrieved by a stand made by Mr Davis and Knight for the ninth wicket. They began very cautiously, in fact Knight was an hour obtaining 12 runs, but afterwards both hit well, and during a partnership of over two hours and a quarter they put on 133 runs.

Sussex had an hour and a half's batting, and during that time the batsmen exercised great care. Mr Fry hit only when he could pick his ball with safety, while Vine adopted an almost entirely defensive game. Mr Fry made his 50 out of a total of 64 in 70 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 12)

Leicestershire, at Brighton, yesterday, failed in all points of the game against Sussex, and when stumps were drawn the visitors, with five wickets down, required 89 runs to avoid a single innings defeat.

On Monday Sussex had scored 82 for the loss of Mr Fry's wicket, and when the game was continued Vine and Killick mastered the bowling completely. At lunch time they had raised the score to 228, but afterwards in less than two hours the side were all out for an addition of 112.

Killick, who had batted for three hours and a quarter, was the first to be dismissed, while Vine was fourth out after a stay of four hours and three-quarters. Both played good cricket, and altogether they added 165 runs for the second wicket. Vine gave no chance, but Killick when he had made 75 was missed twice in one over from Mr Odell.

When Leicestershire went in again they made another disastrous start, as four wickets fell for 29 runs. Mr Crawford and Coe then raised the score to 62, and the latter and Mr Davis played out time.

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

Sussex had an easy task at Brighton, yesterday, when Leicestershire, with half their batsmen out in their second innings, went in to get 80 runs to save the single innings defeat.

The not-outs, Mr Davis and Coe, played steadily for an hour and a quarter while the total was increased by 68 runs; but after Coe was caught at slip the remainder of the side did little, and at 1 o'clock Sussex had won by an innings and 18 runs.

Cox, towards the end of the match, obtained, in two overs, three wickets without a run being hit from his bowling. Owing to an injury to his finger Mr Fry was unable to take the field.

22 May: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6697.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 11)

The winning of the toss was a matter of considerable importance in the first of the matches between Yorkshire and the Australians at Sheffield yesterday. The wicket was fast and true, and occasional cold showers of rain handicapped the bowlers.

The Australians were batting all the time available for play. Showers and defective light stopped the game on three occasions, and the actual duration of play was only three hours and three quarters.

Mr Duff and Mr Trumper scored at a great pace at the opening of the match. They got 50 in the first 25 minutes and at luncheon an hour's batting had produced 122 runs without the loss of a wicket. The first wicket should, however, have fallen at 66, Mr Duff, who at the time had made 32, being badly missed by Ringrose at mid-on from Hirst's bowling.

Mr Trumper, who batted brilliantly in the later stages of his innings, was most troubled by Mr Jackson's bowling. He was second out at 170, having contributed half of the total in an hour and a half's batting.

Haigh bowled well after this and got Mr Hill caught behind the wicket for a good, but not faultless, 50. The same bowler got Mr Noble caught at point; but Mr Gregory and Mr Darling stayed together an hour and added 64 runs for the fifth wicket, the former being them out off a very bad strokes. Ringrose, who got this wicket, troubled the batsmen with his rising deliveries, and both Mr Darling and Mr McLeod were hit on the hand.

In the last 20 minutes the Australians lost three more wickets; Mr Laver was clean bowled; Mr Darling was easily caught at short slip for a finely hit innings, which included a drive over the pavilion

rails from Mr Jackson's bowling; and Mr McLeod was caught in the same position. The Yorkshire bowling and fielding in the afternoon were excellent.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 12)

The wicket at Sheffield yesterday gave the bowlers considerable assistance. The result was that during the day 18 wickets fell for an aggregate of 263 runs. The two Australian wickets that had not been captured on Monday fell in a few minutes yesterday for an addition of seven runs.

On going in, Yorkshire made a satisfactory start, 68 runs being scored before the first wicket fell. Mr Jackson, who batted well and scored freely off Mr Cotter's bowling, was then caught at third man. Grimshaw showed sound defence and was second out at 85. Afterwards Denton batted so well that the score was taken to 106 before a brilliant catch by Mr Duff, who ran from mid-off to behind the bowler, secured the third wicket.

Of the remaining batsmen, only Tunnicliffe appeared able to cope with the bowling of Mr Laver. Tunnicliffe took many risks and was decidedly lucky, as he made many bad strokes which did not go to hand. In addition he was missed by Mr Duff at mid-off and by Mr Kelly behind the wicket. These were the only mistakes in a brilliant display of all-round fielding by the Australians. Mr Laver took full advantage of the assistance which the wicket gave him, and had a fine analysis.

The Australians went in again at ten minutes to 5 and fared disastrously before the bowling of Haigh, Myers and Rhodes. Mr Duff was caught at second slip off Myers when only a single had been scored. Mr Hill was brilliantly caught behind the wicket at 26, and at 31 another fine catch at second slip sent back Mr Trumper. Rhodes displaced Myers at 39, and in his first over got rid of both Mr Gregory and Mr Noble.

Mr Howell and Mr Kelly came together at 20 minutes to 6, and the [first]-named was bowled in the last over of the day. The Australians are now 184 runs ahead with four wickets to fall.

Owing to an injured hand Mr Darling was unable to take his place in the field. Hirst, too, was so lame that he had difficulty in batting, and Wilkinson fielded for him. Hirst is suffering from the old weakness of the muscles of the leg, and there is great doubt whether he will be fit to play in the Test match at Nottingham on Monday next if he is selected.

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

The Yorkshire batting broke down on the damaged wicket at Sheffield yesterday, and at 20 minutes past 3 the Australians had gained the third victory of their tour by 174 runs.

The four wickets which the Australians had in hand in their second innings produced 68 runs. Mr Darling, although suffering from an injured hand, was able to bat, and he and Mr Laver were chiefly responsible for this addition to the score.

Yorkshire had to face a deficiency of 252 runs, but at no time did they look like making even half that number. Mr Howell made the ball break back from the off in a way that was almost unplayable, and he and Mr Laver bowled unchanged throughout the innings. Mr Laver in the match took 12 wickets at a cost of a little over nine runs each.

Tuesday 23 May, page 11: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The names of the players selected to represent England at Nottingham, on Monday next, in the first of the five test matches, will be made known to-night.

Thursday 25 May, page 12: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The following are the 13 players from whom the eleven to meet Australia at Nottingham, on Monday next, will be chosen: -

The Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire), captain, Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire), Mr A O Jones (Nottinghamshire), Mr B J T Bosanquet (Middlesex), Mr C B Fry (Sussex), Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire), Hayward (Surrey), Tyldesley (Lancashire), Rhodes (Yorkshire), John Gunn (Nottinghamshire), Lilley (Warwickshire), Arnold (Worcestershire) and Lees (Surrey).

It will be noticed that Mr Fry's name is included in spite of the injury which he sustained while practising at Brighton yesterday, and that Hirst's is omitted. The list includes seven of those who appeared in the first Test match three years ago - namely, Mr Jackson, Mr MacLaren, Mr Fry, Mr Jessop, Tyldesley, Rhodes and Lilley.

A meeting of the Board of Control will be held at Lord's to-morrow to consider a letter received from the Australian team asking that, during the Test matches, screens shall be placed behind the wickets at both ends of the ground, and the boundary hits shall count four to the ropes and six over.

A resolution, however, has been passed by the committee of the M.C.C. to the effect that it will be impracticable to provide a screen at the pavilion end at Lord's. Notice of a resolution passed by the Nottinghamshire committee has also been received indicating that screens cannot be supplied at Trent-bridge next Monday unless the Board of Control so direct.

ACCIDENT TO MR C B FRY

While at practice yesterday morning at Brighton, Mr C B Fry had the first finger of his right hand split. The injury prevented him from fielding yesterday and will, it is feared, keep him out of cricket for several days, and most probably out of the Test match on Monday next at Nottingham.

George Hirst comes up to London to-day to consult a specialist about his injured leg.

25 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6698.html)

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

An admirable performance was accomplished at Cambridge, yesterday, by Mr R A Young, last year's captain at Repton. Going in first for Cambridge, he stayed in for three hours and 20 minutes. When he had made 79, he gave a chance to Wrathall in the slips, but that was the only real mistake in a very fine innings.

Mr Young was well supported, and late in the day Mr McDonnell hit excellently. The University kept their opponents in the field until 20 minutes past 6, and with the completion of their innings stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 15)

The Gloucestershire eleven gave a fair display of batting at Cambridge, yesterday, staying in for four and a half hours, but their total fell 135 short of the score obtained by the University on the opening day.

For a time matters went very well with the county, Mr Godsell and Wrathall putting on 92 for the first wicket, and Mr Mainprice and Langdon adding 84 for the third partnership; but the only stand of note afterwards was by Mr Nash and Mr Collett, who scored 51 together. The Cambridge fielding was rather poor before lunch, but after the interval some brilliant catches were made, Mr Morcom bringing off two running hard from mid-off, and Mr Mann holding a difficult one in the slips.

The University had an hour's batting in their second innings and, after Mr Keigwin had been dismissed at 17, Mr Young and Mr Mann carried the score to 64. With nine wickets in hand Cambridge hold a lead of 199.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 11)

Although the game at Cambridge was left drawn on Saturday, the closing stages were thoroughly interesting, the county at the finish being hard pressed to save the match.

The University started the day in a comfortable position, for, with only one wicket down in their second innings, they were 190 to the good. This score was advanced to 272 for six wickets, and then the innings was declared closed. The leading feature of the cricket before lunch was the admirable batting of Mr Young and Mr Mann, who had come together overnight at 17 and were not parted until they had raised the score to 187. Mr Young again played very finely and looked like once more reaching three figures.

Gloucestershire were set 408 to get to win, but they had nothing but a draw to play for. Mr Godsell, who kept in for over an hour and a half, and Wrathall made a capital start, putting on 74 for the first wicket; but then Mr May obtained three wickets quickly.

There seemed more than a chance at one time that Cambridge would win, but Langdon and Mr Mainprice batted with great steadiness and saved the match for the county. At the close Gloucestershire had only two wickets left and were still 151 runs behind.

25 May: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6699.html)

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

The Essex eleven were quite outplayed at Leyton yesterday. Mr Fane and Carpenter gave Essex a very fair start, but afterwards the batting broke down.

When Leicestershire went in Mr de Trafford got thoroughly set after a few ill-timed strokes; and in the course of an hour and a half he and Mr Wood passed the Essex score, while another 105 runs were added for the second wicket. The batting of Mr de Trafford and Wood was very dissimilar, for, while the former's game was hitting pure and simple, the latter played carefully and made a variety of strokes on both sides of the wicket.

Leicestershire at the close held a lead of 136 with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 15)

The course of the game at Leyton yesterday again went strongly in favour of Leicestershire, for at the close of play Essex, with only four wickets left, still required 134 runs to save the innings defeat.

In the early hours of the cricket the play had for its chief feature the batting of Knight. Whitehead and Coe also did well, and there was a brilliant piece of fielding by Mr Gillingham at cover-point when Coe was run out.

Essex began well in their second innings, and there seemed a general desire among the side to force the game. The batting of Mr Fane, Carpenter, Mr McGahey and Mr Gillingham was very good, and Mr McGahey and Mr Gillingham were only an hour in putting on 93 for the fifth wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 11)

Leicestershire beat Essex, at Leyton, on Saturday, by an innings and 105 runs.

The position of Essex was practically hopeless on Friday evening, when, with four wickets left, the arrears were still 134. Mr Gillingham again batted well, but he could get no one to stay with him and the game was soon over.

25 May: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6700.html)

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

At Aldershot, yesterday, Surrey were batting all day against Hampshire, and at the close of play they were left in a strong position. They made a bad start by losing Hobbs and Hayes for 14 runs, but Baker and Hayward raised the total to 121 before Hayward played on. Subsequently Baker batted well, but he was rather lucky. Holland drove on both sides of the wicket with great power.

With seven wickets down for 273 Surrey, on the excellent wicket, were by no means masters of the situation; but then Lees and Holland came together and added 134 runs in 50 minutes. The moderate Hampshire bowling was hit to all parts of the field, Lees in two consecutive overs from Mr Johnston scoring 31 runs. Holland was out, caught at point, after batting faultlessly for two hours and 50 minutes. Lees scored more slowly afterwards, and altogether his innings lasted an hour and a half.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 15)

Surrey followed their excellent batting performance against Hampshire at Aldershot on Thursday by some good work in the field yesterday, and at the close of play Hampshire, with five wickets to fall, still required 107 runs to avoid the single innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 11)

A partnership by Mr Hill and Llewellyn, during which 130 runs were added for the sixth wicket in less than two hours, saved Hampshire from a single innings defeat at Aldershot on Saturday, but the ultimate success of Surrey was never in doubt. Llewellyn played sound cricket and, except for a chance to the wicket-keeper when he had scored 34, his innings was without fault.

When he left the total has been raised to 252, and Stone, who followed, batted steadily while Mr Hill continued to score. The professional was out at 301 and, with Mr Persse bowled at the same total and only Baldwin remaining to support him, Mr Hill hit out at everything. In consecutive overs from Hayes and Mr Knox he scored 20 runs, and he was eventually bowled after batting for nearly three hours. He played fine cricket, his off-driving being particularly good.

Surrey were left with 71 runs to get, and in the end they won by seven wickets.

25 May: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6701.html)

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

Nottinghamshire had first innings in the match at Gravesend yesterday. They made a good start, in spite of the fact that Fielder was making the ball get up awkwardly. Mr Jones suffered an injury to a nerve in his arm and G Gunn was badly hit on the chest.

At one time Fielder had three catches missed off his bowling off successive balls. At the close of play Kent were 317 runs behind, with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 15)

Nottinghamshire beat Kent, at Gravesend, yesterday by an innings and 85 runs. The wicket gave a good deal of help to the bowlers and Wass took full advantage of his opportunities. In the first innings he took all the eight outstanding Kent wickets, and when the home side went in again he shared the wickets with Hallam.

Seymour batted well in both of the Kent innings, but otherwise, with the exception of Mr Dillon, no one could do much with the bowling.

25 May: LANCASHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6702.html)

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

There seems a probability of this match, which was begun yesterday at Old Trafford, being spoiled by the rain, which came on in the afternoon and considerably curtailed the play. Owing to injuries Mr Darling and Mr Armstrong were not included in the Australian team.

When the Australians went in Mr Trumper seemed quite unable to time the ball and he should have been caught at the wicket off Hallows when he had only made a single. He did not increase his score for 25 minutes, and when Mr Duff was out at 76 Mr Trumper had only scored 20. Mr Trumper was caught off a bumping ball at 105, having occupied nearly an hour and a quarter for his score. He seemed strangely out of form.

Mr Hill and Mr Noble hit splendidly, but when he had made 54 the former should have been caught by Mr MacLaren at short slip. The Lancashire fielding was not so good as usual. Mr Hill completed his 50 in 65 minutes, and afterwards punished the bowling with great freedom. After a stay of two hours he reached his 100 with the total at 244.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 15)

In this match at Old Trafford considerable progress was made yesterday, when the Australians took a formidable lead. The visitors concluded their first innings for the addition of 64 runs for their five outstanding wickets. Both the overnight not-outs left in Mr Brearley's second over, Mr Hill being caught at mid-on in attempting to drive a ball which rose quickly from the pitch.

In two hours and three-quarters Mr Hill helped to advance the total from 76 to 317, chiefly by powerful driving. He was missed at 54, but this was the only chance which he gave, although he made two or three other faulty strokes. Mr McLeod batted well towards the finish; but yesterday morning Mr Brearley delivered 12 overs and four balls for 36 runs and four wickets. His record for the innings was very creditable when it is remembered that both Mr Hill and Mr Gregory were missed off his bowling.

Mr MacLaren began the Lancashire innings in his best form, but at 36 he was beaten in playing forward. Tyldesley gave a bright display, characterized by good placing, before he was well caught at point. Between the third and the eighth wicket Lancashire only scored 34, but Sharp found useful partners in Kermodie and Mr Brearley.

The ninth wicket put on 45 in 25 minutes while Mr Laver came on when only five runs were required to avoid the possibility of a follow-on. After two singles, Mr Brearley was caught at cover-point, but Mr Noble decided that the Australians should go in to bat a second time. Sharp carried out his bat after an invaluable innings which lasted over an hour and a half.

When the Australians went in a second time with a lead of 152, Mr Trumper was once again bowled by Mr Brearley at 17, and at 31 Mr Hill was out, while Mr Duff, who again batted well, played on at 69, and at the close the Australians, with seven wickets to fall, were 235 to the good.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 11)

At Old Trafford, on Saturday, the Australians beat Lancashire by 244 runs. The visitors lost the last seven wickets in their second innings for 113, Mr Noble and Mr Gregory alone showing really good form.

The comparatively small total of the Australians was mainly due to the bowling of Sharp, who came on at 143. In his second over he dismissed Mr Noble with a ball which broke back and barely rose from the ground. Altogether he got four wickets for under seven runs each.

Lancashire, who required 349 to get to win, fared most disastrously and they were dismissed in 80 minutes. Except for Mr MacLaren, no one seemed to play with much confidence. Mr McLeod, who went on at 57, got out Tyldesley and Sharp in his second over, and Hallows and Mr Hornby in his third, with consecutive balls.

25 May: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6703.html)

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

Middlesex, who have not won a match this season, made a good start against Sussex at Lord's yesterday. They won the toss, and on a good fast wicket they stayed in all day and scored just over 350.

Except for a really good innings by Mr Bosanquet, who always played with confidence and hit very hard without taking unnecessary risks, the batting was not very interesting. Mr Warner played well, but Mr Field, although his innings, no doubt, was of great value to his side, was painfully slow. He went in second wicket down at 66 and was not out at the close of play. He seems to be a difficult man to get out, but he showed little capacity to score off bowling which, if it was always steady, never looked really difficult. He made a few good cuts but, as a whole, it appeared that he treated the bowling with far more respect than it deserved.

Middlesex started fairly well, Mr Warner and Mr E A Beldam taking the score to 59 before the latter was out. Mr G W Beldam did not stay long, and when Mr Warner was out to an extraordinarily good catch at point by Mr Goldie, Middlesex did not look to be in a very good position.

Then came a long stand by Mr Bosanquet and Mr Field, and it was the former's fine innings which made a good score for Middlesex certain. After Mr Bosanquet was out wickets fell rapidly, and at one time it hardly looked as if Middlesex would reach 300; but Trott made a few good hits and J T Hearne stayed in for some time with Mr Field, who completed his 100 just before half-past 6.

Of the bowlers Mr Goldie was the most successful and, though as a whole his bowling looked fairly simple, occasionally he made the ball get up very fast off the pitch.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 15)

The wicket at Lord's yesterday gave the bowlers very little assistance and, in the circumstances, Middlesex did very well to get out Sussex for just over 250 runs. The home side went in again with a lead of 110 runs, and at the close of the day they were 284 ahead with eight wickets in hand, so that Sussex, with their great batsmen away, will have a hard task to save themselves from defeat to-day.

Sussex yesterday started very badly, losing five good wickets for 89, Killick alone of the earlier batsmen showing much resistance to the bowling. A good stand was then made for the sixth wicket; and, with several of the remaining batsmen getting useful scores, the follow-on was saved, and eventually Sussex came much nearer to their opponents' total than at one time seemed probable.

Much of Middlesex's success in the earlier part of the innings was due to Mr Hunt. He bowled from the pavilion end, and he got rid of Vine, Killick and Relf, three of the best bats on the Sussex side. Mr Hunt is not a very difficult man to get runs off, but on a fast wicket he is always likely to get men out; for he delivers the ball from a great height at considerably over medium pace and makes it get up quickly off the pitch, and for his bowling alone he would be a useful man on nearly any county side.

When Middlesex went in again Mr E A Beldam was out with the score at 28, but then Mr Warner and Mr G W Beldam mastered the bowling. Runs came at a good pace, although neither player made many really good strokes; and when Mr Warner was out to the last ball of the day, after playing a correct, if not very attractive, innings, the pair had put on 148 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 11)

Middlesex beat Sussex at Lord's, on Saturday, by 324 runs. For their easy victory the home side were chiefly indebted to the fine all-round cricket of Mr Bosanquet, who in the match made 203 runs for once out and took 11 wickets for 128.

This is the second time in Mr Bosanquet's career that he has made two separate hundreds in the same match, the other occasion being against Leicestershire at Lord's in 1900. At the present time, however, in view of the England and Australian match at Nottingham, more interest may be felt in Mr Bosanquet's bowling performances than in his batting. No one playing cricket, at the present time, possesses greater possibilities as a bowler, and for that reason alone his success on Saturday was most gratifying. The wicket was just as good as it had been on the first day, and the collapse of Sussex in the second innings was entirely due to the inability of the batsmen to play Mr Bosanquet's bowling.

Overnight, Middlesex, in their second innings, had scored 174 for two wickets, and when play was continued it was naturally the object to get runs as quickly as possible so that Middlesex might declare at the earliest opportunity. Mr Bosanquet adapted himself splendidly to the circumstances and played a fine forcing game. His partnership with Mr Beldam for the third wicket was not broken up until 136 had been added in less than an hour and a quarter. The batting of Mr Beldam during that time on Saturday was in marked contrast to that of Mr Bosanquet, as he only added 22 to his overnight score.

Immediately Mr Bosanquet had made his hundred Mr MacGregor declared the innings closed. Mr Bosanquet was badly missed when he had made 72, but considering the pace at which he scored he made few bad strokes.

Sussex went in a second time at about 1 o'clock, required 427 to get to win, but so badly did they fare against Mr Bosanquet's "slows" that they were all out by a quarter past 3.

25 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6704.html)

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

A very slow day's cricket was witnessed on the Christ Church ground, at Oxford yesterday, when Worcestershire won the toss and batted all day for 230 runs on an easy wicket.

Before luncheon, in an hour and a half, the score stood at 68 for three wickets, of which Mr H K Foster had made 48. Mr Burn and Mr Martin bowled very steadily and Mr Burn was especially difficult to play before lunch. He swerved a great deal and none of the batsmen played him with any degree of confidence.

Mr H K Foster was several times beaten by Mr Burn, and as all the bowlers kept a good length he found it impossible to get the ball away in his usual free style, although he made some good hits to leg. Just before being well caught on the boundary he was badly missed by Mr Bennett.

Mr G N Foster was caught off a bumping ball at short leg. Pearson and Wheldon played good defensive cricket, while Mr Brinton at the end of the innings made some good cuts. The Oxford fielding all day was clean and smart. Stumps were drawn at half-past 5 to allow the teams to see "the eights."

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 15)

When this match was continued at Oxford, yesterday, the University went in to bat, but they were all out before lunch for a comparatively small total. A good start was made by Mr Wright and Mr Carlisle, while Mr Branston also batted well; but the rest of the side gave a poor display.

Mr Wright was lucky, but nevertheless he played a very good innings; but he still seems in too much of a hurry to make runs. Mr Carlisle showed really good form and he timed the ball beautifully. Mr Whately, Mr Martin and Mr Henley were all "yorked" and Mr Bird was out last through trying to hit. Burrows and Pearson bowled well on going on the second time, and the wicket played rather strangely, but this did not altogether account for the collapse of the side.

On going in a second time Worcestershire batted more freely and the bowling was less steady. Bowley and Mr G N Foster both played good innings, Mr Foster at last showing some of his true form. He played really well and was hardly beaten by a single ball, hitting all the loose ones hard. Mr Branston bowled steadily but he was unlucky. The fielding was poor and inclined to be slack.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 11)

Worcestershire beat Oxford University, at Oxford, on Saturday, by 211 runs. Worcestershire had half an hour's batting before Mr H K Foster declared the innings closed.

Oxford started their second innings with Mr Bennett and Mr Wright with the task of having to make 378 in four hours and three-quarters on rather a bumpy wicket. Arnold soon got Mr Wright and Mr Branston caught by the wicket-keeper, standing back. Mr Bennett was well taken high up in the slips for a hard hit innings. He played Burrows well, but was lucky on several occasions in not touching Arnold's off ball at which he repeatedly played.

Mr Carlisle and Mr Worsley stayed together until lunch, but soon afterwards Mr Carlisle was caught. Mr Worsley was out at 130. He gave no chance and hit the few loose balls which he received hard. The last three batsmen livened up the cricket by some good hits, but the result was never in doubt.

The services of Mr Evans, Mr Raphael, Mr Bruce and Mr Udal are sadly missed at present, and probably Oxford will not be able to put a full side into the field until June 19.

25 May: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6705.html)

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

Mr Jackson and Hirst were unable to play for Yorkshire against Warwickshire at Birmingham yesterday, and the visiting side were further handicapped by the slight indisposition of Myers, which prevented him from bowling more than a few overs. Yorkshire succeeded, however, in getting eight Warwickshire wickets down in about five hours' play.

The feature of the day's cricket was the batting of Devey, who was re-introduced into the team after a year's absence from first-class cricket. In the early part of his innings Devey played rather rashly, but when he settled down his cricket was distinctly good. He was batting for three hours and 20 minutes, and he scored his runs out of the 215 made in that time.

Quaife was painfully slow, being at the wickets for an hour and 25 minutes for 25. In the failing light Warwickshire lost three wickets after half-past 5 for 30 runs, and at ten minutes past 6 play ended for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 15)

A long partnership between Denton and Tunnicliffe at Birmingham, yesterday, enabled Yorkshire to hold a favourable position in the match with Warwickshire when play ended for the day. The Warwickshire innings, in which eight wickets had fallen on Thursday for 279 runs, was concluded in half an hour yesterday.

Yorkshire opened their innings by losing Grimshaw at 12 and Mr H Wilkinson at 30. Denton and Tunnicliffe began their partnership after Mr Wilkinson had left at ten minutes past 1. They were not separated until 20 minutes past 5, and they increased the score by 203 runs. Denton played by far the finer cricket of the two, and he was batting three hours and a quarter without giving a chance. Many of his runs were obtained by skilful placing behind the wicket, and he also drove well on the off side.

Tunnicliffe was missed three times, and in the latter part of his innings he made several lucky strokes. Yorkshire at the close of play were within 19 of the Warwickshire score and had four wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 11)

There was a very tame conclusion to this match at Birmingham on Saturday. Yorkshire increased their score of 297, with six wickets down, by 67 runs, but so much time was occupied in the process that it was obvious the game would have no definite result.

Warwickshire were 48 runs behind on the first innings, and when they went in a second time only a little over four hours remained for cricket.

Saturday 27 May, page 15: THE TEST MATCH

Lord Hawke received a telegram yesterday afternoon from Mr C B Fry saying: - "Am much better, but fear I am very doubtful for Monday. Shall be there in any case."

George Hirst, who is under surgical treatment in London, was at Lord's yesterday and, in reference to the rumours that he might after all be able to take part in the test match if he were wanted, said that he did not expect to be fit to play cricket just yet. It is the old trouble in his leg, not the blow he received on the knee at Leicester last week, that has caused his temporary breakdown.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL

The Board of Control met at Lord's yesterday afternoon to consider the points raised by the Australians with regard to the use of bowling screens at both ends in the Test matches and the allowances for boundary hits. Mr C E Green, president of the M.C.C., was in the chair.

The board decided that they did not think it right to interfere with the discretion of the individual grounds in the matter of screens. They further decided that, owing to the different arrangements on the different grounds, it would be inexpedient to lay down any hard-and-fast rule that a hit to the boundary should count four and a hit over the boundary six.

Monday 29 May, page 11: THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Hirst	8	651	341	2	110.13
Mr C B Fry	9	729	201*	2	104.14
Mr B J T Bosanquet	6	355	103	1	71.00
Quaife	11	620	255*	2	70.00
Mr C McGahey	9	526	277	1	65.75
Mr C J B Wood	9	450	160*	1	56.25
Mr A O Jones	12	622	103	0	51.83
Whittle	10	399	77*	2	49.87
Iremonger	12	582	239	0	48.50
Hayward	12	528	129	1	47.81
Denton	9	405	132	0	45.00
Mr P F Warner	11	494	204	0	41.90
Holland	10	396	132	1	44.00
Hobbs	12	513	155	0	42.75
Mr H K Foster	8	289	89	1	41.28
Wrathall	8	242	80*	2	40.33
Kinneir	9	352	99	0	39.11
John Gunn	12	394	106*	1	35.81
George Gunn	12	420	99	0	35.00
Mr A C MacLaren	12	377	93	1	34.27
Baker (Warwickshire)	11	376	102	0	34.18
Mr G W Beldam	9	302	94	0	33.55

Vine	9	292	100	0	32.44
Sharp	10	255	58*	2	31.87
Tunnicliffe	9	283	102	0	31.44
Coe	9	280	100	0	31.11
Baker (Surrey)	10	276	32	1	30.66
Lilley	11	301	73	1	30.10
Rhodes	9	270	201	0	30.00
Carpenter	9	258	104	0	29.77
Haigh	9	253	69	0	29.22
Lord Dalmeny	9	259	116	0	28.77
Myers	9	170	57	3	28.33
Mr C E de Trafford	9	254	103	0	28.22
Killick	9	246	104	0	27.33
Knight	8	214	74	0	26.75
Mr R E Hemingway	10	263	84	0	26.30
Hayes	11	289	99	0	26.27
Tyldesley	12	262	71	2	26.20
Mr J F Byrne	11	286	88	0	26.00
Mr A E Lawton	12	284	112	1	25.81

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Rhodes	305	108	671	45	14.81
Kermode	229.2	64	614	41	14.87
Thompson	155.4	35	461	29	15.89
Hallam	204	70	450	28	16.07
Lees	337.5	87	519	51	18.01
Hirst	189.5	44	516	28	18.42
Arnold	142.3	26	422	22	19.13
Mr W Brearley	271.4	52	881	45	19.15
Hayes	145.3	27	491	25	19.64
Burrows	174.2	17	400	20	20.00
Gill	128.3	33	456	22	20.72
J T Hearne	150	23	457	22	20.77
Wass	275.2	63	777	37	21.00
Dennett	255	72	675	32	21.09
Haigh	169.2	31	446	21	21.23
Cox	253.4	84	537	24	22.37
Huggins	172	68	379	16	23.68
Warren	106.1	13	387	16	24.18
Mr B J T Bosanquet	111.5	14	423	17	24.88

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	9	634	248*	2	90.57
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	9	468	149	0	52.00
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	13	566	162	0	43.53
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	11	367	117*	2	40.77
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	13	458	94	0	35.23
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	13	397	85	0	30.53
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	7	138	43	1	23.00
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	12	183	60	3	20.33
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	4	66	23	0	16.50
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	9	133	38	0	14.77
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	9	110	37	1	13.75
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	7	74	19	1	12.33
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	6	42	16	1	8.40
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	7	37	14	2	7.40

Mr P M Newland (South Australia) has batted three times, scoring 25*, 0* and 0*.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr R A Duff	6	4	9	1	9.00
Mr F Laver	217	58	506	46	11.00
Mr C McLeod	166.3	50	301	24	16.29
Mr W W Armstrong	130.1	44	213	11	19.36
Mr W P Howell	80.4	20	241	12	20.08
Mr A Cotter	127	23	388	11	36.18
Mr M A Noble	117	26	320	8	40.00
Mr A J Hopkins	75	17	243	5	48.60

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Lancashire	5	5	0	0	5	100.00
Surrey	5	4	0	1	4	100.00
Yorkshire	6	4	0	2	4	100.00
Nottinghamshire	5	3	1	1	2	50.00
Gloucestershire	3	2	1	0	1	33.33
Northamptonshire	1	0	0	1	0	0.00
Leicestershire	5	2	2	1	0	0.00
Sussex	4	1	2	1	-1	-33.33
Middlesex	3	1	2	0	-1	-33.33
Essex	5	1	4	0	-3	-60.00
Kent	1	0	1	0	-1	-100.00
Somerset	2	0	1	1	-1	-100.00
Worcestershire	2	0	2	0	-2	-100.00
Warwickshire	5	0	2	3	-2	-100.00
Hampshire	3	0	2	1	-2	-100.00
Derbyshire	3	0	3	0	-3	-100.00

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The sides for this match at Nottingham to-day will be selected from the following: -

England. - The Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire) (captain), Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire), Mr A O Jones (Nottinghamshire), Mr B J T Bosanquet (Middlesex), Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire), Mr C B Fry (Sussex), Hayward (Surrey), Lilley (Warwickshire), Tyldesley (Lancashire), Rhodes (Yorkshire), J Gunn (Nottinghamshire), Arnold (Worcestershire) and Lees (Surrey).

Australia. - Mr J Darling (South Australia) (captain), Mr C Hill (South Australia), Mr D R A Gehrs (South Australia), Mr P M Newland (South Australia), Mr R A Duff (New South Wales), Mr A Cotter (New South Wales), Mr S E Gregory (New South Wales), Mr A J Hopkins (New South Wales), Mr J J Kelly (New South Wales), Mr M A Noble (New South Wales), Mr W P Howell (New South Wales), Mr V Trumper (New South Wales), Mr W W Armstrong (Victoria), Mr C B McLeod (Victoria) and Mr F Laver (Victoria).

May 29: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6706.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 12)

Winning the toss at Cambridge yesterday, the University remained at the wickets until 20 minutes to 6. The pitch at first seemed to have been slightly overwatered, but it recovered as the day wore on.

The feature of the innings was a fine partnership between Mr Payne and Mr Keigwin, who added 205 for the fifth wicket. Mr Payne played a really fine innings. He was rather unsteady at the start, but after lunch he played beautiful cricket, making many brilliant strokes all round the wicket. Mr Keigwin played an characteristic innings, which was invaluable to his side; he never looked quite comfortable, but he was content to keep his end up while Mr Payne did the scoring.

The Surrey attack was, of course, considerably weakened by the absence of Lees, but the visitors ought to make plenty of runs to-day in spite of having lost two good wickets overnight.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 7)

This match was continued at Cambridge yesterday, the wicket being in perfect condition. Surrey started badly by losing Holland with the score at 40. Hayes hit up his runs quickly, and Nice also scored freely just before lunch.

Meanwhile, Baker had been steadily playing himself in after an indifferent start. His score at the luncheon interval was 78, and afterwards he continued his invaluable innings until 4 o'clock, when rain stopped play for the day.

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

This match was left drawn at Cambridge, yesterday, although there was considerable excitement when, with one over to be bowled, Surrey wanted nine runs to win with two wickets in hand. Off the third ball Strudwick was caught at short-leg and the match had to be left unfinished.

The wicket was considerably slower after the heavy rain overnight, but the last two Surrey wickets gave some trouble and the visitors' total was only 44 less than that of their opponents.

In the Cambridge second innings only Mr Mann and Mr Harrison showed to any advantage, although Mr May and Mr Morcom made a most useful stand for the ninth wicket. Hayes bowled extremely well on a rather difficult wicket.

Wanting 166 to win, the Surrey batsmen for the most part failed against some capital bowling by Mr May. Holland, however, played beautifully, and Davis made a gallant effort towards the close to win the match for his side. It was a capital game, which neither side deserved to lose.

29 May: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(From our special correspondent)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6707.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 12)

The first Test Match was begun, at Nottingham, yesterday, in perfect weather and in the presence of a crowd that later on in the afternoon numbered about 15,000. England left out Mr Fry, Hirst and Lees, and the Australians Mr Gehrs, Mr Howell, Mr Newland and Mr Hopkins.

The Trent-bridge ground is probably, as a rule, the easiest in England, and when Mr Jackson won the toss it was confidently expected that the English eleven would run up a large score. For the first two hours the batsmen had to fight hard for runs; but this was due to the excellent length of Mr Laver's bowling and the terrific speed of Mr Cotter's.

Mr Cotter has no idea of length and very little of direction; he is not tall and has not a high delivery, but the way he made the ball bump was a revelation to many. Frequently the wicket-keeper standing back had to extend his arm to its full length above his head to stop the ball. It was simply a case of pace, and if he had any method, it was to bowl three or four bumping long hops and then a "yorker," and in this way he disposed of Hayward.

Mr Jones was bowled by a good ball from Mr Laver, and Mr MacLaren was given out caught at the wicket. Mr Jackson played on, and Mr Bosanquet and Tyldesley then stopped the rot and they stayed in until the interval.

The two hours' play only produced 98 runs, and at no time was the bowling mastered. It did not look as if Mr Laver got much help from the wicket, and it is doubtful if, on a good fast wicket, any better sample of bowling has been seen in a Test match than Mr Laver showed in England's first innings. He varied his pace and length and made the ball turn, and the batsmen one and all mistimed his off-ball in trying to hit.

The English batting was not good, and it was very possible that the dangerous character of Mr Cotter's bowling may have unsteadied the side. The fact remains that Tyldesley alone of the first five of the crack batsmen played up to his reputation. Mr Jackson was out rather unluckily, and Mr MacLaren seemed to think that he had not hit the ball he was given out to. Nobody, however, got the measure of Mr Laver, and the failure of the side was undoubtedly due to this fact.

Mr Jessop is a batsman who makes cricket history when he does come off, but he failed badly yesterday, and was out first ball to a shocking stroke. Lilley and Rhodes played well and pluckily, and the total was considerably helped by the large number of extras.

When Australia went in to bat to the bowling of Arnold and J Gunn they made a bad start; for Mr Duff, in hooking Gunn round, was well caught by Hayward for a single, and Mr Trumper, who began in beautiful style and had made three beautiful strokes, sprained his back, and it is feared that he will be unable to take any further part in the match. If this should be the case both Mr Trumper and the Australians will have the sincerest condolences of the whole English public, and such a loss may turn out irreparable.

Mr Hill and Mr Noble, then, by thoroughly sound and by no means slow batting, fairly wore down the English bowling. Arnold bowled steadily, but he did not make the ball get up as he did in Australia, while J Gunn, Mr Bosanquet and Mr Jessop looked simple. Mr Bosanquet bowled a fair length, but the break from the off did not seem to make its appearance.

Both batsmen scored very evenly, and it was not until after 6 o'clock that Mr Jackson's bowling altered the character of the game. Mr Noble was caught at the wicket at 130, Mr Hill was clean bowled at 139, and Mr Darling caught at short slip from the next ball, and seldom has a more complete change been seen in so short a time.

Mr Jackson had been keeping a good length with some break from the off, and not only was he the most successful but on the day he was the best English bowler. Rhodes, from the town end, was keeping runs down, but he did not seem difficult to play.

Mr Armstrong then went in, and with Mr Cotter played out time. The English wicket-keeping and fielding were smart and good. When stumps were drawn the total was 158 for four wickets, or five if Mr Trumper can take no further part in the game.

Mr Armstrong batted in fine strong style, and both Mr Hill and Mr Noble batted with great confidence and made the bowling look easy for the first time in the day.

The Australians have rather the better of the position; but Mr Trumper's accident is a serious handicap to them, and if Mr Armstrong can be got out early this morning there will be little to choose between the two elevens. The cricket was not very interesting, the one outstanding feature being Mr Laver's bowling.

In view of the fact that Mr Cotter made the ball bump to a dangerous extent and got three good wickets, there will probably be many critics who will say that the Selection Committee ought to have played Mr Brearley. There is some ground for this contention, but it may very reasonably be argued that Mr Cotter bowled shorter than any bowler has ever been seen to bowl in a first-class match, and there is no reason to suppose that Mr Brearley, bowling his ordinary length, would have bumped more than Mr Jessop did, notwithstanding the heroic efforts Mr Jessop made in this direction.

There is every appearance of fine weather, and except for the accident to Mr Trumper there has been little in the way of luck. The match, so far, illustrates the eclipse of real fast bowling, nor neither the bowling of Mr Cotter nor that of Mr Jessop can be called bowling by the old-fashioned canons of the art of bowling.

On the other hand, every cricketer will welcome the appearance of such a good bowler as Mr Laver, and the difference his bowling will make to the Australian eleven, if he keeps his form, will be very strong.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 7)

The weather at Nottingham yesterday underwent a change. There was not much sun in the morning and it became sultry in the middle of the day. Very little rain, however, fell.

Mr Armstrong and Mr Cotter continued the batting to the bowling of Mr Jackson and Rhodes; and Mr Jackson received severe punishment from Mr Cotter, four fours coming from one over, Mr Armstrong in the meanwhile playing with the utmost steadiness. To the sincere regret of every true sportsman, Mr Trumper was unable to take any part in the day's play, and some of the interest of the match was thus lost.

Mr Jackson gave up the ball to Mr Jessop, who immediately held a very tame return from Mr Cotter, who had played a very free hitting innings, which was of great value to the side.

Mr Gregory succeeded, and the game took as striking a turn as it had done on Monday evening. Rhodes was bowling steadily and with excellent length, and he got out Mr Armstrong. Arnold then went on at the pavilion end, and clean bowled Mr McLeod with a beautiful ball that just took the top of the wicket; but immediately afterwards he dislocated his thumb and had to leave the field.

Fortunately the result was not at once disastrous, for Mr Jackson got Mr Gregory and Mr Laver caught at extra short slip by Mr Jones. The second catch, which dismissed Mr Laver, was a beautiful piece of fielding, the ball being caught low down with the left hand.

The total of 221, even allowing for the loss of Mr Trumper, was not good in the circumstances, for the wicket played well. Rhodes and Mr Jackson both bowled well, and the fielding and wicket-keeping left nothing to be desired.

England then went in for about an hour and a quarter's batting before lunch, Mr MacLaren and Hayward opening to Mr Laver and Mr Cotter. On the first day Mr Cotter seemed to try nothing except to bowl fast and bump the ball. Yesterday he bowled slower and with better length; but he did not trouble the batsmen. Neither player took any risk, most of the off-balls being left alone.

They stayed together, however, until the luncheon interval, and neither gave a real chance, although possibly Hayward might have been caught at short slip off Mr Laver. The match then began to promise an interesting finish; for it looked as if Mr Laver might be mastered and Mr Cotter had lost some of his pace, and this is his most dangerous characteristic.

When play was continued there was a record attendance for Trent-bridge, for 12,566 paid at the gate and there were almost 6,000 members and friends. Mr MacLaren and Hayward went on batting well. The latter was rather deliberate in his methods, but Mr MacLaren scored fairly fast; and, as the match went on, it became obvious that, apart from Mr Laver, the bowling was not strong.

Mr Darling put on Mr Armstrong at the pavilion end, and he bowled without a break for upwards of two and a half hours. No doubt it was of the most material importance, from the Australians' point of view, to check the run-getting; and Mr Armstrong succeeded with a vengeance, and Mr Darling cannot be blamed for keeping him on so long; but that such a policy can be the proper one is much to be regretted in the interests of the game.

Mr Armstrong bowled nearly every ball outside the batsman's legs, and at just the length that makes it almost impossible to hit and equally impossible, unless attempts are made to hit, for the batsmen to get out. The result was that for two hours or so the melancholy spectacle was seen of maiden after maiden being bowled with no prospect of either runs or wickets. There were three short-legs and a deep square-leg; and so monotonous became the cricket that it cannot be a matter of surprise that the crowd threatened to become unruly.

Although not to the same extent, Mr McLeod's swinging ball, going away to the off-side with the field carefully and skilfully placed, made things the same at the other end, and consequently five hours and a half was taken up in making 318 runs, although at times the run-getting was fast. Such a state of things is not the fault of the players, but that such a procedure is correct is not healthy, least of all in such a match as a test match.

Finally Hayward, after looking at Mr Armstrong's bowling for about an hour, lost patience, and in trying to hit was well caught at deep square-leg. Mr MacLaren and Hayward have great experience of test matches and the favourable position that England held at the end of the day was mainly due to them.

Mr MacLaren then began to hit out and the bowling became completely collared. The fielding, however, never became slack for an instant, and no praise can be too high for the Australians in this respect; there was hardly a mistake and the amount of ground covered and the throwing were wonderful. Hayward might have been caught in the slips, but there was no other chance.

Tyldesley's off-side play was perfect, and Mr Jones, for the comparatively short time he was at the wicket, showed hitting of the most beautiful kind. Mr Bosanquet was clean bowled by Mr Cotter, and Mr Jackson and Rhodes played out time.

England are now 293 runs ahead with five wickets to go down; and, unless the tail fails badly to-day, they ought to be in little danger of defeat, especially as Mr Trumper is not able to play. On the other hand, Arnold has sprained his thumb, and if he is unable to bowl his loss will be serious, for the English side is none too strong in bowling.

The upshot of the day's play is a decided change in the state of the game, and this is by no means an uncommon feature in test match cricket. Mr MacLaren's play was magnificent; he showed all his old power of hooking even the fastest ball, and he also showed great skill in picking out the spot in the deep field, where there was no fieldsman, to hit the ball to. It was altogether an interesting day's cricket, although with long periods of necessarily dull play when Mr Armstrong was bowling.

At the end of the day it looked as if the weather might break up, and, if so, the Australians may be in a bad position; but they have always been born fighters and their batting is very strong.

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

The first of the Test matches ended yesterday, at Nottingham, in a victory for England by 213 runs, after three days of varied and eventful play.

Overnight England had lost five wickets for 318 in the second innings. There was a slight shower in the early morning, yesterday; but if it had any effect on the wicket at all, it was to make it a trifle easier, and both Mr Jackson and Rhodes made the bowling of the Australians look very plain. Even Mr Laver, although he bowled well, was played in a very different style from that of the first innings.

Runs came fast, and the off-hitting of Rhodes and Mr Jackson's play all round the wicket were delightful to see. Mr Armstrong bowled in the same way as before, but more runs were got off him; and, after 1¾ hours' play, Mr Jackson declared the innings closed, 108 runs having been made without the semblance of a chance. Mr Cotter did not bowl at anything like his original pace; and, although the fielding was again exceedingly safe and smart, at no time during the match was the batting more completely on top of the bowling.

The Australians, at this stage of the match, had good reason to regret the injury to Mr Trumper; for, although the wicket was easy, even in these days it is an enormous task to get 401 runs, and there were only 4¾ hours left for play.

Mr Darling and Mr Duff began, and both played safely and with fair freedom, considering the circumstances. They were not out at the luncheon interval, and Arnold, Rhodes, Mr Jessop and Mr Bosanquet had been tried. Arnold did not bowl so well as before and was obviously bothered by his sprained thumb.

The afternoon's play was perhaps the most extraordinary that has ever been seen in a Test match. Here was a perfect wicket and one of England's leading bowlers injured, and batsmen like Mr Duff, Mr Darling, Mr Hill, Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong, to say nothing of Mr Gregory. Neither Mr Duff nor Mr Darling played Mr Bosanquet with any degree of confidence, although both stopped in for some time; and the Australian disasters began by Mr Duff most tamely returning a ball to Mr Bosanquet. Mr Duff got well over the ball, but seemed afraid to hit it.

Mr Noble came next; but a sort of paralysis seemed to have seized the batsmen, and Mr Noble was stumped, having been completely beaten by the ball. Mr Darling was then clean bowled, and he also was completely defeated. Mr Hill was another victim to the prevailing epidemic, Mr Bosanquet just catching the ball over his head and falling over in the attempt; but it was the feeble stroke of a schoolboy and not one of the world's greatest batsmen.

Mr Armstrong made a praiseworthy attempt to hit, but he made a miserable stroke and was caught at cover-point. Mr Cotter then fell to Rhodes, although he stayed for some time. He is a hitter, and made some good hits in his score of 18, but of defence he has none.

In the meantime, Mr Gregory was playing better than his colleagues, but Mr Laver was "all at sea," and was easily stumped. Mr McLeod stayed with every appearance of discomfort until the interval for tea; but, on resuming, the last faint hope of saving the match went when Mr Gregory, in trying an on-drive, sent the ball straight and hard to Arnold at mid-on, who made a good catch.

Mr McLeod was soon after leg-before-wicket, and the innings, with Mr Trumper absent, finished for a total of 188. England therefore gained a great victory by 213 runs. The end came just in time, for a thunderstorm appeared to be brewing, and rain began to fall shortly after stumps were drawn.

The Australian second innings was one of the most extraordinary that has ever taken place. Sixty runs had been got when the first wicket fell, and yet only 128 runs were made after Mr Duff was out. The Australians are hardened, seasoned players, and yet it is hardly too much to say that no public school eleven could display more nervousness than did these experienced players. They must have had terror put into them by Mr Bosanquet's bowling when playing in Australia against Mr Warner's team. They were afraid to hit except when full pitches and long hops, such as Mr Bosanquet alone knows how to bowl, came at no very rare intervals.

Mr Bosanquet's success, hitherto, has been owing to his power of making the ball come from the off, with the same action as when making it come from leg; but yesterday the wickets were all got with leg-breaks as far as could be seen; but the batsmen, anticipating the break from the off, became completely bewildered and did nothing more.

Mr Bosanquet does not try to bowl maidens, and therefore could try every device he was capable of, and the result was almost comic. Close observers who watched the play before luncheon all agreed that Mr Darling and Mr Duff were never at home to him, and they had good hopes of England's gaining a victory; and Mr Bosanquet rose to the occasion. The redeeming feature of the Australian batting was the play of Mr Gregory, which was far better than that of the others, but even he was not really comfortable.

The result of the match will give England confidence in the other Test matches; and although Mr Bosanquet may be the most conspicuous hero, effective bowling on a plumb wicket being so much rarer than batting, Mr Jackson and Mr MacLaren must be especially proud of the part which they took. Mr Jackson handled the side admirably, and his second innings and his excellent bowling in the first innings of the Australians have been justly praised.

Tyldesley's experience and skill were conspicuous in both innings. Rhodes bowled with great steadiness and good length, and was most useful in keeping the runs down. The best batting for the Australians was that of Mr Hill and Mr Noble in the first innings, while Mr Cotter showed a brave front and was the only player who hit Mr Jackson.

Mr Bosanquet's analysis of eight wickets for 107 runs shows how completely he paralyzed the batsmen, for no bowler exists who sends down so many balls that positively ask to be hit. Old-fashioned cricketers have good cause to rejoice that Mr Cotter and Mr Jessop seemed to try after the first day to bowl a good length ball and not merely to terrify the batsmen; and, although good length bowling may not be so effective, it is more in harmony with the spirit of the game to try for it.

The Nottinghamshire County Club must be congratulated on their management and on their success in providing for such crowds that came from all parts on all the three days. The arrangements could not have been better, and on the last day 8,656 paid at the gate, making a total for the three days of 31,622. It needs no small amount of trouble and organization to make things go well for such crowds as these.

The ground is in every way most suitable for a Test match, and it would be a sad pity for Nottinghamshire not to have one of these matches with such an excellent committee and so splendid a record in the history of cricket as the county possesses.

29 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6708.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 12)

The M.C.C. and Ground had the best of the first day's play in this match at Lord's yesterday, for at the close they were 123 runs behind their opponents' total with eight wickets still in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 7)

The weather spoiled the cricket in this match at Lord's yesterday, and there was practically no play after lunch. Overnight the M.C.C. and Ground had made 125 for two wickets and, when play was continued, they did so badly that Leicestershire were able to recover their lost ground.

When rain stopped play Leicestershire were 27 runs ahead with nine wickets in hand in their second innings.

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

Leicestershire beat the M.C.C. and Ground at Lord's yesterday by 202 runs.

Overnight Leicestershire had made 23 for one wicket, and when play was continued it was soon seen that the altered state of the wicket would not interfere to any extent with the run-getting, for the ball was never able to do its work quickly. Knight, Whitehead, Mr V F S Crawford and Mr Odell, all batted well, Mr Crawford making his 51 out of 63 in 35 minutes, and in the end the M.C.C. and Ground were sent in requiring 268 to get to win.

When they started their innings nearly three hours remained for play, but they did so badly against the bowling of Mr R T Crawford and Mr Odell that they were all out in less than an hour and a half. The M.C.C. and Ground's batting was poor, and in the circumstances they ought to have done better.

29 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6709.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 12)

Mr Carlisle again lost the toss and the University were in the field for most of the day at Oxford yesterday.

Mr Martin was the most successful bowler, taking seven wickets for just over 11 runs each. His analysis might have been still better had the catches in the slips off his bowling been held. The Oxford ground fielding was better than it has been lately and very few runs were thrown away.

Oxford had ten minutes' batting, and in this time Mr Henley was bowled by a "yorker," while Mr Bennett was missed twice in the slips.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 7)

The University again gave a poor display of batting, at Oxford yesterday, in their first innings. The wicket was none too good and Fielder made the ball get up very quickly, but still this alone did not account for the small total.

Mr Bennett, after giving four chances, played good cricket and made a bold effort to knock off Fielder. He made most of his runs off short balls, which he either pulled or cut hard past cover-point. Mr Norris and Mr Martin made some good hits and showed that the bowling was not so difficult

as the early batsmen made it appear. As has been the case throughout the season the University batsmen were nearly all out behind the wicket, largely owing to over anxiety to score fast.

The Kent captain decided to make Oxford follow on; and this time Mr Wright and Mr Bennett gave them a better start. Mr Bennett again was lucky and played some extraordinary strokes, stepping away to leg and cutting Fielder repeatedly. When Mr Bennett was out, wickets again fell quickly. Mr Carlisle was out first ball and Mr Wright was caught at the wicket. The latter had played an excellent innings and gave no chances, although he skied two balls over the bowler's head.

Mr Norris hit freely and played a very useful innings for his side. Towards the close, some good hitting was done by Mr Martin, Mr Henley and Mr Burn, and these last three put on an invaluable 90 runs.

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

The University won this match at Oxford, yesterday, by 50 runs.

In the Oxford second innings Mr Burn and Mr Henley continued batting for another half an hour until Mr Burn was smartly stumped. They both hit fearlessly and put on 97 for the last wicket. Needless to say they had some luck, but nevertheless their performance was a very good one, and one which had much to do with the result of the match.

Kent were set 187 to get to win. The wicket was not really sticky but the ball had to be watched carefully, for Mr Henley and Mr Branston got a considerable amount of work on. Luck favoured the fielding side, for whom everything went right. Seymour was dismissed by a fine running catch on the boundary, just when he appeared to be set, while Mr Day was smartly run out by Mr Branston, who bowled and fielded well. Mr Wright, who was keeping wicket, made two good catches, especially the one which dismissed Fairservice.

Huish played by far the best innings, and he and Seymour were the only players who did not make the bowling look more difficult than in reality was. The Oxford fielding had much to do with the result; only one difficult chance was missed, while no runs were thrown away. Mr Martin was unable to get a foothold on the greasy surface, but Mr Burn, although he failed to get wickets, kept up his end well.

29 May: SUSSEX v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6710.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 12)

[Note: almost all of this report was quite illegible.]

. . . [presumably regarding the Northamptonshire team] . . . the pick up and return of nearly all the members of the side being excellent.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 7)

When Sussex continued their innings in this match at Brighton yesterday Killick and Mr Knowles added 69 runs by good cricket before the latter was out with the total at 104. With the exception of Mr Smith, Killick, who gave a good display and made a number of good late cuts, could get no one to stay with him long. Butt and Tate made a useful stand at the end of the innings, and Sussex in the end held a lead of six runs.

Mr Horton, the Northamptonshire captain, altered the order in the visiting side's second innings, sending in Mr Knight and Mr W Kingston. Two wickets fell for one run, but Mr Pool and Mr Crosse again played attractive cricket for their runs. Northamptonshire, at the close, with six wickets down, were only 98 runs ahead.

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

Northamptonshire continued their innings in this match at Brighton yesterday and, owing to plucky stands by Mr Horton and Mr Hawkins and the former batsman and Mr Smith, the visiting side's total was raised to 173.

With 167 runs to get to win Sussex began their innings with Vine and Mr Knowles, and before they were parted the home eleven were in a winning position. At 85 Mr Knowles left, having played free and attractive cricket, some of his drives being especially fine. Vine was out at 124 to a wonderful catch at short leg by Mr Horton, who took the ball, which had been hit very hard, with his left hand. Vine, although he started slowly, afterwards hit with freedom on both sides of the wicket.

Killick and Relf quickly hit off the runs, Sussex winning their first match with Northamptonshire by eight wickets.

29 May: YORKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6711.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 12)

[The report was very short and totally indecipherable.]

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 7)

Yorkshire had much the better of the cricket at Leeds yesterday. With the exception of Cuffe, none of the visitors played the bowling of Haigh and Ringrose with any degree of confidence, and the side were all out for 204 runs less than the Yorkshire total.

Cuffe, who went in at the fall of the first wicket, was the last out for a well-played innings. He was batting for two hours and a half, and he gave nothing approaching a chance. It was a brilliant catch by Denton in the slips that dismissed him.

Mr Wilkinson decided that Yorkshire should bat again. The feature of the home side's second innings was the batting of Tunnicliffe. He started rather indifferently, but he soon settled down to good cricket.

On going in a second time Worcestershire lost Pearson's wicket for six runs. As the game now stands, the visitors require 340 runs to win and have nine wickets to fall.

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

Yorkshire beat Worcestershire at Leeds, yesterday, by 203 runs.

Bowley and Mr R S Brinton were the only batsmen who faced the Yorkshire bowling with any degree of confidence. Wheldon was unable to bat owing to a dislocated finger. Haigh again bowling with excellent judgment, and in the match he took 12 wickets for under eight runs each.

11 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6712.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 11)

Although considerably weakened by the absence of Mr Mann and Mr May owing to examinations, and of Mr Eyre, who is still indisposed, the University at Cambridge, yesterday, accomplished a most creditable performance in dismissing their powerful opponents for 256.

The start was delayed a quarter of an hour owing to heavy rain, which, however, did not seriously affect the wicket. Mr Darling winning the toss took Mr Armstrong with him to the wickets. Both played a fine forcing game, and they carried the score to 73 before Mr Darling was caught at the wicket. At lunch time the score stood at 115 for three wickets, Mr Napier having secured two wickets with consecutive deliveries.

The play after lunch was marked by some magnificent hitting by Mr Hopkins, who twice sent the ball out of the ground. Mr Duff also made some beautiful drives, but he was hardly in his best form. The fielding of the University was splendid, Mr Mainprice and Mr Harrison being especially prominent. It was a beautiful piece of work by Mr Mainprice that got rid of Mr McLeod.

Mr Napier and Mr Morcom both bowled very steadily, although neither had much luck. Mr Hill, especially, and Mr Hopkins made several faulty strokes which just failed to go to hand.

Cambridge had three-quarters of an hour's batting, and in that time lost two good wickets. The wicket, however, seems to be improving, and if the weather keeps fine the University should make a good show to-day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

This match was continued at Cambridge yesterday in fine weather before a large attendance. There had been some rain overnight and the wicket gave the bowlers some help, although it was never really difficult.

Mr Page and Mr Morcom carried the overnight total to 50 before the former was caught at cover-point. Mr Morcom also made some good strokes before he returned one to Mr Armstrong. The only others to offer any serious resistance to the Australians' bowling were Mr Harrison and Mr Colbeck, who added 59 for the sixth wicket by good, steady cricket.

Mr Colbeck, who should have been stumped before he had scored, made 38 before lunch, but almost immediately afterwards he received a nasty cut on the lip from a rising ball from Mr Cotter and had to retire. However, he pluckily continued his innings afterwards, and with the aid of three beautiful off-drives he reached his 50 just before Mr Hopley was dismissed by Mr Howell.

The Australians started their second innings about half-past 3, having a lead of 88 runs. With only three on the board Mr Gehrs was run out, while Mr Hill was bowled at 26. Mr Armstrong also succumbed to a fine ball from Mr Hopley. Mr Gregory and Mr Darling improved matters slightly, and Mr Duff, Mr Hopkins and Mr Cotter made useful scores, but, owing to some very steady bowling by Mr Napier, off whom Mr Hopley held two fine catches, the University dismissed eight of their opponents for a comparatively small total.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 12)

This match was brought to a conclusion on Saturday at Cambridge, the visitors gaining an easy victory by 169 runs. A start was made at 11 o'clock, as it had been arranged that stumps should be drawn at 4 to enable the visitor to catch an early train.

The last two Australian wickets gave considerable trouble and, owing to some free hitting by Mr Hopkins and Mr Howell and steady play by Mr Newland, the overnight total was increased by 50 runs. Mr Napier bowled unchanged against the wind through the Australian second innings, and he took six wickets for just over 14 runs each.

Wanting 285 to win and with the wicket in good condition, the University had a reasonable chance of making a bold bid for victory. Mr Young and Mr Payne started confidently, but after they left the batting broke down. Mr Harrison and Mr Keigwin showed good defence and added 36 for the fifth wicket, but the rest failed unaccountably, and a tame finish was seen to what might have been an interesting match.

1 June: DERBYSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6713.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 11)

A shower delayed the start of the match at Derby yesterday until 20 minutes past 12. The ground being very hard underneath, the rain on the surface helped the Derbyshire fast bowlers to a considerable extent, and Sussex certainly suffered from batting first.

Indeed Warren bowled with such effect that seven wickets went down before lunch for 101. After lunch the pitch improved and the Sussex batsmen played with much greater confidence. Cox and Butt by excellent cricket put on 61 for the last wicket.

Derbyshire did not start well, Mr Ollivierre being bowled off his foot first ball and Storer having to retire owing to an injury to his shoulder. So far only 14 runs had been scored, but on Dr Ashcroft joining Mr L G Wright a very different appearance was put on the game. Playing with care and showing no undue anxiety to get runs the two batsmen gradually mastered the Sussex bowling, and at the end of the day they had carried the total to 123, and were still together.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

At one point yesterday at Derby the home side looked like gaining a commanding advantage over Sussex. Overnight Derbyshire had scored 123 with only one man out, and they headed their opponents' total without further loss. Their second wicket went down at 224, but with the exception of Mr Lawton the remaining batsmen offered such a poor resistance that the side were out for under 300.

More rain having fallen during the night, the conditions were similar to those that prevailed on Thursday before lunch, when Warren bowled with such fine effect. The Sussex bowlers, however, did not make the best use of their opportunity and were rather freely hit by Mr L G Wright and Dr Ashcroft, who followed up their admirable batting on Thursday evening by a further display of fine cricket.

Overnight they had scored 101 together, and they added another 101 before being parted. During the early part of his innings Mr Wright played very carefully, but yesterday he hit with delightful freedom, his on-driving being particularly good.

Sussex began their second innings 92 runs behind, but before a run had been scored rain came on and stopped the game for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 12)

This match at Derby on Saturday ended in a draw.

1 June: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6714.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 11)

The Essex eleven were quite outplayed at Leyton, yesterday, and Surrey at the close held a commanding position, having a lead of 59 runs with eight wickets left in the first innings.

In the last two hours of the day Hobbs and Hayes put on 216 for the second Surrey wicket. Both men played excellently. Their styles were very dissimilar, for, whereas Hayes, with his strong game on the leg side, seemed to master the bowling immediately, Hobbs very quietly played himself in and was much the more orthodox in his methods. There was no particular length in any of the Essex bowling; it was hit all over the field.

Apart from Mr Fane and Mr Perrin, the Essex batting was poor. The wicket, perhaps, was a little difficult early in the day, in consequence of the heavy showers on Wednesday night, but the defence shown by the batsmen was lamentable.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

Essex had a severe uphill game to play throughout yesterday, at Leyton, and, although they fared well in the second innings, their arrears when stumps were drawn were still 35, and they had three wickets down.

When Surrey continued their innings in the morning the chief feature of the cricket was the fine free batting of Lord Dalmeny, who went in fifth wicket down at 262 and was ninth out at 380. He was only 80 minutes getting his runs.

When Essex went in a second time with 232 to get to avoid an innings defeat Mr Perrin was quickly out, but Mr Fane and Carpenter played extremely well and, after three wickets had fallen for 112, there was a long stand by Mr McGahey and Major Turner.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 12)

Surrey beat Essex at Leyton on Saturday by five wickets. On the third day of the match there was some fine cricket by both sides and an exciting finish against time. Surrey's success was made only possible by the splendid batting of Hayward and the fine forcing game of Lord Dalmeny.

In the morning the partnership for the seventh Essex wicket between Mr Gillingham and Reeves made something of a match of it again, for the wicket in the course of an hour yielded 112 runs. Then, just when it seemed certain that Essex would save the match, Mr Gillingham was out to a magnificent catch at extra mid-off by Inns, fielding substitute for Holland. Running backwards, Inns took the ball high up with his left hand.

Mr Gillingham had played in his usual free style, while Reeves, who scored his first hundred for Essex, got most of his runs by clean hard driving; he was only 90 minutes making 101, and he was finally caught low down at slip.

Surrey were left to get 212 in two hours and three-quarters. Hayward was at his best from the first; but, although Hayes hit well for a few overs, the score was only 79 when the third wicket fell. When Lord Dalmeny arrived Surrey still wanted 133 runs and there remained 100 minutes to play. But Lord Dalmeny hit freely from the first, and in 55 minutes 101 runs were added before Lord Dalmeny was out to a great catch at long on.

Lees did not stay for many overs, but when Davis came in Hayward, who played excellently to the end, made the winning hit - an off-drive for four - and Surrey won with some 20 minutes to spare.

1 June: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6715.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 11)

The wicket at Lord's yesterday, in the first day's play of the Middlesex and Yorkshire match, always gave the bowlers some help. It was, perhaps, more difficult in the early part of the day than in the afternoon, and, therefore, Middlesex did not probably gain any advantage by going in first. They were got out cheaply, although not for so small a score as at one time seemed likely, and Yorkshire at the close of play held a lead of 48 runs, with five wickets in hand.

Most of the Middlesex batsmen seemed quite unable to play Haigh, who was chiefly responsible for getting the side out for under 150. Haigh, on a really good wicket, does not, as a rule, present any great difficulty to good batsmen, but he always takes full advantage of a wicket that helps him in any degree. Bowling from the pavilion end, he was always able to make the ball turn quite enough to beat the bat and, with the exception of Mr Bosanquet and Mr Hunt, no one could do much with him. Rhodes, at the other end, bowled steadily, and thus the batsmen had to play very hard for their runs, and Middlesex were batting until half-past 3 for their score.

They lost seven wickets for 77, Mr Bosanquet alone of the earlier batsmen getting over 20. Later, Mr Hunt showed that it was not impossible to get runs off Haigh, and he made one or two really fine hits. He and Mr Wyatt put on 24 for the eighth wicket, and then Trott, who for once did not seem to think that nearly every ball could be hit to the boundary, and Mr Wyatt added 40 for the ninth.

Yorkshire went in at about a quarter to 4, and that they were able to hold such a strong position at the end of the day was in no small degree due to mistakes in the field by Middlesex. The best of fielders miss catches at times, and perhaps Trott and Mr Hunt, who both missed chances, as a rule may be regarded as about the safest fieldsmen on the Middlesex side.

Grimshaw was out at seven, and then Denton and Mr Jackson carried the score to 69 before Mr Jackson was out. Mr Jackson played a sound innings, although he hardly seemed to time the ball as well as usual. Denton is a proverbially lucky player, and he fully maintained this reputation yesterday, for he was missed early in his innings and in addition made a number of bad strokes. His innings, however, if it could not be called a really good one, was most attractive to watch, for he displayed a wonderful variety of scoring strokes, and for the most part he played with great confidence.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

Middlesex, in their match with Yorkshire at Lord's yesterday, never looked like being able to recover the ground which they had lost on Thursday, and when stumps were drawn with two wickets in hand they were only 102 runs ahead. The wicket yesterday was not difficult, but many of the bowlers were able to make the ball turn and at no time was the bowling thoroughly mastered.

Overnight Yorkshire had made 193 for the loss of five batsmen, and Middlesex did fairly well to get the remaining five wickets for an addition of 82. Wainwright and Myers made a useful stand, although neither played a particularly attractive innings.

Yorkshire were all out at about 1 o'clock, and thus Middlesex began their second innings 130 behind. They were batting for the rest of the day for 232 runs, and for the most part the cricket was uninteresting. The position of the game, of course, made it necessary that no risks should be taken, but the batsmen never got a mastery over the bowling.

After Mr Beldam was out with only one run scored, Mr Warner and Mr Field put on 70 runs, and later several useful stands were made. Mr Warner on the whole played sound cricket, although he was several times in difficulties with Rhodes's bowling, but perhaps the best innings was again played by Mr Hunt.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 12)

Yorkshire, in their match with Middlesex at Lord's, never lost the advantage which they gained on the first day, and on Saturday they were able to win easily by seven wickets.

On Friday night Middlesex, in their second innings, had lost eight wickets for 232, and when play was continued Mr Foley and J T Hearne were got out without a run being added. Yorkshire had 103 to get to win, and the last innings of the match was chiefly remarkable for fine batting by Mr Jackson.

1 June: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6716.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 11)

The annual festival at Bath was opened yesterday in most favourable conditions with the Somerset and Gloucestershire match. Winning the toss for the first time this season, the visitors gave a creditable display upon the perfect wicket which had been prepared.

Mr Godsell played a very good innings; he has strengthened his scoring powers so materially of late that just now he is one of the most useful batsmen in the team. Somerset again have rather a weak side, but there was little fault to find with their fielding. Robson was by far the most successful of their bowlers.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

Although play at Bath yesterday was limited to four hours and a half, rain bringing the game to a close soon after 5 o'clock, so much progress was made that Somerset still needed 74 runs, with five wickets in hand, to avoid an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 12)

Somerset gained an unexpected victory over Gloucestershire at Bath on Saturday by 63 runs. They owed their success chiefly to the admirable batting of Braund and the remarkable bowling of Lewis.

The rain which brought the game to an abrupt close on Friday afternoon may also have played an important part in enabling them to win. It certainly made the pace of the wicket a trifle easier and, what is more, it came at a time when the visiting bowlers were carrying all before them.

When play was continued Braund and Mr Woods were not parted until 115 had been put on for the sixth wicket. Mr Poyntz again showed much confidence, and he scored 60 out of 87 in 70 minutes. There was a further useful stand for the last wicket. Braund was the last man to leave, after batting five hours for his runs.

Gloucestershire only wanted 147 to win, and with two hours and five minutes left for play the task was easily within their powers. In the hope of making sure of victory Mr Jessop went in first. He made 25 out of 26 before hitting across a ball from Lewis, who had before got Wrathall caught at slip. From this stage matters went all the favour of Somerset.

1 June: WARWICKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6717.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 11)

Mr J F Byrne, the Warwickshire captain, made his record score in first-class cricket yesterday at Birmingham, and his performance is the greater from the fact that the runs were made against the Lancashire bowling, which is undoubtedly very strong.

Going in at 12 o'clock he remained at the wickets all day, and at the close he was still undefeated. With the exception of a hard chance to point when he had scored 28, he has given the fielding side no opportunity of securing his wicket. He was two hours and 40 minutes making his first 50, but he afterwards forced the game well, his driving and cutting being splendid.

Kinneir's share in the day's cricket was only less noteworthy than that of Mr Byrne, for he batted the whole of the day with the exception of the last ten minutes. Although he was missed by the wicket-keeper when he had made nine and again at 105, he played a good innings, which was marked by delightful driving especially on the off-side. Mr Byrne and Kinneir put on 333 for the first wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

At Birmingham, yesterday, Mr J F Byrne carried his overnight score of 180 to 222. He was batting for six hours and 40 minutes, and he only gave one chance.

Mr Byrne did not declare the innings closed until 25 minutes to 4. The time available for Lancashire to bat was curtailed by rain, and at the close they still required 256 to save the follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 12)

The Warwickshire and Lancashire match, at Birmingham, was left drawn on Saturday. During the three days 955 runs were made for the loss of 20 wickets.

1 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6718.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 11)

Hampshire gave an uneven batting display against Worcestershire, at Worcester, yesterday, but at the same time they accomplished an excellent performance. After Bowell was out with 67 scored, Captain Greig and Mr Sprot raised the total to 288 for the second wicket. Mr Sprot's innings was in his best style, and he obtained his runs by powerful all-round hitting out of an aggregate of 221 in an hour and 50 minutes.

Captain Greig, who has been absent from English cricket since 1901, showed that his powers as a batsman are undiminished. He was fourth out after a stay of two hours and 50 minutes, and the only fault in his innings was a chance to the wicket-keeper when he had made 10. He scored with a variety of strokes, but the majority of his runs were obtained by his cut between point and third man.

After the second wicket fell, nine of the side were out for an addition of 48, but Mr Steele and Baldwin put on 87 for the last partnership in 50 minutes. Worcestershire had 40 minutes' batting, but they lost Bowley in the first over.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

Worcestershire's excellent performance yesterday at Worcester in passing Hampshire's big total was made the more meritorious by the fact that at one time the saving of the follow-on appeared doubtful. Mr H K Foster, who joined Cuffe at 58, started indifferently, but afterwards he played good cricket, and when he was third out the partnership had realized 105.

The dismissal of Cuffe, Arnold and Gaukrodger for an additional 27, however, gave Hampshire a good advantage, but a great change was effected in the game by Mr G N Foster and Mr Burns, who came together at this stage, and in just over an hour the total was increased by no less than 181 runs. Mr G N Foster scored the faster of the two, chiefly by means of drives on both sides of the wicket, and his last 50 occupied only 20 minutes. Mr G N Foster's score included an eight (four for an overthrow) and 29 fours.

Hampshire had about three-quarters of an hour's batting, and in that time they gained a lead of 22 runs, with all their wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 12)

Although 950 runs had been scored in this match at Worcester up to the close of play on Friday the wicket was in excellent condition when the game was continued on Saturday, so a draw was probable. The Hampshire batsmen appeared to accept this view of the situation, for no attempt was made to force the game throughout their innings.

Captain Greig and Bowell, going in first in Hampshire's second innings, had scored 63 when stumps were drawn on Friday, and on Saturday they batted steadily while the total was raised to 83. Afterwards Llewellyn stayed for an hour, and Stone and Mr Steele showed good defence.

Captain Greig was three hours making his hundred, but afterwards he scored faster. He made most of his runs by means of his cut, but, with the field skilfully placed on the off-side, he obtained few

boundaries. The feat of making two hundreds in the same match has been performed by only one other Hampshire cricketer - Colonel R M Poore, who scored 104 and 119 not out against Somerset in 1899.

Worcestershire had to get 231 to win, but from the beginning of their innings Hampshire held the upper hand. Three wickets were down for 48, and to the end of the match the batsmen were always struggling to avoid defeat. When the match was drawn Worcestershire, with four wickets in hand, wanted 76 to win.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Hirst	10	678	341	3	96.85
Mr C B Fry	11	827	201*	2	91.88
Quaife	13	701	256*	4	77.88
Mr C McGahey	11	627	277	1	62.70
Mr C J B Wood	11	511	160*	1	51.10
Kinneir	10	610	153	0	51.00
Mr B J T Bosanquet	10	444	103	1	49.33
Iremonger	12	582	239	0	48.50
The Hon F S Jackson	8	339	111	1	48.42
Hayward	16	672	129*	2	48.00
Mr A O Jones	14	656	103	0	46.85
Denton	13	604	132	0	46.46
Whittle	11	403	77*	2	44.77
Mr H K Foster	10	397	89	1	44.11
Mr J F Byrne	12	508	222	0	42.33
Mr P F Warner	13	547	204	0	42.07
Mr A C MacLaren	14	619	140	1	39.92
Holland	13	478	132	1	39.83
Hobbs	10	834	155	0	39.62
Mr M W Payne	10	360	178	0	36.90
Tunnicliffe	11	363	102	1	36.30
Lord Dalmeny	11	397	118	0	36.00
Wrathall	10	283	80*	2	35.37
G Gunn	12	420	99	0	35.00
Board	10	275	119*	2	34.37
Rhodes	13	370	201	2	33.63
J Gunn	13	402	108*	1	33.60
Killick	13	395	104	1	32.91
Baker (Warwickshire)	12	388	102	0	32.33
Baker (Surrey)	14	415	125	1	31.92
Tyldesley	15	410	71	2	31.63
Hayes	15	469	105	0	31.26
Bowley	10	302	151	0	30.20
Sharp	11	271	52*	2	30.11
Lilley	13	354	73	1	29.50
Knight	10	288	74	0	28.80
Cox (Sussex)	11	197	46*	4	28.14
Coe	11	308	100	0	28.00
Carpenter	11	308	104	0	28.00
Mr C E De Trafford	11	304	103	0	27.63
Mr H G Garnett	13	319	64	1	26.53
Mr R E Hemingway	10	363	84	0	26.30
Myers	12	236	57	3	26.22
Cuffe	10	263	61	0	25.90
Haigh	12	308	69	0	25.66
Mr A E Lawton	14	330	112	1	25.28
Santall	11	194	56*	3	24.25
Mr F L Fane	11	266	66	0	24.18

Hardstaff	11	240	93	1	24.00
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BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Hallam	204	70	450	28	16.07
Haigh	261.5	63	645	40	16.12
Kermode	277.2	71	750	45	16.66
Rhodes	399	135	880	51	17.25
Lees	400.1	102	1105	62	17.82
Hirst	203.5	48	542	30	18.06
Thompson	219.4	53	622	34	18.29
Warren	158.5	24	628	28	20.30
Gill	128.3	33	456	22	20.72
Hayes	247.4	41	794	38	20.89
Wass	275.2	63	777	37	21.00
Mr W Brearley	313.4	51	990	47	21.06
Arnold	198.3	38	591	27	21.83
Dennett	395.3	82	1124	51	22.03
J T Hearne	192	34	540	24	22.50
Cox (Sussex)	359.4	117	805	35	23.00
Baldwin	210.4	67	479	20	23.95
Burrows	188.2	31	671	28	23.96
Killick	180.3	28	510	21	24.28
Myers	172	33	551	22	25.04
Mr B J T Bosanquet	172.5	16	656	26	25.23
Mr H W Persse	216.3	43	555	21	26.41
J Gunn	322.2	74	913	34	26.85

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	13	717	248*	2	65.18
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	13	574	149	0	44.15
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	15	623	162	0	41.53
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	15	461	117*	2	35.46
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	17	546	94	0	32.11
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	14	410	85	1	31.53
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	11	227	75*	1	25.22
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	11	234	45	3	22.40
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	5	43	25*	3	21.50
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	13	230	51	0	17.69
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	16	214	60	3	16.45
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	6	68	23	0	11.33
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	9	83	19	1	10.37
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	8	57	16	2	9.50
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	9	44	14	4	8.80

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr F Laver	262.3	79	691	54	12.79
Mr C McLeod	224	68	547	29	18.27
Mr W P Howell	103.3	28	280	15	18.66
Mr R A Duff	31	8	75	4	18.75
Mr W W Armstrong	220.1	88	348	17	20.35
Mr A Cotter	180	29	556	17	32.70
Mr A J Hopkins	96	22	307	9	34.11
Mr M A Noble	127	27	370	8	46.25

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	8	6	0	2	6	100.00
Lancashire	6	5	0	1	5	100.00
Surrey	6	5	0	1	5	100.00
Nottinghamshire	5	3	1	1	2	50.00
Gloucestershire	4	2	2	0	0	0.00
Leicestershire	5	2	2	1	0	0.00
Sussex	6	2	2	2	0	0.00
Somerset	3	1	1	1	0	0.00
Middlesex	4	1	3	0	-2	-50.00
Essex	6	1	5	0	-4	-66.66
Northamptonshire	2	0	1	1	-1	-100.00
Kent	1	0	1	0	-1	-100.00
Warwickshire	6	0	2	4	-2	-100.00
Hampshire	4	0	2	2	-2	-100.00
Worcestershire	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00
Derbyshire	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00

5 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6719.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 11)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

Owing to the weather yesterday no play was possible in five of the eight games . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 11)

Owing to the weather, no play was possible yesterday in the matches between . . . Cambridge and Gentlemen of England at Cambridge. In consequence these games were abandoned without a ball having been bowled.

5 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6720.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 11)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

Owing to the weather yesterday no play was possible in five of the eight games . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 11)

Owing to the weather, no play was possible yesterday in the matches between the M.C.C. and Ground and Worcestershire at Lord's . . . In consequence these games were abandoned without a ball having been bowled.

5 June: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6721.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 11)

Only three-quarters of an hour's play was possible at Northampton, yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

Owing to the weather yesterday no play was possible in five of the eight games . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 11)

This match at Northampton was left drawn yesterday.

5 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 11)

Although dull and threatening the weather kept fine for the first day of the return match between these counties at Trent-bridge, yesterday. At the close Sussex were only 128 behind with all their wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

The second day's play in this match at Trent-bridge yesterday again went in favour of Sussex, for whom Mr Fry played another big innings.

Mr Fry increased his score of 46 by 187 before he was given out leg-before-wicket to John Gunn. Mr Fry completed his 100 out of 137 in two hours and 25 minutes, while in all he was batting for five hours and 50 minutes. He made the majority of his runs by well-timed drives, and although rather unsteady towards the close of his innings, he was, throughout, master of the bowling. His score enabled him to complete his 1,000 runs for the season. Mr Fry has made 531 runs against Nottingham this season for twice out, his scores being 97, 201 not out and 233.

Relf played a capital innings and Mr Goldie hit up his runs in 25 minutes. At the close Sussex were 277 runs ahead, with two wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 11)

Nottinghamshire, on a difficult wicket, were got out very cheaply in their second innings at Nottingham yesterday, and were beaten by an innings and 215 runs.

5 June: SOMERSET v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6723.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 11)

Rain fell steadily at Bath, yesterday afternoon, with the result that play was restricted to an hour and three-quarters in the morning.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

Owing to the weather yesterday no play was possible in five of the eight games . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 11)

Rain quite spoiled this match at Bath, and the game yesterday ended in a draw.

5 June: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6724.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 11)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

Owing to the weather yesterday no play was possible in five of the eight games . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 11)

Owing to the weather, no play was possible yesterday in the matches between . . . Surrey and Lancashire at the Oval . . . In consequence these games were abandoned without a ball having been bowled.

5 June: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6725.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 11)

In their match with the Australians, at Bradford, yesterday, Yorkshire made an excellent start. Mr H Wilkinson, who is acting as captain of the Yorkshire team in the absence of Lord Hawke and the Hon F S Jackson, won the toss, and the home side were batting until 6 o'clock.

Mr Wilkinson and Grimshaw made a good stand for the first wicket. The former did most of the scoring. He made a few good drives, but his best strokes were on the leg side. Seventy runs were scored in the first hour, and Mr Wilkinson was then caught at mid-on in attempting a drive off one of Mr Armstrong's leg-breaks.

Denton, who was next in, had extraordinary luck. When he had scored six he was missed at slip by Mr Armstrong, and at 22 Mr Armstrong again missed him off two successive balls in the same position, while when he had made 32 he gave a fourth chance to Mr Laver at second slip. All the catches were off Mr Noble's bowling. At luncheon 128 runs had been scored for the loss of one wicket.

Grimshaw batted steadily for two and a half hours, and he was third out to a catch in the slips when the score had reached 163. Hirst afterwards cleverly pulled a few short-pitched balls from Mr Cotter and Mr Noble to the leg boundary, but in attempting a drive from Mr Howell he was caught at long on. Tunnicliffe played rather laboured cricket for an hour and a half, and when he was caught at the wicket Yorkshire had five men out for 245.

Rhodes afterwards played the best innings of the day. He made a large number of beautiful cuts and on-drives, and he never seemed in difficulties. When he had made 25 he might have been caught at slip off Mr Duff's bowling, but it was a difficult chance.

Having only a quarter of an hour to bat the Australians' batting order was changed with disastrous results. Mr Howell was out in Ringrose's first over and Mr Kelly in Rhodes's first over, while in Ringrose's second over Mr Laver was caught in the slips.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

The Australians again had the worst of the play, at Bradford, yesterday. A fine partnership by Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong alone enabled them to save the follow-on.

Ringrose, who had taken two wickets on Monday evening, without a run having been scored off his bowling, met with further success. Bowling at a good pace and making the ball "go with the arm" he constantly had the batsmen in difficulties. Mr Hopkins and Mr Hill were both clean bowled by him, and the Australians, on Mr Hill's dismissal, had five wickets down for 20 runs. Mr Gregory and Mr Duff then made a short stand, but the total was only 51 when the seventh wicket fell.

Two mistakes in the field then assisted the batting side [greatly to] improve their position. Ringrose failed to hold a return from Mr Noble, when he had made ten, and Mr Armstrong, at 27, was badly missed at slip by Tunnicliffe. The batsmen put their fortune to such excellent use that before they were separated 102 runs were scored for the eighth wicket, Mr Armstrong then being finely caught and bowled by Ringrose.

Mr Noble was batting for two hours, and apart from the chance given to Ringrose he made no mistake. Ringrose took six of the first seven wickets that fell for 25 runs. He then tired, but on going on a second time at the opposite end he obtained three more wickets, and the nine only cost just over eight runs each. The Australians were all out at a quarter to 4 for 116 runs less than the Yorkshire total.

On going in a second time Yorkshire had Mr Wilkinson caught at second slip in Mr Noble's first over. Denton and Grimshaw then stayed together for two hours and a quarter and added 147 runs. Denton, who was missed at second slip by Mr Laver when his score was 23, played attractive and confident cricket. Yorkshire are now 275 runs ahead and have eight wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 11)

The Australians succeeded in making a draw of this match at Bradford yesterday. The honours of the game, however, rested with Yorkshire. They were able to declare their second innings closed at half-past 12 after losing four wickets and to send the Australians in to get 383 runs to win with three and a half hours left for play.

A brilliant innings by Denton enabled Yorkshire to establish this strong position. He had made 102 on Tuesday, and yesterday he increased his score by 51 and was not out when the innings was declared closed. This is the best score that Denton has made in first-class cricket, and also the highest hit off the Australian bowling during their present tour. Denton was missed when he had made 23, and again at 122. These were his only mistakes in three and a half hours' batting, and he hit brilliantly all round the wicket and made most of the bowling look simple.

Denton afterwards secured Mr Darling's wicket by a magnificent running catch in front of the pavilion, the Australians having then scored only nine runs. Mr Duff and Mr Hill stayed together for three-quarters of an hour, but with an hour and three-quarters left for play the Australians had four wickets down for 96 runs. Steady defence by Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong then enabled the visitors to make defeat impossible.

Owing to a bruised foot, caused by a blow by a ball from Mr Cotter on Monday, Hirst could not take part in the day's play.

Wednesday 7 June, page 13: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

For this match, which begins at Lord's to-morrow, the M.C.C. and Ground team will be as follows: -

The Hon F S Jackson, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr C B Fry, Mr P F Warner, Mr R H Spooner, Mr H K Foster, Braund, Thompson and Huish.

On the morning of the match the remaining two places will be filled up from King, Fielder, J T Hearne and Mead.

8 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6726.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 June, page 12)

This match was begun at Cambridge yesterday in fine weather. Mr Mann won the toss and, as the wicket looked like playing easily at first, he decided to take first innings. Rhodes and Haigh, however, made such use of the sodden wicket that in about an hour and a half they dismissed the whole Cambridge team for 39.

Mr Wilkinson and Grimshaw had ten minutes' batting before lunch and scored 12 without being separated. After lunch Mr Napier and Mr May bowled so well at first that four Yorkshire wickets were down for 30. Then Hirst and Rhodes came together and, aided by some luck and bad fielding, they carried the score to 124 before Rhodes was out. Haigh gave three chances before he was caught at short-leg just before 5 o'clock, when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

This match was concluded at Cambridge yesterday, Yorkshire winning by an innings and 43 runs. The University, however, made a much better fight than the scores would imply, for it was no mean feat to score 161 in their second innings on a wicket which was never easy.

The four outstanding Yorkshire wickets added over 80 runs yesterday, Hirst being responsible for 57 of these. He hit magnificently and was not missed until he had made 90. Mr Napier and Mr May bowled fairly well.

Cambridge had little hope of saving the innings defeat, but they played up well, Mr Mann setting an excellent example; and owing also to some free hitting by Mr Payne and useful scores by other members of the team the total reached respectable proportions; but by half-past 4 the match was all over.

8 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6727.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 June, page 12)

The rain had had so much effect on the ground at Lord's that the match between the M.C.C. and Ground and the Australians could not be started until about 4 o'clock yesterday. The first day's play was thus limited to two hours and a half, and the cricket took place in unfavourable conditions, for although the weather kept fine it was very cold and there was a strong wind blowing.

The M.C.C. and Ground went in first, and after starting very badly they managed to some extent to retrieve their position. The wicket, if it could not be described as really difficult, gave the bowlers some assistance, for the ball came along at different paces and took a certain amount of turn. The Australian bowling was very steady, that of Mr Laver being especially good, and, with the outfield slow, run-getting was a matter of difficulty.

Perhaps the most interesting thing in the cricket was the work of the Australians in the field. It was not by any means an ideal day for fielding, but hardly a run was thrown away; Mr Warner was finely run out and three good catches were made. Mr Noble's catch off a hard hit by Mr Fry at mid-on

was the most "showy," but Mr Hopkins in the deep field judged a high hit from Mr Spooner excellently, and a catch by Mr Darling at mid-on off a mis-hit by Mr Foster was by no means an easy one.

The M.C.C. and Ground owed their position at the close chiefly to a fine innings by Mr Jackson. He went in after Mr MacLaren, Mr Foster and Mr Spooner had been dismissed for 29 runs, and he was still not out at the close. He started very slowly and was content to keep his end up while Mr Fry, who seemed to be able to do more with the bowling than any one else, made runs, chiefly by driving, at a fair pace.

The latter was out at 57, and Mr Warner left six runs later. Then Braund joined Mr Jackson and 59 were added without further loss, and during this time Mr Jackson played very finely. He was once or twice beaten by Mr Armstrong, but as a whole he showed great confidence. Braund was perhaps rather unnecessarily slow, but the stand between him and Mr Jackson was of the greatest value to the side at a critical time.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the matches between the M.C.C. and Ground and The Australians, at Lord's, and between Surrey and Gloucestershire, at the Oval . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 10)

It was most unfortunate that this match, at Lord's, was quite spoiled by rain. The M.C.C. and Ground had a very strong side - as strong as any eleven which the Australians have met in their present tour with the exception of the England side at Nottingham - and the game, on either a dry or a wet wicket, had promised to be most interesting. As it was, only two and a half hours' cricket was possible on Thursday, no cricket was played in Friday, and on Saturday the match had to be abandoned after lunch, when, after the M.C.C. and Ground had declared their innings closed with eight men out, the Australians had lost Mr Duff's wicket without a run having been scored.

On Saturday morning the M.C.C. and Ground added 62 runs to their score of 121 for five wickets; and the cricket was remarkable for the fine batting of Mr Jackson, who on a by no means easy wicket and against very good bowling played a wonderful innings.

The M.C.C. and Ground's innings was declared closed at about 20 minutes to 2, and when the Australians went in J T Hearne clean bowled Mr Duff first ball. Afterwards heavy rain set in and early in the afternoon, with the ground almost flooded, the match was given up.

8 June: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6728.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 June, page 12)

A number of bad mistakes in the field yesterday at Northampton, by Northamptonshire, against Sussex, gave the visitors a great advantage on the day's play. Vine was missed when he had made nine, Relf before he had scored and again at 40, while Killick, after giving a chance of stumping at the beginning of his innings, was let off at 65 from an easy chance at mid-on.

Apart from these bad strokes, the Sussex batsmen overcame the difficulties of the drying wicket well; but Northamptonshire felt the absence of Thompson, who alone of their regular bowlers could be calculated to make full use of the prevailing conditions. The policy of the Sussex captain in deciding to bat was fully justified, as before lunch the wicket was never really difficult, while later in the day the bowlers were able to make the ball come off the pitch quickly.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

At Northampton, yesterday, Sussex never lost hold of the good position which they had attained at the close of play on Thursday, and when stumps were drawn Northamptonshire, with four wickets to fall, required 75 runs to save an innings defeat.

Throughout the day the wicket helped the bowlers, and after lunch ten wickets fell in a little over two hours and a half. Relf especially made the ball come back very fast, and he was so successful during the early part of the second innings that his four wickets cost only 19 runs.

Mr Pool carried off the batting honours; he played attractive cricket with a variety of strokes, but his hitting lacked power and during his stay of three hours he only made four fours and one three. East was unable to bowl much owing to an old strain, but he batted well and with Mr Pool he added 63 for the fourth wicket.

The Northamptonshire batting broke down so badly in their second innings that six wickets fell for 49 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 10)

The state of the game at the close of play on Friday at Northampton, when Northamptonshire, with four wickets to fall in their second innings, were 75 runs behind, foreshadowed an easy win for Sussex; and in the end the visiting side won, after an hour's play on Saturday, by an innings and 31 runs.

Mr Worsley and Cox, who were together for an hour on Friday evening, added 16 runs in 20 minutes, when Mr Worsley was caught at point. No hope remained of Northamptonshire's avoiding the single innings defeat, and although Cox, after being missed in the slips, batted steadily, the end was always in sight.

8 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6729.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 June, page 12)

This match was begun at Oxford yesterday. The wicket was wet and easy when Nottinghamshire went in in the morning. Mr Jones and Iremonger started the innings and in an hour they put on 53 runs, when Mr Jones was brilliantly caught by Mr Henley in the deep field.

G Gunn then joined Iremonger, and for the next hour and a half the cricket was very dull. The bowling was steady, although by no means deadly. Meanwhile the wicket was becoming difficult. Mr Henley got Iremonger out soon after lunch, which brought the two Gunns together. J Gunn was caught at mid-off off Mr Evans, who was bowling really well, making the ball turn a great deal. He clean bowled G Gunn, who had been batting a long time for his runs, and with the next ball he bowled Chambers.

In the next over Mr Martin got rid of Hardstaff and Mr Hemingway, and then Mr Barnsdale was bowled by Mr Evans, who thus performed the hat trick. The last five wickets fell without a run being scored. Mr Evans had the splendid analysis of six wickets for 25.

When Oxford began batting, Wass clean bowled the first three batsmen for 13. Mr Evans and Mr Foster came to the rescue and put a slightly better complexion on the state of the game.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

Nottinghamshire won this match at Oxford, yesterday, by 88 runs. The University innings was soon finished off for an addition of 13 runs. Pennington bowled well, and he took five wickets for six runs each.

Nottinghamshire started their second innings 18 runs ahead. With only four scored, Iremonger played on to Mr Martin, and in the next over Mr Jones was caught off a long hop from Mr Evans. J Gunn came in but he was soon bowled by Mr Martin, who also soon dismissed Hardstaff.

Mr Hemingway then joined G Gunn, and these two batsmen put on 113. Gunn was the first out; he had batted really well and made some fine strokes all round the wicket. In the same over Mr Branston "yorked" Mr Hemingway. He made some good strokes and some lucky ones. He was missed behind the

wicket before he had made 30, and he might have been caught and bowled by Mr Evans later in his innings.

The less said of the Oxford batting in the second innings the better. With the exception of Mr Foster, none of the batsmen looked like staying long. Mr Foster's innings was a really good display, but he could get no one to stay with him. The fielding on both sides was distinctly good.

8 June: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6730.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 June, page 12)

The opening day's play in this match at the Oval, yesterday, left the sides in a very even position, but the cricket as a whole was dull and uninteresting.

A start was made shortly after half-past 12 and Gloucestershire, who had won the toss, went in to bat on a soft wicket. The batsmen made no attempt to force the game, with the result that runs came very slowly, the score being only 54 for two wickets at lunch time. After the interval there was little improvement shown in the batting, and with the exception of Mr Barnett no one was able to play the bowling of Lees and Meads with much confidence.

To show how slow the cricket was, Mr Godsell was at the wickets for two hours for his runs, while the innings lasted a little over three hours. Meads, who made a fairly successful first appearance for Surrey, was born at Calverton, Nottinghamshire, and has qualified for Surrey by residence. He is a slow-medium right hand bowler and seems to rely chiefly on a leg-break for his wickets.

When Surrey went in the cricket was might brighter, and their runs were made in half the time that it had taken Gloucestershire to get theirs. However, wickets fell fast and half the side were out for 53. Hobbs made one or two good strokes, but Hayward was the only one of offer much resistance to the bowling.

Afterwards Davis hit well, and it was chiefly due to him that Surrey were able to pass their opponent's total. When he and Lord Dalmeny were together 41 were put on in 15 minutes. Dennett bowled very well indeed, and he was backed up by some very good fielding.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the matches between the M.C.C. and Ground and The Australians, at Lord's, and between Surrey and Gloucestershire, at the Oval . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 10)

The match between Surrey and Gloucestershire, at the Oval, ended on Saturday in a draw. What gave promise of being an interesting finish was entirely spoiled by the rain. No cricket had been possible on Friday, but there would have been ample time to finish the game on Saturday had the weather remained fine.

In the morning it soon became apparent that the bowlers would receive considerable assistance from the wicket and, with the batsmen fighting hard for their runs, there is no doubt that Surrey would have experienced an anxious time in the last innings of the match. Surrey are a side who are not seen to advantage on a soft wicket, and the Gloucestershire bowlers - especially Dennett - would probably have taken fuller advantage of the prevailing conditions than their opponents had done. However, rain came on during the luncheon interval and prevented any further cricket. When the match was abandoned, Gloucestershire, with one wicket in hand, held a lead of 140.

Gloucestershire were chiefly indebted to Mr Brown and Board for their score, although Mr Jessop and Langdon made useful contributions. Mr Brown was lucky in being missed, when he had made 19, in the slips by Hayward off Meads, but otherwise his innings, which was chiefly noticeable for his play on the leg-side, was free from fault. Board played well, and he got his runs chiefly by driving.

Apart from two dropped catches, the Surrey fielding was good, and the catch by Hayward at slip, which dismissed Mr Godsell, who was batting 70 minutes for seven, was a fine one. The Surrey bowling was not so good as it should have been, there being too many loose balls sent down.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Hirst	12	818	341	4	102.25
Mr C B Fry	13	1087	233	2	98.81
Quaife	13	701	255*	4	77.88
Mr C McGahey	11	627	277	1	62.70
Mr E M Sprot	9	468	141	1	58.50
Denton	16	814	153*	1	54.86
The Hon F S Jackson	9	424	111	1	53.00
Braund	10	364	130	3	52.00
Kinneir	10	610	158	0	51.00
Mr B J T Bosanquet	10	444	103	1	49.33
Mr C J B Wood	12	515	160*	1	46.81
Hayward	17	701	126*	2	46.73
Whittle	11	403	77*	2	44.77
Relf	10	387	75	1	43.00
Mr J F Byrne	12	508	222	0	42.33
Iremonger	16	668	239	0	41.75
Mr H K Foster	11	408	89	1	40.80
Mr P F Warner	14	552	204	0	39.42
Mr R T Godsell	10	351	83*	1	39.00
Rhodes	16	489	201	3	38.38
Mr A O Jones	18	690	103	0	38.33
Hobbs	17	646	155	0	38.00
Killick	15	531	191	1	37.92
Mr A C MacLaren	15	519	140	1	37.07
Holland	14	478	132	1	36.76
Mr R A Young	10	347	120	0	34.70
Lord Dalmeny	12	405	116	0	33.75
Board	12	332	119*	2	33.20
Tunnicliffe	14	430	102	1	33.07
Mr M W Payne	12	392	178	0	32.66
Baker (Warwickshire)	12	388	102	0	32.33
Tyldesley	16	410	71	2	31.53
Hallows	9	251	85	1	31.37
G Gunn	16	499	99	0	31.18
Cox (Sussex)	13	274	46*	4	30.44
Bowley	10	302	151	0	30.20
Sharp	11	271	62*	2	30.11
Hayes	16	478	105	0	29.87
Baker (Surrey)	15	415	125	1	29.84
Knight	11	296	74	1	29.60
Lilley	13	354	73	1	29.50
Vine	15	441	100	0	29.40
J Gunn	17	468	108*	1	29.25
Wrathall	12	287	80*	2	28.70
Coe	11	309	100	0	28.09
Carpenter	11	308	104	0	28.00
Mr H G Garnett	13	319	64	1	26.58
Cuffe	10	362	61	0	26.20
Mr R E Hemingway	14	368	84	0	26.14
Mr A E Lawton	14	330	112	1	25.38
Mr C E de Trafford	12	304	1-3	0	25.33

Also listed: Langdon average 24.30, Santall 24.25, Mr F L Fane 24.15, Reeves 23.90, Haigh 23.85, Mr V F S Crawford 23.30, Mr L O S Poidevin 23.06, Davis (Surrey) 22.90, Lees 22.85, Myers 22.45, Hardstaff 22.14, H Whitehead 22.08.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr E G Martin	133.2	34	374	25	14.96
Haigh	301.5	75	735	46	15.97
Kermode	277.2	71	750	45	16.66
Relf	254.5	90	518	30	17.26
Lees	461.1	121	1190	69	17.37
Mr P R May	130	23	384	22	17.45
Rhodes	478	153	1048	60	17.46
Thompson	229.4	57	632	36	17.56
Hirst	203.5	46	542	30	18.04
Hallam	245.4	79	580	32	18.12
Mr G G Napier	144.1	29	436	24	18.18
Hayes	273.2	48	854	43	20.09
Wass	312	76	850	47	20.21
Warren	158.5	24	528	26	20.30
Ringrose	177.5	35	468	23	20.34
Dennett	410.3	95	1191	58	20.53
Killick	179.3	38	534	26	20.53
Mr W Brearley	318.4	61	990	47	21.06
Cox (Sussex)	486.1	157	1025	48	21.35
J T Hearne	182.1	34	540	25	21.60
Gill	137.3	36	478	22	21.72
Arnold	188.3	38	501	27	21.88
Myers	218	44	653	28	23.67
Burrows	188.2	31	671	28	23.56
Baldwin	239.4	75	509	22	24.95
Mr B J T Bosanquet	172.5	16	656	26	25.23
Mr H W Persse	228.3	46	694	22	26.54
Tremlin	237.4	39	839	31	27.06
Mr W W Odell	285	78	758	28	27.07
J Gunn	375.2	83	1077	38	28.34
Huggins	258.3	90	633	22	28.77
Mr N A Knox	245.4	41	877	32	30.53
Hargreave	348.1	101	810	35	32.40
Buckenham	231.1	37	814	22	37.00

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	15	804	248*	3	87.00
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	17	752	182	0	47.00
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	16	693	149	0	37.37
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	18	482	117*	3	32.13
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	19	604	94	0	31.89
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	14	410	85	1	31.53
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	12	238	45	2	23.80
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	12	235	75*	2	23.50
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	5	43	25*	3	21.50
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	15	263	51	0	17.53
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	16	214	60	3	16.46
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	6	68	23	0	11.33
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	10	84	19	1	9.33
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	9	57	16	2	8.14
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	10	44	14	4	7.33

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr F Laver	344.3	101	842	58	14.51
Mr C E McLeod	256	77	594	31	19.16
Mr W P Howell	121.3	36	323	16	20.18
Mr R A Duff	48	14	116	5	23.20
Mr W W Armstrong	258.1	95	445	19	23.42
Mr A Cotter	210	32	675	23	29.34
Mr A J Hopkins	115	27	362	10	36.20
Mr M A Noble	185	46	521	13	40.07

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	8	6	0	2	6	100.00
Lancashire	6	5	0	1	5	100.00
Surrey	7	5	0	2	5	100.00
Sussex	8	4	2	2	2	33.33
Nottinghamshire	6	3	2	1	1	20.00
Gloucestershire	5	2	2	1	0	0.00
Leicestershire	6	2	2	2	0	0.00
Somerset	4	1	1	2	0	0.00
Middlesex	4	1	3	0	-2	-50.00
Essex	6	1	5	0	-4	-66.66
Kent	1	0	1	0	-1	-100.00
Northamptonshire	4	0	2	2	-2	-100.00
Warwickshire	6	0	2	4	-2	-100.00
Hampshire	5	0	2	3	-2	-100.00
Worcestershire	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00
Derbyshire	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00

12 June: ESSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6731.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 9)

There was no cricket at Leyton yesterday. The ground showed such slow signs of recovery from the recent rains that the officials, after waiting until half-past 2, deferred the start of the game until this morning.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June, page 11)

The cricket on the bowler's wicket at Leyton yesterday went strongly in favour of Kent, and at the close of play Essex in their second innings were 116 runs behind with three batsmen out.

It was thoroughly interesting play from the time that the first ball was sent down at 11 o'clock until half-past 6. Essex might have been expected to do better than make 122 in the first innings of the match before the pitch became really bad; but Blythe bowled with good judgment and the Kent fielding was excellent.

Indeed, the feature of the cricket might almost be set down as the number of fine catches that were brought off by both sides. Perhaps the best of these was that by Mr A P Day at deep square-leg when he got the ball with his left hand extended and dismissed Reeves. Seymour, Reeves and Benham all brought off wonderful one-handed catches during the day.

In batting the best thing done by Essex was Mr Gillingham, whose 39 came mostly by hard drives; but when Kent went in several good batting performances were done. Essex had no bowler quite capable of taking full advantage of the false pitch. Humphreys, whose play on the leg side was very good, and Alec Hearne scored 99 for the first Kent wicket; and afterwards Seymour showed excellent form. Mr A P Day, Mr S H Day and Mr Frank Marchant all got their runs in good style and, although the tail of the side failed, Kent secured a lead of 145.

Changing the order for the second innings cost Essex three wickets in the last 40 minutes; but it served its purpose in preserving the best batsmen for to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 June, page 12)

Kent won their match with Essex, at Leyton, yesterday, by nine wickets. The Essex eleven were virtually a beaten side on Tuesday, when their bowlers showed little capacity for making the most of a difficult wicket; but yesterday, when the game seemed almost over, three of the batsmen did so well that Kent had to go in a second time.

Fairservice, in the first 20 minutes of the morning, bowled out Mr Fane, Carpenter, Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey in three overs, while only six runs were scored from him; but, after seven wickets had gone down for 41, there came the strong batting of Mr Gillingham, the sound work of Mr Douglas and some good driving by Reeves. Kent lacked the services of one of their chief bowlers while these men were making runs, for Blythe had had to retire from the game owing to sudden illness.

The 64 runs which Kent were set to make served to give Seymour and Alec Hearne the opportunity of playing some of the best class cricket of the match, and they made the runs in 40 minutes.

12 June: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6732.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 9)

It is several years since Hampshire were able to put into the field so strong a side as that which met Derbyshire, at Southampton, yesterday, but at the end of the day's play Derbyshire had the better of the position.

A drizzling rain delayed the start until a quarter to 1 and, in the absence of sunshine, the wicket throughout the day was always easy. The Hampshire batsmen were, however, for the most part disappointing. Mr Sprot hit freely for 40 minutes, but he made several bad strokes through the slips, while Bowell, Mr Hill and Llewellyn were all missed at the beginning of their innings.

Bowell's score is the highest that he has made in first-class cricket and, although he batted stylishly and scored all round the wicket, he was frequently at fault in his timing of the ball. His innings lasted three hours and a half.

Derbyshire had an hour's batting, and in this time Mr Wright and Mr Ollivierre gave a good display.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June, page 11)

At Southampton, yesterday, Derbyshire failed to maintain the excellent start which they had made in their innings on Monday, when Mr Wright and Mr Ollivierre scored 103 runs without being separated, and on the wicket which has been spoiled by the rain they have now the worst of the game.

When play was continued Mr Wright and Mr Ollivierre added 43 in half an hour when the former was brilliantly caught at mid-off, and 16 runs later Mr Ollivierre's admirable innings was ended by a catch in the long field. He was batting altogether for an hour and 40 minutes.

A likelihood of the wicket's becoming difficult under the hot sun induced the succeeding batsmen to force the game; but with the exception of Mr Lawton and Storer they had little success, and in just over an hour and a half the side were all out.

With the wicket rolling out well the early Hampshire batsmen followed similar methods; but the result was disastrous, Captain Greig, Mr Sprot and Mr Hill all being dismissed in hitting at good length balls. Bowell and Llewellyn, however, by a defensive stand for an hour and a half saved the situation, while later Mr Evans hit freely.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 June, page 12)

At Southampton yesterday Hampshire completely outplayed Derbyshire, and in the end they won the match by 188 runs.

The outstanding feature of their display was the form of Mr Hesketh-Prichard. Bowling unchanged throughout the Derbyshire second innings, he never sent down a really bad ball, while he bowled one or two that seemed practically unplayable. Baldwin rendered good assistance by keeping an admirable length, and with Hampshire fielding brilliantly and accepting every possible chance, the whole of the Derbyshire side were dismissed in an hour and 40 minutes.

Praise is also due to Mr Evans for his excellent innings at a time when Hampshire were badly in need of runs. He was batting for two hours and a quarter without making a really bad stroke.

12 June: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6733.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 9)

About 30,000 people visited Old Trafford yesterday on the first day of this match. Lancashire had the advantage of batting first on the best wicket that has been seen at Manchester this season.

When he had made one boundary hit Mr MacLaren was caught at mid-off, but Mr Spooner and Tyldesley played delightful cricket and they put on 223 for the second wicket in two hours and 40 minutes before Haigh got out Mr Spooner. Both batsmen had some luck, as Tyldesley was missed in the slips when he had made 14, while Mr Spooner fairly early in his innings was beaten by a ball from Mr Jackson which grazed the off stump but did not dislodge the bails.

Mr Spooner played in his best form, his driving to the off being excellent. Tyldesley played on at 297. This was his first hundred this summer. He was batting for three hours and 40 minutes, and it is remarkable to find that his figures only included ten fours and as many as 54 singles.

After the fall of the second wicket no long stand was made, but Mr Poidevin played capital cricket, especially on the on-side. Altogether Lancashire were at the wickets just over five hours for their score. The Yorkshire fielding was not so accurate as usual. Haigh followed up his recent success by once again securing six wickets. In the last quarter of an hour Yorkshire lost one wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June, page 11)

Play in this match at Old Trafford, yesterday, was considerably curtailed owing to heavy showers both in the morning and afternoon. Nevertheless, there were fully 12,000 spectators, and with the pitch always helping the attacking side much progress was made.

The first ball of the day dismissed Ringrose at the overnight total; but Mr Jackson and Mr Wilkinson, in spite of the disconcerting manner in which the ball got up, added 23 for the third wicket before the latter was finely caught at short slip. Afterwards Mr Jackson and Denton put on 50. Mr Jackson showed much resource and Denton pulled with great precision and daring.

Denton and Tunnicliffe seemed likely to make a stand, and so at 101 Mr Brearley was put on again and Kermode changed ends. These tactics proved successful, for without addition to the score, Denton was caught at point. Tunnicliffe and Hirst left at 109, Haigh at 120, Lord Hawke at 130, while Rhodes was the last to go.

The Lancashire bowlers made the most of a fiery wicket and the fielding was accurate. The last six wickets fell in about an hour for 50 runs, Mr Brearley securing four of them for 17 and Kermode two for 15.

When Yorkshire followed on they lost Mr Jackson, Mr Wilkinson and Tunnicliffe for eight runs, but Denton and Hirst stayed together until the close of play. Hirst hit four successive fours in one over, although he was badly hit by a rising ball from Mr Brearley. Yorkshire are still 215 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 June, page 12)

Beautiful weather was experienced at Manchester yesterday, when a little more than two hours' play sufficed to bring this match to a conclusion, Lancashire winning by an innings and 52 runs.

The fourth Yorkshire wicket realized 59 before Hirst was beaten by a ball that broke across the wicket and hit the leg stump. Rhodes, after losing Denton at 97, settled down to a fine game. Haigh did not stay long, but Rhodes found a good partner in Myers. They put on 50 in 35 minutes before Rhodes was well caught at second slip. Rhodes made his runs in an hour and 20 minutes without giving a chance.

Myers played a sound innings, but the remaining men did little. Kermode carried off the bowling honours of the game, and his accurate bowling brought its own reward in the second innings.

12 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6734.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 9)

Leicestershire, in their match with the Australians at Leicester yesterday, made a fairly good start. Gaining first innings, they kept the visitors in the field for over four hours while putting together a total of nearly 300.

Leicestershire owed much to faulty fielding, five distinct chances being missed. The most serious blunder was that by Mr Trumper, who dropped an easy catch from Mr De Trafford when that batsman had only made 17. Mr Trumper, who was making his first appearance since the Nottingham test match, was reported to be thoroughly sound, but he did not field with his usual alertness.

Mr De Trafford gave a characteristic display of fearless hitting, punishing with great severity bowling that constantly trouble Mr Wood. In 40 minutes Mr De Trafford scored 53 out of 69, the odd runs being four byes and a two by Mr Wood. Included in his score were a six and 11 fours.

After the captain left the game for a time went rather badly for the home side, but the later batsmen played up well, three or four useful stands being made. Whitehead and Coe put on 52 together, and Mr Odell and Whiteside added 44 for the last wicket. Whitehead showed the best form, his defence being excellent and his hitting clean and hard. During a stay of an hour and a half he gave no chance. Mr Crawford gave a bright display, making his 52 in 70 minutes.

The Australians are giving a rest to Mr Duff, Mr Laver, Mr Kelly and Mr Cotter.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June, page 11)

One mistake in the field at Leicester yesterday was attended with far-reaching effects. When he had only made two Mr Noble was missed by the wicket-keeper, standing back, and for that mistake the county paid a heavy price. Had that catch been held the Australians would have had half their side out for 94, but as it was they got within 28 of Leicestershire's total, Mr Noble afterwards playing perfect cricket and pulling the game round.

The visitors were unlucky in the fact that the conditions had undergone a material change, rain in the night having softened the pitch so that the ball got up awkwardly. So well did Jayes, the fast bowler, utilize his opportunity that five additional Australian wickets went down while 74 runs were

being added to the overnight score of 55 for one wicket. As the ground dried Jayes, who at one point had sent down 13 overs for 36 runs and four wickets, became ineffective, and runs afterwards came much more readily.

Going in third wicket down at 87 Mr Noble, after his early escape, batted in a delightful manner for two hours and 40 minutes, being ninth out at 253. He was beaten by a fast ball that kept very low. When thoroughly set he was never in any difficulty, showing great skill in defence and hitting finely all round the wicket. Mr Gregory helped him to add 34, but he received the best assistance from Mr Gehrs, who stayed in for nearly an hour, while 71 runs were put on.

Leicestershire had 50 minutes' batting in their second innings and, losing two wickets for 38, are now 66 on. Apart from three showers the weather was fine and the crown numbered about 7,000.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 June, page 12)

There was a quiet finish to the match at Leicester, yesterday, the game ending in a draw. At lunch time, when the county had eight men out and were only 165 ahead, a definite result seemed likely with the probability of a win for the Australians, but afterwards Coe and Jayes placed their side in a safe position.

Leicestershire entered upon the last stage of the match in a favourable position, leading by 66 and having eight wickets in hand, but in spite of some steady batting by Knight and Whitehead, they lost ground. By lunch time six more wickets had fallen for 99 runs, three going down after Knight left for 23.

Jayes then joined Coe, who had shown more confidence than any of his colleagues, and in 85 minutes 89 runs were added. Mr De Trafford allowed the innings to proceed until five minutes past 4, and then for the fourth time during the tour the Australians had the closure applied against them.

Some bright cricket was witnessed during the last hour and a half, in which time the Australians scored 168 for two wickets. Mr Trumper, who was in his most brilliant form, obtained 70 out of 120 in just over an hour. He and Mr Hopkins put on 86 together at the rate of two a minute, and the latter and Mr Gregory added 48 in the last half an hour. After a full morning the weather turned fine, and about 3,000 spectators were present.

12 June: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6735.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 9)

Less than two hours' play was possible at Lord's yesterday in the match between Middlesex and Somerset, for a start could not be made until half-past 4 owing to the wet state of the ground, and rain came on heavily just before half-past 6.

When play was begun the wicket and the outfield were still very wet, the bowlers could not get a good foothold and the fieldsmen could not move quickly to the ball. Thus it was perhaps rather surprising that the Somerset batsmen fared so badly. The light certainly was not good, and J T Hearne and Tarrant, who was playing for Middlesex for the first time, bowled steadily and well; but with the exception of the innings of Mr P R Johnson and Mr H Martyn, who got the great majority of the runs between them, the batting was disappointing.

Mr Martyn made some beautiful hits, at one time getting three fours in succession off Hearne by fine off drives, and Mr Johnson, who went in first and was fifth out with the score at 63, played in strong attractive style. A few years ago Mr Johnson was not a difficult man to get out on a slow wicket, but lately his defence has improved enormously, while he has lost none of his scoring powers. He made one or two bad strokes yesterday, but in the circumstances his innings was a very good performance.

The match is being played for the benefit of George Burton, and it was satisfactory that a large crowd of spectators were present in spite of the unfavourable conditions.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June, page 11)

Owing to the rain overnight, it was impossible to continue this match at Lord's yesterday until ten minutes past 2. However, during the time available for cricket Middlesex were able to establish a winning advantage, and to-day Somerset will have to fight very hard to avoid an innings defeat, as they are still 88 runs behind with only four wickets in hand in their second innings.

For their favourable position Middlesex were largely indebted to the fine bowling of Hearne and Tarrant and the batting of the latter and Mr Hunt, although several other members of the side made useful scores. Overnight Somerset had made 89 for seven wickets, but yesterday the innings was completed in three overs for the addition of only three runs.

When Middlesex went in to bat on the soft wicket they did none too well for a time. Mr Warner was "yorked" at 18, Mr E A Beldam run out three runs later, while Trott left at 32. Mr Bosanquet, who made some good drives, and Mr Stogdon, however, put on 46, by good free cricket, for the next wicket; but the Somerset total was not passed before they were both out. Then Mr Palmer, who was missed by Cranfield at mid-on off Braund's bowling, when he had scored six, helped Tarrant to add 43 for the sixth wicket.

Up to this point the cricket had been rather dull, but there was a great improvement in the play when Mr Hunt and Tarrant were together. Mr Hunt played a fine forcing game and, with Tarrant scoring so much quicker than he had done before, 73 were added in three-quarters of an hour before Tarrant was smartly stumped.

Tarrant's dismissal was the beginning of a series of disasters for Middlesex, as, in the same over, Mr MacGregor was caught at slip and Hearne was clean bowled, while four runs later Mr Hunt was easier stumped. Mr Hunt had played the best innings of the day, for he never seemed in difficulties with the bowling and his driving was marked by great power. Tarrant also made some good strokes, but he was several times beaten by the ball.

Somerset went in a second time 117 runs behind at a quarter to 6; but, on the drying wicket, the batsmen could do little with the bowling of Tarrant, and disaster followed disaster.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 June, page 12)

Middlesex won their match against Somerset, at Lord's yesterday, by an innings and 70 runs. On Tuesday night Somerset, with six men out, still wanted 88 to save the innings defeat, and the last four wickets fell in about half an hour yesterday.

Tarrant in M.C.C. and Ground matches has on many occasions shown himself to be a most useful all-round cricketer, and in his first match for Middlesex he accomplished a really good performance and had a large share in the victory of his side, for he got 10w for 47 and in addition he played a useful innings after his side had made a bad start. He and Hearne bowled unchanged in Somerset's second innings, and the latter in the game got ten wickets for 66. Altogether in the three days 30 wickets fell for 348 runs.

12 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6736.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 9)

The weather was delightfully fine and the wicket in favour of the batsmen at Trent-bridge yesterday, but the cricket was rather uninteresting. Mr Jones had the good fortune to win the toss for the fourth match in succession, but on going in to bat he played a ball from Lees, which was wide of the leg stump, into his wicket before he had scored.

Afterwards the Nottinghamshire batsmen for the most part played slow cricket. In an hour and 50 minutes before luncheon they scored 88 for one wicket, while their score of 327 for six wickets occupied them five hours and 20 minutes. John Gunn, who was not out at the close and had been batting five minutes under three hours, though rather slow at starting, hit freely afterwards; but he

was unfortunate in running out the Rev H Staunton in an attempt to complete his century before stumps were drawn for the day. So far Gunn has given no chance.

Iremonger and George Gunn made no mistakes during their stay, and the former was unlucky in playing on when apparently well set. The Surrey fielding was brilliant, the work of Hobbs and Hayes being especially noticeable.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June, page 11)

There was a great change in the conditions at Trent Bridge yesterday, heavy rain in the early morning having affected the wicket in a marked degree. The result was that batsmen found runs very difficult to make, and during an eventful day's cricket 16 wickets fell for 276 runs.

The Nottinghamshire innings, in which six wickets had fallen overnight for 327, was soon finished off. John Gunn was out to the second ball without obtaining the one run necessary to give him his first century of the season. He was very slow during the first two hours of his stay, but afterwards he played his normal game. The innings had extended over five and three-quarter hours, and, as the sun was making the wicket rather difficult, the home county occupied a strong position.

The Surrey fielding had been brilliant, but Nottinghamshire were at fault in this department, and it was chiefly owing to the blunders in the field that Surrey saved the follow-on. Hobbs ought to have been stumped immediately the innings began; Hayward was missed by Hallam off his own bowling when he had made 28; Davis was badly missed by G Gunn after scoring two boundaries; and Lees received a life just before the follow-on was saved.

Hayward made many risky strokes, but during the two hours and 35 minutes that he was batting he forced the game in splendid fashion and played the bowling with great confidence.

At the end of the day Nottinghamshire had an hour and a half's batting, and at the close they were 213 runs ahead with eight wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 June, page 12)

At Trent-bridge yesterday Surrey sustained their first defeat of the season in the county championship, being beaten by Nottinghamshire by 228 runs. The side failed badly when Mr Jones sent them in with the task of scoring 333 to win with four hours left for play. The outstanding features of the Nottinghamshire batting yesterday were an admirable not out innings by Hardstaff and some hard hitting by Mr Jones, who got six fours in his 28.

With the wicket as good as at any period of the match, Surrey's task of saving the game did not seem quite impossible; but Hayward returned the fourth ball to the bowler and Lord Dalmeny was clean bowled with only a single scored. From these early disasters Surrey never recovered, and had it not been for some hard hitting by Lees, who scored 47 out of 49 in 35 minutes, the total would not have reached a hundred. Hallam, Wass and John Gunn bowled finely, but the Surrey collapse was chiefly due to bad batting.

12 June: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6737.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 9)

Owing to heavy rain at Brighton during the early morning, no cricket was possible in this match until 1 o'clock, when Mr Fry and Vine began to Sussex innings on a dead wicket.

They made a capital start for the home county, putting on 138 runs before Vine was brilliantly caught and bowled. At the same total Killick left, and with seven runs added Mr Goldie was out to a marvellous catch in the long field, Mr Brownlee when running at top speed taking the ball low down with his left hand.

Two runs later Mr Fry's innings was ended. Although his display was not faultless, it was a great one, considering the state of the wicket. He took some risks and punished every loose ball with great severity, his driving and back play being especially powerful. At 5 o'clock rain came down again and stopped any further play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June, page 11)

In lovely weather this match was continued at Brighton, yesterday, but none of the remaining Sussex batsmen gave any trouble except Leach, who hit well for his runs. When Gloucestershire went in to bat, the wicket, from the effect of a strong sun, was rather difficult, and none of the Gloucestershire batsmen played the Sussex bowling with any degree of confidence.

With a lead of 81, Sussex began their second innings, but they made a disastrous start, losing Mr Fry, who was out to a bad stroke, Killick and Mr Goldie for four runs. Relf then joined Vine, and this pair added, by sound and useful cricket, 87 runs. With three wickets to fall, Sussex are 255 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 June, page 12)

The two remaining wickets in Sussex second innings in this match at Brighton yesterday fell for an addition of 21 runs, and Gloucestershire were left with 277 to get to win.

They started badly, losing Mr Godsell, Wrathall and Mr Barnett for four runs, all to Cox's bowling, who took the first five wickets. The only two Gloucestershire players who showed any degree of confidence were Mr Brown and Mr Brownlee. Killick, who was bowling fast, took three wickets for under five runs each, and in the end Sussex won by 154 runs shortly after 3 o'clock.

12 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6738.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 9)

The Worcestershire bowlers accomplished a good performance, at Worcester yesterday, dismissing Warwickshire cheaply on an excellent wicket. The success of the home side, moreover, did not end with the disposal of their opponents for this moderate total, Bowley and Pearson afterwards batting so well that at the drawing of stumps Worcestershire were only 122 behind with all their wickets in hand.

At the start of the day, Arnold and Wilson bowled finely, and Kinneir, Mr Byrne and Devey were all out by the time the score reached 30. Quaife and Mr Fishwick redeemed the early Warwickshire failures by adding 81 for the fourth wicket, but Cuffe, being tried at 111, bowled Mr Fishwick with his first ball and had Lilley caught at afterwards short-leg off his second.

Santall, Baker and Mr Loveitt played up well, but considering the favourable conditions, a score of 208 was a poor total for a team of the batting strength of Warwickshire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June, page 11)

In the batting of the Worcestershire eleven, at Worcester yesterday, there was an amount of restraint which neither the state of the game nor the condition of the wicket really demanded.

Against Warwickshire's total of 208 the home side entered upon the day's cricket with 86 runs on the board with no wicket down. Playing slow cricket, they established a great advantage, but it is quite possible that had they shown more enterprise their position would have been even more favourable than it was when stumps were drawn yesterday.

Bowley, who was not out 56 when play ended on Monday, raised his score to 101. He drove well and scored cleverly on the leg side, but at no time was his cricket marked by his usual freedom. Cuffe,

whose introduction into the Worcestershire team promises to be attended by considerable success, played in capital form for an hour and 50 minutes, but Mr Foster and Pearson batted rather tamely.

Late in the innings Arnold, although handicapped by an injury to his thumb, forced the game to some purpose. Altogether Worcestershire were batting for six hours and a quarter for their score.

Warwickshire, on entering upon their second innings, were 136 behind, and again they started badly, My Byrne playing on with the score at 12. A catch at the wicket disposed of Devey at 42, but then Kinneir and Quaife raised the total to 84 and were still together at the drawing of stumps, the visitors leading off with eight wickets to go down and still being 52 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 June, page 12)

A heavy downpour of rain set in at Worcester at a quarter to 4 yesterday afternoon, and this match had to be abandoned as a draw, Warwickshire being 155 runs ahead with two wickets to fall. Worcestershire thus stood in the stronger position, but the Warwickshire team played a creditable uphill game yesterday.

Entering upon the concluding stage of the match, the visitor had two wickets down and were still 52 behind; but during such time as cricket was practicable they scored 207 runs for the loss of six more wickets. Quaife did little yesterday, but Kinneir and Mr Fishwick stayed together for an hour and three-quarters and added 113 runs. Mr Fishwick, who made his runs in two hours and 20 minutes, enjoyed some luck, but his innings was the only really bright piece of cricket during the whole match. Kinneir was at the wicket for three hours and a half.

Warwickshire had an anxious time when the seventh wicket fell at 244, but before Mr Loveitt left, the side were nearly safe from defeat.

Tuesday 13 June, page 9: The death occurred at Burgess-hill, yesterday, of Mr William Grover Ashby, who for 40 years was treasurer of the Sussex County Cricket Club. He will be long remembered for his earnest work on behalf of Sussex cricket generally.

Thursday 15 June, page 12: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The sides in this match at Lord's to-day will be selected from the following: -

ENGLAND

The Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire) (captain)
Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire)
Mr A O Jones (Nottinghamshire)
Mr B J T Bosanquet (Middlesex)
Mr C B Fry (Sussex)
Hayward (Surrey)
Lilley (Warwickshire)
Tyldesley (Lancashire)
Rhodes (Yorkshire)
Hirst (Yorkshire)
Haigh (Yorkshire) and
Arnold (Worcestershire)/

AUSTRALIA

Mr J Darling (South Australia) (captain)
Mr C Hill (South Australia)
Mr D R A Gehrs (South Australia)
Mr P M Newland (South Australia)
Mr R A Duff (New South Wales)
Mr A Cotter (New South Wales)
Mr S E Gregory (New South Wales)
Mr A J Hopkins (New South Wales)
Mr J J Kelly (New South Wales)

Mr M A Noble (New South Wales)
Mr V Trumper (New South Wales)
Mr W P Howell (New South Wales)
Mr W W Armstrong (Victoria)
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria) and
Mr F Laver (Victoria).

It was announced yesterday at Leyton that J Inns, the professional, who had played occasionally for Essex during the last few seasons, had died after a brief illness at his home at Writtle, near Chelmsford. Inns was a splendid field, but as a batsman he never fulfilled expectations. Inns, who was in his 29th year, was playing cricket as recently as yesterday week.

15 June: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6739.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 12)

[Note: the first part of this report is indecipherable.]

. . . Ollivierre and Mr L G Wright hitting up 38 runs, including 17 in one over by Mr Ollivierre off Oyston, in a quarter of an hour. Then Mr Ollivierre was bowled. Afterwards the features of the innings were the scores of Warren and Storer. Derbyshire were all out at a quarter past 6 with a lead of 67 runs on the first innings. Ringrose bowled admirably for Yorkshire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 June, page 13)

Yorkshire were beaten for the second time this season yesterday, Derbyshire defeating them, at Derby, by nine wickets.

Overnight Derbyshire had gained a lead of 67 runs on the first innings, and yesterday Yorkshire were dismissed for the second time by 10 minutes past 3 for 161. The features of the batting were a meritorious score by Grimshaw and useful contributions by Tunnicliffe, Lord Hawke and Elms. The most successful Derbyshire bowlers were Morton, who by keeping a splendid length kept the batsmen in constant difficulties and took four wickets for less than three runs each, and Warren.

Requiring 95 to win, Derbyshire hit off the runs for the loss of Mr L G Wright's wicket. Mr Wright scored 43 out of the first 80 runs by brilliant hitting all round the wicket, and Mr Ollivierre carried out his bat for a well-played innings, his strokes on the on side being beautifully timed.

15 June: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6740.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 12)

(From our special correspondent)

Lord's is notoriously a ground that takes a long time to recover from such a quantity of water as has fallen during the last ten days; and the wicket for the second of the Test matches, which was begun yesterday, was very slow, and it was by no means easy to force balls to the boundary.

The Selection Committee left out Hirst, presumably because his soundness of limb was by no means certain; and on such a soft wicket it was not thought that England possessed any really fast bowler of sufficient class to be worth playing. As compared with the elevens that played at Nottingham, Mr Fry and Haigh took the places of Mr Jessop and J Gunn, while for Australia Mr Hopkins took the place of Mr Cotter.

There is no reason to suppose that except for Hirst's absence the English side on the day could have been improved upon. Mr Jessop has been very unfortunate with the bat this season, and as his fast bowling is apparently a thing of the past, it would hardly have been wise to play him solely for his fielding, magnificent though that is.

The English eleven that played yesterday possessed five splendid bats, all of whom, in addition to their great skill, were of great experience, and possibly as little likely to be harassed by nerves as any batsmen of any time. Haigh and Rhodes have over and over again shown their quality as bowlers on soft wickets, while Arnold and Mr Jackson can usually be depended on to keep a length; and, finally, there was Mr Bosanquet, incomparable and undefinable, who has, there is every reason to suppose, struck a certain amount of terror into the minds of the Australians.

England for the second time won the toss, and with most commendable punctuality began the batting at 11.30 with Mr MacLaren and Hayward to the bowling of Mr McLeod and Laver. It was soon seen that the wicket, although slow, was not difficult; but it may be said at once that at the beginning and all through the day the run-getting was abnormally slow. By uneventful cricket the score was brought to

38 before there was a change of bowling, when Mr Noble displaced Mr Laver at the Pavilion end; and off him Mr MacLaren was missed by Mr Gregory at cover-point.

There was really little that was noteworthy in the play beyond the extreme slowness of the scoring and the splendid fielding of the Australians; and the first hour and a half produced only 59 runs, and then Hayward was out leg-before-wicket to a very short ball from Mr Duff, who had been put on at the Nursery end. It cannot be said that Hayward erred on the side of rashness, and to take 90 minutes to score 16 runs for such a fine driving bat is carrying caution almost to a fault.

When Tyldesley came in the game brightened a little, although Mr MacLaren was not playing with his usual dash. However, neither made any mistake, and the score at luncheon time was only 86 for two hours' play.

Mr Laver and Mr Hopkins began the bowling after the interval, and the score was brought to 97 when Mr MacLaren was clean bowled by a very short ball that he tried to hook. His eminently useful innings was not distinguished by his usual brilliancy; but the bowling of Mr Noble and Mr Laver was of a very high class and the fieldsmen had been very well placed.

An enormous crowd was on the ground at 2.30, and Mr Fry's arrival on the scene caused no small excitement; but still slowness was the most remarkable feature of the play. Mr Noble resumed at the Pavilion end and bowled very finely with not the best of luck. There was an extra mid-on, which stopped run-getting materially. Tyldesley, however, was beginning to make things more lively, but Mr Fry was very nearly bowled by a fine ball from Mr Laver.

At 149 Tyldesley put the ball gently into the hands of Mr Laver at forward short-leg. He had played the most attractive cricket of the day, and again showed extremely pretty off-side play; but after his dismissal the cricket again became very slow.

Mr Armstrong had now begun the bowling at the Nursery end and continued for nearly all the rest of the day; and, as at Nottingham, the batsmen were altogether unable to score off him, although, perhaps, he did not bowl quite so much to leg. To hit him must be difficult, as here were two of England's leading batsmen, both of them strong on the on-side, and yet the run-getting was as slow as in Barlow's best days. Four and a quarter hours had been consumed in amassing 175 runs.

When Mr Jackson was finely caught at short slip off Mr Laver for 29 runs the score was 208 for four wickets. During the last hour England fared none too well, for when stumps were drawn at 6.30 eight wickets were down and the total was only 258. Mr Fry had been batting for three hours and a half for 73 runs and he certainly gave no real chance; but yet it was hardly one of his best displays, for it could not be said that he ever seemed quite comfortable to Mr Armstrong's bowling.

It is not easy to judge from the spectator's point of view, and it may not be possible to effect it with safety, but some older players could not help wondering whether quick-footed players like Mr Steel and Mr Webbe would not have been able to leave their ground and get some of Mr Armstrong's balls on the full pitch and drive them to the off, where there were only two fieldsmen. Lookers-on are not always able to judge what is or is not practicable; but the upshot of not doing something was that practically six hours were taken up in making 258 runs at an average of 43 runs an hour.

If the weather should not break England's position is none too good at the end of the first day's play, unless Mr Bosanquet should succeed as he did at Nottingham. The wicket, so far, although slow, has not been difficult; and Mr Trumper on his 1902 form might easier make England's score by no means a winning one, if he is only tolerably backed up. From what has been seen of the Australians' batting they do not seem to possess quite the consistency of the elevens of 1899 and 1902; but they are, nevertheless, a very dangerous side, and several of them can hit in a very different way from the batting yesterday.

Of the Australian bowling, the best was that of Mr Noble, and he was unlucky in not getting a wicket. Mr Laver also bowled very well and Mr Armstrong kept a very good length, and was, in an Irish sense, the straightest crooked bowler that has ever been seen. Mr Hopkins was the most successful, and is a fair bowler. Mr Noble kept the ball well up, and it certainly looked as though he might have been driven more; but he frequently puzzled the batsmen and bowled throughout more like the bowler he was in 1902.

The fielding all day was admirable, and the bowling of a kind that in this climate is impossible for our players. Mr Kelly had a thankless task in keeping to Mr Armstrong, and seldom did he make any

mistake, and he struck to his work admirably all day. Mr Hill and Mr Gregory covered a great deal of ground and only one chance was missed.

More than 23,000 people paid for admission, and at 4 o'clock the gates were closed, and the attendance altogether could not have been much less than 30,000.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 June, page 13)

There was a heavy fall of thunder rain on Thursday night in London, but fortunately it was not of long duration, and, although many were of opinion that play would not start at the advertised hour of 11 at Lord's yesterday, there was sufficient sun and wind to make the wicket playable.

There was considerable speculation as to how the day's cricket would go. Many had pinned their faith on Rhodes and Haigh, and remembered the first test match on a soft wicket at Birmingham in 1902. But for some reason or other Rhodes has seldom done justice to his reputation at Lord's, and yesterday he was only fairly successful and, as a matter of fact, bowled far more really loose balls than he did at Nottingham.

The day's play generally was much more interesting than on Thursday, and on a wicket very similar to that of the first day 356 runs were made at an average rate of nearly 59 runs an hour as against 43.

There was nothing remarkable about the close of England's innings, and only 24 runs were added. A glance at the bowling analysis shows how effective Mr Armstrong was in keeping runs down; but the best bowling as to length and variety was that of Mr Noble, who deserved better fortune than he got, while Mr Laver "mixed them up" with great skill all through.

The striking features of the Australians' out cricket were the skill which their captain showed in placing his field, the accuracy of their bowlers in bowling to suit the positions of the field, and the clean fielding and grand throwing of the whole side. No praise can be too high for Mr Kelly's wicket-keeping, as Mr Armstrong is a most unpleasant bowler to keep to, the batsman impeding the view of the ball besides threatening danger to life and limb in endeavouring to hit to leg.

On going in to bat the Australians at once showed they had made up their minds to play a free game, thinking that the wicket would be difficult and runs more likely to come by running a certain amount of risk. Haigh and Rhodes began the bowling to Mr Trumper and Mr Duff, and the batting was of a most attractive nature, both batsmen hitting hard and, considering the slowness of the wicket, better hitting has seldom been seen.

Mr Duff drove Haigh clean into the pavilion, while Mr Trumper made a most unique leg hit over the boundary off what looked a fairly good length ball from Haigh. The ball was not hooked but hit with an almost straight bat; but it was one of the most remarkable hits in the history of cricket, and it is doubtful if any other batsman in the world could have made it.

When 57 had been scored in 33 minutes, Mr Jackson went on at the pavilion end and clean bowled Mr Trumper for 31, made by a brief spell of the brightest and most attractive cricket. Mr Hill succeeded, and did not stay long; but he made a mighty hit to square leg over the ropes off a bad length ball from Rhodes.

Directly Mr Noble came in Mr Duff was caught at the wicket off Rhodes, having played very good cricket for 27. The value both of his innings and of Mr Trumper's was out of proportion to the number of runs scored. It is always safe to presume on tricky wickets that the ground will play easier for the first half-hour after it has been rolled; and that is the time for two free hitters to open out, as Mr Duff and Mr Trumper did yesterday.

The Australians then required over 50 to save the follow-on, and Mr Armstrong joined Mr Noble; and the wicket was getting rather less easy. Some good hits were made, but batting was evidently a matter of difficulty; and Mr Noble was caught by Mr Fry in the country in trying to drive Mr Jackson, and Mr Darling came in.

Shortly afterwards Haigh relieved Rhodes at the nursery end for one over before luncheon. The interval came with the score at 110 for four wickets; and the match was in an interesting position, for by the way the Australians were playing it looked tolerably obvious that the Englishmen would have some two hours' batting in the evening, and if the wicket did not improve they might well have a hard task.

Rhodes and Mr Jackson began after luncheon, and both Mr Darling and Mr Armstrong played with great boldness and skill. Mr Darling hit Mr Jackson on to the roof of the professionals' room, and the score was brought to 131 when Mr Armstrong was out leg-before-wicket to Mr Jackson and Mr Gregory came in, but, although the follow-on was saved, there was not stand made for the remainder of the innings, although Mr Hopkins made some good hits, including one mighty drive right into the pavilion.

Mr Darling was well caught at cover-point after a very fine innings, in the circumstances, of 41. He went for the ball that was at all over tossed, and his off-hitting could not have been better.

Punctually at 4 o'clock Hayward and Mr MacLaren opened England's second innings to the bowling of Mr Laver and Mr McLeod; but at 18 Hayward was well caught at short slip by Mr Laver. It did not appear to the spectator that the wicket was quite so difficult as it had been, but it is probable that there was very little difference in this respect.

Mr MacLaren played with greater freedom than he did in the first innings; and, although he was very nearly caught and bowled by Mr McLeod, he several times jumped at Mr Laver's bowling and made some fine forcing drives to the boundary. Tyldesley was gradually playing himself in, and he had made two beautiful off-side strokes when he played a ball, rather unluckily, hard on to his wicket.

Mr Noble was now bowling at the pavilion end, Mr MacLaren having been rather severe on Mr Laver. Mr Fry came in and began, as he did on the first day, with great care, taking no sort of risk either in his play or in his running. Mr MacLaren, however, played in magnificent free style, and to the joy of all beholders several times hit Mr Armstrong hard and well to leg, the latter bowler having displaced Mr McLeod at the nursery end with the score at 89.

The score was taken to 136 when Mr MacLaren, who had evidently seemed bent on hitting Mr Armstrong off, was bowling in attempting to hit him to square leg. No praise can be too high for this innings of Mr MacLaren's. On a by no means easy wicket he hit hard all round and his defence was very sound; and for the first time in the match it was seen that Mr Armstrong could be hit to leg.

It was no fault of Mr MacLaren that his treatment of Mr Armstrong in hitting him to leg played havoc with England for the rest of the day, for it certainly appeared that Mr Armstrong changed his methods with most disastrous results to England. He now bowled more on the wicket, and Mr Jackson was completely defeated and clean bowled first ball by a beautiful ball that pitched on the leg stump and came across and hit the off stump, while Mr Jones was very ill at ease and gently put up a ball to short slip.

So very much more on the wicket was Mr Armstrong's bowling that he took away one of his short legs and put him at slip, and for the rest of the day his bowling completely tied up the batsmen. Mr Fry was by no means at home to him and was utterly unable to score off more than a few balls; and when stumps were drawn five wickets were got for 151 runs, of which 70 had come from Mr MacLaren alone. Mr Fry's batting took many by surprise. He is known as a grand driving bat, but he was batting for more than an hour and a half for 36 runs.

The English side has, no doubt, the best of the position, being 252 runs on with five wickets still to fall; but such wonderful feats are in these days accomplished by batsmen that, if no more rain falls, the Australians may yet make a bold bid for victory. Mr Fry was probably conscious of this and very likely played what was in his judgment the right game. At the same time it certainly looked as if he merely stopped many balls from Mr Noble and Mr Laver that in ordinary circumstances he would have driven hard to the ropes, and it could not be said that he gave spectators the impression that he was comfortable with Mr Armstrong either yesterday or on the first day.

The wicket, however, was not easy and the importance of the match must have an effect, and Mr Fry showed to a very great extent his power of defence and a most extraordinary command of himself, for he was the personification of patience. To-day, if runs are to be of importance, he very likely will show his powers of hitting.

The match is now in an interesting position. If the Australians on a drier wicket have something less than 300 runs to get to win, they showed yesterday in the innings of Mr Duff, Mr Trumper, Mr Armstrong and Mr Darling how well they can bat, and Mr Hill and Mr Noble are not likely to fail again. Much may depend on Mr Fry and the last five wickets to put the match in a really safe position for England; but at present, no doubt, the old country has rather the best of it.

There was another enormous attendance, to all appearance indeed as large as the first day, and the weather was perfect for cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 June, page 10)

The rain began to fall steadily on Saturday morning, and though the captains waited until 2 o'clock in hopes of the sky clearing, it was hopeless, and the second Test match had to be drawn, England leaving off 252 runs in front with five wickets in hand.

Never in the history of cricket have the vagaries of weather caused keener disappointment than on this occasion. Drawn matches in fine cricket weather are hideous blots on the game, but, though most unsatisfactory at all times, they are not quite so much so when the weather saves from probable defeat a side that has had the worst of the luck. If there had been no more rain England might have put Australia in with perhaps 400, or, at any rate, more than 300, runs to make to win; and even in these days, though it is not a hopeless position, still the odds must be against the side going in for the last innings.

No fair judge of the game can, however, maintain that Australia had not the worst of the luck, though not to so great an extent as is often the case. The wicket was always slow and rather in favour of the bowlers, but it was certainly least difficult on the first day when the English side were batting, and the fact that the side were batting all day for 258 runs is a great testimony to the accuracy of the Colonial bowling, the excellence of the fielding and the great skill shown by Mr Darling in the placing of the field. Mr Fry probably never found it so hard to score as he did in this match, and it was a great stroke of captaincy to put the extra field on the on side to him; but even this would have had far less effect had not Messrs Noble and Laver given comparatively so few balls on the off side that could be hit.

It was the prevalent opinion that Mr Armstrong's leg-break bowling was extremely difficult to score from, not only because he had three short legs and two men on the leg boundary, but also because he kept a provokingly accurate length and his pace is just a shade too fast for the batsmen to run out of their ground and drive. In the second innings he bowled more on the wicket, and this might have been caused by Mr MacLaren's finding it possible to hit him to leg. Mr Noble bowled wonderfully well and was unfortunate in not getting more wickets.

When Australia went in to bat it was expected that Rhodes and Haigh would be found very difficult. That they did not do so well was probably because the fine vigorous batting of Messrs Duff and Trumper slightly demoralized them, for Rhodes in particular bowled far too large a proportion of loose balls. Mr Jackson and, in a lesser degree, Arnold kept a better length, and the wicket-keeping and fielding were as good as that of the Australians. It is impossible to speak too highly of the batting of the four leading Australian scorers, and as a combination of skill and bulldog pluck it could not have been surpassed.

The result of the match has been that the Australians have recovered the prestige that was slightly tarnished by the hollow defeat at Nottingham. It was Mr Bosanquet's bowling that was the primary cause of their defeat in the first match, and in the second match he was not called upon to bowl at all. Mr Jackson showed sound judgment by this policy, for Mr Bosanquet is best on a hard wicket and he would probably have been too expensive.

The match has been quite the most interesting of drawn matches. It affords a proof that, for a really interesting game, a wicket made more or less difficult either from eccentricity of weather or from not too careful preparation is in a sense the best.

15 June: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6741.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 12)

Bad judgment in running has been very prevalent in first-class cricket this season, and in the match between Lancashire and Kent at Manchester yesterday no fewer than three batsmen were run out.

Mr Dillon and Humphreys looked like giving Kent a good start when Mr Dillon gave an easy chance to Mr Spooner at cover point. The latter, however, missed the catch. In the meantime Humphreys had started for a run, but Mr Dillon did not move. Mr Spooner picked up the ball and threw it in to the bowler, who knocked the bails off before Humphreys could get back.

Six runs later Mr Dillon was run out through another fine return by Mr Spooner, and curiously enough the latter himself was dismissed in a similar way later in the day, Mr Penn brilliantly throwing down the wicket. In all three cases the return was from cover point.

Kent never entirely recovered from the loss of Humphreys and Mr Dillon at 43 and 49. Six wickets were down for 104, but afterwards Mr Marsham, who batted an hour and three-quarters for his runs, received useful support from Huish and Fairservice.

Lancashire had nearly two hours' batting. Mr Spooner hit well, but three men were out for 67. After this Sharp and Heap made a valuable stand. They added 72 in 65 minutes, and at the close they were still together.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 June, page 13)

Sound batting by Sharp, who added 38 to his overnight score, followed by a dashing innings by Mr Hornby, enabled Lancashire at Old Trafford yesterday to send Kent in a second time 185 behind.

The partnership between Sharp and Heap altogether produced 133 in just over two hours. The feature of the day, however, was the forcing play of Mr Hornby, who went in when Lancashire were in a good position. In an hour he scored 83 out of 106. He gave a difficult chance early in his innings and was missed three times afterwards, but he played the proper game for his side.

Kent on going in a second time had three hours and a quarter's batting, Fielder saving the innings defeat off the last ball of the day. Seymour played bright cricket, but most of the visiting batsmen exercised great care. Mr Dillon has not yet batted in the Kent second innings, owing to an injury to his hand, which he sustained in trying to catch Mr Hornby.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 June, page 10)

Lancashire beat Kent, at Old Trafford, on Saturday, by eight wickets. The game, owing to rain, could not be continued until late in the afternoon, but the end was soon reached.

15 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6742.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 12)

At the end of the first day's play in this match at Leicester yesterday the game was left in an even position, Leicestershire with four wickets in hand being 64 behind their opponents' total.

Surrey were chiefly indebted for their score to Baker. He went in first with Hobbs, and he got more than half of the runs scored in the innings. He and Hayes made a good stand, but the rest of the Surrey batsmen did little.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 June, page 13)

Surrey accomplished a good batting performance in this match, at Leicester, yesterday, and at the close of play, with four wickets still to fall, they were 301 runs ahead. On Thursday evening Leicestershire had lost six wickets for 110, and yesterday, chiefly owing to Jayes, they were able to get a lead of 13 on the first innings.

When Surrey went in again Hobbs and Hayes were got rid of cheaply, but Baker received good support from Holland and Davis, and the bowling was mastered. Baker was not out at the close, and his

batting in both innings has been the chief cause of the favourable position which Surrey now hold in the match.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 June, page 10)

No play was possible, owing to the weather, in this match, at Leicester, on Saturday, and the game was in consequence left drawn . . .

15 June: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6743.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 12)

Neither side made much use of an excellent wicket at Brighton, yesterday, and a slow and uninteresting day's cricket ended in the match being left in a fairly even position.

Braund and Lewis made a promising start for Somerset by scoring 59 for the first wicket in a little over an hour, but with four batsmen out for 62 Sussex had the better of the game. Mr Woods and Mr Martyn, by adding 78 for the fifth wicket, retrieved the bad beginning to some extent, but the remaining batsmen shaped indifferently. Mr Woods batted well for an hour and a half, and Cranfield scored all the runs made for the last wicket.

Considering that the ball never turned throughout the innings Killick's performance was of great merit. He bowled a good length and his well-placed field on the off-side kept down the runs.

Sussex had a similar difficulty in scoring. Vine and Cox were both caught at point off very bad strokes, and Relf was caught behind the bowler in one of the few attempts that were made to hit.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 June, page 13)

An excellent bowling performance by Braund, at Brighton yesterday, gave Somerset an advantage over Sussex of 64 runs on the first innings; but the visitors did so badly on going in a second time that when stumps were drawn Sussex had victory in sight.

On Thursday Sussex had scored 64 for three wickets, but the side on continuing were all dismissed in 70 minutes, none of the batsmen playing Braund with confidence.

The Sussex bowling appeared quite plain all through the Somerset second innings. Braund and Lewis were the first batsmen, and when the latter had scored 17 out of 28 his knee gave way owing to an old football injury and caused him to retire. Afterwards no one could stay with Braund, who showed sound defence, and six wickets fell for an addition of 44 runs.

Upon the return of Lewis 25 were added for the seventh wicket, but when he left the end soon came. Braund was out ninth after batting nearly two hours. At the close of play Sussex, with eight wickets to fall, required 80 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 June, page 10)

At the close of play on Friday, at Brighton, Sussex, with eight wickets in hand and only 80 runs to get to win, appeared to have an easy task, but heavy rain in the night so spoiled the wicket that after the game was continued Somerset for a time held the upper hand.

It was nearly 3 o'clock when Relf and Vine, the not outs, went on with the Sussex second innings, and from the beginning the batsmen were in difficulties. With three runs added Relf was caught at slip, and nine runs later Mr Goldie, after being missed at slip, was caught at extra cover-point. Leach played with resolution, while Vine acted almost entirely on the defensive, but with the latter caught in the long field, after batting for over two hours and a half, and Leach caught at the wicket, six batsmen were out for 141.

Subsequently, Mr Chapman and Cox played steadily, but when they were out 19 runs were still wanted. Although the wicket was now playing very badly Mr Smith and Mr Woodhams managed to hit off the runs, and Sussex won by two wickets.

15 June: WARWICKSHIRE v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6744.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 12)

Cambridge made a good start in their match with Warwickshire at Birmingham yesterday, for after they had scored over 250 in their first innings, they got out four of their opponents fairly cheaply. Mr Mann, who is in excellent form at present, played a very good innings for the University.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 June, page 13)

Owing chiefly to a fine innings by Mr Fishwick, Warwickshire, in this match at Birmingham yesterday, gained a lead of 46 on the first innings, but Cambridge, at the end of the day, with only two men out in their second innings, were 104 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 June, page 10)

Owing to the weather cricket was impossible until shortly before 3 o'clock in this match, at Birmingham, on Saturday, and at no time did there seem any likelihood of the game being finished.

The University added 104 to their overnight score of 150, and then the innings was declared closed with six wickets down. Mr Mann, who had made 77 on Friday, carried out his bat after playing a fine innings, and there can be no doubt that he is a very much improved batsman this year.

Warwickshire had 209 to get to win, and after three wickets had fallen the game was left drawn.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Lancashire	8	7	0	1	7	100.00
Surrey	9	5	1	3	4	66.00
Yorkshire	10	6	2	2	4	50.00
Sussex	10	6	2	2	4	50.00
Nottinghamshire	7	4	2	1	2	33.33
Leicestershire	7	2	2	3	0	0.00
Gloucestershire	6	2	3	1	-1	-20.00
Middlesex	5	2	3	0	-1	-20.00
Hampshire	6	1	2	3	-1	-33.33
Kent	3	1	2	0	-1	-33.33
Somerset	6	1	3	2	-2	-50.00
Derbyshire	6	1	4	1	-3	-60.00
Essex	7	1	6	0	-5	-71.42
Warwickshire	7	0	2	5	-2	-100.00
Northamptonshire	4	0	2	2	-2	-100.00
Worcestershire	5	0	3	2	-3	-100.00

The match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval - abandoned without a ball having being bowled - is not included in the above table.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	17	1297	233	3	92.64
Hirst	14	855	341	4	85.50
Quaife	17	807	255*	5	67.25
Mr E W Mann	10	575	157	1	63.88
Mr C McGahey	13	649	277	1	54.08
Mr E M Sprot	11	529	141	1	52.90
Denton	20	916	153*	1	48.21
Kinneir	13	603	156	0	46.38
Iremonger	18	811	239	0	45.05
Whittle	11	403	77*	2	44.77
Mr B J T Bosanquet	13	481	103	2	44.82
James Seymour	10	399	81	1	44.33
Mr L G Wright	12	517	149	0	43.38
Hayward	21	805	129*	2	42.36
Mr H K Foster	12	454	89	1	41.27
The Hon F S Jackson	13	492	111	1	41.00
Mr C J B Wood	15	562	100*	1	40.85
Baker (Surrey)	19	651	128*	3	40.68
Braund	14	431	130	3	39.18
Mr A C MacLaren	18	658	140	1	38.70
Llewellyn	10	338	77	1	37.55
Mr P F Warner	15	552	204	0	37.46
Tyldesley	18	589	134	2	37.43
Rhodes	19	596	201	3	37.25
Mr J F Byrne	15	567	222	0	37.13
Relf	14	478	75	1	36.76
Bowley	11	403	151	0	36.63
Sharp	13	367	109	2	35.18
Baker (Warwickshire)	15	479	102	1	34.21
Mr T S Fishwick	13	441	137	0	33.92
Hobbs	21	711	155	0	33.85
Mr G W Beldam	10	302	90	1	33.65
Mr M W Payne	14	465	178	0	33.21
Mr A H Hornby	11	264	89*	3	33.00
Mr A O Jones	22	724	103	0	32.90
Tunnicliffe	18	617	102	2	32.31
Holland	18	547	132	1	32.17
Mr H T Godsell	12	352	68*	1	32.00
John Gunn	18	578	108*	1	32.00
Killick	19	578	104	1	32.00
Bowell	11	358	101	0	31.63
George Gunn	18	560	99	0	31.61
Vine	19	590	100	0	31.05
Mr R A Young	12	370	120	0	30.83
Board	14	369	110*	2	30.75
Coe	14	393	100	1	30.23
Hallows	10	270	85	1	30.00
Cuffe	11	321	61	0	29.18
Knight	14	364	74	1	28.00
Mr C A Ollivierre	11	279	93	1	27.00
Mr R H Spooner	14	378	109	0	27.00
Lees	18	431	130	2	26.83
Lord Dalmeny	16	425	116	0	26.66
Hayes	20	531	106	0	26.66
Mr C E de Trafford	14	366	103	0	26.28
Cox (Sussex)	17	339	46*	4	26.07
Carpenter	13	333	104	0	25.61
Wrathall	14	305	80*	2	25.41
Hardstaff	17	378	93	2	25.20

Also listed: Mr R E Hemingway average 24.87, Mr A E Lawton 24.87, Reeves 24.15, Mr L O S Poidevin 24.14, H Whitehead 24.13, Lilley 23.80, Mr S M J Woods 23.50, King 23.44, Huish 23.22, Mr F L Fane 22.75, Mr V F S Crawford 22.56, Dr E M Ashcroft 22.40, Langdon 22.16, Davis (Surrey) 22.06, Mr H G Garnett 22.00, Pearson 21.63, Santall 21.18, Haigh 21.11, Arnold 20.75, Humphreys 20.70, Mr O T Norris 20.60, A Hearne 20.83.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Tarrant	137.3	33	346	25	13.84
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	90.1	17	297	21	14.14
Mr E G Martin	133.2	34	374	25	14.96
Sharp	96.1	15	318	21	15.14
Kermode	368	91	965	62	15.56
Haigh	334.5	79	849	54	15.78
Killick	248.4	81	647	41	15.78
Hallam	286.4	96	643	40	16.75
J T Hearne	224	40	906	25	17.21
Thompson	229.4	57	632	36	17.55
Lees	563.1	153	1411	78	18.08
Mr G G Napier	186.1	43	553	30	18.43
Relf	300.5	100	600	32	18.75
Rhodes	520.1	160	1187	63	18.94
Warren	221.2	36	736	39	18.97
Hirst	216.5	47	601	31	19.06
Mr P R May	148.4	28	448	23	19.47
Dennett	469.1	112	1409	71	19.84
Arnold	256.1	58	717	36	19.84
Cox (Sussex)	596.1	187	1288	65	19.96
Mr W Brearley	404.2	79	1248	60	20.80
Ringrose	237	42	666	32	20.87
Wass	379.5	81	1130	54	20.92
Hayes	334.1	61	1066	50	21.12
Baldwin	260.4	79	604	25	23.23
Burrows	188.2	31	671	23	23.96
Jayes	178.3	30	553	23	24.04
Bestwick	217.4	50	606	25	24.24
Mr W W Odell	350	69	979	39	25.10
Mr B J T Bosanquet	172.5	16	656	26	25.23
Tremplin	270.4	44	940	37	25.40
Myers	241.2	47	750	29	25.85
Blythe	172.3	31	583	22	26.60
J Gunn	396.4	92	1113	42	26.60
Quaife	220.2	36	630	23	27.38
Gill	188.3	39	683	25	27.44
Mr H W Persse	206.3	47	608	22	27.63
Huggins	249.3	89	603	21	28.96
Mr N A Knox	313	56	1183	40	29.57

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	17	858	248*	3	60.92
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	19	838	162	0	46.56
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	17	619	149	0	36.41
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	17	525	85	1	32.81
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	20	542	117*	3	31.88
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	21	633	94	0	30.14
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	15	354	75*	2	29.50
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	12	238	45	2	23.80
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	18	320	51	1	18.82

Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	6	47	25*	3	15.66
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	18	217	60	4	15.50
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	8	109	23	0	13.62
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	11	86	19	2	8.77
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	10	58	18	2	7.25
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	11	46	14	4	6.57

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr F Laver	388.3	113	945	61	15.49
Mr W P Howell	172.3	53	470	22	21.25
Mr R A Duff	53	18	130	6	21.66
Mr C E McLeod	324	100	747	34	21.97
Mr W W Armstrong	315.1	112	673	26	22.03
Mr A Cotter	210	32	675	23	29.34
Mr A J Hopkins	152	35	487	16	30.43
Mr M A Noble	277.3	81	697	20	34.85

19 June: GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6745.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 12)

The Cambridge eleven were seen to great advantage at the Crystal Palace yesterday against a weak side representing the Gentlemen of England. They were fortunate to win the toss on a nice easy wicket, and so freely did they score that they were only batting three hours and 50 minutes, getting their runs at the rate of just over 100 an hour.

The feature of their batting was a brilliant innings by Mr Colbeck. He went in third wicket down at 165, and in an hour and a quarter he made 120 out of 179. His play was singularly free from fault and his driving on both sides of the wicket was marked by much power and precision. In one over from Mr Ede he scored 22 runs chiefly by well-timed drives, and his innings included two sixes and 17 fours.

Mr Payne also batted extremely well, and he got his runs in as many minutes, being second out at 125. Mr Mann, on the other hand, was unusually quiet and he was in for 55 minutes before lunch for seven. He showed some improvement afterwards, but he always found some difficulty in getting the ball away and, in marked contrast to Mr Colbeck, his innings included one six and only one four. After Mr Mann left there was nothing of note in the Cambridge innings.

When the Gentlemen of England went in they gave a very poor display against the bowling of Mr Napier and Mr May, and in less than an hour they lost seven wickets. There was nothing to account for the collapse of the side, which was chiefly due to bad batting. At the close of play the Gentlemen of England were still 334 behind their opponents' score with only three wickets to fall in their first innings.

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

Mr E W Mann has given Mr R A Young (Repton and King's) and Mr P R May (private and Pembroke) their blues.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 11)

The Gentlemen of England did much better at the Crystal Palace yesterday, but they had lost so much ground on Monday that Cambridge University should have no difficulty in winning the match to-day. At the close of play, the Gentlemen of England were 75 runs ahead with two wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 12)

Cambridge University won this match at the Crystal Palace yesterday, by nine wickets.

19 June: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6746.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 12)

A perfect wicket and indifferent bowling afforded Leicestershire a great opportunity at Southampton yesterday, and at the close of play the visitors were left in a reasonably safe position. At the same time, their batting lacked attractiveness.

Whitehead, who scored 47 out of 67 for the first wicket in 50 minutes, hit with freedom and made three sixes in his innings, but after King was out at 72, Mr Wood and Knight settled down to a defensive style of play entirely unwarranted by the conditions. Mr Wood was especially tedious to watch, and his first 50 occupied just on three hours, but a rather long spell of lob bowling by Mr Hill late in the day increased his rate of scoring. Knight also took no risks, but his placing of the ball was better and his 100 was obtained in two hours and 50 minutes.

Neither batsman showed much variety, most of the scoring strokes being hits past mid-off and mid-on, and although no fewer than ten bowlers were put on, very few boundaries were made. In the four hours and a quarter the two were together 277 runs were added.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 11)

Hampshire have little chance of avoiding defeat by Leicestershire, as at the close of play yesterday at Southampton, with only two batsmen to go in, they require 154 runs to save the follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 12)

Hampshire never looked like saving the game against Leicestershire at Southampton yesterday, and in the end they were beaten by an innings and 92 runs.

19 June: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6747.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 12)

The majority of the batsmen failed badly on the fairly easy wicket at Tonbridge yesterday, when Sussex established a strong advantage in their match with Kent.

Sussex began badly, and Mr Fry, going in later than usual, had only made nine in 40 minutes when he played on, being fourth out at 70. Mr Heygate's cricket prevented the absolute collapse of the side, and then, at the finish of the innings, there was a fine piece of hitting by Mr Smith and Butt, who put on 77 for the last wicket in 40 minutes. Mr Heygate, who was eighth out at 140, took three hours to get his runs. Kent fielded well and the bowlers generally kept a good length.

Good bowling and bad batting furnished the explanation of the failure of the Kent side. The men seemed incapable of timing the ball, and to add to their misfortune Hubble, fielding as substitute at mid-on, brought off a wonderful catch which got out Seymour, and there was another great catch at extra cover by Mr Fry in the last over of the day. Kent, with one wicket in hand, finished 135 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 11)

The cricket at Tonbridge yesterday went strongly in favour of Sussex, and when stumps were drawn they held a very strong position, for they are 455 runs ahead.

Sussex were mostly indebted for this state of affairs to the batting of Mr Fry, who went in first and scored 175 out of 255 in three hours and a half before he was bowled in trying to place a straight ball from A Hearne to leg. Mr Fry as usual got the majority of his runs by the drive and his long innings was marked by wonderful precision in timing the ball.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 12)

Sussex beat Kent, at Tonbridge yesterday, by 306 runs. Mr Fry at once declared the Sussex innings closed and left Kent to play against a total of 455, with about six hours available for cricket. But Kent again gave, generally, a poor display against good bowling and fielding, and the match was over a few minutes before 3 o'clock.

Mr Hutchings and Mr Marchant, by a brilliant piece of batting, put on 47 in 20 minutes for the fourth wicket, and afterwards Mr Marsham did his best in a lost cause and hit 10 fours in a dashing 51.

19 June: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6748.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 12)

The end of the first day's play in the Middlesex and Surrey match, at Lord's, left the game in a fairly even position. Surrey gained a lead of 34 on the first innings and, in the last few minutes of the day, they lost one wicket for four runs.

The wicket was soft and, although it was not extremely difficult, all the bowlers were able to make the ball turn and run-getting at any pace was never easy. The cricket, on the whole, was not particularly interesting; but there was some excellent bowling on both sides, and the innings played by Hayes and Tarrant were, in the circumstances, remarkably good ones.

Surrey went in first, and Hayward and Hobbs started very slowly, only 24 runs being scored in 50 minutes. At 27 Hobbs was out and afterwards, for a time, things went badly for Surrey, four wickets being down for 42. Then Hayes and Davis, by much brighter cricket than had been seen before, doubled the score; but the latter and Goatly were both out before luncheon.

Lees was bowled by the first ball after lunch, and when Hayes was got rid of, it did not seem as if the score would be much over 100; but Smith, taking any amount of risks, hit out well and the last wicket put on 34 runs.

Middlesex started their innings with Mr Warner and Mr Douglas to the bowling of Lees, who on all kinds of wickets seems to be the mainstay of the Surrey attack, and Smith. The latter is a bowler who, on a hard wicket, does not present much difficulty to the batsman, but when circumstances are in his favour he can make the ball turn enormously. Keeping a better length than he usually does, he got three out of the first four wickets, which fell for 36 runs.

The Tarrant "went for" Smith's bowling and succeeded in hitting him off. He constantly went down the pitch to meet the ball and his innings was, perhaps, the best thing in the day's cricket. Eventually Lees, who had all the time been bowling steadily and well, got out Tarrant, and he and Nice soon finished off the innings.

Hayes made a very fine catch at slip which got rid of Rawlin. He had to move a considerable distance to the ball, and he caught it very near the ground with his right hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 11)

[Note: the first few lines of the report are indecipherable.]

. . . Middlesex now require 165. Mr Douglas, who is short of first-class practice, was in trouble with the bowling, but Mr Warner, after an uncertain start, batted very well.

Owing to rain, which cause a delay of over an hour and a half, only 40 minutes' cricket took place before lunch, and Surrey, who had scored four overnight for Strudwick's wicket, advanced their total to 52 for the loss of Hobbs, who had the misfortune to tread on his wicket in making a leg stroke.

Under the influence of a strong wind the wicket rapidly dried during the luncheon interval, but it afforded the bowlers some assistance, the batsmen having to work fairly hard for their runs. Surrey stayed in until 5 o'clock. Hayes, who went in second wicket down at 36 and was fifth out at 97, hit in a fearless manner and was fortunate in being twice missed. He obtained his first 40 in three-quarters of an hour, and then, strangely enough, only added a since in the next 20 minutes.

By far the best batting was shown by Davis, who made 53 out of 74 in an hour, going in after the dismissal of Hayes and being eighth out at 171. He gave a chance in the long field when he had scored 42, but he made no other mistake. Most of his runs were obtained by good drives, but he also hit well in front of square leg. Goatly helped him to add 65 for the seventh wicket in three-quarters of an hour, this being the best stand of the innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 12)

Hitting off for the loss of two batsmen the 230 runs which Surrey had set them to make, Middlesex yesterday at Lord's gained a well-deserved victory by eight wickets. The success was essentially the work of Mr Warner and Mr James Douglas, who put on 133 for the first wicket.

Overnight these batsmen by skilful and painstaking cricket had made 65 in an hour and a quarter, and yesterday they added 68 more before Mr Warner lost his wicket in an attempt to drive. Mr Warner and Mr Douglas took no risks, but they rarely failed to punish a loose ball and, although never scoring with any freedom, they made many singles by skilful placing.

Mr E A Beldam failed, being second out at 148, but no further success attended the efforts of the Surrey bowlers, Mr Douglas and Tarrant obtaining the remaining 82 runs in rather less than an hour. Not until a win for Middlesex had been rendered practically certain did Mr Douglas allow himself any freedom, but at the end he hit with much vigour and the game was all over just after 2 o'clock. The Surrey men fielded well, but their bowling never looked difficult.

16 June: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6749.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 12)

Derbyshire had the better of the first day's play in the match at Northampton yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 11)

[Note: an extremely tiny report is indecipherable.]

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 12)

After a close and interesting game, Northamptonshire won their first match in the County Championship at Northampton yesterday, beating Derbyshire by 23 runs.

19 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6750.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 12)

In this match at Oxford, yesterday, Mr Carlisle once more lost the toss, and Mr Fishwick decided that Warwickshire should bat first on a slow, easy wicket. Lilley and Kinneir faced the bowling of Mr Burn and Mr Udal.

There was a strong wind blowing diagonally across the ground and both bowlers made the ball swerve considerably, Mr Burn at times going a yard or more to leg. The scoring at first was very slow and 25 runs were the result of an hour's cricket. Lilley was out to a good one-handed catch, but Kinneir, although not in his best form, managed to stay for an hour and a half.

Mr Fishwick played much the brightest cricket, being the only one who seemed able to time the ball. He and Baker made a long stand for the sixth wicket. Baker was very slow. He was distinctly lucky to make so many runs and throughout he hardly made a clean stroke. The Oxford bowlers could get no help from the wicket at all, but all bowled steadily. After the tea interval Mr Udal took four wickets for ten runs.

Having half an hour's batting, Oxford did very badly and lost four good wickets very cheaply. Mr Carlisle and Mr Raphael were out to good balls, while Mr Foster, in trying to get Hargreave away to leg, was well caught at mid-on.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 11)

[Note: the first two lines of the report are indecipherable.]

. . . but at 2 o'clock Warwickshire again took the field.

Mr Evans and Mr Wright continued their innings, but Moorhouse in his first over clean bowled Mr Wright. In the next over Mr Evans made a very bad stroke and was caught at short leg, six wickets being down for 17 runs. Mr Norris and Mr Bird, however, stayed together for 20 minutes, but after Mr Norris was out the remaining batsmen offered but a feeble resistance to the bowling.

Hargreave and Moorhouse bowled well, but the batsmen themselves were responsible for the small total, for their display was pitiable in the extreme. The wicket yesterday was not really difficult, but it was not nearly as easy as on Monday. Moorhouse made the ball turn a great deal and at times it bumped nastily.

On going in again Oxford started badly. Four wickets were down for 23, but Mr Foster and Mr Wright together took the total to 75 before Mr Foster was out. Then Mr Norris and Mr Wright made another very useful stand. Mr Foster and Mr Wright played very sound cricket and their performance was very meritorious on a wicket which was at the time giving much help to the bowler. Afterwards Mr Udal, Mr Martin and Mr Burn by some good hitting gave the University the lead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 12)

Warwickshire beat the University, ay Oxford yesterday, by eight wickets.

19 June: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6751.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 12)

Lancashire accomplished a fine batting performance against the weak Somerset bowling at Taunton yesterday, and at the close of play they had dismissed two of their opponents and still held a lead of 346 runs.

From the start of the Lancashire innings runs came quickly, Mr Spooner and Mr Garnett putting on 60 in just over half an hour. Afterwards the bowling was quite mastered and Tyldesley, who got his last 50 very quickly, and Mr Poidevin both played fine innings.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 11)

Play at Taunton yesterday was limited to two hours and a half owing to rain, which fell during the morning and again in the afternoon. Still, such was the (?) during which cricket was possible, Lancashire so materially strengthened their position that with play possible to-day they are likely to gain an easy victory.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 12)

Lancashire gained a decisive victory over Somerset at Taunton yesterday, by an innings and 79 runs.

Mr Martyn and Mr Woods batted pluckily for the losers. They became partners when four wickets had fallen for 32, and they were not parted until the total had been advanced to 168. Unfortunately for Somerset, as soon as they were separated, another collapse set in, and the last five wickets fell for 37. Sharp was mainly responsible for this sudden change, as after lunch he took four wickets for 17 runs.

19 June: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6752.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 12)

The Yorkshire eleven gave a bad batting display at Sheffield yesterday in the first innings of their match with Nottinghamshire. The wicket was soft after the heavy rain, but Lord Hawke, on winning the toss, decided to bat first.

The result was that in an hour six wickets went down for 25 runs, and had not Wass and Hallam between them missed a very easy chance of running Myers out there would have been seven down for that total. Haigh was the only batsman who showed confidence. He stayed at the wickets an hour and was unlucky in played a ball into his wicket.

The side were all out in an hour and 40 minutes, Wass and Hallam having bowled throughout the innings. Wass kept a fine length and varied his pace judiciously. He got the wickets of Hirst and Lord Hawke with exceptionally good balls, but some of the other batsmen, notably Tunnicliffe, Grimshaw and Myers, lost their wickets to his bowling by very feeble strokes.

Nottinghamshire were only 20 minutes longer at the wickets than Yorkshire had been, but they made twice as many runs. Iremonger and G Gunn scored 59 for the first wicket, but then Haigh bowled so well that half the side were out for 79. G Gunn showed excellent defence and was the eighth batsman to leave. He should, however, have been caught by Lord Hawke at point when he had made 33.

On going in a second time Yorkshire lost Grimshaw's wicket to Hallam's first delivery, but then Mr Wilkinson and Denton made a fine stand. They cleared off the arrears and established a lead of 35 runs, and were not separated at the close of play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 11)

It was not until 5 o'clock that play was found possible in this match at Sheffield yesterday. Rain fell intermittently during the day, but it did not seriously affect the wicket, and immediately a period of settled weather set in the game was continued.

After being 61 runs behind on the first innings and losing a wicket in their second innings without a run having been scored, Yorkshire on Monday had obtained a lead of 35 runs. This lead Mr Wilkinson and Denton yesterday increased by 50 in half an hour, when Mr Wilkinson was easily caught at point. Both Mr Wilkinson and Denton hit with freedom and obtained most of their runs in front of the wicket and neither gave a chance.

After Denton left, Wass took up the bowling and had both Tunnicliffe and Rhodes caught at the wicket. Hirst and Haigh came together at a quarter past 6 and Haigh was out in the last over. Yorkshire are now 118 runs ahead and have four wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 12)

The Nottinghamshire batting broke down in the last innings of the match at Sheffield yesterday. The wicket was soft and sticky.

John Gunn, in the first hour's play, succeeded in securing the four remaining Yorkshire wickets, 25 runs being hit off his bowling. Nottinghamshire required 167 runs to win. They went in at a quarter to 1 and at 2 o'clock the match was over.

Haigh and Rhodes bowled splendid and secured several wickets by balls that were practically unpleasant. Three chances were missed off Rhodes, and had these been accepted Nottinghamshire must have been out for less than 30 runs. Haigh, in the two Nottinghamshire innings, had the brilliant record of 12 wickets at an average cost of less than five runs each.

19 June: DUBLIN UNIVERSITY PAST AND PRESENT v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105758.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 12)

As compared with the stern labours of the test match at Lord's, the Australians in opposing the Past and Present of Dublin University at Dublin yesterday had the lightest of holiday tasks. They naturally treated it as a pleasant relief from their serious cricket, and Messrs Darling, Hill, Laver and McLeod, seizing the chance of a rest, did not travel from London with the other players.

No Australian team has been seen in Ireland since 1880, and yesterday's match excited a good deal of interest, the spectators, despite very threatening weather, numbering quite 5,000 after luncheon. The day's play had a curiously even result, the Australians playing a first innings of 232 and Dublin University scoring just half that number for five wickets.

Freedom from responsibility caused the Australians almost without exception to play an unrestrained game. Messrs Trumper and Duff made a capital start, scoring 44 runs together in less than half an hour, but some disasters followed and four wickets were down for 71. However, Mr Armstrong and Mr Gregory made amends, and at lunch time the score had reached 168 for seven wickets.

The best batting on the side was shown by Mr Gehrs, who, with rather restricted opportunities, has not hitherto come up to his South Australian reputation. He was at the wickets for an hour and a quarter without making a mistake, his cutting being very hard and clean. Excellent support was afforded him by Mr Cotter and Mr Newland, who helped respectively to put on 39 and 34 runs. Mr Meldon bowled well for the University, and the fielding for the most part was good.

The Irish eleven began very badly indeed, losing three wickets for 11 runs. After this, however, Mr Browning and Mr Fausset withstood the bowling for 50 minutes and in that time carried the score to 91. Mr Browning showed the finest cricket of the day, combining watchful defence with powerful driving. During a stay of exactly an hour he hit eight fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 11)

The Irish team did fairly well against the Australians at Dublin on Monday, but it was not to be expected that they would for long be able to hold their own against a side so much stronger in every respect than themselves. Yesterday they were quite outplayed, and at the drawing of stumps they had a severe defeat in prospect.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 12)

At Dublin yesterday the University team stood in a hopeless position and in the end they were beaten by 231. To make things even worse for them than would otherwise have been the case, rain in the night had an appreciable effect on the wicket.

Mr Browning again gave a fine display, but he received very little support. Going in second wicket down, with the score at 12, he was out eighth, the total when he left having reached 90. He combined sound defence with skilful hitting all round the wicket.

22 June: ESSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6753.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 11)

There was quite a remarkable day's cricket at Leyton yesterday. On a wicket that was fast, and to all appearances favourable to run-getting, batsmen for the most part failed in an unaccountable manner. So thoroughly did the bowlers hold the upper hand that in a little over four and a half hours of actual play 23 wickets fell for an aggregate of 249 runs.

Possibly the batsmen after recent experiences of slow wickets were beaten by the fast pace of the ground; but at the same time much of the batting was poor. Essex found Mr Laver extremely hard to hit, and the Australians were equally at fault with Buckenham and Tremlin, who had the distinction of getting out the visitors for the smallest total for which they have been dismissed during the tour.

Going in first, Essex stayed in for nearly two hours and a half, but could only put together a total of 118. They should have made more runs, over a dozen being thrown away through timidity in running. Only Carpenter and Mr Douglas were seen to any advantage. The former, who went in first and was sixth out at 60, batted with a fair amount of skill for 85 minutes, and Mr Douglas, who went in after Carpenter left and was last out, played good cricket for an hour.

Mr Tosetti helped to add 34 for the fourth wicket, and Russell assisted to put on 30 for the eighth, these being the two best stands. Mr Laver, who had a fine analysis, took the first five wickets for 22 runs. He kept a splendid length and was obviously hard to score from.

The cheap dismissal of the home eleven naturally caused surprise, but no one could have been prepared for an equally bad failure on the part of the Australians, who were out in an hour and 25 minutes for 100. Mr Darling, Mr Hill and Mr noble were got rid of for 26, and a little later there was a sensational piece of cricket. The score was up to 42 without further loss, and then in four overs five wickets fell for seven runs. A complete collapse, however, was avoided by Mr Cotter and Mr Laver, who in half an hour added 51 runs. Mr Cotter hit in a resolute manner, his 38 including seven fours.

At the beginning of the innings Mr Duff played skilfully for 40 minutes, scoring 29 of the first 42. Maintaining a fast pace, Buckenham bowled extremely well, taking his first five wickets for 23 runs. Tremlin also bowled well, and the efforts of the two men were ably supported, the fielding being excellent.

Leading by 18, Essex went in a second time and in the last three-quarters of an hour they lost three wickets for 31, so they are now 49 runs on.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 June, page 9)

Another interesting day's cricket was witnessed at Leyton yesterday. The game underwent several changes, and at the close the Australians, after once appearing to have the match well in hand, were in an unfavourable position, requiring 103 runs to win and having only four wickets left. The Essex men may, of course, not succeed in winning, but, whatever the result, they are to be congratulated on more than holding their own for two days against their formidable opponents.

Essex started the way with three men out in their second innings; and, leading by 49 and favoured by fortune, they fared tolerably well for a time, 100 going up on the board with only five wickets down. A breakdown in the batting followed directly afterwards, the score being only 110 when the eighth wicket fell. At that point Essex were 128 ahead, and it looked as though the game would be finished off with the strong probability of a win for the Australians.

So far the visitors had done even better than they deserved, for, although their bowling had been good, their fielding had been lacking in its customary accuracy, four or five chances being missed.

In making 39 Mr McGahey was let off three times, the first occasion being when he was 18, and Mr Gillingham had a life when 13.

The outlook was unpromising for Essex; but Mr Douglas and Reeves by resolute cricket succeeded in pulling the game round. Mr Douglas batted steadily while the professional hit, and so well did the two men play together that 65 runs were added in 45 minutes. Afterwards Buckenham forced the game and in the end the Essex total reached 203.

The Australians, who required 222 to win, had rather less than two hours' batting and lost six wickets for 119 runs. Buckenham and Tremlin again bowled capitally and on the whole were admirably supported. For a time matters went very badly with the visitors, four wickets being down for 56, but Mr Noble and Mr Hopkins added 42 for the fifth wicket in half an hour. Mr Noble batted skilfully, but Mr Hopkins was fortunate in being missed by Mr Tosetti when he had scored 18.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 10)

Although they made a great effort at Leyton, on Saturday, the Australians failed to accomplish the task set them by Essex, the county eleven, after a capital finish, winning by 19 runs.

At the outset a tame ending to the game seemed probable, and overnight the Australians had lost six wickets in making 119 of the 222 required to win, and Mr Newland and Mr Gehrs being disposed of for the addition of seven runs their position seemed almost hopeless.

As it happened, however, 70 minutes elapsed before Essex got down the two outstanding wickets. Mr Hopkins and Mr McLeod stayed together for half an hour, adding 31, and then the former and Mr Laver made a determined effort to pull the match out of the fire. So well did they play that in 40 minutes they scored 45 of the 65 which were still required to win when the ninth wicket fell.

The game ended in quite an unexpected manner, Mr Laver being caught in the most unlikely of places - at fine deep leg by Mr Fane. The ball came awkwardly to the Essex captain, but he managed to hold it. In this singular way a most interesting match came to a close.

Essex are thus the first of the counties to defeat the Australians, whose only other reverse was sustained in the Test match at Nottingham. Although they had the better of the luck in the later stages the Essex men deserved their victory, the side playing much keener cricket than in most of their former games. Buckenham again obtained six wickets, making his record 12 for 137, and Tremlin, who bowled unchanged through both innings, also did good work, taking eight wickets for 135.

Mr Hopkins, who took out his bat for 67, made a fine effort for his side. Going in fourth wicket down at 56, he was batting for two hours and a quarter, but although making several fine strokes he was not always master of the bowling, being missed when he had made 18 and scoring three or four times through the slips in trying to drive.

22 June: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6754.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 11)

Middlesex had rather the better of a particularly keen day's cricket at Tonbridge yesterday. They secured a lead of 65 on the first innings and then got a wicket down in Kent's second innings for 29. On a good, fast wicket Mr Bosanquet was mostly responsible for the cheap dismissal of the Kent side, while afterwards all the Kent bowlers did well, and the fielding on both sides was excellent.

When Kent had won the toss it was generally expected that they would score well, but the side is quite out of batting form just now and the men yesterday showed a remarkable faculty for getting out to long hops and half volleys. Mr Hutchings got his runs brilliantly, but no one else except Mr Harrison played Mr Bosanquet with any confidence. Mr MacGregor, who had made brilliant catches at the beginning of the innings, followed up by stumping the last man cleverly.

Middlesex found the good bowling and fielding of Kent difficult to score off quickly. Mr Mason began by bowling Mr Moon with a very fine ball and afterwards it was always a great fight for runs. The

best innings was that by Mr Warner, who was third out at 87 to a fine piece of stumping. Mr Page got his runs in good form, but as a whole the batting was commonplace. Kent's work in the field was excellent to the end, and nothing could have surpassed the wonderful right-hand catch in the slips which got out Mr MacGregor.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 June, page 9)

Middlesex beat Kent at Tonbridge yesterday by four wickets. It was a splendid game to the end, for although Middlesex had only 120 to make in the last innings, the Kent men bowled and fielded so well that at one stage it seemed any one's game. It was quite Mr Bosanquet's match. He followed up his effective bowling on both days by fine, resolute batting at an extremely critical time.

For a little while yesterday morning the home batsmen found great difficulty in timing his bowling, and there were four wickets down before Kent had hit off the arrears. Seymour and Mr Hutchings afterwards batted with much brilliancy, and the cutting and driving of the latter were unequalled in the match. He is a batsman of great possibilities.

Kent as a whole gave only a poor display of batting; Mr Mason is short of practice; while Mr Bosanquet's bowling seemed [generally to] upset the balance of the side. Mr Moon's play in the early part of the Middlesex second innings was excellent.

22 June: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6755.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 11)

After an indifferent start to this match at the Oval, yesterday, Surrey were seen to great advantage, and at the close of play they were left in a strong position, Derbyshire being 323 behind on the first innings with only five wickets in hand.

The cricket before lunch was dull and uninteresting, and Surrey did so badly as to lead one to suppose that they would be out for quite a moderate total. Hayward was well caught at point with only three runs scoring, Hayes was out to another good catch in the slips at seven, while Baker was stumped with only 26 on the board. Then Hobbs and Holland added 54 for the fourth wicket, but at the luncheon interval half the side were out for 112.

Afterwards a great change came over the game and 239 were scored in two hours and a half. The cricket was always attractive to watch and, at times, runs came at a great pace; in fact, judging by the way in which the batsmen played it, it seemed hard to account for the early failures.

For their good total, Surrey were largely indebted to a fine innings by Goatly, who made his first century in first-class cricket. He went in fifth wicket down at 94 and carried out his bat after being in for nearly three hours. Goatly is a batsman who gave great promise some few years ago, but until yesterday he had done little to justify his early reputation. He made his runs by a good variety of strokes, but his best was his off-drive.

Holland was very slow by comparison, but his batting was of considerable service to his side and went a long way to turn the game in favour of Surrey. While he and Goatly were together 79 runs were added, and after he left all the remaining batsmen gave Goatly considerable assistance, the last two wickets adding 88 in three-quarters of an hour, while Nice and Goatly put on 43 in 17 minutes for the eighth.

Derbyshire had three-quarters of an hour's batting before the close, and during that time they were quite unable to do anything with the bowling of Lees. Mr Wright played on at ten, Mr Ollivierre, Morton and Storer left for the addition of only one run, while Mr Sparrow played on at 28.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 June, page 9)

Surrey again had the better of the cricket at the Oval yesterday, and at the close of play Derbyshire, with all their wickets in hand, in their second innings still required 348 runs to win.

Overnight Derbyshire had scored 28 for the loss of five wickets, and when the game was continued, owing chiefly to the batting of Dr Ashcroft, the five remaining wickets put on 113. With eight of the side out for 76 it appeared doubtful if the visiting side would make a hundred, but at this point Humphries helped Dr Ashcroft to put on 60 runs in three-quarters of an hour before the latter was caught at mid-on.

Dr Ashcroft batted pluckily and well, but he was fortunate in being missed when he had scored 31. After he left the innings quickly came to an end. Lees bowled splendidly, and his six wickets cost him just under ten runs each, and it was in a large degree due to his bowling that Derbyshire did so badly on a batsman's wicket.

Surrey, who held the substantial lead of 210 on the first innings, decided to go in a second time rather than let their opponents follow on. Hayward and Hobbs opened the innings at 20 minutes past 1 and, although they did fairly well, their batting was not so sound as it had been on Thursday.

The feature of the cricket was a good display by Baker, who went in second wicket down at 50 and carried out his bat. Baker is a batsman possessed of a strong defence, and in this respect he was seen to advantage and he was seldom in difficulties with the bowling, while he scored the majority of his runs on the onside and by cutting.

Of the remaining batsmen Goatly again did well, and he was rather unfortunate in playing on when apparently well set. When he and Baker were together 64 were added for the fourth wicket in 40 minutes.

Derbyshire, who required 414 runs to win, had an hour's batting at the end of the day, and during that time Mr Wright and Cadman played sound cricket without being separated.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 10)

Surrey beat Derbyshire at the Oval, on Saturday, by 235 runs. Overnight Derbyshire had gone in requiring 414 to win and had scored 66 without loss so that when play was continued they still wanted 348 with all their wickets in hand.

Up to a certain point they did so well as to suggest that they were in for a large score, but then came a bad collapse and the match was over at 20 minutes to two. Mr Wright and Cadman took the score to 78 before the latter was bowled, and then Storer, who was badly missed by Hobbs when he had made seven, helped Mr Wright to put on 63 for the second wicket.

Afterwards the Derbyshire batsmen could do little with the bowling of Mr Knox and Hayes and the last eight wickets only added 37 runs. Mr Wright played very good cricket, but with the exception of Cadman the batting of the rest was very feeble indeed.

22 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6756.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 11)

On a splendid wicket, at Brighton, yesterday, Sussex were fortunate in getting first innings. They, however, made a wretched start, losing Mr Heygate immediately.

Vine and Killick, by very slow and careful cricket, added 74 runs before Killick left at 77, Vine being caught at the same total. The cricket brightened up after the luncheon interval owing to some good hitting by Mr Goldie, Relf, Cox and Mr Smith. Seven wickets were down for 217, and then the end of the Sussex innings was quickly reached, the last three men being all leg-before-wicket. The home side ought to have made more runs, for on the good wicket the University bowling did not appear to be difficult.

Cambridge made even a worse start than Sussex, Mr Payne being out off Relf's first ball, but Mr Mann and Mr Young retrieved the position by bright and attractive batting, and now Cambridge are only 120 runs behind with nine wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 June, page 9)

The second day's play in this match at Brighton, yesterday, was chiefly noticeable for the slowness of the cricket. There was nothing in the bowling or the state of the wicket to account for the tedious tactics of most of the players.

Mr Young and Mr Mann only increased the Cambridge overnight total by 12 runs before the former left, Mr Eyre being bowled at the same total. Mr Mann and Mr Colbeck both batted very well for their runs, but Mr Keigwin's innings, although of great value to his side, was a very slow one.

Sussex made a very bad start in their second innings, losing four wickets for 18 runs and having five down with their score at 42. Then, however, Mr Smith and Cox, who were both missed early in their innings, made a fine stand, adding 95 runs and still being together at the drawing of stumps.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 10)

Sussex won this match at Brighton on Saturday by 65 runs. Cambridge required 153 to win in the last innings but they failed signally to make these runs.

An excellent innings by Mr Colbeck, who played a fine free game, alone saved the side from an absolute collapse. During his stay at the wickets Mr Colbeck made a number of really fine hits, including one off Vine's bowling, which he hit clean out of the ground. There was nothing in the state of the wicket to account for the failure of the Cambridge batsmen.

A word of praise is due to Burchell for his excellent display as wicket-keeper, on his first appearance for Sussex.

22 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6757.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 11)

At one stage of yesterday's play in the return match at Worcester between these counties, Lancashire were in a bad position. On an excellent wicket they had been dismissed chiefly through the fine bowling of Wilson for less than 200, and in reply their opponents scored 80 runs in just over an hour before the fall of the second wicket.

Having tried all his regular bowlers in an effort to separate Pearson and Cuffe, who had come together on the fall of the first wicket at eight, Mr MacLaren put on Mr Poidevin. He bowled slow leg-breaks with great success and changed the game in a remarkable manner. Going on at 66 with one wicket down, he bowled to the close of the day, and in an hour and a half secured all the remaining wickets, which fell at a cost of 53 runs.

Cuffe was out to a fine one-handed catch by Sharp at mid-off, Mr Foster and Wheldon were both leg-before-wicket, Arnold and Mr Burns were tempted to jump out and were stumped, while Pearson, who batted over two hours, was splendidly caught and bowled. This is by far the best bowling performance that Mr Poidevin has ever accomplished, and he also made the top score of the day. At the close of play Worcestershire were 20 runs behind with two wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 June, page 9)

Lancashire quite outplayed Worcestershire at Worcester yesterday, and at the close of play they held a lead of 436 and had four wickets to fall.

For this change in the position of the game they were again indebted to Mr Poidevin, who took eight Worcestershire wickets for just over eight runs each, and then, coming in when Lancashire had lost Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley for 45, he remained at the wickets for the rest of the day - a period of about four and a half hours.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 10)

Worcestershire did a good performance in this match at Worcester on Saturday. Going in at half-past 12 against a lead of 476, they managed to stay in for the rest of the day, and at the close they were only 100 behind, with six wickets in hand. Mr Foster played a very fine innings for his side, scoring his runs out of 256.

22 June: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6758.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 11)

The cricket at Dewsbury, yesterday, in the return match between Yorkshire and Warwickshire was uninteresting. Play was in progress for nearly five and a half hours, and in that time only 230 runs were scored, while 16 wickets fell. Although the wicket was rather soft, there was nothing in its condition to explain the slowness of the scoring.

The majority of the Yorkshire batsmen failed to distinguish themselves. The first four wickets fell in three-quarters of an hour for 27. Tunnicliffe, Rhodes and Haigh were responsible for the next three wickets producing 116 runs. Rhodes, who might have been caught at cover-point by Quaife when he had made eight, played finely, hitting cleanly all round the wicket. Tunnicliffe also had a life from Moorhouse at mid-off at 22, but Haigh's was a faultless innings. These three batsmen accounted for 112 of the 139 runs made off the bat.

Hargreave bowled well throughout the innings. Although two chances were missed, the Warwickshire fielding, as a whole, was smart.

The Warwickshire batsmen only scored at the rate of 35 runs an hour during the two hours and ten minutes which they were batting. Kinneir was at the wicket all the time, but, although he showed sound defence, there was very little enterprise in his play. Warwickshire are now 76 runs behind with four wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 June, page 9)

Some fine bowling by Haigh and Rhodes enabled Yorkshire to defeat Warwickshire at Dewsbury yesterday by 66 runs. A stubborn display of batting by Kinneir, who was at the wickets for nearly three hours and a half, enabled Warwickshire to get within 15 runs of Yorkshire's first innings score.

The home side then started their second innings so well that Mr Jackson and Mr Wilkinson scored 42 before the first wicket fell. The remaining batsmen fared badly with the exception of Haigh, and the side were all out for just over 100. Santall bowled admirably, but he was assisted by weak batting.

Warwickshire required 124 runs to win the match. They began the task at ten minutes past 5, and at half-past 6 they were all out. Rhodes and Haigh both bowled well, but they too were assisted by bad batting, several of the Warwickshire batsmen being out to very weak attempts to time the bowling. There were eight wickets down for 27 in 50 minutes.

A brilliant catch in the long-field by Denton brought the match to an end. The wicket was not a good one, but there was nothing in its condition to explain the numerous batting failures seen in the match.

Monday 26 June, page 10: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Lancashire	10	8	0	2	8	100.00

Yorkshire	12	8	2	2	6	60.00
Sussex	11	7	2	2	5	55.55
Surrey	11	6	2	3	4	50.00
Leicestershire	8	3	2	3	1	20.00
Nottinghamshire	8	4	3	1	1	14.28
Middlesex	7	4	3	0	1	14.28
Gloucestershire	6	2	3	1	-1	-20.00
Northamptonshire	5	1	2	2	-1	-33.33
Hampshire	7	1	3	3	-2	-50.00
Somerset	7	1	4	2	-3	-60.00
Kent	5	1	4	0	-3	-60.00
Derbyshire	8	1	6	1	-5	-71.42
Essex	7	1	6	0	-5	-71.42
Warwickshire	3	0	3	5	-3	-100.00
Worcestershire	6	0	3	3	-3	-100.00

The match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval - abandoned without a ball having being bowled - is not included in the above table.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	19	1481	233	3	92.68
Hirst	18	882	341	4	63.00
Mr E W Mann	13	708	157	1	59.00
Quaife	21	850	255*	6	58.66
Mr E M Sprot	13	624	141	1	52.00
Mr C McGahey	15	688	277	1	49.14
Mr H K Foster	14	606	125	1	46.61
Mr C J B Wood	16	691	160*	1	46.06
Mr B J T Bosanquet	15	534	103	3	44.50
Mr L O S Poidevin	18	704	168*	2	44.00
Denton	24	909	153*	1	43.43
Iremonger	20	850	239	0	42.50
Kinneir	17	695	158	0	40.88
Mr L G Wright	16	643	149	0	40.18
Tyldesley	21	751	134	2	39.52
Baker (Surrey)	23	743	128*	4	39.10
Knight	15	541	177	1	38.64
Hayward	25	880	129*	2	38.26
The Hon F S Jackson	15	524	111	1	37.42
Llewellyn	12	407	77	1	37.00
Mr P F Warner	19	691	204	0	36.36
James Seymour	14	459	81	1	35.30
Braund	16	457	130	3	35.15
Mr A C MacLaren	20	659	140	1	34.68
Relf	18	548	75	2	34.25
Mr J F Byrne	17	577	222	0	33.84
Bowley	13	440	151	0	33.84
Cuffe	13	393	71	1	33.00
Rhodes	23	658	201	3	32.90
Mr M W Payne	17	558	178	0	32.70
Sharp	16	454	100	2	32.42
Mr R T Godsell	12	352	96*	1	32.00
Baker (Warwickshire)	18	543	102	1	31.94
Hobbs	25	773	155	0	30.92
G Gunn	20	617	99	0	30.85
Board	14	359	119*	2	30.76
Coe	15	427	100	1	30.50
Mr A O Jones	24	731	103	0	30.45

Holland	22	604	132	2	30.20
Mr T S Fishwick	17	510	137	0	30.00
Mr R H Spooner	17	504	109	0	29.64
Mr R A Young	16	444	120	0	29.00
Vine	23	667	100	0	29.00
John Gunn	21	578	103*	1	28.90
Killick	23	632	104	1	28.72
Pearson	13	373	86	0	28.69
Cox (Sussex)	20	444	71	1	27.75
Mr S M J Woods	12	332	69	0	27.66
Bowell	13	358	101	0	27.53
Tunncliffe	23	549	102	2	27.45
Mr A H Hornby	14	300	89*	3	27.27
Hayes	24	644	106	0	26.83
Lord Dalmeny	16	425	116	0	26.56
Devey	12	292	125	1	26.54
Mr C E de Trafford	14	363	103	0	26.28
Mr V F S Crawford	17	413	119	1	25.81
Whitehead (Leicester)	16	409	83	0	25.56
Wrathall	14	305	80*	2	25.41
Mr H G Garnett	19	457	86	1	25.28

Also listed: Mr C C Page average 24.84, Dr E M Ashcroft 24.58, Reeves 24.13, Carpenter 23.83, Mr A E Lawton 23.30, Lees 23.30, Mr G L Jessop 22.83, Mr C A Ollivierre 22.78, Hardstaff 22.47, Arnold 22.37, Mr R E Hemingway 22.22, Langdon 22.16, Mr H Martyn 22.00.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Haigh	402.2	101	986	74	13.04
Mr E G Martin	167.2	44	446	28	15.92
Hallam	322.4	108	709	44	16.11
Killick	278	68	732	45	16.26
Tarrant	225.3	54	558	34	15.35
Kermode	420	110	1068	66	15.63
Thompson	277.4	67	750	45	16.66
Rhodes	592.1	181	1319	79	16.69
Relf	383.3	145	736	44	16.72
Mr G G Napier	271.1	60	742	44	16.88
J T Hearne	277	68	677	40	16.92
Sharp	138.1	25	451	28	17.34
Lees	650.1	176	1618	89	18.17
Cox (Sussex)	694.2	218	1509	81	18.62
Moorhouse	213.5	57	522	28	18.64
Wass	422	96	1209	63	19.19
Dennett	489.1	112	1409	71	19.84
Hirst	223.5	48	818	41	19.93
Hayes	367.2	67	1131	56	20.19
Warren	286.2	52	923	45	20.51
Arnold	297.1	61	969	42	20.69
Mr B J T Bosanquet	205.4	17	777	37	21.00
Bestwick	238	68	845	40	21.12
Ringrose	241	43	678	32	21.18
Mr W Brearley	487.5	93	1535	71	21.61
Jayes	218.3	39	872	41	21.67
Fairservice	192.5	62	600	26	23.07
Tremlin	314.4	55	1075	45	23.88
J Gunn	428.1	96	1191	49	24.30
Mr P R May	203.4	36	659	27	24.40
Mr W W Odell	374	97	1033	42	24.59
Myers	252.2	52	768	31	24.77
Burrows	221.2	34	802	31	25.87
Hargreave	540	156	1244	48	25.91
Baldwin	313.4	89	742	28	26.50

Mr N A Knox	345.4	58	1296	47	27.57
Buckenham	279.1	44	987	35	28.20
Gill	198.3	39	739	25	28.42
Blythe	270.2	59	803	28	28.67
Mr H C McDonell	216.3	42	636	22	28.90

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	19	894	248*	3	55.87
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	23	909	162	0	41.31
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	19	612	85	1	34.00
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	19	639	140	0	33.63
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	22	558	117*	3	29.36
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	19	427	75*	4	28.46
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	25	591	94	0	27.64
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	16	331	45	2	23.64
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	22	389	51	1	18.62
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	12	197	52	0	18.41
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	20	252	60	4	15.75
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	10	76	25*	5	15.20
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	13	101	44	4	11.22
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	13	119	19	2	10.81
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	12	60	18	3	6.66

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr R A Duff	65.5	22	161	11	14.63
Mr F Laver	450.3	132	1075	71	15.14
Mr W W Armstrong	331.2	116	607	31	19.58
Mr W P Howell	199.3	66	515	25	19.80
Mr C E McLeod	334	104	767	36	21.30
Mr A Cotter	237.1	39	744	27	27.55
Mr A J Hopkins	158	37	500	17	29.41
Mr M A Noble	331.3	96	837	27	31.00

26 June: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6759)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

There was an even day's play in this match at Glossop yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 11)

At the close of play in this match, at Glossop, yesterday, Essex, with all their wickets in hand, only required 86 runs to win. Bestwick bowled finely for Derbyshire.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 12)

When this match was continued at Glossop yesterday Essex, with all their wickets in hand, only required 86 to win, and these runs were got for the loss of three batsmen.

26 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6760.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

A fine batting performance by Gloucestershire gave the side a great advantage in this match at Bristol yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 11)

For the first time this season Mr Jessop was seen in his true form at Bristol yesterday, and his innings deserves to rank among his greatest performances.

He was missed when he had scored 31 and again at 146, but he only made three other strokes which could in any way be regarded as dangerous. He was 80 minutes over his first hundred, his second taking him 50 minutes, and altogether he was batting for two hours and 35 minutes. He hit as hard and clean as ever, but made most of his drives when standing firm footed.

Somerset were 352 behind when they started their second innings, and they finished the day in practically a hopeless position.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 12)

Just over half an hour's play was sufficient to bring this match to a close at Bristol yesterday, Gloucestershire winning by an innings and 65 runs.

26 June: KENT v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6761.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

The Hampshire batsmen were seen to considerable advantage, at Blackheath yesterday. Going in first they occupied the wickets for rather more than four hours.

After a poor start by Kent there was some admirable batting by Mr Marsham and Mr Day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 11)

Kent outplayed Hampshire on the Blackheath Rectory-field, yesterday, and at the drawing of stumps they wanted only 29 more runs to win with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 12)

Kent beat Hampshire at Blackheath yesterday by eight wickets. The feature of the last innings of the match was the batting of Seymour, who got his runs in rather less than an hour.

26 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6762.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

The first day's play in this match at Lord's, yesterday, went greatly in favour of the M.C.C. and Ground, and at the close of play they were 118 runs ahead with two wickets still to fall.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 11)

The M.C.C. and Ground won this match at Lord's, yesterday, by four wickets.

26 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6763.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

There were two fine performances in this match, which was begun at Trent Bridge yesterday, by Mr Spooner and Tyldesley. The former batted brilliantly, and his driving both to the on and the off and his beautiful placing of the ball on the on-side were models of elegance.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 11)

Lancashire, at Trent Bridge, made a huge score yesterday against Nottinghamshire. Tyldesley played a wonderful innings and there were no fewer than five three-figure partnerships. Every member of the home side went on to bowl.

At the close Nottinghamshire, with all their wickets in hand in their second innings, required 432 to save the innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 12)

Nottinghamshire, by a fine effort at Trent Bridge yesterday, succeeded in drawing their game with Lancashire. For this result they were chiefly indebted to Mr Jones, Iremonger and Hardstaff, who for the greater part of the day successfully defied the Lancashire attack.

Mr Jones was missed when he had made 30, and again at 58, both catches being off Mr Poidevin's bowling, and a much sounder innings was that played by Iremonger. He was at the wickets for three hours and 50 minutes, during which time 268 runs were scored. He did not make a bad stroke until he had scored 70, and the only chance he offered was an exceedingly difficult one to Mr Garnett, at 87. His cricket was marked by much greater freedom than he has hitherto shown this season.

Hardstaff also played a fine innings and showed great nerve at a most critical time. There was 70 minutes left for play when Iremonger was dismissed, but Heap got out Mr Hemingway and the Rev H Staunton in one over, and for the last hour it was a fight against time. The eighth wicket fell with 23 minutes to play, but eight minutes from time rain came on and brought the game to an end.

12 June: SURREY v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6764.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

Although Surrey were not at full strength in this match, which was begun at the Oval yesterday, they managed to hold their own and at the close they had, if anything, the better position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 11)

Surrey had much the better of the cricket at the Oval yesterday, and at the close of play they were 396 runs ahead with three wickets still in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 12)

Surrey beat Oxford University at the Oval yesterday by 230 runs. Overnight the home side held a lead of 396 runs with three wickets still to fall.

When play was continued the innings was soon finished off and Oxford went in again, requiring 413 to win. Although Lees met with no success with the ball, Mr Knox and Nice bowled so well that Oxford had nearly always to fight hard for their runs. Mr Evans played free cricket, but Mr Raphael was batting nearly an hour and a half for his 28.

The best innings was played by Mr Wright. Towards the close Mr Henley made some good strokes, but, as in the first innings, the Oxford batting as a whole was rather disappointing.

26 June: WARWICKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6765.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

The Australians had the better of the first day's play in this match at Birmingham yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket at Birmingham was abruptly cut short by a heavy fall of rain, and at 5 o'clock it was decided to postpone further play till to-day.

In the time available before the storm the Australians completed their innings for 380. They could have done even better than this, but with every sign of rain after lunch they scored fast at all risks and lost their last five wickets in three-quarters of an hour for 76 runs. The honour of the innings rested with Mr Noble and Mr Darling, who put on 146 runs for the fifth wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 12)

At no time in the course of yesterday's cricket at Birmingham did Warwickshire appear likely to escape defeat, and the match was all over at 20 minutes to 3, the Australians winning by an innings and 51 runs. An innings had been completed on each side when at 4 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon rain put a stop to the day's play, Warwickshire being then 219 runs behind.

Whether wicket always helped the bowlers to some extent, and Warwickshire did well to stay in for three hours and three-quarters, but none of the batsmen on the side seemed able to get the ball away. Early in the innings Mr Fishwick batted well, scoring 32 out of 50 in 70 minutes, but after he left some extremely slow play was seen.

Mr Noble, Mr Armstrong and Mr Laver all bowled admirably, Mr Noble taking four wickets for eight runs each, but the pitch was not suited to Mr Cotter.

26 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6766.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

In this match at Stourbridge, yesterday, Worcestershire [missing text] a fine batting performance.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 11)

Worcestershire gained their first victory of the season in the County Championship yesterday at Stourbridge, beating Leicestershire by an innings and 207 runs. For this remarkable success the side were indebted to their good fortune in having choice of innings on Monday on a perfect wicket.

A heavy downpour of rain which lasted 20 minutes, followed by a hot sun, enormously increased their advantage yesterday. The storm was all over by 1 o'clock, and it was found possible to resume the game an hour and a half later. The pitch was always difficult afterwards, affording the Worcestershire bowlers great assistance.

26 June: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6767.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

At the close of play at Leeds, yesterday, Sussex were 284 runs behind with all their wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 11)

An even day's cricket was seen in this match at Leeds yesterday. The visitors were mainly indebted for their score to Mr C B Fry. He went in when the first wicket had fallen for 30 runs, and he was fifth out three hours and a half later with the score standing at 222.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 12)

A brilliant partnership by Denton and Hirst at Leeds yesterday enabled Yorkshire to declare their innings closed and to send Sussex in with nothing to play for but a draw.

Early in the day a very different ending to the story seemed probable. Yorkshire had lost two wickets on Tuesday evening for four runs, and yesterday Mr Goldie bowled so well that with six wickets down Yorkshire were only 49 runs ahead.

From this point the aspect of the game was completely changed by the batting of Denton and Hirst. They kept together for an hour and three-quarters and added 138 to the score. Denton gave a hard chance to Relf when he had made 31, but with this exception his cricket was almost perfect. Hirst's batting was up to his best standard, and he gave no chance.

Sussex had an hour and three-quarters in which to bat. There was no possibility of finishing the match, and at 6 o'clock stumps were drawn.

Thursday 29 June, page 12: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

Late last night it was officially announced that the England eleven in the Test match at Leeds next Monday will be selected from: -

Hon F S Jackson (captain), A C MacLaren, C B Fry, B J T Bosanquet, Hayward, Tyldesley, Rhodes, Hirst, Lilley, Arnold, Denton, Warren and Haigh.

AN ENGLISH TEAM FOR SOUTH AFRICA

It is officially announced that the M.C.C. will endeavour to send a team to South Africa this autumn. Negotiations are proceeding with that object in view, but the matter is not yet definitely settled.

29 June: GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6768.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 June, page 12)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in this match at the Crystal Palace yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 13)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in five of the matches yesterday. The game between Gentlemen of England and Oxford University has not been started . . .

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

The match between Dr Grace's Gentlemen of England Eleven and Oxford University was drawn at the Crystal Palace on Saturday.

29 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6769.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 June, page 12)

The Australians were seen to great advantage at Bristol, yesterday. They were batting all day and at the close they still had a wicket in hand.

The pitch was all in favour of the batsmen and, with Dennett considerably below his usual form, runs were never difficult to make. Mr Trumper and Mr Duff started brilliantly, getting the first 50 runs in 25 minutes. They did not quite maintain this rate of scoring, but they put on 132 in 70 minutes before Mr Duff was out.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 13)

An unpleasant change was experienced in the weather at Bristol yesterday. Heavy rain fell during the morning and again at intervals during the afternoon. In addition the light was always bad, with the result that play was limited to an hour and 25 minutes. During this time the game continued to go in favour of the Australians, who materially improved the strong position which they had gained on the first day.

The one outstanding wicket added 25 runs to the overnight score before the Australians' first innings was completed, Mr Kelly and Mr Laver having in all put on 112. Mr Townsend and Mr Brown secured the best figures of the seven bowlers tried by Gloucestershire. Dennett, except for one spell of six overs, in which he took three wickets at a cost of four runs, failed to keep his length and was more severely punished than in any other match in which he has played for the county.

Gloucestershire began their innings in disastrous fashion, and three wickets would have been down before a run was scored if Mr Armstrong had held a chance offered by Mr Sewell immediately after Wrathall and Mr Townsend had been dismissed. Mr Sewell made good use of his luck by making 45 out of 65 in 50 minutes. His batting was full of confidence and power, and his cutting was brilliant.

When Mr Jessop went in the light was so bad that play was suspended, and with rain coming on again stumps were drawn at 20 minutes to 5.

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

Although rain again curtailed play at Bristol on Saturday, there was a prospect at one time of the Australians gaining a decisive victory.

On the soft wicket Mr Armstrong bowled with such deadly effect that Gloucestershire, who had scored 69 for three wickets during the limited time that the game was in progress on Friday, were all out for 116. Of this number only 13 were hit during the day from Mr Armstrong, while he dismissed six men.

He started by getting rid of Mr Jessop, Mr Godsell, Mr Brown, Mr Robinson and Mr Brownlee in the course of four overs at a cost of four runs. Indeed, eight men were out for 77, when Huggins joined Board and hit pluckily.

The home side followed on 411 behind, and with two hours and a quarter left for play the Australians had a chance of winning. Board and Mr Godsell, however, played sound cricket, and by keeping together an hour and 35 minutes while 87 runs were scored they saved their side from all prospect of defeat.

29 June: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6770.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 June, page 12)

Although Lancashire made an indifferent start when they took first innings in this match at Old Trafford, yesterday, they eventually made a large total.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 13)

Play in this match at Old Trafford yesterday was continued in rather cheerless conditions, as there was rain in the morning and a poor light for most of the day. Sussex fared indifferently. Butt left at 10, and Mr Smith was lucky to score so many as 20 out of 47.

Both Vine and Mr Fry were beaten by similar balls, the latter having batted carefully for an hour. Killick was caught in the slips at the same total, but Relf and Mr Goldie put on 56 in 25 minutes for the sixth wicket before Mr Goldie was out. Mr Goldie hit seven successive fours as soon as he arrived, and his 47 consisted of 10 fours, three twos and a single. Sussex were out in two hours and a half.

They followed on 227 behind, but had only scored 23 in 15 minutes when rain caused an abandonment for the day.

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

The weather again interfered with this match, at Old Trafford, on Saturday, no play being possible until well after 3 o'clock.

When Sussex continued their second innings there was some good batting by Mr Fry, Vine and Killick. Just after 6 o'clock the match was abandoned as a draw, Sussex, with two men out, being 59 runs behind.

29 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6771.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 June, page 12)

In this match at Leicester, yesterday, a fine display of batting was given by Knight.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 13)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in five of the matches yesterday . . .

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

Owing to the weather and the state of the grounds no play was possible in the matches between . . .
Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, on Saturday . . .

29 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6772.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 June, page 12)

Although the weather greatly interfered with the opening day's play in this match at the Oval, yesterday, a good deal of progress was made in the time available for cricket.

Astart was made at the usual hour, but after one over had been bowled rain came on and no further play was possible until 3 o'clock, while shortly before 6 o'clock, owing to the bad light, the players left the field and, rain coming on again immediately, stumps were drawn for the day.

[Note: is this a weather report or a cricket report?]

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 13)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in five of the matches yesterday . . .

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

The match between these sides, at the Oval, ended on Saturday in a draw. So much time had been lost through the weather that, although considerable progress was made, there never appeared much chance of a definite result being arrived at.

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

Mr A F Morcom was given his Blue on Saturday.

29 June: WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6773.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 June, page 12)

Warwickshire were batting for most of the day in this match, at Leamington, yesterday. For their score they were chiefly indebted to Quaife and Lilley.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 13)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in five of the matches yesterday . . .

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

This match, at Leamington, was left drawn on Saturday.

29 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6774.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 June, page 12)

The Worcestershire eleven gave a fine display of batting, at Worcester, yesterday. So brilliant was the batting that throughout the day an average of more than 100 runs an hour was maintained.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 13)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in five of the matches yesterday . . .

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

Owing to the weather and the state of the grounds no play was possible in the matches between Worcestershire and Somerset . . . on Saturday . . .

29 June: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6775.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 June, page 12)

A weak exhibition of batting was given by Yorkshire, at Hull, yesterday, in their match with Kent. The team were all out before luncheon for 77 runs.

Later in the day, when they had to go in a second time 47 runs behind, they lost three more wickets, and at the close of play they were 21 runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 13)

Kent, at Hull, yesterday, gained a well-deserved victory over Yorkshire by six wickets.

Yorkshire, as on the first day, gave a very disappointing batting display. Three men were out to bad strokes in the slips early in the day, and as the team had lost three wickets the evening before they had six down and were only 14 runs ahead.

The seventh wicket should have fallen at 71, Rhodes offering a chance to Fielder at point, which was not accepted. This mistake cost Kent 71 runs. Rhodes was the top scorer, but his cricket was not so good as Rothery's. The latter showed sound defence and was in for an hour and 50 minutes. Blythe was again the most successful bowler, and in the two innings he claimed 11 wickets for 89 runs.

Kent went in at 3 o'clock, requiring 116 runs to win. Some doubt as to the result was created when Haigh got out Hearne, Seymour and Humphreys in his first three overs for 11 runs. The fourth wicket fell at 31. From that point Mr A R Day and Mr Blaker batted brilliantly. They scored the remaining 85 runs in an hour, and Mr Blaker made the winning hit at 20 minutes to 5.

This is the third defeat Yorkshire have sustained in the county championship this season.

Saturday 1 July, page 13: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

It is officially announced that Blythe, the Kent bowler, has been requested to be in attendance at Leeds for the Test match there on Monday next, as Rhodes has a bad finger on his left hand. It is doubtful if Mr A C MacLaren, who is suffering from rheumatism, will be able to play for England.

Monday 3 July, page 11

A correspondent writes: -

"The modern cricketing world has lost sight of that once famous cricketer Mr C T Studd, who is now settled on the Nilgiri Hills, in Southern India. But Mr Studd has evidently not lost his old ability as a wielder of the willow or a trundler of the ball, for in an account of the match Madras verses The World, played at Ootacamund in the last days of May, the Madras Mail writes: -

"It is unnecessary to eulogize Studd's brilliant innings of 220. Had he made another ten runs he would have created a record for the ground. His average for the year must be something quite abnormal, his three big innings being 220, 200 (not out) and 151 (not out).'

"In the above match, Madras v The World, Mr Studd, playing for Madras, took three wickets in the first and four in the second innings of The World. He was one of the Old Etonians who dines with Lord Ampthill on June 4."

3 July: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6776.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 12)

Leicestershire gained a great advantage in this match, at Chesterfield, yesterday, and at the close of play their opponents, with one wicket down in their second innings, were still 199 behind.

In getting Derbyshire out for 36, Mr Odell and Jayes accomplished a splendid bowling performance on a soft wicket, while Leicestershire's score was chiefly due to a fine innings by Mr Wood.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 11)

Leicestershire beat Derbyshire at Chesterfield yesterday by an innings and 135 runs. Their victory was in a great degree due to the wonderful bowling of Mr Odell. In the match he took 11 wickets for 44 runs, and on each occasion he hit the stumps.

3 July: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(From our special correspondent)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6777.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 12)

Londoners who travelled to Leeds by an early train had some reason to wonder at the fickleness of the English climate. Instead of damp, close weather, it was quite cool and dry; but the turf at Headingley did not give the impression of firmness or of lasting well.

The Australians played exactly the same side for the Test match as at Lord's, leaving out Mr Cotter, Mr Howell, Mr Gehrs and Mr Newland. For England there was a black list of misfortunes. Mr MacLaren was suffering from rheumatism, Arnold had hurt his knee and Rhodes had a damaged finger.

The loss of Mr MacLaren was irreparable; his experience and the grand form he had shown in the first two matches had inspired his countrymen with the greatest confidence in him, and it was felt that the loss of his services might mean the loss of the match.

Rhodes is primarily a bowler, but there is some reason for believing that he is not the bowler that he was a few seasons ago. At Lord's, on more or less a bowler's wicket, he could not keep a length and, although Rhodes is an excellent bat and field, Blythe is very likely a better bowler.

The weak point of the English side would seem to be the batting. There was a rather long tail, and thus a heavy responsibility was thrown on the first five or six batsmen.

Mr Jackson won the toss for the third consecutive time, and England went in to bat. Mr Fry and Hayward began, to the bowling of Mr Armstrong at the pavilion end and Mr Noble. It was soon obvious that the batsmen would have to fight more or less hard for runs. The turf was not firm and the bowlers could make the ball turn, and Mr Noble particularly could also make it get up.

There was not much incident in the opening stages. The play was steady, but at the same time both batsmen played well, especially Mr Fry, and the fieldsmen were very good and extremely well placed. The runs came steadily and Mr Fry seemed well set for a long score, but at 51 he seemed to lose his balance at a ball from Mr McLeod's, which he tried to drive and was caught at point. Mr Fry had played very well for 32, a very moderate score for him, and his dismissal was a serious loss for England.

The Englishmen had now struck a bad patch, for Tyldesley hit a ball on to his wicket and retired for nought, which was also the fate of Denton, who in trying to drive a rather slower ball of Mr McLeod's altogether mistimed it and was caught at mid-off. Three wickets were now down for 57, and at 64 Hayward played on to Mr McLeod.

The position for England was by now no means good; but Mr Jackson seems destined to get his side out of a tight place in Test matches, and splendidly did he again rise to the occasion. He was grandly helped by Hirst, who began to play a free game immediately he went in. All Hirst's batting characteristics were very much in evidence. He pulled the short-pitched balls as well as the overpitched ones, and he made some lovely cuts and off drives, and he was often in front of his wicket.

The score was 88 at lunch time, made in two hours, which, although not rapid scoring, was as fast as circumstances permitted, as the wicket was neither fast nor easy and the bowling and fielding were good. After lunch both batsmen played freely, but at 133 Hirst made a mighty pull off Mr Laver and Mr Trumper brought off a fine well-judged catch.

The rest of the day's cricket may be summed up in one word - "Jackson." He was batting for the whole day after the first hour and a half, and not until he had scored 117 did he give a chance, when Mr Kelly missed stumping him off Mr Laver, and he hardly made a bad stroke. He was batting for five hours and a quarter, and scored freely when he was once set, although Mr Armstrong kept him quieter than the others.

When he went in England had distinctly the worst of the game, and he was the cause of the averting of a bad collapse. He cut magnificently, and at no time did he seem to be in difficulties. The wicket was never easy, and considerable power was necessary to hit the ball to the boundary, for the ground is large and rather slow. Altogether it was perhaps the greatest of Mr Jackson's many great feats.

Hirst gave him good assistance at a very critical time, and he received useful help from Lilley, Haigh, Mr Bosanquet and Warren. It was essentially a one man's innings that of England, and the enthusiasm of the huge Yorkshire crowd was unbounded.

The Australians never got slack in their fielding, and of all the bowlers perhaps Mr McLeod was the best. He bowled better than he has ever bowled in this country, and a new feature of his bowling was that he made the ball occasionally come back. As a rule bowling round the wicket, he makes the ball go away, and while this faculty makes him a good bowler, he is far more efficient when he keeps the batsman expecting the ball to come back.

Mr Noble at the start bowled very well, but he seems to be somewhat unlucky in the way of getting wickets. He richly deserved more than one wicket, for he repeatedly sent in balls that took the utmost skill of the batsmen to stop, and early in the day he got up in the most awkward fashion.

Mr Laver also bowled well; but, as compared with Mr High Trumble, he is far easier to hit. His great height and high action and considerable powers of break, on English wickets at any rate, must, however, make him a dangerous bowler. Mr Armstrong did not bowl so much to leg as he did at Lord's and Nottingham, but nobody as yet in England has solved the problem of how to hit him. Mr Duff got a useful wicket, but shows rare talent for bowling bad balls, although he comes fast off the pitch.

The Australian fielding was splendid, Mr Trumper and Mr Hopkins doing fine work in the country, while Mr Gregory as usual could not be surpassed. To speak critically, the only blot on the fielding of this Australian eleven, as it has been of every Australian team that has visited this country, is that they have not produced a short slip that has made a name for himself; for Mr Armstrong, hard-working though he is, is not a real short slip as Mr Jones or Braund is, or as Lohmann was, and the only bad miss was made by him.

In this country short slip is considered to be, next to the wicket-keeper, the most important man in the field, and it is curious that the Australians do not shine in this one particular. Mr Kelly is not, perhaps, a wicket-keeper of great genius, but he is very good and stands hard work as well as, or even better than, any wicket-keeper that has been seen.

England is now in a strong position. The weather at the end of the day seemed to be set fair; 301 is a large score on a wicket that seems inclined to crumble; and it is possible that it may prove really difficult for the fourth innings of the match, and Mr Jackson's luck in winning the toss may turn out to be more useful than is often the case.

There was a huge crowd, the official figures being 20,913 paying at the gate, and it is to be hoped that the match will be finished.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 11)

It was a perfect day for cricket at Leeds yesterday. There was a pleasure breeze and the sun was out the whole day. Mr Trumper and Mr Duff began the Australian innings to the bowling of Hirst from the pavilion end and Warren.

The latter's first appearance in a Test match was a conspicuous success, for, in addition to his bowling, he is an excellent hard-working field. Warren takes a fairly long run and bowls very fast, coming quick off the pitch; but the great merit of his bowling is that so many of his balls get up, and three of his wickets were got by catches in the slips, and two of them off rising balls. He bowled well all the time he was on, and was the chief cause of the Australians' comparative collapse, as an innings of under 200 runs is reckoned to be in these days.

Both Mr Duff and Mr Trumper began playing a free game; but Mr Trumper cut a ball into his wicket before he had got set, and Mr Hill was caught and bowled by Hirst off a shocking strokes very like the one that he got out to at Nottingham, while Mr Noble was caught in the slips off a rising ball, and three wickets were down for 36.

The Australians had made a bad beginning; but Mr Armstrong and Mr Duff made a stand, and both played fine cricket. Mr Duff has a great variety of strokes and is very skilful at getting balls through the slips, and Mr Armstrong played a fine driving game and forced short balls through the field. All this time the Englishmen were bowling very well, Blythe and Warren especially so, and at 96 Mr Duff was caught at the wicket off Blythe.

Mr Darling was finely caught at slip off Warren, and Mr Hopkins then stayed with Mr Armstrong and runs came with considerable freedom. Mr Hopkins made some beautiful hits, and both batsmen played as if the match was in an even position and they were bent on enjoying themselves. Mr Hopkins was, however, caught at the wicket - a fine catch - and Mr Gregory then very foolishly ran himself out.

Mr Gregory has played in more Test matches than anybody in the world, and he selected quite the worst moment to attempt an almost impossible run. It was important that somebody should stay with Mr Armstrong, who was well set; it wanted but very few minutes to luncheon, and Denton is the last field in England to run risks with. It was, all the same, a beautiful bit of cricket, as Denton made a fine return and Haigh put the wicket down very smartly.

After luncheon the innings was quickly brought to an end, Mr Armstrong being caught at slip and Mr McLeod and Mr Laver being clean bowled. Mr Armstrong had played a very fine innings, driving with great power and keeping the bumping ball well down. He was the principal cause of an absolute collapse being averted, and there was general regret that he did not carry out his bat.

Warren took five wickets for 57 runs, and all the bowlers did good work, while Lilley's wicket-keeping and the fielding all round could not have been surpassed. The fielding was faultless; nothing was missed, and Denton saved innumerable hits from going to the boundary, while Hirst was brilliant at mid-off.

It cannot be said that the Australian batting was up to the mark. The score was almost entirely due to three players, and although there were flashes of brilliancy the batting never looked safe. It was attractive to look at; but it was impossible to feel surprised when a wicket fell, and although everybody feels grateful for brilliancy it is possible to combine brilliancy with soundness.

England had at the close of Australia's innings so much the best of the match that the obvious tactics of the Australians were to play for a draw, and their skill in such circumstances in keeping down runs is truly remarkable. Mr Armstrong and Mr McLeod began to Hayward and Mr Fry, and only 40 runs were scored in the first hour.

It is impossible to say much of the play. Neither batsman looked like getting out, but scoring was well nigh impossible with the field so skilfully placed as it was; and, with Mr Armstrong bowling nearly every ball a good length outside the legs, it was from the nature of the case a terribly monotonous afternoon's cricket.

Nobody in these modern days can say that the Australians played anything but the correct game. They must know themselves that their bowling is not strong. They were in the worst position, and in these days of statistics and calculations public opinion is entirely on the side of any tactics to avert a defeat. The drawn game is so common that it is being canonized. The one thing to avoid is a defeat.

Mr Fry and Hayward were batting for an hour and 40 minutes for 80 runs, and then Mr Fry was given out caught at the wicket. Hayward went on batting until he got 60, and towards the close of his innings he was making by no means unsuccessful attempts to jump out to Mr Armstrong and drive him. After Hayward's departure Tyldesley laid about him with most refreshing vigour, and he and Denton put on 43 runs in 25 minutes.

It is always a difficult matter for a fielding side to preserve their smartness when maiden after maiden over is bowled. Human nature is weak, and it is very difficult for fieldsmen to keep sufficiently awake. But no fault can be found with the Australians in this respect, for their fielding was every bit as good as on the first day, and the throwing of Mr Hill, Mr Duff, Mr Trumper and Mr Hopkins was magnificent.

It is impossible to say that keeping wicket to Mr Armstrong is wholly monotonous, for there is a considerable element of danger involved, but to this Mr Kelly seemed quite indifferent, and he stuck to his work magnificently, and for three hours Mr Armstrong was bowling and nearly entirely on the leg side.

England are now 275 runs ahead with eight wickets in hand, and can hardly lose the match; and it would seem that their proper tactics on the third day would be to play a free game, although by no means a reckless one. If, however, Mr Armstrong and Mr McLeod bowl this would hardly serve their purpose, and they may not be in a position to declare the innings closed before luncheon on the third day, even if they stay in.

The wicket did not seem to be any more difficult at the end of yesterday than it was at any time of the match; but, as far as can be judged from yesterday's play, the Australians will have a very hard task to avert defeat if Warren can keep his length and pace as he did yesterday. He was the great success of the day, and it would seem that the Australians made a great mistake in not playing Mr Cotter, for, even if occasionally only he bowls a good length ball, that ball, judging from Warren's success, would be very likely to get a wicket.

So far the match undoubtedly proves the lack of efficiency that ensues from the want of at least one fast bowler in a team. The dearth of fast bowlers in Australia may be owing to the excellence of their wickets and the undue strain thrown upon them; but Test matches in England have apparently come to stay, and it would be desirable in their own interests that the Australians should devote some trouble to encourage fast bowlers, for their absence is a great weakness of the present team.

There was every prospect of settled fine weather yesterday evening, and there was a crowd of 22,590 who paid at the gates; and as the match, from some points of view, is in an interesting position and there is a good chance of a definite result being arrived at, there, no doubt, will be a good attendance again on the third day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 10)

The weather for the third day of the Test match at Leeds yesterday was by no means the same as on the first two days. The wind had got up and it was far cooler, and in the morning there seemed a possibility of rain.

The general belief that England would play a free game was fulfilled; for, although the scoring was nothing abnormal, 126 runs were made in an hour and three-quarters, when Mr Jackson declared the innings closed at a quarter to 1.

Denton was soon out, being well caught at deep square-leg off a good hard hit. Mr Jackson then went in evidently bent on forcing the game, but he skied one of Mr Armstrong's and was caught; but Hirst and Tyldesley then made a good stand and scored fast.

Tyldesley played a very fine game. He hit well all round the wicket and he hustled the field considerably, while he was very quick on his feet, jumping out to Mr Armstrong and sometimes running towards short-leg and playing him for singles where there was no fielder on the off-side. Both men were missed off consecutive balls of Mr Noble's by Mr Armstrong at short slip, the only blots on the Australian fielding.

Tyldesley had just got his hundred when he was splendidly stumped by Mr Kelly, having played fine cricket and just the right game for his side. He gave two chances, but all through he was bent on

scoring and ran the proper amount of risk. Hirst and Mr Bosanquet then stayed in until the innings was declared closed, giving the Australians 20 minutes' batting before lunch with 402 runs to win.

The Australian bowling, so far as it was successful, was entirely the work of Mr Armstrong, who bowled more than 50 overs and was never taken off. He was far more freely hit than he was at Lord's or Nottingham, but he had a tremendous amount of work to do, and on the whole he did admirably what was required of him, which was to keep down runs at all hazards and to get wickets if he could.

All the wickets that fell were due to him, but little can be said of the rest of the bowling, although Mr Noble bowled with his usual bad luck, as two chances were missed off him. Mr Kelly's wicket-keeping was grand during the whole match.

Mr Trumper and Mr Duff began to Warren and Hirst, and a great blow at once befell the Australians, for Mr Trumper cut a bull straight to Hirst and was out for nought. It is much to be feared that Mr Trumper is not quite the bat he was, and this is a deep cause of regret to all good sportsmen. Mr Hill was badly missed before he had scored by Hayward in the slips, and thus Warren missed the honour of getting two of the best Australian batsmen out for nothing.

After luncheon both batsmen played an altogether different game to what they did in the first innings, for they made few attempts to hit Warren's off-balls and played all the bowling with greater caution. A good ball from Hirst that came with his arm clean bowled Mr Duff for 17; and Mr Noble then came in and played with slow, dogged determination. While he was in with Mr Hill it was felt that England would have to play hard to win; but Mr Hill failed to get over a ball from Haigh and was well caught at point by Warren, and Mr Armstrong was within an ace of being dismissed first ball by a beautiful delivery from Haigh.

Mr Armstrong played in much the same style as in his first innings and scored much faster than his partner, but both played good cricket. Blythe was now bowling at the pavilion end and continued for a long spell, and showed quite the best bit of bowling of the whole match. He got Mr Armstrong "l-b-w" and kept an excellent length and made the ball turn. Mr Darling was clean bowled for two and Mr Hopkins, after making a few good hits, was bowled when attempting a pull.

The match was now in a most critical position for the Australians, for, although Mr Noble was playing with great coolness and skill, Blythe was bowling very well and the last Australian batsmen had done little this year. But Mr Gregory is an experienced Test player, and he and Mr Noble stayed together, although the score rose slowly. Mr Noble was missed by Blythe off his own bowling when he had scored 55, but a few runs later he was stumped off Mr Bosanquet.

Mr Gregory and Mr McLeod then stayed in until the end and the match fizzled out; and a few minutes before the end play was stopped on account of the light, the Australians wanting 178 to win the three wickets in hand.

England, no doubt, at the present time can put a stronger side into the field than the Australians. Their batting, with Mr Trumper rather below his form, is sounder, and their bowling is both better and of far more variety, while in fielding there is not much to choose. It was rather unfortunate that, fielding so finely as they did, the only two chances should have given the Australians the chance of saving the game.

Mr Gregory's batting at a most critical time was worthy of all praise, and Mr Noble, by no means for the first time in these matches, showed what a grand cricketer he is; but the moral of the whole match from the Australian point of view is that their side to be a winning one needs a fast bowler of good class and some sort of left-hand bowler. The two young English recruits, Blythe and Warren, fully justified their selection, for it is doubtful if they did not show the best bowling of the match.

As a match it was noteworthy for the splendid batting of Mr Jackson and Tyldesley, the stupendous efforts of Mr Armstrong in batting and bowling, and the splendid fielding of both sides. The wicket was by no means so easy as most wickets in these days, and if with three fine days no result was arrived at it is difficult to see how any match between two determined elevens ever can be.

3 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6778.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 12)

Worcestershire were seen to considerable advantage at Gloucester yesterday. Upon a wicket which had not recovered from the heavy rain of last week, Wilson and Keene bowled with such deadly effect that the home side were got out in the course of an hour and a half.

Worcestershire on going in to bat nearly doubled the Gloucestershire total and then disposed of two of their opponents for 55; thus, at the close of play, the home county with eight wickets in hand were still 25 runs behind.

There was no excuse for the poor batting display given by Gloucestershire. The pace of the wicket was a little uncertain, but at least four men were out to poor strokes. Wrathall alone showed any real capacity to cope with the bowling. Wilson was never easy to score from, while Keene kept a good length and made the ball turn considerably.

By far the best batting of the day was shown by Mr Hutchings, who scored upon the off side in most polished fashion and timed the ball perfectly. Bowley was lucky, being missed when he had made two and again at three.

Gloucestershire did better in their second innings, and once more they owed much to Wrathall, who displayed unusual steadiness.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 11)

Worcestershire are likely to pay dearly for the mistakes which they made in the field at Gloucester yesterday. They dropped at least four catches, all of which proved so costly that Gloucestershire, who were 80 runs behind on the first innings, were able to make a score of over 350 when they went in again.

The wicket had dried, and its improved pace so suited the home batsmen that, with one exception, they all reached double figures. The most pronounced success was achieved by Mr Robinson, who made such splendid use of a life given him when he had scored 26 that he made 83. He is a strong and powerful hitter, but he was never reckless. With Mr Brownlee he put on 70 in 40 minutes for the eighth wicket, and with Dennett 72 were added for the last in 55 minutes. Both Mr Brownlee and Dennett were missed early in their innings.

Mr Jessop was also lucky, although he did not give a chance until he had made 41. His determined cricket came at a time when his side, having lost four wickets for 114, were in a bad position. He turned the game in favour of Gloucestershire, and it was after he had punished the bowlers to the extent of 52 runs in 35 minutes that Mr Robinson gave his good display. Burrows was the bowler who suffered most from the poor fielding, yet he did his work splendidly.

Requiring 280 to win, Worcestershire adopted careful tactics, with poor success, as in two hours they lost six of their best batsmen, and at the close of play they still wanted 179 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 10)

Worcestershire never had a chance of saving their match at Gloucester yesterday. They were 178 runs behind with four wickets in hand, but so poor was the stand made against the bowling of Mr Jessop and Dennett that 40 minutes proved sufficient to bring the game to a close, Gloucestershire winning by 146 runs.

3 July: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6779.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 12)

On a wicket which did not seem difficult Mr Brearley accomplished a fine bowling feat for Lancashire against Somerset at Old Trafford yesterday. He took nine wickets for just over five runs each, being

at times almost unplayable. Only Robson, who batted an hour for his runs, and Mr E S M Poyntz seemed able to play him with anything like confidence, and most of Mr Poyntz's runs were scored off the fast bowler.

Lancashire, on the other hand, batted with their usual confidence. Mr Spooner and Cuttell put on 125 for the first wicket, the latter playing steadily; but he was missed when he had got 13, while Mr Spooner, in making 80 in as many minutes, was let off twice. Still, he batted prettily for his score.

Hallows and Mr Poidevin added 53 for the third wicket, while Sharp, Heap, Mr Hornby and Mr Findlay hit the tired bowling to much purpose, the two last-named adding 99 runs in the last hour of the day. The home county, with two wickets still to fall, are 359 ahead.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 11)

So badly had Somerset fared against Lancashire at Old Trafford on Monday that they had practically no chance of retrieving their position yesterday, and at half-past 3 they were beaten by an innings and 150 runs.

As on the first day, Mr Brearley bowled finely and, taking eight wickets, he made his record for the match into 17 for 137 runs.

3 July: M.C.C. AND GROUND v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6780.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 12)

Oxford University, who are undoubtedly a strong batting side, after several disappointing displays, showed their true form at Lord's yesterday against the M.C.C. and Ground. The wicket was slow and easy, and Mr Evans and Mr Carlisle gave the University a very good start by putting on 132 for the first wicket, and throughout the day runs came at a good pace, and 10 of the side got 20 or over.

Mr Evans's innings stood out as much the best thing in the day's cricket. He got his runs in his best style and the variety of his strokes was remarkable. He made his 100 out of 104 well before lunch, and few better or more attractive innings have been seen at Lord's this season. Off one over of J T Hearne's, from successive balls, which many batsmen might have been content simply to play, he got four fours, all by very fine and entirely different strokes.

Of the rest, Mr Foster, perhaps, seemed the batsman of the highest class, but both Mr Carlisle and Mr Raphael, after a "shaky" start, played sound cricket. Mr Wright showed himself to be a dangerous player, and Mr Burn and Mr Udal made some fine hits. The bowling never looked very deadly, but against such bowlers at J T Hearne, Cox, Relf and A Hearne the University's performance was a very fine one.

Mr Evans, owing to a business engagement, had to leave the ground at lunch time, but he continued his innings after nine wickets had fallen.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 11)

This two-day match was left drawn at Lord's yesterday. The University followed up their fine batting on Monday by some good bowling, and in the end their opponents, with seven men out in their second innings, were 294 behind.

A number of bowlers were tried and most of them met with success; Mr Burn, Mr Henley and Mr Udal in particular, bowling very well in both innings.

3 July: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6781.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 12)

Surrey bowled and fielded so well at Northampton yesterday that, although Northamptonshire took over four hours for the first innings, their total was only a small one. The dead pitch dried very slowly and was easier when Surrey were batting in the last hour of the day than at any other time.

With Northamptonshire it was always a great struggle for runs. Thompson occupied nearly two hours in making his score, and he played the best cricket on the side. Strudwick's wicket-keeping and the fine bowling of Lees were among the best points in the day's play, while in Surrey's innings 83 runs were made in 70 minutes, and Surrey finished only 58 behind with nine wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 11)

Although their score fell short of expectations at Northampton yesterday, Surrey retained their strong position and the drawing of stumps found Northamptonshire only 95 runs ahead with nine wickets down in their second innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 10)

Surrey won their match with Northamptonshire at Northampton yesterday by eight wickets. The closing stage of the game was made interesting by the batting of Hayes, who with Hobbs scored 107 runs in 50 minutes.

Surrey had gone in to get 105 in the fourth innings and, after Lord Dalmeny had been caught at the wicket, Hayes joined Hobbs, and his superb driving quickly decided the result. He finished with five fours from successive balls from Mr H E Kingston, and in all 52 of his 69 were made in fours.

3 July: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6782.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 12)

This match was begun at Birmingham yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 11)

The second day's play of this match at Birmingham went in favour of the home side, for in their first innings they made nearly 400 runs.

Essex, when they went in again at the close of the day, however, made a good start, and when stumps were drawn they were 78 behind with only one man out.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 10)

Warwickshire beat Essex at Birmingham yesterday by eight wickets.

Overnight Essex had lost one wicket for 65 runs in their second innings, and when play was continued they did fairly well for a time, but in the end Warwickshire were sent in, requiring only 96 runs, and these were got for the loss of two batsmen.

Thursday 6 July, page 10: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

Yesterday during the match at Northampton, E Hayes, of the Surrey eleven, received an invitation from Lord's to play in Gentlemen v Players next Monday.

6 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6783.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 12)

Play was in progress at Gloucester yesterday for a little more than five hours, and in that time Kent scored nearly 500 runs. The wicket was easy and the Gloucestershire bowlers were so poorly supported that their work soon lost its customary steadiness. A singular feature of the play was that, while a number of catches were dropped, all of which proved expensive, much of the fielding was brilliant.

Hearne was the first to enjoy any luck; he was missed when he had made 14. Seymour made even better use of Huggins's failure to take a hard return at 18, for he was not dismissed until he had made over 100. He was only batting for two hours and ten minutes, and he got his runs by a good variety of strokes and placed the ball with marked precision.

Humphries also did good work, and he was not missed until he had contributed 64. Two lives were given to Mr Blaker, who captained the side in the absence of Mr Marsham, with the result that he helped Mr Day to add 81 in 40 minutes for the fifth wicket. Mr Day, who made his first 100 for his county, was missed before he had scored. He played free cricket afterwards and his innings was marked by much skilful driving.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

At Gloucester, yesterday, Kent gained a remarkable victory over Gloucestershire by an innings and 162 runs. Although Kent followed up their excellent batting by some equally good bowling and fielding, it must be admitted that their opponents batted very badly. It is true that Mr Townsend and Hale did meet with a limited measure of success, but the bowling of Fairservice and Hearne was too much for most of the others.

Following on 348 behind, Gloucestershire again did badly, five wickets going down before the bowling of Blythe and Fielder for 38. At that stage Hale, helped first by Mr Brown and afterwards by Mr Robinson, did something to reduce the one-sided character of the game. He kept his end up for two hours and scored his runs out of 135. His cricket reached a high standard, for while his defence was perfectly sound, he hit with judgment, particularly on the off side.

The Kent fielding was excellent, very few mistakes being made, while Hardinge, Seymour and Huish brought off some good catches.

6 July: HAMPSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6784.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 12)

Although the Australians travelled all night from Leeds in order to keep their engagement at Southampton yesterday against Hampshire, they gave an excellent display of batting. The conditions were suitable for a big score and the Hampshire bowlers were always easy on the perfect wicket.

Mr Duff, who went in first with Mr Trumper, was caught in the slips with 39 scored, but the bowling afterwards was completely mastered. Mr Trumper batted finely. He scored 50 out of 76 in 35 minutes, and his innings only lasted an hour and a quarter. He ought to have been caught in the slips off Mr Persse when he had made 36, but his batting otherwise was practically faultless. He and Mr Noble, for the second wicket, put on 123 in less than an hour.

After he was out Mr Hill and Mr Noble got runs very fast. The third partnership added 114 in an hour and ten minutes before Mr Hill was caught in front of the bowler's screen. Mr Noble exhibited more caution than most of the batsmen, but he drover very hard and made a number of good square cuts.

Early in his innings he offered a chance of stumping and at 55 he made a bad stroke through the slips; but except for this latter mistake he timed the bowling splendidly.

When he left six wickets were down for 397, and subsequently Mr Gregory and Mr Gehrs punished the worn-out bowling severely. The rate of scoring all through the innings averaged over 100 runs an hour.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

At Southampton, yesterday, the Australians continued the forcing methods which had marked their batting on Thursday. In an hour they added 107 runs for the four remaining wickets and they made the highest score of the present tour.

Mr Gregory, who was missed early in his innings, gave another chance, shortly after play was continued, in the long-field, but apart from this his display of well-timed driving and leg-hitting was excellent. He was in for two hours and ten minutes, and he and Mr Gehrs, for the second wicket, had added 165 runs in an hour and 25 minutes. Subsequently Mr Cotter gave a spirited display and scored the 36 runs which were made for the ninth wicket off his own bat in a quarter of an hour.

At the start of the Hampshire first innings Mr Cotter bowled at a great pace, and in half an hour before lunch he got Mr Hill, Howell and Mr Jephson out for 26 runs. Captain Greig, among the earlier batsmen, was the only one to play him with confidence. Mead, a Surrey player, who has left the Oval to qualify for Hampshire, showed good form for an hour and 50 minutes, and was unlucky in being run out in the first over of the second innings through a misunderstanding with Stone.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 July, page 10)

At Southampton on Saturday, Hampshire made a better fight than was expected against the Australians, but in the end they were beaten by an innings and 112 runs.

On Friday night Mead's wicket had been lost for ten runs and, when play was continued, Llewellyn was got rid of without any addition to the score. Captain Greig was out at 43, but Stone, who had gone in first overnight, and Mr Hill scored 78 for the fourth wicket in an hour. Mr Hill had played admirable cricket, and his runs, which were mostly scored by vigorous drives, were made in 50 minutes [?].

At lunch time Mr Jephson and Mr Johnston had been dismissed for the addition of 23, and soon after the interval Stone's defensive innings came to an end. He was in a little over two hours and a half, and he made his runs chiefly on the leg side.

Subsequently Howell played bright cricket for an hour and ten minutes and with Mr Persse 77 were put on for the ninth wicket in three-quarters of an hour. Howell's driving was well timed and he made two sixes and ten fours.

6 July: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6785.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 12)

Although the weather was threatening when this match was begun on the Aigburth ground yesterday, Liverpool was favoured with [a] beautiful afternoon, and some interesting cricket was seen. Overnight there had been an hour's heavy rain and the pitch was rather soft on the surface and hard underneath.

Lancashire took three hours and 35 minutes in getting their runs and Mr Spooner was two hours in making 47, the highest individual innings on the side. Throughout the innings, in fact, Lancashire had to struggle very hard indeed for their runs. Lees and Mr Knox both bowled splendidly, the former in particular keeping an excellent length and getting up very quickly from the pitch.

When Surrey went in Hayward and Hobbs started so well that they scored 59 before the latter was caught at mid-on. Although he had been missed by Mr Garnett just before, Hayward played delightfully, especially on the on side. At the close of play Surrey, with nine wickets in hand, were within 95 of their opponents' total.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

With the continuance of good weather at Liverpool the wicket was fast and true yesterday. Surrey gave a very even batting performance and were able to get a lead of 154 on the first innings.

The excellent start which they made on Thursday was maintained. Hayward was the first to leave at 145, after a stay of nearly two hours and 25 minutes. The Lancashire bowling was very moderate.

When Lancashire batted again they started most disastrously, for at seven Mr Spooner was bowled, and at the same total Cuttell was run out, while at 17 Mr Poidevin was caught in the slips. Tyldesley was out to a fine catch by Strudwick at 42. Afterwards Mr Garnett and Sharp played well, and Lancashire at the close were only 60 behind with six wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 July, page 10)

This match, at Liverpool, ended, on Saturday, in a victory for Surrey by ten wickets.

The partnership of Mr Garnett and Sharp in Lancashire's second innings realized 61, and both played excellently. Afterwards no one proved capable of staying with Heap, who showed confidence and restraint at a critical time. Mr Knox on Saturday morning secured five wickets for 29. Surrey were left with only six to get to win.

6 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6786.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 12)

This match was begun at Nottingham yesterday. In the Derbyshire team, in the absence of Dr Ashcroft and Mr Lawton, trials were given to two promising young amateurs in Mr Walkden of Derby and Mr Taylor of Werksworth.

Early in the Derbyshire innings Mr Ollivierre played well, but by far the best cricket was shown by Mr H F Wright, whose hitting in front of the wicket was wonderfully well timed.

When Nottinghamshire went in Mr Jones and Iremonger gave a brilliant display of forcing cricket, the latter's placing to leg being finely executed, while Mr Jones cut and drove with power. From the bowling of Warren and Bestwick 53 were scored in 25 minutes, and altogether the partnership yielded exactly 100 in an hour and a quarter. Subsequently Iremonger and G Gunn scored freely, and at the close Nottinghamshire were left in a strong position.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

When stumps were drawn in this match at Trent Bridge, yesterday, Derbyshire were in a practically hopeless position, as the home county only required 56 runs to win with nine wickets still to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 July, page 10)

Nottinghamshire had a simple task before them at Trent-bridge on Saturday as they only required 56 runs to win and had nine wickets to fall in their second innings.

Iremonger and George Gunn carried the overnight score of 35 for one wicket to 73 before Iremonger was beaten by a leg-break from Mr Hunter, and then Gunn and Hardstaff hit off the runs, Nottinghamshire winning by eight wickets.

6 July: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6787.html)

(From our special correspondent)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 12)

It is commonly supposed that this year's University match, which was begun at Lord's yesterday, partly from the presumed slight inferiority of the two elevens, and partly because Australian matches have monopolized nearly all the interest of the public, has not excited so much general interest as is ordinarily the case. This may be true as far as the general public is concerned, but of the old cricketers who have been connected with the Universities there seemed to be as many present yesterday as usual.

It cannot, however, be said that this year's record of either eleven was a good one, although it would seem to be the case, especially as far as Oxford is concerned, that the full strength of the elevens has not often been got together in the trial matches. Oxford have several good players and were generally expected to win, chiefly because in Mr Evans they had certainly by far the best batsman. This was the one thing that appeared certain; but it is probably true that, on this year's performance, Mr Napier is by some way the best bowler.

It was a lovely day yesterday, and to the satisfaction of those who wished to see a good match, Cambridge, the weaker eleven, won the toss, their captain having had extraordinarily good fortune all this year in this respect.

There was nothing very striking about the cricket during the first innings of Cambridge. Four of the eleven got small double figures by the sort of cricket by which such scores generally are made. Mr Eyre, Mr Mann, Mr Page and Mr Napier did nothing striking, and the moderate total of 218 was entirely due to three batsmen, Mr Young, Mr Keigwin and Mr Payne.

Mr Young played a good innings after the first few overs, and has a good drive past cover-point; but somewhat foolishly he got his leg in front to a straight full pitch and, missing the ball, was "l-b-w." Still, if there was nothing very striking about his innings, his play was sound and for a first appearance was good.

Mr Keigwin was by no means so slow as he was last year. He had a fairly sound defence and he possesses the useful faculty of playing up to his best form on great occasions. He has not, however, any great command of strokes and his driving is much lacking in power.

Mr Payne is a very different kind of batsman. He is by no means lacking in nerve and takes a moderate amount of risk. His off-driving and cutting are exceedingly good and were really the striking features of Cambridge's innings, for they were beautiful hits from the wrist and went clean and hard off the bat.

There is little to be said of the rest of the Cambridge batting, and only some free hitting of Mr Napier at the end of the innings brought up the score to 218, there having been a collapse after Mr Payne was out. The wicket was not easy nor very difficult; but the style of the Oxford bowlers, being fast and with very similar high actions, was materially helped by the wicket, for the ball got up several times very awkwardly.

The Oxford bowling was as good as University bowling generally is in these days, although much lacking in variety. Mr Udal seemed the most difficult, and was on at the Nursery end most of the innings. Mr Martin was by no means as fast as last year, but he bowled more on the wicket. Mr Evans, however, did not bowl well, and never approached his form of two years ago. The fielding was very smart and safe, and Mr Bird was in really first-rate form at the wicket.

Oxford began with Mr Evans and Mr Carlisle to the bowling of Mr Napier from the Nursery end and Mr Morcom. Both players scored fairly steadily, but neither played well. Mr Evans stood very much in front of his wicket - in fact he did so to nearly every ball - and he survived a very confident appeal for "l-b-w"; while Mr Carlisle was missed by the wicketkeeper standing back. At 39 Mr Evans

was bowled by Mr McDonell by a ball which the batsman seemed to turn from the off stump to the middle.

Mr Branston came in and played well after the first few balls; but at 66 Mr Carlisle was out "l-b-w" to Mr McDonell for a moderate 25. Mr Foster seemed to play with great confidence, but was clean bowled by Mr May for four; and four wickets were down for 99.

So far the match had gone very evenly; but Mr Raphael, who was then joined by Mr Wright, played by far the best cricket of the day, and Mr Wright, after batting very steadily for 20 minutes, began to hit with great power. Mr Raphael was master of the bowling from the very start, and drove splendidly to the off and scored freely. He hit the ball in the middle of the bat, and the Cambridge field were being sorely tried; but nevertheless the fielding was very good, Mr McDonell, at point, stopping some really hard strokes from Mr Raphael.

Mr Wright suddenly appeared to wake up, after a by no means confident beginning, and was very severe on Mr McDonell, making one hard square-leg hit over the ropes. The two batsmen stopped in and brought the score to 166, when stumps were drawn, Mr Raphael having made 46 and Mr Wright 33.

The wicket seemed to improve under the hot sun and fair breeze, and the match would have been in a more even condition if Cambridge could have got Mr Raphael out. It looks, however, as if Mr Raphael would very likely pile up a long score, for the wicket will probably play easier on the second day, and his innings so far has been not only sound, but very vigorous.

The Cambridge bowling was fair, but Mr Napier has not seemed to trouble the batsmen as much as was expected. He kept the ball well up, but the ball that used so often to go with his arm seemed to go on straight, and although he bowled a fair length he was not difficult. Mr Morcom bowled well and was unlucky in not getting a wicket; but Mr May did not look by any means difficult; but he produced one good ball which came back and clean bowled Mr Foster. Mr McDonell was severely treated by Mr Wright, but he puzzled the other batsmen more than the other bowlers, and also did fine work in the field.

If Cambridge can manage to secure one or two wickets pretty cheaply to-day, there will be every prospect of a good match; but they have rather the worst of the position, and it cannot be said that their batting inspired confidence; but they had slightly the worst of the wicket.

Speaking of the day's play generally, the fielding has been the most striking feature, the bowling has been up to average, and the batting, with the exception of Mr Raphael, and in a lesser degree of Mr Young, rather below the average.

For such a beautiful day the attendance was very much smaller than what was expected. There was a fair muster of members, but of the general public only 6,227 paid at the gate, a lower figure than has been the case for some years, and it cannot be said that the cricket so far has been very interesting; but there may be a good finish.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

If the first day's cricket of the University match at Lord's was somewhat featureless, no fault could be found on this score on the second day. Never since the famous batting of Mr Yardley and Mr Dale in 1870 have two men so completely pulled a side round as Mr Colbeck and Mr McDonell did yesterday; and, although Oxford had the best of the position at the end of the second day, at one moment it almost looked odds on Cambridge being defeated in one innings.

But prophecy at cricket is dangerous; and from the lowest position Cambridge were pulled out by these two batsmen, and from a quarter to 4 until stumps were drawn Cambridge fairly overwhelmed their opponents.

It was again a splendid day when Mr Raphael and Mr Wright continued their innings to the bowling of Mr Napier, who was tried at the Pavilion end, and Mr McDonell. Both batsmen played a very free game and, in fact, they put on nearly 100 runs in the first hour. Mr Raphael was playing beautiful cricket, but after Mr Napier and Mr Morcom had got back to their original ends the bowling improved a great deal. Mr Wright before this had been badly missed twice, the ball having been skied in both cases, and after these chances he hit harder than ever.

The bowling now became steady and good, but both batsmen were approaching the coveted century when Mr Morcom clean bowled Mr Wright with a ball he tried to pull. Mr Wright helped to add no fewer than 190 runs in two hours and 15 minutes during his partnership with Mr Raphael. He is a very dashing, dangerous bat, and takes risks, and is very likely to make a great many runs if not got rid of early; but he begins very shakily.

Mr Bird was soon "l-b-w," and Mr Henley came in. The bowling was now distinctly good, far above the average of University cricket, and Mr Raphael on approaching his century batted with great care, but for the rest of the innings the bowling fairly defeated the batting.

Mr Raphael, when he had made 99, was clean bowled by an absolutely perfect length ball, which came back and just took the bails off, and he unluckily missed his century. No fault could be found with his innings, which was not only quite free from mistake, but was distinguished by beautiful free hitting all round the wicket, especially on the off-side. It was quite the finest innings of the match so far as it had gone, and he was batting altogether for two hours and 55 minutes.

There was nothing to say about the rest of the innings, which was brought to an end soon after 1 o'clock for 319. The Cambridge bowling, as a matter of fact, had never been bad, and in the case of Mr Napier and Mr Morcom it had been very good; and, considering the free play of Mr Raphael and Mr Wright, the former's analysis of 4 wickets for 92 runs and the latter's of 3 wickets for 69 were better than they looked, while the fielding, apart from the two missed chances, was distinctly good, as was Mr Payne's wicketkeeping.

Cambridge were 101 runs behind, and lost a good wicket - Mr Young's - before luncheon, Mr Branston catching him off Mr Evans's bowling from the Pavilion end. After luncheon the play for three-quarters of an hour caused the downfall of five more wickets; and Cambridge, with only four wickets in hand, wanted 24 runs to save the one innings defeat, and the odds were very much against them.

Both Mr Evans and Mr Udal bumped a good deal, and Mr Evans seemed to go up the hill a little, for four of his five wickets were caught in the slips and by the wicketkeeper. At the same time the batting was distinctly feeble.

Mr Colbeck at about 4 o'clock was joined by Mr McDonell, and a stand that will never be forgotten began. Before it ended the score had been taken from 77 to 220, 143 runs thus having been put on, and during all this partnership neither batsman gave a chance and hardly a bad stroke was made. Mr McDonell plays with a very straight bat and can both play off his legs and cut; he never seemed off his game for a single ball; and nothing could have been better than the excellent judgment shown by both in running.

Mr Colbeck is what may be termed a decidedly original player. He stands some way from the wicket and is altogether free from what old cricketers call the prevailing vice of modern cricketers, that of standing wholly in front of the wicket; but the most remarkable feature of his play is his wonderful capacity of cutting straight balls. He appears to hang back a little from his position - which, to start with, is some way from the wicket - and time after time he came down with splendid timing on shortish straight balls and hit them to the boundary, while his off-driving of well pitched up balls was clean and hard.

There was no mistake in his innings, and during this splendid partnership the lack of variety in the Oxford bowling became obvious. Mr Colbeck dashes at the off ball with great freedom and practically never leaves a ball alone; and Mr Carlisle, if he had noticed this, as he must have, ought to have made more use of Mr Burn and instructed him to bowl as good a length as he could on the off side and then placed his field accordingly. This is always sound captaincy when one has such a bowler and a player of similar methods to Mr Colbeck's.

At about 5.30 Mr McDonell was caught at point, but Mr Morcom and Mr May gave some help, and the total was taken to 264 when the innings was brought to an end, Oxford wanting 164 runs to win. Mr Colbeck's score was 107, and the change in the position of affairs since the sixth wicket fell was most dramatic.

There have, speaking from memory, only been two parallel cases in the University match: - the first with Mr Yardley and Mr Dale, the second in 1877, when Mr Buckland and Mr Tylecote rescued Oxford from absolute collapse.

Oxford had about half an hour's batting, and Cambridge, no doubt elated by the turn of affairs, gave them a most unpleasant time. Mr Bird and Mr Carlisle began, and some misunderstanding caused Mr

Carlisle to be run out; Mr Branston was caught at the wicket off Mr Morcom and Mr Bird clean bowled by Mr Napier.

The last over of Mr Morcom's was quite sensational. One ball was half stopped by the batsman and then hit the wicket, but only displaced and did not knock off the bail, while the two last balls passed as close to the wicket as was possible; and seldom any two batsmen have felt more relieved than Mr Henley and Mr Udal when stumps were drawn.

Oxford now want 149 runs and seven wickets are in hand, an astonishing end to an astonishing day's play. No doubt Oxford ought to win; but Mr Morcom and Mr Napier bowled uncommonly well yesterday, and if the wicket should crumble there may be a hard fight yet; but, finish as it may, Cambridge may look back with satisfaction on the plucky and determined way in which a great defeat was averted, and the match in the future may be remembered as Mr Colbeck's match.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 July, page 10)

The third day of the University match was the hottest of the three and, as there had been no rain to speak of since the beginning of the week, the wicket was at its fastest. Considering that, whatever the result might be, it was certain that the match would be over by luncheon, there was a good attendance of spectators.

Overnight the match had been left in an interesting position. There can be no doubt that the prevailing opinion of impartial judges of the game was that there would be a victory for Oxford by about three wickets, but that it was most likely to produce a close finish was the general impression.

If a warm Oxford partisan of pessimistic views was asked to prophesy the result he would shake his head gloomily, mutter something about crumbling wickets, smart fielding and two pretty good Cambridge bowlers. A Cantab of similar temperament would reply that the Light Blues had not got enough runs, and that Mr Evans, Mr Foster, Mr Raphael and Mr Wright were four fine batsmen, of whom two were pretty certain to come off.

Good judges and close observers knew that both Mr Napier and Mr Morcom were good bowlers; but the condition of the wicket was the uncertain element of the situation. How far it would help bowlers or batsmen time alone could show.

As a matter of fact, all through the match the wicket had helped the bowlers to the extent that those of high action could make the ball get up. The ball did not get up dangerously, but it required careful watching; and a glance at the score will show how common were snick catches in the slips and at the wicket, showing that probably batsmen were hitting under rising balls. Mr Evans, at the beginning of Cambridge's second innings, was a proof of this; but Mr Colbeck and Mr McDonell had both shown that such bowling could be played, and it certainly appeared that Oxford had several batsmen of experience who could do the same.

Mr Napier and Mr Morcom began the bowling, the former from the Nursery end, and Mr Udal and Mr Henley resumed their innings. It may be said at once that not one batsman, except perhaps Mr Wright, looked like staying. Exactly the same thing occurred, though not to the same extent, as in the first part of Cambridge's second innings - the ball kept getting up.

Mr Morcom bowled straight at the stumps, and it is a high testimony to his bowling that he clean bowled four out of his six victims. It very soon became apparent that the batsmen would have to fight hard for runs; but what were the relative parts played by the skill of the bowlers and the help they got from the wicket it is impossible to say.

Mr Udal began by a very fine off-drive for four, and Mr Wright made as his last hit an equally good on-drive. It was almost true to say that there were the only two hits in the whole innings that impressed themselves on the memory. By very sketchy play Mr Udal and Mr Henley added 20 runs before Mr Morcom clean bowled the latter, and, to the obvious delight of the Light Blues, Mr Raphael was bowled by a ball well up from the same bowler. Mr Udal, on being joined by Mr Evans, was dismissed by a ball that came down the hill; and six wickets were down for 54 when Mr Foster came in.

Cambridge had now slightly the best of the position; but Mr Evans, Mr Foster and Mr Wright had still to be got rid of, and in these days 110 runs is no great feat for three such batsmen. But both the

Cambridge bowlers, especially Mr Morcom, were now stimulated by the state of the game. Mr Evans was by no means comfortable and seemed unable to drive either bowler in front of the wicket.

The obvious policy of the Dark Blues' crack batsman was to hit Mr Morcom, but neither Mr Evans nor any of them could do this, though Mr Wright made the best attempt. Mr Foster was missed in the slips; but Mr McDonnell made a fine catch at cover-slip off Mr Napier, which he held at the second attempt, and sent back Mr Evans, who never looked like staying.

Mr Wright now came in; and, as 88 runs were wanted and the last two batsmen are not especially renowned in this respect, it was felt that another wicket would mean victory for Cambridge. Considering the circumstances, Mr Wright played even better than he did in the first innings, as he was not so shaky at the start. There were, however, no really good hits made.

Mr Foster, in trying to hook Mr Morcom, skied the ball in front of him, and Mr Payne just managed to reach the catch. The score was 88. Mr Martin and Mr Wright then, pluckily and by rather unorthodox though right play in the circumstances, put on 27 runs, when Mr Morcom sent down a very fine ball that beat Mr Wright, broke on to his legs and bowled him.

Then the end soon came, as Mr Martin was clean bowled after Mr Burn had nicked one to the boundary, giving a possible chance, and Cambridge had won the match by 40 runs. Mr Wright had played a very fine game, taking some risks. He is possessed of first-rate hitting powers and a good defence, and no batsman seems less trouble by nerves.

It is not easy to remember any match that was more interesting or which was so full of the changes and chances of cricket. Not since the celebrated six runs match in 1875 has so even a game been seen in the University match; and hardly any match has ever been played in which a side so completely turned the tables as Cambridge did after they had lost six wickets and still wanted 24 runs to save the innings defeat.

Even Mr Dale's and Mr Yardley's famous feat in 1870 was not quite equal to this, as only five wickets were down when they came together and the innings defeat was saved by 12 runs; and it is no disparagement to Mr Colbeck and Mr McDonnell to say that they were not the equals as batsmen of Mr Dale and Mr Yardley.

The more one thinks over Mr Colbeck's innings the more extraordinary does it seem. Here was a young batsman in his first University match cutting straight, short, fast balls, and driving balls well up and off the wicket equally well, and letting no ball alone, and yet the ball was getting up more or less awkwardly all the time.

Mr McDonnell did not adopt the same methods, but he played with an absolutely straight bat, and neither batsman made any mistake or gave a chance. And all this was done with the consciousness that if either of them got out before putting on a lot of runs the match was lost.

Mr Morcom and Mr Napier deserve almost as much praise. It is curious to look at the score. It will be seen that on what was on the whole the same sort of wicket the Cambridge bowlers hit the wicket 11 times to the Oxonians' 12; and in the last innings, when, if anything, the wicket made the ball get up higher than in the other three innings, six of the nine wickets were clean bowled.

The moral effect of getting three wickets overnight was probably considerable. It was really a fortunate thing that Cambridge did not get any more runs, for that last half-hour on Friday night was simply invaluable to them, as it gave a moral stimulus that was very apparent next morning.

The four great heroes were, of course, Mr Colbeck, Mr McDonnell, Mr Morcom and Mr Napier, but Mr Payne, Mr Young and Mr Keigwin all did their part with the bat. The Oxford batting was nearly entirely limited to Mr Raphael and Mr Wright. Both these players showed magnificent cricket.

Some critics have blamed the Oxford captain for changing the bowling when Mr Colbeck and Mr Eyre were in and the total was 74 runs. (It now appears that Mr Evans had damaged one of his boots.) It is not certain that this criticism is quite fair. Both bowlers are very fast and have somewhat fatiguing actions, and they had bowled for some time; and Mr Evans, to keep his efficiency, seems a little to depend on success.

The criticism that might better be made is that more use ought to have been made of Mr Burn. As a matter of fact, more than once it looked as if Mr Colbeck might have been caught on the off side off Mr Burn, as inevitably must be the case when a batsman dashes at every off ball as Mr Colbeck did.

Yet Mr Burn was taken off after bowling four overs, and was only put on very late; and more than one Cambridge sympathizer felt greatly relieved thereby.

The Cambridge captain managed his eleven well, but the slips were not quite correctly placed. When the wicket-keeper stands back the short-slip ought not to be placed too fine and almost behind him. If a catch comes straight to short-slip he is invariably balked by the wicket-keeper, who always makes a grab at the ball, and two chances were missed owing to this fact being lost sight of.

The fielding on both sides was good, especially that of Oxford, who have two grand slips in Mr Branston and Mr Foster; and Mr Bird was fully the equal of Mr Payne at the wicket.

It was a memorable and splendid match, with the luck equally divided apart from the toss, and Cambridge are warmly to be congratulated on their wonderful victory; and it is an additional proof that a really interesting match is only gained by being played on a wicket that more or less favours the bowlers.

6 July: SUSSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6788.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 12)

Sussex had first innings in this match at Brighton yesterday, but their display before lunch was a poor and tedious one. Up to that time they had only scored 77 for the loss of three wickets.

After the interval, however, the home side's batting brightened up considerably, Mr Goldie, Relf, Cox and Mr [Chaplin] all making runs. Mr Goldie's innings was marked by some clean and well-timed cuts, while Relf, after a shaky start, batted in attractive style, making some good strokes on both sides of the wicket. Mr [Chaplin] made some really fine straight drives, and was out to a wonderful catch at mid-off.

Warwickshire had 25 minutes' batting at the close of the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

Having one wicket down for ten runs, Warwickshire continued their innings at Brighton, yesterday, with Mr Loveitt and Kinneir, who only added four runs before the latter left.

The Warwickshire batsmen found Cox, who was bowling a beautiful length, very hard to deal with, so much so that they had eight wickets down for 95 runs. Lilley was the only batsman who played the Sussex bowling with any confidence. In getting his runs, he made some good drives and hits to leg, and on occasions he cut with great power. Mr Byrne and Santall made the longest stand of the innings, putting on 45 runs.

On Sussex going in again, Mr Fry and Vine scored 108 before they were parted. Forty runs later Mr Fry, who had practically monopolized the scoring, left. He made his century with the Sussex total standing at 142. He made the majority of his runs in front of the wickets, as usual his driving and forcing on the on side being especially powerful. Sussex with seven wickets to fall are now 297 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 July, page 10)

Sussex, who had lost three wickets in their second innings for 180, continued their batting at Brighton on Saturday, but after an hour's play, during which they increased their score by 71 runs, they declared their innings closed.

There were five hours left for actual play, and Warwickshire in that time scored under 250 runs for the loss of seven wickets; and thus the game ended in a draw.

6 July: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6789.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 12)

The weakness of the Somerset attack was again demonstrated yesterday in their match with Yorkshire at Harrogate. The home side, on winning the toss, batted on a fast wicket and scored at the average rate of over 90 runs an hour for five hours.

In addition to the weakness of the bowling, the Somerset fielding was very much at fault. Two catches were missed but these did not prove expensive and the chief fault in the fielding lay in the failure to stop many strokes that ought not to have been permitted to reach the short boundaries.

Mr Wilkinson and Grimshaw remained together up to the luncheon interval and scored 144 runs; but they were separated immediately afterwards without any addition to the score. Moderate play by Denton, Tunnicliffe and Hirst discounted the excellent start, and five wickets were down for 237 runs.

Some fine hitting was afterwards seen from Rhodes, Haigh and Myers. Rhodes and Haigh scored 117 runs in 55 minutes for the sixth wicket, and the former made his 100 in an hour and a half, while Myers was less than an hour in scoring 75. Neither batsman gave a chance, although they took many liberties with the weak bowling.

Yorkshire are giving a trial to Deyes, a fast bowler, who is professional to the Thirsk Club.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

At Harrogate, yesterday, Yorkshire beat Somerset by an innings and 149 runs. Beginning their first innings yesterday morning, Somerset were all out at half-past 1, their batting being very weak.

Deyes, the new fast bowler, made a successful first appearance in the Yorkshire team. He bowled an accurate length throughout the innings and kept up a good pace without tiring. He took the wickets of Mr Brown and Mr Woods in one over, and in the innings he obtained five wickets at a cost of 15 runs each.

Somerset had to follow on 349 runs behind. They improved upon their form in the first innings, but at 20 minutes to 6 the match was over.

Friday 7 July, page 12: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

The teams for the Gentlemen and Players' match, at Lord's, which begins on Monday next, will be: -

Gentlemen. - The Hon F S Jackson (captain), Mr C B Fry, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr H Martyn, Mr G L Jessop, Mr Hesketh-Prichard, Mr W H B Evans, Mr R H Spooner, Mr P F Warner, Mr H K Foster and Mr W Brearley.

Players. - Lilley (captain), Hayward, Hirst, Rhodes, Denton, Arnold, Hayes, Bowley, Haigh and two others.

Saturday 8 July, page 13: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

Tyldesley and Warren will complete the professionals' eleven in this match, which begins at Lord's on Monday next.

Monday 10 July, page 10: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

At Lord's to-day the sides will be: -

Gentlemen. - The Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire), Mr C B fry (Sussex), Mr B J T Bosanquet (Middlesex), Mr H Hesketh-Prichard (Hampshire), Mr W H B Evans (Hampshire), Mr H Martyn (Somerset), Mr G L Jessop

(Gloucestershire), Mr W Brearley (Lancashire), Mr R H Spooner (Lancashire), Mr P F Warner (Middlesex) and Mr H K Foster (Worcestershire).

Players. - Lilley (Warwickshire), Hayward (Surrey), Tyldesley (Lancashire), Hirst (Yorkshire), Rhodes (Yorkshire), Denton (Yorkshire), Arnold (Worcestershire), Hayes (Surrey), Bowley (Worcestershire), Haigh (Yorkshire) and another.

Warren (Derbyshire) has had to resign his place in the Players' eleven owing to a strained leg.

Lees has been asked to take Warren's place, and failing him Thompson or J T Hearne may play.

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE AVERAGES

The Oxford and Cambridge averages are given below: -

OXFORD

Matches played, 10; won, 2; lost, 6, drawn, 2.

BATTING [Note: qualification 200 runs]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr E L Wright	16	498	95	0	31.12
Mr W H B Evans	11	289	139*	1	28.90
Mr N R Udal	11	220	49*	2	24.44
Mr G N Foster	12	239	47	0	19.91
Mr J B Raphael	11	215	99	0	19.54
Mr O T Norris	15	279	72	0	18.60
Mr K M Carlisle	19	334	45*	1	18.55
Mr R C W Burn	16	203	69	5	18.45
Mr G T Branston	15	150	62	1	17.85

BOWLING [Qualification: 10 wickets]

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr W H B Evans	129.5	24	504	28	18.00
Mr E G Martin	230.2	56	625	32	19.53
Mr G T Branston	120.2	19	433	20	21.65
Mr F A H Henley	171	21	611	28	21.82
Mr N R Udal	227.2	36	758	34	22.29
Mr R C W Burn	258.5	49	657	17	38.64

CAMBRIDGE

12 matches: played 11 - won 2, lost 4, drawn 5, abandoned 1.

BATTING [Note: qualification 200 runs]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr E W Mann	19	783	157	2	46.05
Mr L G Colbeck	15	552	120	2	42.46
Mr M W Payne	21	655	178	1	32.75
Mr R A Young	19	532	120	0	28.00
Mr R P Keigwin	15	342	89	0	22.80
Mr C C Page	14	204	75*	1	22.61
Mr H C McDonell	18	299	78	0	16.61

BOWLING [Qualification: 10 wickets]

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr G G Napier	338.1	75	973	56	17.37
Mr P R May	250.4	43	817	34	24.02
Mr H C McDonell	253.5	62	722	29	24.89
Mr A F Morcom	220	35	658	26	25.30

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	27	1894	233	3	78.91
Hirst	25	1173	341	6	61.73
Quaife	28	1133	255*	7	53.95
Mr H K Foster	19	866	180	1	48.11
Tyldesley	27	1167	250	2	46.63
Bowley	17	781	217	0	45.94
Iremonger	25	1134	239	0	45.36
Mr E M Sprot	17	716	141	1	44.75
Mr C J B Wood	20	849	160*	1	44.68
Mr B J T Bosanquet	17	576	103	4	44.30
Sharp	21	717	110*	4	42.17
Mr C McGahey	19	751	277	1	41.72
Hayward	30	1159	129*	2	41.39
Mr L O S Poidevin	23	866	168*	2	41.23
Kinneir	24	941	158	1	40.91
Baker (Surrey)	29	950	128*	5	39.58
Denton	31	1180	153*	1	39.33
The Hon F S Jackson	21	738	144	2	38.84
Seymour	19	659	122	2	38.76
Knight	19	644	177	2	37.88
Mr R H Spooner	22	824	164	0	37.45
Mr A P Day	13	646	106	3	36.40
Mr P F Warner	19	691	204	0	36.36
Mr L G Wright	22	742	149	0	33.72
Mr A O Jones	29	817	103	1	32.75
G Gunn	25	748	99	2	32.52
Hayes	30	890	105	2	31.78
Relf	25	690	75	3	31.77
Mr A C MacLaren	22	661	140	1	31.47
Hobbs	31	912	155	2	31.44
Board	21	584	119*	2	30.73
Mr J F Byrne	24	737	222	0	30.70
Mr A H Hornby	19	489	106	3	30.56
Mr G L Jessop	23	660	234	1	30.00
Braund	22	665	130	3	29.73
Mr W H B Evans	18	468	139*	2	29.25
Baker (Warwickshire)	29	670	102	1	29.13
Vine	29	815	100	1	29.10
Mr T S Fishwick	24	687	137	0	28.62
John Gunn	24	619	108*	2	28.13
Holland	24	612	132	2	27.81
Tunnicliffe	23	555	102	2	26.90
Cox (Sussex)	25	528	71	5	26.40
Killick	29	739	104	1	26.39
Mr H G Garnett	24	603	86	1	26.21
Coe	19	467	100	1	25.94
Wrathall	20	486	80*	2	25.88
Dr E M Ashcroft	18	438	73*	1	25.76
Mr H T Godsell	19	437	86*	2	25.70

Carpenter	19	486	104	0	25.57
Mr V F S Crawford	21	479	119	2	25.21
Hardstaff	22	478	93	3	25.15

Also listed: Whitehead average 24.70, Bowell 23.84, Lilley 23.70, Mr R E Hemingway 23.64, Lord Dalmeny 23.36, Mr A E Lawton 23.04.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Haigh	508.2	139	1206	87	13.56
Thompson	332.3	93	919	59	15.57
Tarrant	230.3	57	584	35	16.63
Killick	351.3	86	906	53	17.09
Rhodes	679.3	201	1518	87	17.44
Hallam	405.1	127	921	52	17.71
J T Hearne	352.5	91	874	49	17.83
Lees	822.2	232	1985	111	17.88
Kermode	512.3	137	1386	76	18.23
Relf	573.5	195	1136	60	18.93
Arnold	328.1	64	981	51	19.23
Mr W Brearley	560.3	102	1779	92	19.33
Fairservice	301.2	80	850	43	19.76
Hayes	413.2	82	1228	62	19.82
Hirst	299.2	68	821	41	20.02
Cox (Sussex)	875.5	264	1958	94	20.82
Jayes	261.3	47	820	39	21.02
Dennett	767.4	160	2105	99	21.26
Mr W W Odell	431.4	114	1173	55	21.32
Wass	495	101	1457	68	21.42
Warren	383.4	74	1215	55	22.00
Mr B J T Bosanquet	224.4	18	842	38	22.15
Myers	300.4	59	932	42	22.19
Blythe	439.4	109	1191	53	22.47
Bestwick	409.3	94	1157	51	22.58
Mr N A Knox	485.1	88	1673	73	22.91
Tremlin	386.4	68	1306	55	23.74
Hargreave	712.4	215	1063	67	24.82
J Gunn	660.4	115	1604	64?	25.06?

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	24	1039	248*	3	49.47
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	27	1199	162	1	46.11
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	24	893	149	0	37.20
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	24	851	108	1	37.00
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	26	692	117*	3	30.08
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	24	596	93	4	29.80
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	30	876	94	0	27.53
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	19	449	48	2	26.41
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	25	559	134	2	24.30
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	16	180	74*	7	20.00
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	14	264	52	0	18.14
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	23	282	60	5	15.68
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	11	77	25*	6	15.40
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	16	168	19	2	12.00
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	14	72	16	3	6.54

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr F Laver	537.3	154	1286	77	16.70
Mr W W Armstrong	483.1	161	935	52	17.96
Mr R A Duff	84.5	29	225	12	18.75
Mr W P Howell	248.3	82	634	29	21.86
Mr A Cotter	305.5	50	979	44	22.25
Mr C E McLeod	424	129	994	40	24.85
Mr A J Hopkins	200	51	617	21	29.38
Mr M A Noble	414.3	114	1067	34	31.33

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Lancashire	14	9	1	4	8	80.00
Surrey	13	8	2	3	6	60.00
Sussex	14	7	2	5	5	55.55
Yorkshire	15	9	3	3	6	50.00
Nottinghamshire	11	5	3	3	2	25.00
Middlesex	7	4	3	0	1	14.28
Leicestershire	11	4	3	4	1	14.28
Gloucestershire	9	4	4	1	0	0.00
Kent	8	4	4	0	0	0.00
Northamptonshire	6	1	3	2	-1	-50.00
Warwickshire	11	1	3	7	-2	-50.00
Essex	9	2	7	0	-5	-55.55
Hampshire	9	1	4	4	-3	-60.00
Worcestershire	9	1	4	4	-3	-60.00
Somerset	11	1	7	3	-6	-75.00
Derbyshire	11	1	9	1	-8	-80.00

The match at Kennington Oval between Surrey and Lancashire - abandoned without a ball having been bowled - is not included in the above table.

10 July: DERBYSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6790.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 July, page 11)

At Derby, yesterday, Dr Ashcroft, who was captaining Derbyshire in the absence of Mr Lawton, on winning the toss put the Australians in to bat. The state of the pitch - rather soft on the top from rain in the night - tempted the adoption of this course, which might have turned out well, had all the chances offered before lunch been held; but as the Australians also blundered in the field, the game would most likely have gone against Derbyshire, even if they had dismissed their opponents more cheaply.

In spite of the fact that Mr Trumper was missed when he had scored 23 and again at 30, and Mr Gehrs at nine, Derbyshire had disposed of six of the Australians for 154 before lunch, the turf being very dead, and afterwards when the ball came along more first day, the last four wickets fell in an hour for 99.

Mr Trumper showed all his customary freedom of style, but found the conditions so adverse to rapid scoring that in 80 minutes he made only 58 out of 121. He was fifth out and, notwithstanding the faults, his innings was a delightful display, his strokes for the most part being excellent.

Mr Gehrs, whose 72 is his highest score in England, should have been out at 130, and after being missed off a rather difficult chance, he helped to raise the total to 247. Perfectly-timed leg hits and hard drives marked his innings. He scored very freely, averaging a run a minute. Mr Darling helped Mr Gehrs to add 61 in 35 minutes.

Play closed at half-past 5 owing to rain. In an hour and a quarter four Derbyshire wickets had fallen for 63 and four catches had been missed.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 July, page 12)

In some rather uneventful cricket at Derby yesterday, the play went largely to favour of the Australians. For the addition of 104 runs, the last six Derbyshire wickets fell in an hour and a half, and then in two hours and 50 minutes the Australians scored 250 for the loss of six men.

As they led on the first innings by 86, the visitors at the drawing of stumps were 336 ahead, but probably they will only have two wickets to fall to-day. Mr Hopkins has cut his hand so badly with broken glass that he will not be able to play for some time; and the extreme heat overcame Mr Gregory when fielding yesterday morning. It is hoped that Mr Gregory's illness is not serious, but it may not be considered wise for him to take further part in the game.

Except during the partnership of Dr Ashcroft and Mr Walkden, who put on 40 in 25 minutes, the Derbyshire batting was poor. Mr Armstrong bowled with great effect. Keeping an accurate length and bowling straight, he had his field placed in an ordinary way, and so little could the batsmen do with him that he took the last five wickets at a cost of less than six runs each.

Mr Darling altered the Australians' batting order, and Mr Laver, who was sent in first, played his highest innings of the tour. Hitting freely, he completed his 50 out of 88 in an hour, but, although staying in nearly as long again, he obtained only 28 more runs. He gave no chance and his strokes in front of the wicket possessed much power.

Mr Kelly helped to add 59 in 45 minutes for the third wicket and, when Mr Laver left, fourth out at 145, Mr Armstrong gave a splendid display of hard and accurate cutting and driving.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 12)

At Derby yesterday Mr Darling, by declaring his innings closed at the overnight total, took a considerable risk, as Derbyshire were left with 337 to make on a fast wicket with over five hours left for play. They had only to score at the rate of about 70 an hour, and twice during the afternoon it looked as if the Australian captain had made a mistake.

Mr L G Wright played brilliantly, and 100 was on the board with only one man out, while, although there were four wickets down when the second 100 was put up, Derbyshire still looked to have a chance. The turning point came when Mr Cotter was put on a second time at 208, for, bowling at his fastest, he dismissed four of the last five batsmen for 10 runs, and with Mr H F Wright injured the innings was finished off for 231, and the Australians were left with a victory by 105 runs at a quarter past 4.

10 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6791.html)

(From our special correspondent)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 July, page 11)

The heavy thunderstorms on Sunday had considerable effect on the wicket for the first day of the time-honoured match between the Gentlemen and Players at Lord's yesterday. The wicket was quite slow and probably gave the bowlers some slight assistance; for although the ball did not get up it turned a good deal, and at first a good amount of power had to be used to get the ball to the boundary.

Mr Foster could not play for the Gentlemen, and Mr Beldam took his place, and Lilley, on winning the toss, took first innings for the Players.

Bowley and Hayward began, and there was a great contrast in the style of the two men. Hayward was safe and sound as usual, but even allowing for the pace of the ground he was rather on the slow side,

while Bowley played a distinctly free game and ran some risks. The two made a fair start and brought the score to 76, when Bowley was caught off Mr Hesketh-Prichard, having made a very creditable debut in this match for his score of 47, in which he showed very good play on the on-side.

Hayward at 99 was "l-b-w" for 32. There had been nothing very striking in the play so far, but it was just what might have been expected at the opening of such a match on a slow wicket. Tyldesley and Hayes stopped together until the interval, and the Players were then in a fair position.

After luncheon things went badly for them, and Mr Brearley met with considerable success. He clean bowled Hayes for 29, got chiefly by good play in front of the wicket, and three wickets were down for 152. Denton and Hirst were soon got rid of, the latter being well caught in the slips by Mr Evans; and Tyldesley was shortly afterwards finely caught by Mr Spooner off a ball which the batsman tried to drive but which for a man of his height looked a trifle wide.

Six wickets were now down for 178; but Rhodes and Arnold then brought the score to 229 by excellent play on the part of Arnold, but Rhodes was much at fault in his timing of the ball. After Rhodes was bowled by Mr Brearley, Arnold continued to show very good cricket and with Lilley stayed in until the tea interval, when the score was 250.

Tyldesley's innings was thoroughly characteristic of the player, his defence was sound at his off-play was both effective and beautiful to look at, while he opened his shoulders well to any overpitched ball and sent it to the ropes.

Up to this point the cricket could not be said to have been exciting; and, on the whole, the most notable part of it was Mr Brearley's bowling. He kept up his pace well and was by no means easy to time, and for the most part he kept just short of the length that is easy to drive. Mr Jackson bowled fairly, as did Mr Evans when he first went on; but Mr Jackson evidently did not think the slow wicket was suitable for Mr Bosanquet's bowling, for up to 5 o'clock Mr Bosanquet was not called upon at all.

Mr Martyn's wicket-keeping, even allowing for the fact that it was an easy wicket-keeping day, was quite first rate, as he stood up to all the bowling and took the ball beautifully.

After the tea interval the play became much more lively. The weather became cloudy and the bowling, except that of Mr Brearley, looked to be not so good. Arnold played very well, and when Lilley was caught and bowled the pair had put on 103 runs and had placed their side in a much more favourable position.

It cannot be said that the bowling looked difficult. Mr Bosanquet was put on for the first time at a quarter-past 5, and in his short spell of bowling bowled every variety of bad ball and three good ones, each of which fairly beat the batsman. But the bad balls were too numerous and he had to be taken off; and Mr Brearley rapidly finished off the innings by getting Arnold caught in the slips and bowling Haigh.

Arnold had every appearance of getting his hundred, and had shown the best batting of his side. He gave no chance and never looked puzzled by any of the bowling; and, while the cut is his best stroke, he can hit well, if not powerfully, in front of the wicket. Lilley, on the other hand, has little powers of cutting, but drives well, and he played a good innings.

The innings was over a few minutes before 6, and a glance at the score will show how much the Gentlemen were indebted to Mr Brearley; and, indeed, it may almost be said that on the day's form he was the only bowler they possessed. He kept the batsmen playing the whole time, and his great strength enabled him to keep up a very considerable pace all day.

Mr Jackson bowled well at the start, but the wicket as the day went on did not appear to suit him, and of the rest of the bowlers not much can be said. It looks, indeed, as if, in the selection of the elevens, the authorities may have erred in not finding a genuine slow bowler for the Gentlemen and a very fast bowler to take the place of Warren for the Players.

The Gentlemen, in what in these days is called a bad light, began with Mr Warner and Mr Beldam to the bowling of Hirst from the Pavilion end and Lees. Twenty minutes' play had to be got through, and people were thinking of Oxford's misfortunes on Friday last at the same time.

The batsmen seemed inclined to leave the off balls alone, but Lees got up awkwardly to Mr Beldam's glove in his first over, and the batsmen then successfully appealed against the light, and stumps

were drawn. The weather looked very threatening, and as rain came on at 6.30 the Players looked like having the best of the position at the end of the first day.

It was not an exciting day's play, and will chiefly be remembered for the first-rate bowling of Mr Brearley and the excellent batting of Arnold. Upwards of 7,000 paid at the gate and there was a total attendance of over 10,000.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 July, page 12)

The rain which threatened to come down at the end of the first day's play of the Gentlemen and Players match held off, and it became obvious that the wicket would play easier the second day as it would be rather faster but the sting would not be there.

As a matter of fact, as far as spectators could judge at Lord's yesterday, it was just the sort of wicket that breaks bowlers' hearts, the ball never rising much more than half stump high and coming on straight and at an easy pace. The almost complete collapse of the Gentlemen came as a surprise, and can only be explained in one way, and that was that, with few exceptions, they batted badly.

Mr Warner and Mr Beldam gave their side a good start, for the first wicket did not fall until 53 runs were made, when Arnold bowled down Mr Beldam's off stump with a fast ball, the batsman having played in his usual careful way for 22. Mr Fry came in, and began as is his wont with indomitable patience; but when he had scored nine he was clean bowled by Rhodes with a fine length ball that broke back and took the off stump. The ball looked as if it pitched on the blind spot, the sort of length that the batsman is uncertain whether to play forward to or back. Mr Fry played forward but did not smother the ball at the pitch, and the break then beat him.

Mr Spooner then came in, and almost at once tried to hook Arnold, who was bowling from the Pavilion end, and sent the ball straight to mid-on. It used to be an old principle of batting that it is well to remain quietly at the wicket to get a knowledge of the pace of the ground before attempting to pull, and if this rule had been observed Mr Spooner would not have got out as he did.

Mr Jackson unfortunately hit one of Rhodes's balls on to his legs and from thence to the wicket, and Mr Evans was clean bowled second ball. Thus the three greatest Gentlemen bats and Mr Evans had been got rid of for 18 runs on an easy wicket, and five wickets were down for 84 runs; and something heroic would have to be done to put the Gentlemen in anything like a good position.

Arnold and Rhodes were now bowling with the skill that often accompanies success; but Mr Bosanquet, who more than once this year has batted successfully in similar circumstances, again did what was required, and with Mr Warner put on 62 runs that were sorely needed. Mr Bosanquet batted well and scored faster than Mr Warner. Lees, Hayes and Haigh were all tried, and they all bowled well, but both batsmen played skilfully and looked like staying in until luncheon.

Arnold, however, had resumed at the Pavilion end, and got Mr Bosanquet caught in the slips for 38 runs obtained in his usual somewhat stiff style, but with the exception of Mr Warner he had played the best cricket for the Gentlemen.

After luncheon Mr Warner was joined by Mr Jessop, but almost at once the former was stumped by Lilley off Arnold. The ball was on the leg side, and a more beautiful bit of work has not been seen this year, as the ball [bail?] was put down at once gracefully and quickly. Mr Warner has never played better cricket than in his innings of 59, although he gave one very difficult chance early in his innings. He hit all round the wicket and played thoroughly sound cricket.

Mr Jessop is in no batting form this season, and gave an easy catch to short slip off Lees from the Nursery end. Mr Martyn and Mr Hesketh-Prichard stayed some time and put on 38 runs, Mr Martyn playing very well and making several really beautiful strokes on the off side off Lees; but both got out, and the whole side was out for 185.

The Players fielded and bowled very well, but no bowling that has ever been seen could have got such a batting side out on an easy wicket unless the batsmen had batted badly. It is possibly true that the Gentlemen had been playing on fast wickets lately and might have been short of practice for slow wicket play, but this after all can only partly account for the failure.

All the bowlers did well, but Arnold and Rhodes did the best, and Arnold, who has covered himself with glory in this match, was the most successful, and in addition fielded very well at point in the

early part of the innings. The whole side, however, fielded well, and Lilley's wicket-keeping was as near perfect as wicket-keeping can be - and on this head the same can be said of Mr Martyn, who on the first day kept practically the whole day and only let four byes out of a total of 356.

At about half-past 3 the Players were batting again, Lilley probably having a vivid recollection of the Gentlemen's following on two years ago, when the Players fielded out for 500 runs for two wickets. The Players began badly, for Mr Brearley bowled Bowley for four and Tyldesley first ball, but even after this inauspicious beginning they were 170 runs on with eight wickets in hand.

Hayward and Hayes now made a prolonged stand and put on 129 runs. The play was slow - very slow for a long time - but Hayes then began to open out and scored faster than Hayward, who at the same time never looked at all likely to get out; and gradually the Gentlemen's bowling got tied in a knot.

Hayes has a rather peculiar style of batting, as he faced the ball and brings very little left shoulder into his play, and he always looks as if a bumping ball would bring him to grief. But at Lord's yesterday, with all the sting taken out by Sunday's rain, no ball got up the whole day; and Hayes hit very finely all round the wicket, pulling and cutting with the greatest skill. He was twice missed, once from a very difficult left-hand catch in the slips off Mr Jackson, and once in the deep field, the fieldsman obeying the almost invariable instinct of running forward to the catch instead of backward, which in this case would have given him the catch.

Denton was soon out, and then Hayward and Hirst played out time, Hirst having scored 30 and Hayward 106. Hirst batted as he always does, cutting and pulling and thoroughly enjoying himself, especially in pulling Mr Bosanquet's longest of long hops to the boundary. Advancing years have made Hayward far slower than he used to be, but his defence is stronger than ever it was, and he gave nothing like a chance in the whole of his innings.

The match was not quite safe when Tyldesley got out, but nothing could disturb Hayward, who was as steady as a rock. The Gentlemen's bowling, except Mr Brearley's, could not be said to be difficult, but Mr Brearley bowled well and was only worn down by the impregnable defence of Hayward.

Mr Bosanquet had again one of his off days, which is tantamount to saying that he hardly ever bowled a moderately good ball, but revelled in a profusion of long hops, a kind of ball that made the whole field tremble. Mr Bosanquet likes a hard wicket, and is a bowler of such original and eccentric genius that it is impossible to explain why his length should be so bad on a slow wicket.

The Players are now over 400 runs on with six wickets in hand, and even after the University match it is difficult to see how they can lose. Their policy on the third day should be to play a free game and to declare after putting on another 100 runs, thus leaving the Gentlemen with about 500 runs to get to win. It may seem strange that all these runs should be necessary to make them safe, but such extraordinary batting feats have been performed by the Gentlemen in the last two seasons in this match that the Players will not probably run any risk.

The weather was very hot and about 9,000 people paid at the gates.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 12)

The weather, at Lord's, yesterday, was ideal for cricket, as, although the sun was hot, there was always a pleasant breeze; but there was one thing very much in evidence, as was the case all through the match, and that was that the wicket was too easy.

The bowlers had too much to do, for nothing they could show in the way of skill was of much avail on the perfect wicket. There was absolutely no sting in the ground, while at the same time it was too hard for the ball to bite in the slightest degree. Batsmen could run risks if they chose, and after they had been in a short time could pull comparatively easily, for the ball never got up and did not come along too fast, and that the Gentlemen did not get more runs was because their batting was not up to the mark.

Play began punctually at 11.30, Hirst and Hayward batting, and by the way began it did not seem that they meant to force the pace; but they played very easily and never looked like getting out, and at about a quarter past 12 the innings was declared at an end, and at half-past the Gentlemen set about the almost hopeless task of making 465 runs in about five hours.

Hayward carried his bat for 123, obtained by rather slow but absolutely safe play; in fact on such a wicket it is difficult to conceive a more hopeless task than bowlers had in trying to get him out. He never looked in the slightest degree puzzled by the bowling, and never attempted to lift the ball, consequently it must be said that as a spectacle it was somewhat dull, but it served its purpose. Hirst played in his usual daring and original way.

Mr Fry and Mr Warner began for the Gentlemen to Lees and Hirst, the latter bowling from the Pavilion end. Lees kept one of his very best for Mr Fry. The ball apparently took an odd flight in the air and came down the hill from the pitch, and clean bowled the batsman.

Mr Spooner then came in, and a most prolonged stand was made, 189 runs being put on. It is impossible to say much about the play, as generally is the case in an important match on perfect wickets. The bowling was good, but the batting was so easy, although at the same time both batsmen played well, but scoring was slow. The Players, probably anticipating an afternoon's fielding, seemed to take things rather easily, but the bowling was always good, and at luncheon time the score was 97 for one wicket.

There was just a possibility of the runs being obtained if Mr Jessop had been in his old form, but so far as could be judged the Players always seemed to have the power of keeping runs down. Mr Spooner is generally a free bat, but on this occasion he did not seem able to drive much, most of his runs coming from strokes behind the wicket.

There was one thing, however, that struck the spectators, and that was the very slack way in which the batsmen ran between the wickets. So long as there is a bare chance of getting the runs in time batsmen should not saunter across the wicket as if their main object was to save their breath. Time after time they lost runs by not running the first run hard, and the result was that the fieldsmen had no need to stand in their proper places. They stood out in many cases to save the two, but in positions where it was quite impossible to save one if the batsmen had only run properly.

Both batsmen looked like getting a century, but with the score at 202 Arnold got Mr Spooner caught at the wicket, and at 219 Mr Warner was palpably out "l-b-w" to the same bowler, and there looked to be a chance of finishing the match. Both Mr Warner and Mr Spooner had made a few dangerous strokes in the slips, but neither gave a real chance, and both played a good game for their side, except in the one important respect of running.

Cricket is indeed a strange game, for on such a wicket, with three wickets only down for 219 runs, it might reasonably be inferred that for the rest of the day the bat would beat the ball. Yet strange to say this was not the case, and the hero of the match from this stage was Rhodes.

The quality of Rhodes's bowling on a good wicket is always a subject on which much difference of opinion exists. Whatever he has done in Australia, many have urged that on a plumb wicket as this was Rhodes is not a very good bowler; but yesterday he bowled better on such a wicket than he has ever done, at Lord's at any rate, before. Mr Jackson was missed off him immediately he went in, and he was never quite at home to him, and was clean bowled by a good length ball to which apparently he played outside as if expecting the break, but the ball went straight on.

Mr Jessop, who was sent in earlier in the hope that his hitting might bring off a victory for the Gentlemen, was "l-b-w" for four; and both Mr Evans and Mr Bosanquet, after playing with almost painful care and steadiness, were caught on the off-side. Rhodes certainly came off at the right moment and he fully deserved his success; for his length was perfect and he bowled just the sort of ball on the off-side that most batsmen, being human beings, are almost compelled to have a go at.

Lilley placed his field with great skill and the fielding of Lees, Hirst and Haigh was of a very high quality, and Haigh brought off a fine catch that dismissed Mr Bosanquet. It was a refreshing sight after the apparently easy task the batsmen looked to have at the beginning of the innings, and it certainly looked as if Rhodes ought to have had more bowling at the start.

The end came soon after, play having been in a most sportsmanlike manner prolonged to bring about a definite result. Haigh clean bowled Mr Martyn and got Mr Brearley caught at silly point, and the Players won a great victory by 149 runs.

Speaking of the match as a whole, it was, probably, as good a match as could be expected on a wicket that was so much in favour of the batsmen; and, perhaps, the strangest fact about it was the failure of batsmen of Mr Fry and Mr Jackson, certainly the two best bats on the side, and who both possess claims for being considered the two best bats in England.

Mr Warner, taking the whole match through, showed the best batting, for he had far more difficult bowling to contend against than Hayward, Arnold and Hayes had, well though all those players performed. Mr Spooner played very well, but that the bowling was good was proved by the difficulty both he and Mr Warner had in scoring at any pace. Apart from Mr Warner and Mr Spooner it must be said that the batting of the Gentlemen on such a wicket was much below the mark.

The batting was sound on the part of the Players, Rhodes being a long way the best, and Arnold, Haigh and Lees all bowled well and, as an all-round performance, Arnold's was worthy of comparison with Braund's and Lockwood's in former years.

Of the Gentlemen's bowling there is little to be said except of Mr Brearley; but his bowling was a splendid exhibition of both skill and endurance, for he was called upon to do a great deal of bowling on a wicket very unlike that of Manchester by all reports, and his claims for the next Test match will, no doubt, be carefully considered.

At one time in the afternoon yesterday the whole play seemed to get a trifle listless, and there was a strong contrast in the number of extras given by each side in the second innings.

10 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6792.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 July, page 11)

This match was begun at Leicester yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 July, page 12)

Sussex, at Leicester, yesterday, made a splendid recovery, and at the end of the day they held a great advantage.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 12)

The result of this match at Leicester yesterday was a draw, the home county when stumps were pulled up wanting 92 runs to win and having five wickets in hand.

At one time they looked like suffering defeat, for, going on with nearly three hours and a half left for play, they lost half their wickets for 129 in about a couple of hours. However, Knight and King by steady cricket added 80 runs before the game was abandoned.

The visitors' innings, in which only two wickets had fallen for 220 overnight, did not end until after lunch. Vine, who was eighth out at 312, increased his 100 to 146, and was altogether at the wickets for nearly four hours and a half. Mr Chapman hit well, but otherwise Vine received little help.

10 July: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 July, page 11)

Play in this match began at Northampton yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 July, page 12)

Mr Hill's policy in putting Northamptonshire in to bat looks like ending in disaster for Hampshire, as at the close of play last night at Northampton the home side were 388 ahead with a wicket to fall in their second innings.

Northamptonshire's excellent position was almost entirely due to the bowling of Thompson and the batting of Mr Pool. The drying wicket gave Thompson some assistance, the ball generally turning quickly, but his performance was a very fine one.

Mr Pool began Northamptonshire's second innings with Mr Crosse, and 56 runs had been scored when the latter was out. Three wickets were down for 101, and Mr W Kingston helped to add 98 for the next partnership before Mr Pool was caught at the wicket after showing admirable form for two hours and 40 minutes. His hundred is the first scored for Northamptonshire since they became a first-class county.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 12)

Hampshire at Northampton never looked like recovering their lost ground, and they were beaten yesterday by 231 runs. On Tuesday Northamptonshire had gained a lead of 388 with a wicket to fall in their second innings, and this total was increased yesterday to 407.

The visitors' hopes of saving the match were dispelled early, as Captain Greig and Mr Hill were out with 38 runs scored, and before lunch eight wickets were down for 145. Bowell, who gave a chance at the wicket when he had scored one, alone made any stand against the excellent bowling of Thompson, who beat most of the batsmen by his pace from the pitch. After the interval Mr Evans made some good strokes, but the side were all out at a quarter past three.

Tuesday 11 July, page 11: THE CRICKETERS' FUND

The annual meeting of the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society was held last night in the members' dining hall, Lord's. Mr W E Denison presided and Lord Harris was also present. There was a good attendance of the members of the fund.

Mr Denison, in moving the adoption of the balance-sheet, pointed out that the statement of accounts was made satisfactory rather by the decrease in the amount for sick payments than by any increase in the income. It was gratifying to note that the trustees of the fund had recently invested £500 in Metropolitan Water Board stock.

Lord Harris briefly addressed the members. He regretted that his appeal of gentlemen cricketers of the country last year did not meet with much response; but it was satisfactory to know that the society was now on a thoroughly sound basis. He thought that the public would be inclined to support the society more substantially if it became better known that its old members had practised self-denial in the voluntary reduction of the scale of sick payments. It was very hopeful for the society that all the surroundings of the professional cricketer were so much more healthful than in the old days.

Lord Harris impressed upon professional cricketers the necessity for jealously guarding the good name of cricket which had become synonymous of everything fair, straightforward and right. In politics, commerce and literature the phrase "it is not cricket" was constantly applied to anything unfair or wrong. Two centuries of cricket had earned for the game this splendid tradition of honour, and it was for them [jealously to] guard it.

Mr W E Denison was re-elected president, and Mr H Luff, of Wisden's, Cranbourn-street, was again appointed secretary of the fund.

13 June: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6794.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 12)

A brilliant innings by Reeves late in the afternoon at Leyton yesterday completely changed the aspect of the match. Before this Essex, with several of their best batsmen unable to play, struggled hard for runs, only to find that by half-past 4, on a good fast pitch, they had seven wickets down for 182.

Afterwards the fine bowling and fielding of Lancashire could do nothing to check Reeves. He began his forcing game at once, and inside two hours, almost without an ill-timed stroke, he made 135 - 100 of which were in fours - and was last out, caught at mid-off. This is the finest piece of batting Reeves has ever done for Essex. The way the game changed may be appreciated from the fact that the last three Essex wickets produced 173 runs in 100 minutes.

Early in the day Carpenter had played well, his driving being very good; but until Reeves went in the Essex play was only commonplace against fine bowling and fielding.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 July, page 12)

At one period of the game, at Leyton, yesterday, Lancashire were in quite a bad position for, with Mr MacLaren, Tyldesley and two others out, they had scored only 58 runs; but the situation was saved for them by Mr A H Hornby and Sharp. It was Sharp's sturdy defence and brilliant cutting which gave to the Essex bowling its first check, and then, in the last two hours of the innings, there was some fine forcing cricket by Mr Hornby.

Going in a second time with a lead of 46, Essex finished the day 186 ahead with eight wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 July, page 11)

The match, at Leyton, between Essex and Lancashire was drawn on Saturday, Lancashire, who had been put in to get 376 in the fourth innings in four hours, having lost six men at the finish for 241.

The third day's cricket was most interesting, and nothing could have surpassed the batting of Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley, who scored 155 for the second wicket in rather more than 100 minutes. While they were together there seemed a bare possibility that Lancashire might succeed in getting the runs, but with the dismissal of Mr MacLaren, who was bowled by a very fine ball, the batsmen changed their methods and played only for a draw.

Tyldesley was seen at his best in getting his 108 out of 209 in a couple of hours. For a moment in the last hour fortune went against Lancashire, and Mr Hornby, forsaking his usual game, found it necessary to save his side by most careful play. In the circumstances he played the game; but there was such an unworthy abuse of him by a rowdy section of the big crowd that near the finish he absolutely refused to play until the jeering and hooting ceased.

But the ill-manners of certain spectators grew worse, and Mr Hornby turned to appeal to Mr McGahey, the Essex captain, and Phillips, the umpire at short leg. The over was not completed and stumps were pulled up five minutes before time. An apparent attempt to mob Mr Hornby was frustrated, and the Essex members on the pavilion drowned the hooting of the crowd by loud cheering.

It was an unfortunate incident to the conclusion of a splendid match. Essex had given the champions a severe fight and, after a bad half an hour at the beginning of the day, the fine forcing game of Mr McGahey, Mr Tosetti and reeves, who added 130 runs in an hour for the fifth and sixth wickets, had made it possible for Essex to "declare."

13 July: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6795.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 12)

The Tunbridge Wells week opened yesterday with the return match between Kent and Yorkshire. Kent were able to place practically their full strength in the field, but Yorkshire were without Mr F S Jackson.

Mr Marsham won the toss, and as the wicket was fairly good it was expected that Kent would make a large score. They were, however, all out at 20 minutes past 3 for a very disappointing total. Only A Hearne was able to time the ball accurately. He opened the innings with Mr Marsham and was fourth out after making 54 of the 84 runs that had then been scored.

Hirst made the ball swerve a great deal and bowled with six fieldsmen on the leg side. He obtained the first three wickets, but of the remaining seven six were captured by Ringrose, who had 38 runs hit off his bowling before getting Hearne well caught behind the wicket. Then Ringrose bowled so well that five other wickets fell to him for 28 more runs. The Yorkshire fielding was excellent; nine catches were made and not a single chance was missed. The three catches made by Hunter were exceptionally good ones.

Yorkshire passed the Kent total in an hour and three-quarters with six wickets in hand. Rothery scored 47 of the first 92 runs. He made several fine hits on the leg side, including three boundaries in one over from Mr Mason. The highest score was made by Rhodes, but he was badly missed at point by Blythe when he had got 18. At the close of play Yorkshire were 64 runs ahead and had three wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 July, page 12)

The first match of the Tunbridge-wells week ended at 6 o'clock yesterday, the home county being beaten by Yorkshire by eight wickets.

13 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6796.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 12)

In this match, at Trent-bridge, yesterday, both counties took the field without the services of their fast bowlers - Wass and Gill, who are suffering from injuries. Mr R Joyce played for Leicestershire for the first time this season, and by a good display of batting he not only redeemed the bad start which his side made but enabled Leicestershire to make a fairly substantial total.

Three wickets had fallen for 11 runs when Mr Joyce and Mr Crawford became partners, but then Leicestershire held their own very well. Mr Joyce, who made the majority of his runs by means of powerful off-drives, was twice missed when in the sixties, but these were the only real mistakes which he made in a bright innings.

Mr Crawford gave a dashing display, but the most productive partnership was that for the last wicket, Jayes and Hampson putting on 75 in 50 minutes before Hampson was out. Jayes, who has made great strides as a batsman, played very stylishly for his runs. With the exception of Gunn, who bowled finely, none of the bowlers presented any great difficulties to the batsmen.

Nottinghamshire had 50 minutes' batting, and at the close of play they were 210 behind with nine wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 July, page 12)

The second day's cricket in this return match at Trent Bridge, yesterday, went all in favour of Nottinghamshire, who batted all day and raised their overnight score of 55 for one wicket to 460 for nine, so that they are now 186 on with one wicket in hand.

For their strong position Nottinghamshire were chiefly indebted to Iremonger and J Gunn.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 July, page 11)

Owing in a large degree to another stubborn last-wicket stand by Jayes and Hampson, Leicestershire were on Saturday enabled to draw their return match with Nottinghamshire at Trent-bridge. Owing to

illness Hallam took no part in the game on Saturday, and the Nottinghamshire innings closed at the overnight total of 460, so that Leicestershire entered upon their second innings 186 behind.

Mr de Trafford and Mr Wood made a capital start, the former hitting out with characteristic vigour, and by luncheon time all but 30 of the arrears had been hit off for the loss of two batsmen. Subsequently the Nottinghamshire attack met with considerable success, four good wickets falling for an addition of 57 runs. King, Coe and Mr Odell made useful stands, but at five minutes to 5, when the ninth wicket fell, Leicestershire were only 86 runs ahead.

When Hampson went in the Nottinghamshire fielders closed round him on all sides. He immediately spooned a ball over the head of J Gunn, who was standing almost against him. From this point Joyce and Hampson met the attack with confidence and put on 57 runs for the wicket. There was then barely half an hour remaining for play, and it was decided to draw stumps. The Nottinghamshire fielding was very good, only one catch being missed through the day, but the attack was much weakened by the loss of Hallam's services.

17 July: SOMERSET v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6797.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 12)

The Australians, at Bath yesterday, scored off the Somerset bowlers at the rate of 100 runs an hour throughout the day, and at the close, with only two wickets down, they held an unassailable position. Mr Trumper and Mr Armstrong, by scoring 145 for the first wicket, made an excellent beginning, but to the incomplete partnership between Mr Armstrong and Mr Noble is due the Australians' huge score.

They came together when the total was 172, and for over two hours neither made a bad stroke. After Mr Armstrong, however, had passed his second 100 he hit a ball off Braund to Mr Thomas at mid-off that the fieldsman dropped, and in the same over he repeated the stroke with a similar result. Up to this point he had been in four hours and 10 minutes, but subsequently he batted with more freedom.

Although always master of the bowling, Mr Noble batted with more restraint, and when stumps were drawn his innings had lasted nearly three hours. Mr Armstrong scored chiefly with cuts and drives, and his hits included 31 fours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 July, page 12)

At Bath, yesterday, Mr Armstrong achieved the distinction of making the highest score ever made by an Australian in this country, the former best being 300 not out by Mr Trumper at Brighton against Sussex in July, 1899. On Thursday Mr Armstrong had made 252, while an unfinished partnership between him and Mr Noble had realized 297 runs.

Yesterday Mr Noble added only 20 before being caught at forward third man, but Mr Armstrong kept in for an hour and a half that led up to the Australians declaring their innings closed. This was done directly Mr Armstrong had passed Mr Trumper's score.

Mr Armstrong's cricket yesterday was very tedious, and of the 76 runs scored while he and Mr Darling were together he had made only 17. He was batting altogether for six hours and a quarter, and, apart from a bad stroke through the slips at the outset of his innings and two chances at mid-on in one over after he had passed his second hundred, no fault, except the slowness of his play when nearing Mr Trumper's record, could be found with his cricket.

At the beginning of the Somerset innings Braund played brightly, and scored 50 out of 72 in 55 minutes. Until Robson came in at the fall of the third wicket no one stayed long with him. He was missed when he had made 60 in the slips, and 15 runs later at the wicket. At the close Somerset, with six wickets to fall, required 272 to avoid the follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 July, page 11)

The excellent beginning which Somerset had made in their first innings on Friday at Bath, when 188 runs were scored for the loss of four batsmen, was not maintained on Saturday as, after Braund and Mr Martyn had added 30, the side were all dismissed in six overs for 10 runs more. Braund was sixth out, caught in the slips. He had played good cricket for three hours and a half, his cutting and off-driving being clean and hard.

Somerset began their second innings 381 behind, and Mr Martyn and Braund batted so well that by scoring 146 before the professional was caught at the wicket, they recorded the best first-wicket partnership against the Australians this season. Braund, who was in an hour and 35 minutes, again played admirably. He found no difficulty with Mr Cotter, and hit him three times in one over to the boundary.

Mr Martyn, who made his first 100 in first-class cricket, was in three hours, and a chance at the wicket when he had scored 55 was the only mistake in a really fine display. He at times hit brilliantly to the off, and in one over from Mr Armstrong he made three fours, and in one from Mr McLeod he scored a six and three fours.

Lewis was out at 201 and Montgomery at 243, and, with Palairt and Mr Martyn together, stumps were pulled up at half-past 5 and the match was left drawn.

13 July: SURREY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6798.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 12)

Some good batting by Surrey at the Oval yesterday enabled them to have much the better of the first day's play against Worcestershire, as at the close the visitors, with six wickets to fall, were 299 runs behind on the first innings.

At the start Arnold and Cuffe bowled so well that runs were difficult to get, but when Hayes came in he soon collared the bowling, and from that time until the end of the innings the Worcestershire bowlers were severely punished. Hayes played a very fine forcing game and made his runs practically without a bad stroke in about three-quarters of an hour. His hitting was very powerful, and when he and Baker were together 65 were put on in half an hour for the third wicket. At one time during his innings Hayes scored 29 off seven consecutive balls, and in all he hit one six, one five and 11 fours.

At lunch time the score was 141 for four wickets, and afterwards runs were got at the rate of over 100 an hour. Mr Raphael, who started rather badly, and Davis, continuing their innings, played attractive cricket, and in all their partnership produced 110. Afterwards Lord Dalmeny, who received useful assistance from Nice, hit finely, and was only batting 50 minutes for his runs.

After he left, caught at point, the end was soon reached, although Mr Knox made several good strokes. In all the innings only lasted about four hours. Arnold appeared the most difficult bowler to play, but when Hayes came in he seemed to lose his length and was afterwards considerably punished.

When Worcestershire went in their batting was in marked contrast to that of their opponents. The batsmen seemed quite incapable of timing Lees and Mr Knox, with the result that four good wickets were down for 29 runs. Mr Brinton and Mr Hutchings, however, by steady cricket, played out time.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 July, page 12)

There was another interesting day's cricket at the Oval yesterday, in which Surrey increased the advantage which they had gained on Thursday, and at the close of play they held a lead of 472 with one wicket still to fall.

Overnight Worcestershire had lost four wickets for 63, and when they continued their innings their cricket was very disappointing, and it was only the good batting of Wheldon, who received some useful assistance from Arnold, that saved the side.

Holding a lead of 183, Surrey started their second innings immediately after lunch, and runs came very quickly. The Worcestershire fieldsmen were severely tried, but their fielding always reached a high standard, and many hard hits were stopped, Burroughs in particular doing fine work.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 July, page 11)

Surrey gained an easy victory over Worcestershire at the Oval on Saturday by 343 runs. Almost all interest was lost in the third day's play, as there could only be one result.

The Surrey innings was declared closed, and Worcestershire, with the whole day before them, required 472 to save the game, a practically impossible task in any circumstances. With the wicket showing signs of wear, the Surrey bowlers always held the upper hand, and the match was over at half-past 1.

From the first wickets fell rapidly, and there was only the cricket of Mr Foster and Arnold which raised the batting from insignificance, for these two scored 91 out of 119 from the bat, or all but 28 of the runs. Mr Foster, after an indifferent start, made some fine strokes on the off-side, and while he and Arnold were together 48 runs were added in half an hour for the fifth wicket.

Mr Knox, who is a wonderfully improved bowler, had a large share in Surrey's victory, and in the match he took 11 wickets for 98 runs.

13 July: WARWICKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6799.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Friday 14 July, page 12)

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 15 July, page 12)

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 July, page 11)

This match, at Birmingham on Saturday, ended in a draw. The chief feature of the third day's play was the batting of Kinneir and Mr Fishwick.

Friday 14 July, page 12: ETON v HARROW

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/154/154797.html)

The sides for this match, which begins at Lord's to-day, will be: -

Eton. - *Mr W N Tod (captain), *Mr C E Hatfeild, *Mr J J Astor, *Mr N C Tufnell, Me E F Chinnery, Mr B J Blakett, Mr C A Gold, the Hon D G Finch-Hatton, Mr O H C Dunell, Mr H S Hatfeild and the Hon P A Methuen or the Hon A B Lyon.

Harrow. - *Mr E H Crake (captain), *Mr R O Morris, *Mr D R Brandt, *Mr R E Eiloart, *Mr M C Bird, *Mr J Reunert, *Mr C Reunert, Mr C V Baker, Mr M A C Halliday, Mr G Pike and either Mr G Watson and Mr B Osborne.

*Played last year.

[Note: This match was covered very extensively and resulted in an exciting draw as a determined partnership by the Eton last-wicket pair staved off defeat.]

Monday 17 July, page 11: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

At the Oval to-day the teams will be: -

Gentlemen. - Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire), Mr G W Beldam (Middlesex), Mr J F Byrne (Warwickshire), Mr C J B Wood (Leicestershire), Mr W W Odell (Leicestershire), Mr L G Wright (Derbyshire), Mr C McGahey (Essex), Mr J H Hunt (Middlesex), Mr W S A Brown (Gloucestershire), Mr A F Morcom (Cambridge University) and Mr W S Bird (Oxford University).

Players. - Lilley (Warwickshire), Quaife (Warwickshire), Hayward (Surrey), Lees (Surrey), Hayes (Surrey), J Gunn (Nottinghamshire), Iremonger (Nottinghamshire), Dennett (Gloucestershire), Knight (Leicestershire), King (Leicestershire) and Warren (Derbyshire).

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	29	1909	233	3	73.42
Hirst	28	1268	341	7	60.38
Quaife	30	1199	255*	8	54.50
Iremonger	26	1234	239	0	48.61
Mr H K Foster	19	866	180	1	48.11
Tyldesley	31	1337	250	2	46.10
Kinneir	26	1143	158	1	45.72
Hayward	34	1414	129*	3	45.51
Mr C McGahey	21	860	277	1	43.00
Sharp	23	804	110*	4	42.31
Mr B J T Bosanquet	19	633	103	4	42.20
Arnold	17	546	134	4	42.00
Mr L O S Poidevin	23	856	168*	2	41.23
Mr C J B Wood	24	947	160*	1	41.17
Mr P F Warner	21	847	204	0	40.33
Bowley	21	844	217	0	40.19
Mr A H Hornby	21	611	111*	5	38.18
Seymour	21	721	122	2	37.94
Mr R H Spooner	24	908	164	0	37.83
Baker (Surrey)	31	959	128*	5	36.88
The Hon F S Jackson	23	766	144*	2	36.47
Knight	23	728	177	3	36.40
Denton	35	1231	153*	1	36.20
Braund	24	744	130	3	35.42
Rhodes	30	917	201	4	35.26
Hayes	34	1123	105	2	35.09
J Gunn	25	797	178	2	34.65
Mr L G Wright	24	807	149	0	33.62
Relf	29	866	75	3	33.30
Mr A P Day	20	563	106	3	33.11
Vine	33	1046	146	1	32.68
Mr A O Jones	30	942	103	1	32.48
G Gunn	26	777	99	2	32.37
Mr A C MacLaren	24	740	140	1	33.17
Mr M W Payne	23	693	178	1	31.57
Hobbs	33	967	155	2	31.19
Board	21	584	119*	2	30.73
Cuffe	19	519	71	2	30.52
Mr J F Byrne	26	782	222	0	30.46
Mr T S Fishwick	26	773	137	0	29.73
Carpenter	21	602	104	0	28.66
Mr V F S Crawford	25	653	119	2	28.39
Reeves	20	566	135	0	28.30
Baker (Warwickshire)	25	675	102	1	28.12
Holland	24	612	132	2	27.81
Mr G L Jessop	25	685	234	1	27.70
King	20	465	95	3	27.35

Tunnickliffe	25	589	102	3	27.22
Mr W H B Evans	20	486	129*	2	27.00
Coe	23	589	100	1	26.77
Mr H Martyn	26	659	136*	1	26.36
Llewellyn	20	472	77	2	26.22
Killick	33	830	104	1	25.93
Wrathall	20	466	80*	2	25.86
Mr R T Godsell	19	437	98*	2	25.70
Pearson	19	481	86	0	25.31
Lord Dalmeny	25	606	116	1	25.25
Dr E M Ashcroft	20	479	73*	1	25.21

Also listed: Mr H G Garnett average 24.20, Hardstaff 24.15, Lilley 23.88, Mr C E de Trafford 23.59, Cox (Sussex) 23.56, Thompson 23.40, Davis (Surrey) 23.37, Bowell 23.33, Mr H E Hemingway 23.04, Mr A E Lawton 23.04.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Thompson	381.4	89	1007	71	14.18
Haigh	559.1	152	1329	91	14.60
Tarrant	239.3	57	584	35	16.68
Mr G G Napier	338.1	75	973	56	17.37
Rhodes	747.3	222	1677	96	17.46
J T Hearne	352.5	91	874	49	17.83
Lees	896.2	254	2163	119	18.17
Ringrose	268.3	50	764	41	18.63
Hallam	435.1	140	984	52	18.92
Kermode	548.3	142	1524	80	19.05
Hirst	343.5	78	949	49	19.36
Mr W Brearley	665.2	118	2130	109	19.54
Relf	637	243	1390	70	19.85
Killick	416.3	101	1113	56	19.87
Arnold	402.3	80	1234	62	19.90
Fairservice	331.2	95	947	47	20.14
Hayes	430.2	83	1277	62	20.59
Mr N A Knox	515.5	90	1771	84	21.08
Dennett	707.4	160	2105	99	21.26
Wass	495	101	1457	68	21.42
Warren	383.4	74	1215	55	22.09
Cox (Sussex)	1003.5	302	2270	102	22.25
Blythe	469.3	121	1271	57	22.29
Myers	304.4	60	942	42	22.42
Mr W W Odell	516.4	136	1421	60	23.68
Mr B J T Bosanquet	241.4	18	928	38	24.42
Jayes	376	74	1173	48	24.43
Tremlin	438.4	77	1477	60	24.61
Bestwick	446.3	98	1289	52	24.78
Hargreave	760.4	230	1765	71	24.85
J Gunn	635.2	135	1751	69	25.37
Wilson	230.1	19	844	33	25.57

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	27	1414	303*	5	64.27
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	29	1336	162	1	47.71
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	27	1012	108	1	38.92
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	27	928	149	1	35.69
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	29	814	117*	4	32.56
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	25	597	93	4	28.42

Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	31	838	94	0	27.08
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	21	464	48	2	24.42
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	26	568	134	2	23.58
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	18	220	74*	8	22.00
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	16	336	72	0	21.00
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	23	282	60	5	15.66
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	18	250	78	2	15.62
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	11	77	25*	6	15.40
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	14	72	16	3	6.54

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr F Laver	600.3	172	1465	82	17.86
Mr W W Armstrong	543.4	186	1098	58	18.93
Mr R A Duff	88.5	29	246	12	20.50
Mr W P Howell	248.3	82	634	29	21.86
Mr A Cotter	374.5	62	1251	56	22.33
Mr C E McLeod	453	133	1074	43	24.97
Mr A J Hopkins	202	51	621	22	28.22
Mr M A Noble	453.1	126	1159	38	30.50

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Lancashire	15	9	1	5	8	80.00
Surrey	14	9	2	3	7	63.63
Sussex	16	7	2	7	5	55.55
Yorkshire	16	10	3	3	7	53.84
Nottinghamshire	12	5	3	4	2	25.00
Middlesex	7	4	3	0	1	14.28
Leicestershire	13	4	3	6	1	14.28
Gloucestershire	9	4	4	1	0	0.00
Kent	9	4	5	0	-1	-11.11
Northamptonshire	7	2	3	2	-1	-20.00
Warwickshire	12	1	3	8	-2	-50.00
Essex	10	2	7	1	-5	-55.55
Hampshire	10	1	5	4	-4	-66.66
Worcestershire	10	1	5	4	-4	-66.66
Somerset	11	1	7	3	-6	-75.00
Derbyshire	11	1	9	1	-8	-80.00

The match at Kennington Oval between Surrey and Lancashire - abandoned without a ball having been bowled - is not included in the above table.

17 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6800.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 12)

The Gentlemen v Players match, at the Oval, was begun yesterday in beautiful weather and on a fast wicket, which, although it was not difficult, gave the bowlers some assistance. As has been the case for several years past in this match at the Oval, neither side was in any way representative; but the Players, with nine good batsmen and a strong and varied attack, are undoubtedly a very strong side.

The Players won the toss and began with Hayward and Iremonger, and they soon suffered a great loss by the dismissal of Hayward, who was caught in the slips with the score at 15. Hayes joined Iremonger and the total was taken to 64, when Iremonger was bowled by Mr Odell after playing well and in rather freer style than usual. Two more wickets - those of Hayes and King - fell before lunch, and when Quaife was got rid of after the interval with the score at 162, the Gentlemen were certainly in a good position.

Then, however, Knight and John Gunn made a long stand and put on 99 runs. Both played sound cricket and at no time were they in difficulty with the bowling. At 261 Mr Jessop, who had just gone on at the pavilion end, got Gunn caught in the slips, and at the same total Knight played on rather unluckily. Thompson and Lilley then made another useful stand, the latter making some good off drives, and, with Warren getting small double figures, the score eventually reached 330.

There had been nothing striking in the batting, but considering that the wicket was not perfect the score was, in the circumstances, a good performance. Of the bowlers, Mr Odell was the most successful and seemed, on the whole, the most difficult to play, while in fielding, though some chances were missed, some very good work was done by Mr Jessop, Mr Hunt and Wright. Few fieldsmen at the present day make a specialty of fielding at point, but Mr Wright's skill in this position is remarkable and he was able to save many runs for his side.

The Gentlemen had over an hour's batting, and started with Mr Wright and Mr Wood to the bowling of John Gunn, at the pavilion end, and Warren. The latter kept up a great pace and one or twice made the ball get up considerably. But both batsmen played soundly and, chiefly owing to Mr Wright, who showed a great variety of scoring strokes and played perhaps the most attractive innings of the day, runs came fairly quickly; and over 70 had been scored before Mr Wright, who had just before got his 50, was out to a beautiful piece of stumping by Lilley off Dennett's bowling.

Mr Brown came in and he and Mr Wood played out time, the match being left in an even position, as the Gentlemen, with nine wickets in hand, were 251 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 12)

The weather at the Oval, yesterday, on the second day of the Gentlemen and Players match, was almost perfect for cricket and, as on the first day, the bowlers got a certain amount of assistance from the wicket, for although the ball did not turn much it occasionally got up quickly. During the day some good bowling was seen and runs never seemed easy to get. Only 334 were scored altogether, and it cannot be said that the cricket was ever very interesting.

On Monday, the Gentlemen had made 79 for the loss of Mr Wright's wicket; and yesterday morning they at first did badly, Mr Wood, Mr Brown and Mr McGahey all being out for an addition of 51 runs. At this time the Players had much the better of the position; but Mr Byrne then joined Mr Beldam, who had started shakily, and these two added 71 runs, while after eight wickets had fallen for 234 Mr Brightened and Mr Odell put on 39, and in the end the Gentlemen were only 54 behind on the first innings. The wicket certainly gave Warren some help, but he bowled well and came out with quite a good record.

The Players went in a second time with something over two hours to bat, and for the greater part of that time the bowling held the upper hand. Hayward and Iremonger started to the bowling of Mr Odell, from the pavilion end, and Mr Hunt; and the former for a long time bowled really well, keeping an excellent length and sending down very few bad balls. Iremonger for a few overs scored fairly quickly, making some beautiful cuts, while Hayward at the other end showed impregnable defence.

When he had made 22, Iremonger was missed at slip by Mr Morcom off Mr Odell. The mistake, however, did not make much difference, as at 29 Iremonger was clean bowled by a very good ball, having made all but three of the runs. Hayes was out almost at once in trying to get Mr Hunt to leg, and Quaife was bowled by Mr Odell at 39.

King then joined Hayward, and was missed off a very difficult chance in the slips; but at 56 Hayward pulled a ball which was wide on the off side into his wicket. He had shown perfect defence as usual, but had never been able to get the ball away.

The Gentlemen now had none the worse of the position and Mr Odell was bowling very well indeed, but King and Knight stayed together and put on nearly 50 runs. Mr Beldam got out King, who had played a sound innings and had made some fine cuts and off drives, at 106, and then John Gunn and Knight played out time; and at the close the Players were 191 ahead with five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 July, page 11)

After a rather dull match, which was singularly devoid of incident, the Players beat the Gentlemen, at the Oval yesterday, by 128 runs. At the close of play on Tuesday the Players had lost five wickets in their second innings for 137, and thus held a lead of 191.

When play was continued yesterday it soon became apparent that the bowlers would receive some assistance from the wicket, which was showing signs of wear. Mr Odell and Mr Hunt made the most of their opportunity, and the Players were all out for the addition of 63 runs.

The batting was featureless, for no one stayed long. Knight, who was not out overnight with J Gunn, was bowled in Mr Hunt's first over with the score unaltered, and afterwards wickets fell fairly rapidly. Lilley made a few good strokes, but that is all that can be said in favour of the batting.

Mr Odell, as in the first innings, proved the most difficult bowler to score off, and by taking six wickets for just nine runs each he accomplished a really good performance. Mr Hunt also bowled well, but he did not keep such a good length as Mr Odell, although on several occasions after beating the batsman he was unlucky in just missing the stumps.

The Gentlemen went in at a quarter to 1, requiring 255 to win, not a hard task in these days, when conditions for run-getting are favourable, but after making due allowance for the state of the wicket it seemed rather a formidable task. As events proved, the Gentlemen never looked like making the runs and the match was over at half-past 3.

Mr Wright, who went in first with Mr Wood, made some good strokes, and Mr Jessop scored all the runs while he was in; but with the exception of Mr Beldam no one was able to stay long. Mr Beldam, who was batting an hour and a half, found some difficulty in timing the ball at the beginning of his innings, but he only gave one chance - to Hayes at slip off Warren when he had scored 39 - and his cricket is best described by the word solid.

Thompson bowled splendidly, and Warren, too, who did not seem to be bowling at his fastest, did good work. During the day 15 wickets fell for 189 runs.

17 July: HAMPSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6801.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 12)

Yorkshire, on an easy wicket at Bournemouth yesterday, established a reasonably safe position. The foundation of their good score was laid before lunch, when, after Rudston and Rothery had made 67 for the first wicket, the latter and Denton carried the total to 186 before Rothery was caught at point.

He was batting only an hour and 50 minutes and his runs were made principally on the on-side. He scored freely off Mr Hesketh-Prichard, who was not bowling at his fastest pace and sent down a number of short-pitched deliveries, which Rothery hooked repeatedly to the boundary. Chiefly with this stroke he hit 17 fours. His only bad stroke was the one before he was out, when he might have been caught in the long-field.

After the interval half the side were out for 250, but at this point Rhodes gave Denton excellent assistance. For an hour and five minutes both played good cricket, Rhodes hitting to the on with great power, while Denton cut and drove with excellent precision and timing, and 107 runs had been added when Rhodes was caught at mid-on.

Denton was eventually out eighth, being caught in the slips after a stay at the wickets of a little over three hours and a half. His total, the largest he has ever made in first-class cricket, was obtained out of an aggregate of 296, and although he gave two chances, one when he had scored 65 and the other at 160, both were extremely difficult.

Towards the end of the innings Hunter and Myers punished the tired bowlers freely and increased the total by 93 in an hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 12)

Yorkshire followed up their excellent batting on Monday at Bournemouth, when they stayed in the whole of the day, by such good work in the field yesterday that in the space of four hours and a half Hampshire were beaten by an innings and 167 runs.

17 July: KENT v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6802.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 12)

Kent made an excellent beginning to the second match of the Tunbridge-wells week, for yesterday their innings of 333 absorbed nearly the whole of the cricket hours, and then in the last 20 minutes they got out one of their opponents.

Mr Dillon carried off the chief honours in scoring. He played very steadily throughout his stay of three hours and three-quarters; but the bowling was always good and often puzzled him, particularly Mr Simpson-Hayward's lobs, from one of which he was eventually caught at mid-on. His best strokes were the cut and the drive, but the closing stage of the innings was rather spoiled by cramping his game in his anxiety to get the century.

He and Seymour laid the foundation for Kent's score by making 131 for the second wicket in 100 minutes. Seymour's batting, as usual, reached a very high standard, although he made one bad stroke when he had scored 50 and escaped, Wheldon dropping an easy catch in the slips. After Mr Dillon left, at 244, the Kent wickets fell rapidly and, in spite of the brilliant batting of Mr Marsham, the last six wickets went down in less than an hour for an additional 89 runs.

In fielding, the best thing of the day was Mr Blaker's wonderful left-hand catch at short-slip that got out Wheldon.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 12)

Bowley's fine batting at Tunbridge-wells yesterday brought Worcestershire on something like terms with their opponents on the first innings; but in the last hour of the day Kent's game so far prospered that when stumps were drawn the home side held a lead of 168 with eight wickets to fall.

For a long time yesterday Worcestershire were virtually playing a losing game, and with seven men out their score was only 134. Then came the stand that saved the side - Bowley and Burrows added 110 in 75 minutes for the eighth wicket.

Bowley played beautiful cricket; he has a fine style, with many strokes and plenty of execution, and, though scoring slowly when his side was in rather a bad way, the brilliancy of his batting during the last hour that he was in atoned for any early dullness. Beyond his giving Mr Dillon a simple catch at mid-on which was dropped when he had made 101, there was scarcely a blemish in his innings. Generally the Kent fielding was excellent and Huish kept wicket particularly well.

Mr Dillon and Hearne made 66 for the first Kent wicket in the second innings, and Mr Day and Seymour played out time. Except for a sharp shower early in the day the weather was beautifully fine and the "gate" was the best of the Week.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 July, page 11)

This match at Tunbridge-wells yesterday ended in a draw, Worcestershire at the close with one wicket still to fall being 160 runs behind. Kent had declared their innings closed before 1 o'clock and left themselves, roughly, four hours in which to get out their opponents.

At one period offering the afternoon victory seemed well within their grasp for they had half the Worcestershire side out with more than two hours left for play; but Mr Hutchings showed excellent defence and played one of the best innings of the match.

Like his brother, Mr K L Hutchings, of the Kent eleven, he learned his cricket at Tonbridge and had a great school reputation; but while possessing many strokes and a fine style he scarcely has the same punishing power. There was not a bad stroke in his batting yesterday, and he hit 12 fours during his stay of two hours and three-quarters. While he remained the draw seemed a certainty; but when he was eighth out, caught at the wicket, 20 minutes were left for play. Wilson kept up his end until the last ball of the day and was then bowled.

A feature in the day's cricket was the fine forcing game in the morning by Mr J R Mason, and it was this that enabled Kent to "declare" so soon. Mr Mason had some luck after passing his 50, but generally his play was as good as ever and he was in only 90 minutes for his 77. Mr Day and Mr Marsham also forced the game well, and both made some brilliant drives.

17 July: M.C.C. AND GROUND v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6803.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 12)

The opening day's play in this match at Lord's yesterday went very much in favour of the M.C.C. and Ground, who were batting all day and at the close still had a wicket to fall. For their large score the M.C.C. and Ground were chiefly indebted to the batting of Sir T C O'Brien and Mr C A L Payne.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 12)

The M.C.C. and Ground won this match at Lord's yesterday by an innings and 252 runs.

17 July: SCOTLAND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6804.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 12)

The Australians, who are having a week's cricket in Scotland, began a match yesterday, on the Grange Club ground, at Edinburgh, and in spite of dull, threatening weather they proved a strong attraction, the attendance numbering about 5,000.

Great pains had been taken to get together as strong a Scotch eleven as possible against them, and it will be seen that the side includes Mr G MacGregor and Lord Dalmeny. F G Bull, now professional to the Perthshire Club, will be remembered in his amateur days as an excellent slow bowler for Essex.

Winning the toss, the Australians, who are without Mr Noble, Mr Armstrong, Mr Kelly and Mr Hopkins, stayed at the wickets for three hours and 20 minutes, their score reaching 284. Up to a certain point, however, they did not seem likely to do nearly as well as this. When lunch was taken at half-past 1, three wickets had fallen for 93 and six were down for 149.

Mr Trumper and Mr Hill were both out to brilliant catches. Mr Hill and Mr McLeod put on 43 runs in 40 minutes, and the latter, in company with Mr Gregory, afterwards added 57 in three-quarters of an hour. Mr McLeod batted well for an hour and 40 minutes, but gave a chance when he had made nine.

Mr Gehrs played in excellent style, but the most attractive batting in the innings was shown by Mr Darling and Mr Cotter, both of whom drove with great power. Out of the 58 runs put on during his stay Mr Darling made 49, his hits being two sixes - driven out of the ground - six fours, three twos and seven singles. Mr Cotter's play was even more sensational, as with a six and five fours as his chief hits, he scored 37 runs out of 46 in 15 minutes.

On going in to bat the Scotch eleven started well, and had scored 51 for one wicket when bad light caused stumps to be drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 12)

Unfortunately for the Scottish eleven, who, in scoring 51 for one wicket against the Australians at Edinburgh on Monday, had made a capital start, some rain fell during the night; and yesterday for the first hour the condition of the ground afforded the bowlers some appreciable assistance.

In these circumstances Mr Howell and Mr McLeod for a time met with so little resistance that five batsmen were dismissed in 40 minutes for the addition of only 16 runs. Mr MacGregor and Mr Johnston put on 44 for the seventh wicket, but with nine men out for 130 five runs were still required to avoid a follow-on.

As it happened the last wicket produced 28, and so Scotland got to within 126 of their opponents' total. Mr Howell, who has been given few opportunities of distinguishing himself during the present tour, obtained six wickets for just over 14 runs each.

In the second innings of the Australians nearly every one batted freely. Mr Trumper, batting brilliantly, made 55 out of 89 in 50 minutes, his innings including a splendid drive out of the ground and eight fours. Mr Hill also played vigorously, and after the tea interval Mr McLeod and Mr Duff scored 87 in an hour.

Mr Duff, seventh out at 220, gave a very bright display. The later batsmen were less successful; but at the drawing of stumps the Australians, with two wickets to fall, were 358 ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 July, page 11)

This match, at Edinburgh, ended yesterday in a draw, Scotland having a wicket to fall in their second innings when stumps were pulled up.

Ten minutes' play finished off the Australians' second innings, the overnight score of 232 for eight wickets only being increased by ten. Bull, after going on to bowl for the second time on Tuesday afternoon, took five wickets for 19 runs.

Scotland had three-quarters of an hour's batting before lunch and, owing in a measure to the moderate bowling with which at first they had to content, Mr Smith and Hirst scored 59 together without being separated. Three wickets were down for 82, but Mr MacGregor and Mr Dickson played finely during the next hour and put on 72 runs.

The exciting play came at the finish, it being a quarter to 6 when Bull, the last man, joined Mr Dickson. The fieldsmen crowded round the wicket, but Bull stayed in and the match was saved. Mr Dickson was batting for nearly three hours.

17 July: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6805.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 12)

Lancashire, who began batting at Brighton yesterday on a good wicket, were in a large degree helped by mistakes in the field for their score. The Sussex bowling, although it never seemed difficult to play, was on account of the accuracy of its length, for the greater part of the day's play, never easy to score from, and this, to a great extent, accounted for the slow rate on run-getting before lunch, when the total stood at 116 for one wicket.

Mr MacLaren and Mr Garnett opened the Lancashire innings. They both played with great care, Mr Garnett, who began very shakily, being first to leave. Tyldesley also played a careful game and showed much more restraint than is usually associated with his style. Mr MacLaren, although his innings was of the greatest value to his side, was not quite at his best. He ought to have been out twice before he made 60.

Sharp, who had the good luck to be missed before he made 10, played most attractive cricket, his strokes on the off-side being excellent. As the score stands at present Lancashire are in a very strong position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 12)

The wicket was again perfect for run-getting at Brighton yesterday, and Lancashire added 237 to their overnight score and then declared their innings closed with eight wickets down. Hallows gave a fine display of hitting and made his runs in about two hours.

When Sussex went in, Mr Young and Vine made a good start and put on 122 for the first wicket. At the close Sussex were 370 behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 July, page 11)

With their overnight score standing at 231 for three wickets, Sussex continued their innings at Brighton yesterday.

After 99 runs had been added for the fourth wicket, Mr Smith left. At the same total, Mr Fry was caught at the wicket off the first ball he received, and two runs later Vine was bowled. The latter had played exceedingly well and had shown much more freedom than usual. Cox made some beautiful late cuts and Leach and Butt, aided by some luck, made a good stand for the last wicket.

The Lancashire captain did not make Sussex, who were 218 behind, follow on, and Lancashire went in to bat a second time after lunch.

Thursday 20 July, page 11: THE FOURTH TEST MATCH

The Manchester Evening News announces unofficially that the following team has been provisionally selected to play for England at Manchester next Monday: -

The Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire) (captain)
Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire)
Mr C B Fry (Sussex)
Mr R H Spooner (Lancashire)
Mr W Brearley (Lancashire)
Hayward (Surrey)
Lilley (Warwickshire)
Tyldesley (Lancashire)
Hirst (Yorkshire)
Rhodes (Yorkshire)
Arnold (Worcestershire)
Reserves, Lees (Surrey) and Haigh (Yorkshire).

20 July: DERBYSHIRE v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6806.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 10)

Derbyshire kept Northamptonshire in the field all day at Derby, yesterday, and made nearly 400 runs. Mr Wright, who is in great form at present, played a fine innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 7)

Derbyshire won this match, at Derby yesterday, by an innings and 50 runs. On Thursday Derbyshire had played an innings of 375, and when Northamptonshire went in yesterday they collapsed against the fast bowlers.

The visitor side followed on 323 runs behind, and although they did better they never looked like saving the innings defeat. In the match Bestwick got 12 wickets for 131 runs.

20 July: ESSEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6807.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 10)

Mr F L Fane played a remarkably fine innings at Leyton, yesterday, and his brilliant batting laid the foundation for the large score of Essex. He went in first and was third out, caught in the slips, at 173, having made 100 of these in rather more than two hours.

Sussex bowled and fielded well, although late in the day Vine, after much brilliant work in the country, dropped a catch.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 7)

Mr R A Young, the Repton and Cambridge batsman, played a fine innings of 220 for Sussex at Leyton yesterday, achieving this feat in his second county match. He had a good deal of luck, being missed twice in the slips before he had made many runs, off Buckenham, and with his figures in the seventies he gave other chances to the wicket-keeper.

But apart from these mistakes Mr Young played beautiful cricket. He has a good style, with plenty of wrist, and his cutting and off-driving were excellent. The Essex fielding was marred by the errors which enabled Mr Young to escape, and Buckenham before the score was 160 had four catches dropped off his bowling.

Mr Gillingham kept wicket until late in the afternoon, and the absence of Russell, who is standing out of the side with damaged hands, was severely felt.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 12)

Essex and Sussex drew their match at Leyton, on Saturday. From beginning to end it was a batsman's game, and in the three days 1,306 runs were scored for the loss of 21 wickets, Essex at the close, with nine wickets in hand in their second innings, being 84 runs on.

There were two more "centuries" on the last day. Leach, in the morning for Sussex, went in for hard hitting, and succeeded well, for, helped by a dropped catch by Mr McGahey at the wicket - it was the fifth miss in the game from Buckenham's bowling - he made his 106 in two hours, while he and Mr Newham, who played as well as ever, put on 136 runs in an 83 minutes' partnership.

Essex were 158 behind on the first innings, and they went in again after luncheon. Mr Douglas was out at 34, but the rest of the afternoon was absorbed by Carpenter and Mr Perrin, who in a little over two hours added 208 runs, and were still together when the game ended. Carpenter and Mr Perrin both played beautiful cricket, although Mr Newham, appreciating the small chances of finishing the game, did not put on Cox, while Relf bowled very little.

All through the match the Essex fielding left much to be desired, but the side was unfortunate in having their regular wicketkeeper away. Mr Gillingham's hands were too badly bruised to field on Saturday, and Mr McGahey kept wicket.

20 July: HAMPSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6808.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 10)

At Bournemouth, yesterday, Hampshire accomplished an excellent performance by staying in all day against Worcestershire. Captain Greig and Captain Wynyard began well by scoring 83 before the latter was caught at the wicket, and then Captain Greig and Mr Sprot laid the foundation of the big score.

Captain Greig scored steadily with late cuts, while Mr Sprot showed more variety of strokes and made runs faster than his partner. After 133 had been added for the second wicket, Mr Sprot was caught in the slips.

Mr W H B Evans played with freedom and placed well to leg, but several strokes on the off-side were mistimed and went dangerously near the fieldsmen. He scored his runs out of 89 for the third wicket in 50 minutes, and after he was caught at the wicket Bowell and Captain Greig carried the total to 400.

At this point Captain Greig had to retire through a blow on the foot from Wilson. He had batted for four hours and three-quarters, and, although he made one or two bad strokes through the slips before he had scored his 100, he gave no chance. He played, on the whole, admirably finished cricket, and in the latter part of his innings he drove with considerable power.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 7)

The weakness of the Hampshire bowling yesterday quite discounted their excellent batting on Thursday at Bournemouth, and at the close of the day's play, with an innings completed on each side, Worcestershire were only 15 runs behind. Hampshire added only 19 runs to their overnight score, Captain Greig, through his injury, being unable to take further part in the match.

Worcestershire began their innings soon after 12 o'clock. Pearson was out at 29 and Bowley at 94, but Cuffe, who went in at the fall of the first wicket, received excellent support from Mr Hutchings and Arnold. When he was run out the total had been raised to 329 for four wickets. He was batting for three hours and 20 minutes without giving a chance, although in the early part of his innings he made one or two bad strokes through the slips.

Arnold batted in good form, and he made his runs out of 218 in two hours and a quarter.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 12)

In giving a free-hitting side like Worcestershire the opportunity of making 271 runs in two hours and 25 minutes Hampshire, at Bournemouth, on Saturday, were well aware of their risk; but, whereas a loss meant little to the county in their present position in the championship, a win would have been of considerable benefit. At the same time, the visitors accomplished an excellent performance in winning just on "time" by five wickets.

At the close of play on Friday an innings had been completed on each side with an advantage to Hampshire of 15 runs, and upon the latter eleven going in a second time Captain Wynyard, Bowell, Mr Sprot and Mr W H B Evans batted so well that at lunch time 173 runs had been scored for the loss of the two first-named. After the interval five wickets were down for 224, but Mr Hesketh-Prichard hit with power, and when the partnership between him and Mr D M Evans had added 37 Hampshire declared their innings closed.

At the outset if the Worcestershire innings Bowley and Pearson gave no promise of making the runs necessary to win, but later nearly every ball was scored from and 106 were made in an hour before Bowley was out. Worcestershire were now in a position to force the game, and after Pearson and Cuffe

had scored 86 in three-quarters of an hour Mr Foster and Mr Hutchings continued the vigorous methods with such success that the winning stroke was made in the last over of the match.

20 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6809.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 10)

Leicestershire accomplished a good batting performance at Leicester, yesterday, and at the close they still had three wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 7)

This match was continued at Leicester yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 12)

This match, at Leicester, was left drawn on Saturday.

20 July: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6810.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 10)

Getting first innings at Lord's yesterday, Middlesex stayed in until a quarter past five, putting together in just over four hours' cricket a total of 315. In its way, the innings was a curious one, presenting strange inequalities in batting.

The home county began badly, had a wonderful recovery, and then finished up with a collapse. In the first place, four wickets went down for 33, at lunch the total stood at 156 without further loss, when a tea interval was taken 295 was on the board with only six men out, and then in half an hour the last four wickets went down for the addition of 20 runs.

The honours of the day rested with Mr C C Page, of this year's Cambridge eleven, and Mr J H Stogdon. They came together after the disastrous start and, steadily mastering the bowling, which apparently presented difficulties to the early batsmen, they gave a splendid display. Before lunch they added 123 runs in 70 minutes, Mr Page making by far the greater number of runs, and afterwards, with Mr Stogdon scoring the more rapidly, 73 more were put on in 50 minutes.

Going in first wicket down with only a single scored, Mr Page was [fifth] out at 229, having been at the wickets for two hours and 40 minutes. He was fortunate, as when he had scored 48 he should have been caught, and he had further lives at 81, 93 and 109. These mistakes, of course, detracted from the merit of his performance, but there were, nevertheless, many fine points about his batting. Mr Page obtained most of his runs by drives chiefly on the off side, and it was noticeable that he cut very little. He was eventually out to a well-judged catch in the long field.

Mr Stogdon did not long survive his partner, being sixth out at 256, and having the misfortune to play the ball hard into his wicket. During a stay extending over two hours and 20 minutes, he did not give a chance. Mr Stogdon took a long time to play himself in, but after lunch he made runs at a good rate. In marked contrast to Mr Page, he made quite a large number of his runs by strokes on the leg side, and he also brought off the pull on several occasions.

Lancashire had about an hour's batting, and started with Mr Spooner and Heap to the bowling of Tarrant, from the nursery end, and Mr Hunt. Heap was soon out and Tyldesley, who followed, was bowled with the score at 14 by a ball from Tarrant which appeared to come very quickly off the pitch.

Mr Poidevin then joined Mr Spooner, and these two managed to play out time. Mr Spooner played fairly well, but Mr Poidevin was singularly lucky. He was missed at point by Mr Warner before he had scored and later on by Trott at slip; he made more than one bad stroke through the slips, and Mr Hunt, who bowled well and without any luck, twice beat him and then missed the wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 7)

An interesting day's cricket was witnessed at Lord's yesterday, and the Middlesex eleven were seen to considerable advantage. On Thursday the game had been left in a fairly even position, Lancashire having scored 50 for the loss of two wickets against a total of 315 by Middlesex.

For a time Lancashire did fairly well, Mr Spooner and Mr Poidevin, the not outs, carrying the score to 115, altogether adding 101 runs in an hour and three-quarters. On Thursday evening Mr Poidevin had been missed three times, but he played sound, if not attractive, cricket yesterday morning. Mr Spooner, who was fourth out at 120, was at the wickets for two hours and a quarter, but he was not seen quite at his best.

Lancashire had 140 on the board with only four men out when Trott was put on at the Pavilion end, and a great change came over the game. In quick succession he got rid of Sharp, Mr Hornby and Mr MacLaren, the seventh wicket going down at 177. Mr MacLaren made some fine hits, and Mr Hornby was dismissed by a really wonderful catch by Mr Hunt, who, running at top speed along the boundary, held a hard drive with the left hand rather low down.

Mr Findlay was run out; and Kermode gave little trouble, and the ninth wicket fell at 196. Then with Mr Brearley in Mr Garnett, keeping as much of the bowling to himself as possible, hit with splendid determination. Thirty-four runs were added, and then the innings closed shortly before 2 o'clock for 230, having lasted three hours and 20 minutes. Mr Garnett scored 58 of the last 77 runs in 40 minutes, and hit nine fours. Trott took four wickets for just over six runs each.

Holding the useful lead of 85, Middlesex went in a second time after lunch and, staying in for the remainder of the day, scored 211 for five wickets. This was almost entirely the work of Mr Warner, who, going in first, made 146 not out and gave a really delightful display. For a long time he had to meet some good bowling from Mr Brearley and Kermode, but gradually he became master of the situation.

He obtained 50 out of 83 in 80 minutes, completed his 100 at 154 in two hours and three-quarters, and then, hitting really hard, he obtained his last 46 in 40 minutes. He only gave one chance, being missed behind the wicket from the ball following his 100.

With five wickets in hand Middlesex are now 296 runs on. One of the most remarkable features of the cricket was the excellent fielding.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 12)

Owing to mistakes in the field at a critical point, Middlesex missed a win over Lancashire, at Lord's, on Saturday, the visiting side after a keen struggle succeeding in saving the match. After batting for an hour and a quarter longer and raising the overnight score of 211 for five wickets to 291 for eight Middlesex declared their second innings closed, setting Lancashire 377 to get to win in about four and a half hours.

A certain risk was taken, but it soon became evident that Lancashire entertained no idea of winning, setting themselves to save the match. They had a bad hour before lunch, Mr Spooner, Tyldesley and Mr Poidevin being dismissed for 41. After lunch Mr Garnett hit up 21 in about 13 minutes, and at 3 o'clock four wickets were down.

The chances then seemed all in favour of Middlesex winning, but Mr MacLaren and Sharp stayed together for 63 minutes, adding 85 runs. Mr MacLaren, who was fifth out at 158, was batting for two hours and a quarter, and played fine cricket, scoring well on the leg side and making several good drives and pulls. Sharp left at 187 after playing excellent cricket for an hour and three-quarters, and at 5 o'clock six wickets were down.

Mr Hornby and Heap, however, offered a stubborn resistance, the former being in for 70 minutes and the professional three-quarters of an hour. Just as they looked to be saving the game comfortably both were out in quick succession, the eighth wicket falling at a quarter to six.

Middlesex looked to have the game in their hands, but Tarrant failed to hold a hard chance at short leg and Mr G W Beldam was slow in getting to a catch. The latter fieldsman made an even worse mistake later on, missing Mr Findlay badly at mid-on. Had that catch been made Middlesex would have had 20 minutes to get down the last wicket; as it was Mr Findlay and Kermode played out time, Lancashire, with two wickets left, wanting 99 to win.

In the morning Mr Warner only added 20 runs to his score, being seventh out at 246. He was at the wickets for four hours, and his only mistake was a chance behind the wicket when he had made 100.

20 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6811.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 10)

Although Nottinghamshire had the good fortune to secure first innings on a perfect wicket at Trent-bridge yesterday, they found runs difficult to obtain, the Kent bowling being very steady and the fielding exceptionally good. Mr Jones and Iremonger made an excellent start in putting on 80 for the first wicket, and the latter, playing with more freedom than usual, scored 66 out of 125 in an hour and a half.

The finest innings of the day, however, was played by G Gunn. He met all the bowling with confidence, and although never scoring rapidly, he lost few opportunities of getting runs off loose balls. His cricket was marked by a great variety of strokes, and he was out to his first really bad hit, being caught at long-on by Mr Day, who ran some distance to get to the ball. Gunn, who was last out, was batting three hours and 35 minutes.

The last six Nottinghamshire wickets fell for 89, and Blythe, who bowled very finely throughout, took the last four wickets in four overs and three balls for nine runs. Kent had half an hour's batting and scored 23 for one wicket, but Hearne was badly missed at slip.

In the absence of Wass and Mr Branston Nottinghamshire are giving a trial to Payton, of Stapleford, a promising batsman.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 7)

The second day's play of this return match, at Trent Bridge, yesterday, was very keenly contested, and the drawing of stumps found the game in a most interesting position, Nottinghamshire holding a lead of 121 with five wickets to fall in their second innings.

In the early part of the day a substantial lead for Nottinghamshire appeared probable, as five of the Kent wickets fell for 124 runs. The whole course of the game was changed, however, by a fine stand for the sixth wicket by Humphries and Mr Blaker. Both batsmen played with freedom and 110 were scored in an hour and a quarter. The Kent innings lasted for four hours and ten minutes, and Nottinghamshire fielded very well indeed.

On batting a second time Nottinghamshire quickly lost Mr Jones and Iremonger, but the two Gunns made a useful stand, and afterwards G Gunn and Hardstaff played with great caution.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 12)

An interesting finish was witnessed at Trent-bridge on Saturday, Kent winning by four wickets with exactly 10 minutes to spare. For their victory they were chiefly indebted to Mr Blaker, Mr Day and Mr Marsham.

When the Nottinghamshire innings closed for 260, Kent were left with three hours and 20 minutes in which to obtain 258, and as they lost Hearne and Hardinge with only 33 on the board, their prospects

of victory were not particularly bright. Seymour and Mr Day, however, made a good stand, and aided by a little slack fielding on the part of the home eleven they got slightly ahead of time before Seymour was dismissed.

Humphreys had a brief stay; and when Mr Day was bowled after playing a fine innings there remained 50 minutes for play, and Kent required 84 runs. Mr Blaker, as in the first innings, made light of the Nottinghamshire bowling, and by scoring 51 out of 77 added for the sixth wicket in 35 minutes, made victory almost certain.

Earlier in the day, Hardstaff made his first century in county cricket, his 121 being scored by very attractive strokes all round the wicket. He was missed when he had made 21 and again at 84, but on the whole he gave a very good display. Payton also batted very steadily.

20 July: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6812.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 10)

Although only just over 300 runs were scored in the opening day's play in this match at the Oval yesterday, the cricket was always interesting. The wicket gave the bowlers some assistance, for the ball got up awkwardly at times, and in the circumstances the Yorkshire total was better than they figures would suggest.

Runs never came freely, for the Surrey bowlers invariably maintained a good length, and they were backed up by some very fine fielding with the result that the batsmen had to fight very hard for their runs.

The feature of the cricket was the batting of Mr Jackson and Hirst, and it was in a large degree due to them that Yorkshire was able to remain at the wickets all day, for they were responsible for 226 runs between them. They both played steadily and well, although both made one or two lucky strokes.

Their cricket completely turned the game in favour of Yorkshire, and before Mr Jackson was caught at third man they had added 177 runs. Mr Jackson, who was in about three hours, showed very strong defence, while he got his runs as usual by a good variety of strokes.

After he left the game again went in favour of Surrey, who were without Lees after the tea interval, owing to an injured toe. Rhodes was caught at third man off the first ball he received. Haigh then helped Hirst to put on 33 in 15 minutes before he was out to a wonderful catch by Lord Dalmeny at mid-on, who held a hard drive with his left hand. Myers was quickly out, and then Hunter helped Hirst to play out time.

Hirst altogether has been batting a little over four hours, and his cricket generally was marked by fine judgment; he was unable to employ his favourite hook stroke as much as usual owing to the good length bowling, but towards the close he made some splendid strokes on the leg-side. Surrey have the reputation of being a good fielding side this season, and yesterday they always maintained a very high standard.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 7)

Yorkshire quite outplayed Surrey at the Oval yesterday, and at the drawing of stumps the home side still wanted 237 to save an innings defeat with seven wickets in hand in their second innings.

Overnight Yorkshire had scored 314 for the loss of eight men; and when play was continued the two outstanding wickets gave considerable trouble, for 128 were added before the side were out. For this large increase in the total Surrey had themselves chiefly to blame, for Hirst might have been caught on three occasions, the first time before he had added a run to his overnight score.

Profiting by these mistakes in the field Hirst hit finely and, with Hunter, 123 runs were put on before the ninth wicket fell, in about an hour and a half, the partnership in all having realized 149. Hirst carried out his bat after a stay at the wicket of about five hours and three-quarters.

It must be said that he had more than his share of luck, as, apart from four possible chances, he made several very bad strokes, chiefly behind the wicket; but, apart from these, he made so many good strokes that his batting was always interesting to watch, and yesterday, when he was trying to score as quickly as possible, he naturally ran some risks. It was unfortunate for Surrey that Lees was unable to bowl for them.

Hirst's success did not end with his batting, for, when Surrey went in, he bowled very well, and he took five wickets for just over eight runs each. Surrey's batting was very disappointing, and it was only a good innings by Hayes that saved the side from an absolute collapse. They were in for less than half an hour before lunch, but in that time they lost three good wickets for five runs, and if Hunter had accepted a chance from Mr Raphael four wickets would have been down for that total.

After the interval things continued to go against Surrey, and the less said about the batting the better, except that of Hayes. He went in first wicket down and he was ninth out, and his hitting was invariably well timed.

Surrey went in a second time 326 runs behind, and by the way in which they started their innings it seemed likely to be a repetition of the first; but after Hayes and Hobbs were out with only nine runs scored, Hayward and Baker put on 80 for the third wicket by steady cricket. The light at times was very bad and there was no further play after ten minutes past 6.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 12)

Yorkshire beat Surrey at the Oval on Saturday by an innings and 108 runs. For their easy win the visiting side were chiefly indebted to the fine all-round cricket of Hirst, who, in addition to making 232 not out, took six wickets for 49 runs.

Overnight Surrey had gone in a second time 326 behind and had lost three good wickets for 89, so that when they continued their innings on Saturday they still required 237 to save an innings defeat. With the result a foregone conclusion, it simply became a question of to what extent Surrey could lessen the severity of their defeat.

Up to a certain point they did fairly well, and so long as Davis stayed with Hayward there appeared good prospects of Surrey's making a large score; but when once they were separated the end was soon reached, the match being over just before half-past 1.

The feature of the cricket was the batting of Hayward, who played a very fine innings for his side. He went in first and was last out, having been at the wickets for just over three hours and a quarter, and, except for a chance at the wicket off Ringrose's bowling when he had scored 53, no fault could be found with his play. When he and Davis were together 78 were put on in 45 minutes. Davis hit splendidly, but afterwards there came a collapse, and the last five wickets only added 44. The Yorkshire fielding was always sound and several good catches were made.

Without wishing to detract from Yorkshire's easy victory, it must be stated that Surrey had the worst of the luck, and the loss of Lees's bowling during the latter part of the visitors' innings was a serious blow to them. At the same time, Yorkshire proved themselves to be the much stronger side and thoroughly deserved to win.

20 July: FIFTEEN OF SCOTLAND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105759.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 10)

For their first match against odds during the present tour, the Australians, at Glasgow, yesterday, only made one change from the eleven that represented them against All Scotland, Mr Kelly appearing instead of Mr Gregory, while the Scottish fifteen included three players who had taken part in the Edinburgh match - Mr Jupp, Mr Anderson and Hirst.

Except that they started with the usual pair - Mr Trumper and Mr Duff - the Australians departed from their accustomed batting order with the result that six wickets went down for 81 runs in an hour and

ten minutes before luncheon. All six batsmen were dismissed by Nixon, a right hand medium-pace bowler, who up to this point had had only 41 runs hit from him.

Only Mr Trumper - who scored 30 out of the first 37 - and Mr Gehrs showed any ability to play Nixon, who curiously enough was not successful afterwards. The Australians looked like being all out for a small total, but a couple of useful partnerships improved the score considerably. Mr Gehrs and Mr Hill put on 52 runs in a little over 40 minutes for the seventh wicket, and afterwards another stand was made by Mr Darling and Mr Newland, 42 runs being added. The best cricket on the side was that of Mr Gehrs, who resisted the bowling for an hour and a half.

The Scotsmen were at the wickets for an hour and a half and in that time they scored 81 for the loss of six batsmen, Mr Jupp, who batted well for over an hour, and Mr Scharenguivel showing the best form. Although the sky was overcast, there was an attendance of fully 8,000 on the Partick ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 7)

On the first innings the Scottish team made a creditable fight with the Australians, at Glasgow, yesterday; but the Australians scored very freely on going in a second time, and at the drawing of stumps they were 257 ahead with three wickets to fall.

Some heavy rain had affected the pitch considerably, and few of the home side could do much with the bowling of Mr Howell and Mr McLeod, the eight outstanding wickets going down in an hour and a half for an addition of 78 runs. Mr Jupp, however, batted skilfully for two hours and 40 minutes.

Left with a lead of 27, the Australians entered upon their second innings at three o'clock and, with the ground helping the bowlers, they went in for rather reckless hitting. In 40 minutes they scored 60 for the loss of two batsmen, and then heavy rain stopped play for more than half an hour.

On resuming, the conditions no longer favoured the bowlers, and Mr Hill took full advantage of the change, hitting up 79 in 70 minutes. Mr Duff helped him to put on 81 in 40 minutes, and Mr Darling and Mr McLeod added 48 in just over half an hour.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 12)

Cricket at Glasgow on Saturday was so much curtailed by rain that the game had to be left drawn. Play was only in progress for a quarter of an hour before luncheon and afterwards a couple of showers involved a loss of 35 minutes. Having added 17 runs to their overnight score of 230 and lost one more wicket, the Australians at lunch then declared their innings closed, leaving the Scotsmen 275 to get to win.

Up to the time of the first shower 94 runs were scored in 80 minutes for the loss of five wickets, Mr Bowie and Mr Lyle, who put on 43 together, playing very well. So far Mr Jupp, who went in third wicket down at 51, had by very careful methods made 14. Afterwards on a pitch rendered easy by the rain he hit with great freedom, and had the distinction of making the highest score obtained against the Australians during their week in Scotland. He was batting for two hours for his 74 and he hit a six and ten fours. Mr Thompson and Mr Cairns also played good cricket.

When stumps were pulled up the Scotsmen, with three wickets to fall, wanted 57 runs to win. Towards the finish when a draw had become certain Mr Kelly bowled two overs and was, amid considerable amusement, twice no-balled for throwing. The attendance numbered fully 7,000.

Monday 24 July, page 12: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

For the fourth Test match, which begins at Manchester to-day, the sides will be selected from: -

ENGLAND. - The Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire), captain, Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire), Mr C B Fry (Sussex), Mr W Brearley (Lancashire), Mr R H Spooner (Lancashire), Mr A O Jones (Nottinghamshire), Hayward (Surrey), Hirst (Yorkshire), Rhodes (Yorkshire), Lilley (Warwickshire), Tyldesley (Lancashire) and Arnold (Worcestershire).

AUSTRALIA. - Mr J Darling (South Australia), Mr C Hill (South Australia), Mr D R A Gehrs (South Australia), Mr P M Newland (South Australia), Mr R A Duff (New South Wales), Mr A Cotter (New South Wales), Mr S E Gregory (New South Wales), Mr A J Hopkins (New South Wales), Mr J J Kelly (New South Wales), Mr M A Noble (New South Wales), Mr V Trumper (New South Wales), Mr W P Howell (New South Wales), Mr W W Armstrong (Victoria), Mr C E McLeod (Victoria) and Mr F Laver (Victoria).

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	30	1909	233	3	70.70
Hirst	30	1513	341	8	68.77
Quaife	33	1205	255*	8	50.60
Capt Greig	18	804	187*	2	50.25
Mr H K Foster	18	823	180	1	48.35
Iremonger	30	1419	239	0	47.30
Kinneir	27	1202	156	1	46.23
Arnold	21	688	134	6	45.83
Bowley	25	1060	217	1	44.54
Mr C J B Wood	28	1165	160*	2	44.42
Hayward	38	1554	129*	3	44.40
Mr L O S Poidevin	27	1061	168*	3	44.20
Mr E M Sprot	21	881	141	1	44.05
Mr P F Warner	23	1013	204	0	44.04
Tyldesley	35	1419	250	2	43.00
Sharp	27	969	110*	4	42.13
Mr C McGahey	24	964	277	1	41.91
Mr L G Wright	27	1079	195	0	39.96
Denton	27	1426	165	1	39.61
Knight	27	934	177	3	38.91
Mr R A Young	21	816	220	0	38.85
The Hon F S Jackson	24	853	144*	2	38.77
James Seymour	25	884	122	2	38.43
Mr R H Spooner	26	880	164	0	37.69
Baker (Surrey)	32	939	128*	5	36.62
G Gunn	28	944	136	2	36.30
Vine	35	1223	146	1	35.97
Mr A C MacLaren	27	931	140	1	35.80
Carpenter	24	817	138*	1	35.52
Mr A H Hornby	25	709	111*	5	35.45
Braund	24	744	130	3	35.42
Mr B J T Bosanquet	21	634	103	4	35.22
Hayes	37	1220	105	2	34.85
Cuffe	26	777	145	2	34.61
Rhodes	32	966	201	4	34.46
J Gunn	29	925	178	2	34.25
Mr A P Day	24	705	106	3	33.57
Relf	31	913	75	3	32.69
Mr A O Jones	33	969	103	1	31.90
Board	22	630	119*	2	31.50
Mr M W Payne	23	693	178	1	31.50
Baker (Warwickshire)	28	769	108	1	30.76
Hobbs	35	968	155	2	29.33
Mr W H B Evans	24	645	139*	2	29.31
Reeves	21	614	135	0	29.23
Mr T S Fishwick	27	779	137	0	28.85
Mr V F S Crawford	26	691	119	2	28.79
Pearson	23	656	83	0	28.52
Mr J F Byrne	29	827	222	0	28.51
Mr C H B Marsham	21	539	67	2	28.36

Coe	25	679	100	1	28.29
Mr G N Foster	22	594	152	1	28.28
Holland	24	612	132	2	27.81
Dr E M Ashcroft	21	545	73*	1	27.25
Mr H G Garnett	30	759	86	2	27.10
Mr G L Jessop	27	689	234	1	26.88
Hardstaff	26	417	121	3	26.82
King	24	555	95	3	26.42
Mr H Martyn	26	659	130*	1	26.38
Llewellyn	22	428	77	3	26.21
Tunnickliffe	27	622	102	3	25.91
Wrathall	20	456	80*	2	25.88
Killick	35	850	104	1	25.26

Also listed: Mr C C Page average 24.94, Lilley 24.21, Cox (Sussex) 24.04, Bowell 23.76, Whitehead 23.73, Davis (Surrey) 23.41, Thompson 22.89, Mr A E Lawton 22.80, Lord Dalmeny 22.35, Mr C E de Trafford 22.29.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Haigh	577.1	157	1379	92	14.93
Thompson	459	104	1249	83	15.04
Mr G G Napier	333.1	75	973	54	17.37
Hirst	391.5	88	1080	62	17.41
Rhodes	779.5	231	1747	100	17.47
J T Hearne	392.5	107	953	55	17.50
Lees	921.2	259	2228	121	18.41
Myers	351.2	68	1085	56	19.29
Mr W Brearley	722.4	127	2302	118	19.50
Ringrose	313.3	55	976	49	19.91
Hallam	468.1	147	1080	54	20.00
Kermode	647.3	184	1841	90	20.45
Fairservice	414.2	129	1131	54	20.94
Hayes	458.2	86	1350	64	21.09
Warren	469.1	87	1468	69	21.27
Dennett	723.4	188	2180	101	21.38
Wass	495	101	1457	68	21.42
Mr N A Knox	587.2	94	1933	93	21.71
Blythe	608.3	171	1585	71	22.04
Arnold	496.2	98	1514	63	22.26
Relf	719	109	1680	74	22.70
Mr W W Odell	605.3	157	1651	72	23.06
Bestwick	514.4	107	1564	67	23.19
Cox (Sussex)	1078.5	311	2494	107	23.30
Killick	493.3	109	1409	60	23.33
Trott	264.3	54	968	38	23.90
Hargreave	807.1	241	1894	76	24.92
Jayes	424.3	82	1322	53	24.94
Baldwin	522	133	1424	58	25.42
Quaife	386.2	58	1003	37	25.71
Mr B J T Bosanquet	277.4	22	1090	42	25.95
J Gunn	688.2	141	1013	73	26.20
Sharp	258.1	57	944	34	26.22
Tremlin	470.4	80	1606	61	26.32
Burrows	347.2	45	1351	49	27.57
Santall	580.1	152	1433	51	28.09

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
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Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	27	1414	303*	5	64.27
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	29	1336	162	1	47.71
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	31	1126	108	1	37.53
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	31	1105	149	1	36.83
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	33	938	117*	5	33.50
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	25	597	93	4	28.42
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	35	929	94	0	26.54
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	20	454	72	1	22.89
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	28	594	134	2	22.84
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	25	504	48	2	21.91
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	20	224	74*	9	20.36
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	27	410	60	5	18.83
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	22	312	78	2	15.60
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	15	104	25*	7	13.00
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	17	92	18	4	7.07

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr F Laver	614.3	176	1505	83	18.13
Mr W W Armstrong	543.4	186	1098	58	18.93
Mr A Cotter	404.5	72	1287	62	20.75
Mr C E McLeod	563.3	173	1285	62	20.88
Mr W P Howell	364	113	927	44	21.06
Mr R A Duff	107.5	32	311	12	25.91
Mr A J Hopkins	202	51	621	22	28.22
Mr M A Noble	453.1	126	1159	38	30.50
Mr S E Gregory	7.1	0	47	0	--

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Lancashire	17	9	1	7	8	80.00
Yorkshire	18	12	3	3	9	60.00
Sussex	18	7	2	9	5	55.55
Surrey	15	9	3	3	6	50.00
Middlesex	8	4	3	1	1	14.28
Leicestershire	14	4	3	7	1	14.28
Nottinghamshire	13	5	4	4	1	11.11
Gloucestershire	9	4	4	1	0	--
Kent	11	5	5	1	0	--
Northamptonshire	8	2	4	2	-2	-33.33
Worcestershire	12	2	5	5	-3	-42.85
Warwickshire	13	1	3	9	-2	-50.00
Essex	11	2	7	2	-5	-55.55
Derbyshire	12	2	9	1	-7	-63.63
Hampshire	12	1	7	4	-6	-75.00
Somerset	11	1	7	3	-6	-75.00

The match at Kennington Oval between Surrey and Lancashire - abandoned without a ball having been bowled - is not included in the above table.

24 July: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6814.html)

(From our special correspondent)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 11)

The fourth test match began yesterday in fine weather and on an easy wicket, rather on the slow side. There had been some rain in Manchester on Saturday night and Sunday; and, although occasionally Mr Cotter's balls that did not pitch half way got up awkwardly, they did not do so more than at Nottingham, which is called the easiest wicket in England. The wickets at Old Trafford this year as a whole have been bumpy, some say even dangerous; but there was no fault to be found with the wicket yesterday.

Whatever may have been the feelings of joy of a patriotic Englishman when Mr Jackson won the toss, the Australians have every reason to bewail their bad luck, for they lost the toss for the fourth time. On the Manchester wicket, which is said not to wear well, it was especially important to win the toss, and unless the Englishmen were to bat badly it would not be easy for any eleven to win a three-day match against a side that had won the toss.

Mr MacLaren and Hayward began to the bowling of Mr McLeod and Mr Cotter, and Hayward played as he has all this year, stolidly and safely. Mr MacLaren, on the other hand, was beginning to force the game, and in trying a big drive he was splendidly caught by Mr Hill in the deep field - a fine running catch. Tyldesley played very well and was beginning to get dangerous, when he played a ball into his wicket.

Mr Fry had 25 minutes' batting before luncheon, but only scored one run, and after luncheon he went on at the same rate and took just an hour making 17 runs. Every batsman plays the right game when he carefully plays himself in, but it is unfortunate that Mr Fry should require such a long time for this object, for valuable time is absorbed and few Test matches can be finished in England.

Hayward all this time was playing with marvellous accuracy, meeting every ball in the middle of his bat and never seeming to be in the least stuck up by the bowling. He made absolutely no mistake until he had got 70, when he was badly missed by Mr Armstrong at slip off Mr Noble; and again have the Australians suffered severely this season in not possessing a really good slip. Hayward was again missed at the wickets at 76, a beautiful ball of Mr Armstrong's just beating both the wicket and the wicket-keeper.

Mr Armstrong bowled exceedingly well and adopted altogether different methods from those he has hitherto used in Test matches. He bowled at the wicket and kept a good length, and he succeeded in keeping runs down and bowled Mr Fry with a very good ball, while Mr Jackson had to play him with great steadiness.

Mr Jackson can almost invariably be relied on for Test matches, and yesterday he played with first-rate judgment, and although he could not score fast off Mr Armstrong, he made runs with fair rapidity off the other bowlers, especially Mr Cotter. Mr Jackson and Mr Spooner put on 125 runs for the fifth wicket; and Mr Spooner, who was enthusiastically greeted by the Lancashire crowd, played a fine innings, hitting beautifully on the off side as he always does. Mr Spooner has such a lovely style of batting that all his innings impress themselves on the memory, although he does not look to be quite a sound player - and he gave a chance yesterday.

Mr Jackson and Hirst took the score to 347 by good play, but the bowling could not be said to be of a high class, and indeed had not been all day. Mr McLeod bowled with great steadiness and perseverance. Just in his invariable style the ball came a good deal with his arm, and he is always difficult to score from on the off-side, where a large majority of his balls go. He got four wickets and fully deserved his success, for he had a great deal of bowling on an almost perfect wicket, and he never relaxed his efforts in the slightest degree.

Hirst was out to a fine left-handed catch in the slips, and Mr Jackson and Arnold played out time. Mr Jackson was not out 103 and gave no chance, and he must be steadily building up a record in Test matches. As an innings his performance of yesterday was, perhaps, not so noteworthy as some of his others, but this was not his fault, but simply because the bowling was not really of sufficient class on such a wicket to try his mettle. He always had to pay great respect to Mr Armstrong, but the others he played with ease and hit all round the wicket.

The Australians fielded well but not brilliantly; but as time goes on it is becoming more and more obvious that unless they get assistance from the wicket the Australian bowling is much below par. Mr Cotter is of little good against good batting, and yesterday his bowling was distinctly bad; and neither Mr Laver nor Mr Noble presented much difficulty. The falling off in the latter is a great source of weakness to the Australians, and at the present time their bowling is hardly, if at all, superior to that of several counties; and this weakness makes it still more unfortunate for them that they have not succeeded in winning the toss once.

England at the end of the day had made 352 in about five and a half hours for the loss of only six wickets, and can hardly lose the match, and the Australians will probably again have to play to save the game. The Englishmen may possibly be blamed for not forcing the game more; but although the Australians' bowling is weak, they have two bowlers in Mr McLeod and Mr Armstrong who can always keep runs down; and it is more than doubtful if any batsman who ever lived could score fast against these two bowlers.

The Australian captain has no alternative but to make very large use of them. The result is that there has been somewhat of a monotonous similarity between the first day's play of this match and that at Leeds. The Australians have to bowl not so much to get men out, but to keep runs down; and, although this is sound policy on their part, it cannot be said to be very lively to watch.

From the point of view of patriotism Englishmen may wish to see their country's bowling triumphant on the second day, but many will like to have their feelings satisfied by an innings of Mr Trumper's played in his old inimitable style against the bowling of an altogether different class to that of the Australians. The Australians can always fight hard, and very likely they will play fine cricket on the second day, but they have an uphill task.

There was a crowd of about 20,000, of whom more than 16,000 paid at the gate; and the arrangements, as at Nottingham and Leeds, were excellent.

A word of protest may fairly be made against the inordinate length of time taken for tea. The day was by no means hot, nor was the pace of run-getting fast, and in these circumstances 25 minutes seems a long time to take for 5 o'clock tea. It would seem that in a short time this meal will soon take up nearly as much time as luncheon, and this is hardly suitable or proper for a day's play, which cannot in any circumstances occupy more than six and a quarter hours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 12)

A small quantity of rain fell in the early hours of the morning at Manchester yesterday, but not enough to affect the wicket except that, perhaps, if no rain had fallen the ground would have been rather faster.

The English side went on batting, and in an hour and 40 minutes scored 94 runs; and the batsmen forced the game as well as they could considering that Mr McLeod and Mr Armstrong bowled for nearly all the time. Mr Jackson, in trying to pull Mr McLeod, skied the ball to mid-off and retired for 113 got by first-rate cricket in three and a half hours. He had played a great game for his side, had given no chances and had played every bowler with the greatest confidence, although he was unable to score with any freedom from either Mr McLeod or Mr Armstrong.

It is not easy to say much of Mr Jackson's batting, which ought to be well known by this time, in test matches at all events. He does not hit very hard, yet he gets a proper proportion of boundary hits chiefly by good safe cutting, and in his innings in this match he seldom misjudged the length of any ball. His great success, apart from his natural capacity, is his wonderful nerve, and no cricketer has ever played more great innings on the most important occasions.

England's batting, apart from Mr Jackson, Hayward and Mr Spooner, was useful rather than brilliant, but it was quite sufficient.

The Australians had about half an hour's batting before luncheon, and a most disastrous half-hour it was. The bowling of Mr Brearley was very good and got up a good deal, and the batsmen were fairly beaten. Mr Trumper and Mr Noble began, and Mr Trumper, after making three beautiful hits, got out very much in the same way that he did at Leeds by hitting under a fast off-ball and being caught at extra-slip. Mr Trumper is not the bat he was in 1902, but he tries to play in the same way and, the skill not being quite the same, disaster follows.

Mr Hill was out to a really bad stroke and Mr Noble, who looked like staying, was clean bowled by a fine ball from Mr Brearley, which broke back very fast and knocked the off stump out of the ground.

After luncheon Mr Duff was soon out after making two good hits, and then Mr Armstrong played really well until Rhodes went on and seemed to paralyze him; for after playing five balls from him Mr Armstrong was clean bowled, having hit across every ball of the over.

There was nothing to be said of the Australian batting except a plucky stand by the last two men, Mr Laver in particular playing well, and the hitting of Mr Darling. As an exhibition of plucky and fierce hitting few innings have excelled this effort of Mr Darling's. He was, no doubt, very lucky, being missed four times, but his hitting was splendid. Four mighty drives were sent a long way over the ropes, and he almost savagely went for nearly every ball which was the least over-tossed. His innings fairly roused the crowd to enthusiasm, and all the time his colleagues were giving him very feeble assistance.

The boundary was about 90 yards from the wicket, and one hit nearly went into the Press-box, and two of the chances he did give were off clean and fairly low drives. He was finally well caught by Tyldesley, who judged a very high hit very well, and the innings was brought to an end at half-past 4 for 197.

The English bowling was fair, Mr Brearley's analysis of four wickets for 72 being the best. He bowled at a great pace, and every now and then made the ball come back very fast, while his length, although slightly on the short side, was good and consistent. Rhodes also bowled fairly, as did Arnold; but it looked as if a really good bowler on such a wicket would have run through a side for fewer runs than 197.

It is impossible, however, to praise the English fielding, for the catching was very bad, and if the chances had been taken the Australians would have scarcely made 100 runs. Mr Darling ought to have been caught by Hayward immediately after he went in, and without his score of 73 the total would have been feeble indeed.

The Australians followed on 249 runs behind, and gave a far better exhibition of batting. Mr Trumper and Mr Duff began the innings and, although both played in a rather constrained style, they by no means scored slowly. Mr Trumper made some beautiful hits, but profiting from past experience he was far more careful with the off-balls. They got 55 runs when Mr Trumper was out "l-b-w" to a very confident appeal, just when he was beginning to look dangerous.

Rhodes was the bowler, and the ball seemed to come with his arm, but the Mr Trumper of old would very likely have driven it forward. Nevertheless, his innings was more like his old form.

Mr Duff and Mr Hill then by steady play kept together until stumps were drawn, although Mr Hill was for some time by no means at home and was continually mistiming the bowling. Mr Duff, however, played really well for 58 not out, playing both with care and sound judgment in hitting. He gave no chance and altogether played the right game for his side, for he took no liberties but hit the loose balls well and hard. Mr Hill played better towards the finish, but he did not, however, play like the batsman he once was.

The Australians gave the impression of playing with grim determination, and they have certainly made a good start in their second innings and will very likely make a good fight on the third day. The weather, however, looked by no means settled at the end of the day, and it will be very hard luck if, after having lost the toss, they have to play on a wicket made difficult by rain.

A good deal depends on Mr Brearley, should no rain fall; for his pace and power of making the ball get up must make him dangerous. There is, moreover, rather a long tail to the Australian batting, and the side would seem to depend almost entirely on the leading batsmen, and the Australians have 131 runs still to make to save an innings defeat. No side, however, can fight better "with their backs against a wall," and it is much to be hoped that the Englishmen will give nothing away in the way of catching.

There was a very large crowd, more than 19,000 paying at the gate, and altogether more than 22,000 must have been on the ground.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

The weather had an ominous appearance yesterday morning at Manchester, for rain began to fall at 8 and, although not heavy, it continued at intervals until 11 o'clock. It had not rained, however, so hard at Old Trafford, and there was only an hour's delay, play being continued a few minutes after 12.

The Australians had lost one wicket, that of Mr Trumper, and required 131 to save the innings defeat. The position was an anxious one for both sides; for England had every reason to fear the recurrence

of rain, and the Australians could have had no reason to suppose that the wicket would play any easier, for the sun made an occasional appearance and was of great power.

Mr Brearley and Arnold began to Mr Hill and Mr Duff, and a more complete collapse has seldom been seen. Both bowlers bowled very well, although Mr Brearley's length did not appear to be so good as on the second day, but he made the ball get up, while Arnold made it both turn and get up, and, moreover, kept a beautiful length.

In these days, when so many batsmen play for more than an hour loving off-balls alone and taking nothing in the shape of a liberty, no one likes to reproach a side for doing just the opposite; but it must be confessed that yesterday the Australians rather erred in their tactics. They began to hit before they got set, and most disastrous were the consequences.

Mr Duff and Mr Hill were out immediately to really bad strokes; and after they had got out there was really nothing to say about the batting, for in under an hour and a half the whole side were dismissed for 169, and England had won the match by an innings and 80 runs.

The batting was bad, and the warmest sympathizers of Australia would have admitted this to have been the case. Mr Duff had played very well for 60, but Mr Hill never seemed at home. Mr Trumper was playing in more like his old power, and he and Mr Duff were the only two who showed anything like form.

It was admitted generally that the wicket was never easy; but the difficulty of it was not sufficient to account for the bad batting, although every allowance must be made for the desperate position which the Australians were at the end of the second day.

It is not easy for anybody to play his best on a somewhat damaged pitch and having to fight hard to save an innings defeat; but in these circumstances it certainly does appear strange that the Australians did not play a little more carefully for some few minutes after they went in on the third day (as a matter of fact Mr Trumper and Mr Duff played with more care at the beginning of their second innings on the second day), and the wicket was at no time so difficult as to justify recklessness.

The English bowlers no doubt enjoyed themselves hugely, and Mr Brearley bowled really well all through. He had, for these days, comparatively few overs to bowl; but he has a very fine swing of arm and shoulder, and does not take such an exaggerated run as most fast bowlers do now. Arnold bowled in the old-fashioned way, always a good length and skilful variety of pace, while Rhodes and Mr Jackson were both good.

Of the fielding on the ground it is not possible to say much, as the batting was so feeble that the fieldsmen had little to stop; but the English catching yesterday was as good as on the second day it was bad. Mr Spooner made a fine catch when dismissing Mr Duff, having to run a long way backwards, on his left side, to a high hit, and every cricketer knows how difficult this sort of catch is.

Rhodes made two splendid catches, the first at extra slip and the second at short leg. The one at extra slip, dismissing Mr Darling, was one of the finest that it is possible to make; the ball came like lightning, very low to his right-hand side, Rhodes being a left-handed man, and he caught it a few inches from the ground. No prettier bit of cricket has been seen this season.

Speaking of the match as a whole, it is easy to see that in the first place Australia had a good deal the worst of the luck. As the weather turned out on the third day, the toss had even more than the usual importance; and the impartial spectator would much like to see, if it were possible, the match played again in similar circumstances, except with the Australians winning the toss.

At the same time, even on the first day, the wicket was not a really easy one; and the weakness of the Australian bowling becomes more and more obvious. No eleven in England would have got 300 runs on the wicket as it played on Monday against bowlers of the old Australian calibre, such as Messrs Spofforth, Palmer, Turner, Boyle, Giffen and Trumble; and it is doubtful if they would have got 200 runs.

Of course, with the bowling being so weak it is an additional misfortune that they should have lost all four tosses; but, even in the batting, there is an element of unsoundness in the Australian eleven. Both Mr Trumper and Mr Hill are not so good as they were; there is too long a tail for a first-class eleven, and there is rather a lack of class in the batting as a whole; while in fielding the Australians have been heavily handicapped by the numerous catches missed in the slips.

This last defeat is one of the heaviest the Australians have suffered in Test matches, and there is little for them to look back upon with satisfaction except the innings of Mr Darling - one of the finest exhibitions ever seen of bull-dog pluck and fierce and splendid hitting. England have now won the rubber; but, if they have good luck in the matter of the wicket, the Australians may hold their own at the Oval, and every good sportsman will wish them to win the toss.

There was naturally only a comparatively small attendance yesterday of about 5,000; and the victory was earned only just in time, for after luncheon it began to rain, and continued more or less for the rest of the afternoon.

24 July: HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6815.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 11)

Somerset's favourable position at the close of play yesterday, at Southampton, was due to a series of mistakes by the Hampshire fieldsmen, Braund alone among the principal scorers going through his innings without offering a chance.

Mr Johnson, who began the Somerset innings with Braund, should have been easier run out at the start, and the wicket made 50 in half an hour. Robson, who came in next, was missed at slip when he had scored five, and the partnership between him and Braund realized 93 in an hour. With the dismissal of Captain Poyntz and Braund four wickets were down for 177 runs.

The stand for the fifth wicket by Lewis and Mr Martyn added 121 in an hour and a quarter, and while the professional's only mistake was a chance at the wicket about half-way through his innings, Mr Martyn was very fortunate. He made several bad strokes in the early part of his innings which fell just out of reach, while when he had made 61, 62 and 66 he gave chances to Mr Persse, Mr Johnson and Mr Hesketh-Prichard respectively. Apart from its many blemishes his cricket was bright and his hits included a six, a five and 12 fours.

Lewis batted for two hours and a quarter and hit ten fours. The wicket-keeping of Stone was a redeeming feature of Hampshire's work in the field.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 12)

At Southampton, yesterday, Hampshire batted pluckily all day against Somerset's large total, and at the close they had little the worst of the game.

Mr Hill, by scoring his runs out of a total of 268 for five wickets, again showed himself as the mainstay of the Hampshire batting. He occupied nearly three hours making his first 50, but throughout his innings he was suffering from an injury to his leg and he had a man to run for him. Although his slowness in the circumstances was excusable, he hit with much greater freedom afterwards, and his full innings lasted for four hours and a half.

He received good assistance from Bowell and Mr Sprot, but the best partnership of the innings was between him and Mr Johnston. They scored 128 for the fifth wicket in an hour and a half before Mr Hill was caught in the slips. Mr Johnston, who was out next, made some excellent strokes during his hour and three-quarters' stay, but he gave a couple of chances.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

The game between Hampshire and Somerset at Southampton ended yesterday in a draw. At one time Hampshire appeared to have an excellent chance of winning, Braund, Robson, Captain Poyntz and Mr Johnson being all out for 67 runs in a little more than an hour from the beginning of the Somerset second innings.

Afterwards Lewis and Mr Martyn made a stand; but, with the two out 20 minutes before luncheon, Somerset were only 197 runs ahead with four wickets to fall. When Mr Woods had made five Mr Sprot

missed him at short-slip. Mr Woods subsequently batted with such vigour that, after another hour's play, he was able to declare the innings closed.

Hampshire, who were 321 runs behind, began their second innings with Captain Wynyard and Mr Hill at a quarter to 4, and with nothing but a draw in view the batsmen played cautiously. Mr Hill again had a man to run for him.

Mr Hill's feat of making 200 in one match has been equalled by only two other Hampshire batsmen, Colonel Poore and Captain Greig. In the circumstances, Mr Hill's performance yesterday was remarkable, for he scored his runs by all round strokes in less than two hours.

24 July: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6816.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 11)

There was some fine batting by Kent, at Catford-bridge, yesterday, the side playing the first innings of the match in a little over four hours for 408 runs. Gloucestershire's bowling was overwhelmed by the severity of the punishment administered by Mr Dillon, Mr Day and Mr Blaker.

Mr Dillon's 141 was one of the best innings he has ever played for the county, full as it was of beautifully strong work on the leg side; he found his game immediately he went in and scarcely made an ill-judged stroke before that from which he was dismissed. He was rather more than three hours getting his runs.

Mr Blaker began with rather a lucky four over slip's head, but after that his driving and cutting possessed great power. He went in fifth wicket down at 214 and was ninth out at 408, having contributed 120 to the 194 added in 75 minutes. He was missed in the deep field with his score at 100, but this was the one instance of his making a really bad mistake. Eighty of his runs came in fours, and he also hit three threes and nine twos.

Mr Day was run out through not recovering his ground quickly enough when the ball was driven back by Mr Dillon and went from the bowler on to the wicket, and his dismissal occurred when he seemed well set for a big innings. The fine piece of stumping that got out Mr Blaker and the fielding of Mr Jessop at extra mid-off that ran out Fairservice were striking incidents in the cricket.

Gloucestershire did badly in the last hour of the day against Fielder's bowling, and Huish brought off two fine catches.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 12)

Mr A P Day scored his second 100 this season against Gloucestershire yesterday at Catford. It was a fine innings, in which the best feature was his play in front of the wicket, for hit cutting left something to be desired, as he frequently played under the ball and it went over the heads of the slips. He made his runs in 85 minutes, and such was the rate of scoring just before the close that he and Mr Blaker added the last 71 in 16 minutes. All this fine batting went to place Kent in a very strong position, and they finished the day 435 on with four wickets to fall.

Before luncheon Gloucestershire did something to rescue themselves from the bad position in which they were in on Monday night. Mr Jessop in half an hour scored a characteristic 54 out of 85, which he and Board put on for the sixth wicket, and Board played a remarkably good innings extending over a couple of hours. His game all round was sound and his off-driving was brilliant.

Fielder had taken the first five Gloucestershire wickets for 26 runs; but Mr Jessop and Board soon ruined the excellence of those figures, although at the finish Fielder got seven wickets for just over 12 runs each. The wicket has so far lasted well, but Kent no doubt did right to go in again instead of making their opponents follow on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

Kent beat Gloucestershire at Catford-bridge, yesterday, by 142 runs. They took the risk of Gloucestershire's making 436 by declaring their innings closed the first thing in the morning, thus giving themselves the whole day in which to get out their opponents.

Fortunately for them, Mr Jessop did not come off, being completely beaten by Blythe when he had made 21 in 20 minutes; but while Mr Jessop virtually failed, there was a very finely hit innings by Wrathall. He made the majority of his runs on the off side, and scored 102 out of the 166 in two hours, between the fall of the fourth and seventh wickets, and 80 of his runs were in fours.

Some dropped catches prolonged the Gloucestershire innings until late in the afternoon. Fielder again bowled well and took in all 10 wickets in the match for 197 runs.

24 July: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6817.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 11)

At Eastbourne yesterday, on a wicket which owing to the rain which fell on Sunday was slower than usual, Sussex went in to bat, Surrey having won the toss, but adopting the expedient of putting their opponents in.

Sussex's display was, however, a very uneven one. Nice bowled excellently, on two occasions dismissing two Sussex batsmen with consecutive balls. Mr Young and Mr C L A Smith batted in good style for their runs, both choosing the right ball to hit and placing their strokes with judgment. Mr Goldie made a couple of fine hits in his score, as also did Relf. With Sussex's total standing at 164 for five wickets, the probabilities pointed to their final score being well over 200, but the last five wickets only added 34 runs.

When Surrey went in they quickly lost Hobbs with their total at nine. Hayes should have been caught in the long field before he had made ten, and just before the close Baker was dismissed. With eight wickets to fall, Surrey are now 150 runs behind, the game being thus in a fairly even condition.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 12)

Yesterday at Eastbourne eight Surrey wickets fell for an addition to the score of 140, and for this result Sussex were chiefly indebted to Cox for some excellent bowling.

Mr Leveson-Gower and Nice both stayed in for some time, but the only Surrey batsman who played the Sussex bowling with any real confidence was Mr Raphael. He made a number of fine hits on both sides of the wicket, and during his stay he played fine cricket.

With a lead of ten runs, Sussex began their second innings, but they made a bad start, losing Vine with their score at nine. Mr Young and Killick added 39 for the second wicket, and the former and Leach put on 41 for the sixth wicket. Mr Young cut with great power and precision and, although he ought to have been stumped early in his innings, he batted very well. Lees bowled splendidly, keeping a fine length and varying his pace with great judgment.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

When Sussex continued batting at Eastbourne, yesterday, the two remaining wickets only added two runs, leaving Surrey with 195 to get to win, and in the end the visitors hit off the runs for the loss of three batsmen, thus winning the match by seven wickets.

Since the opening day the wicket had been getting faster, and when Surrey opened their second innings, with Mr Raphael and Hobbs, it was a good one for run-getting. The first two Surrey batsmen made a good start, scoring 49 before Mr Raphael was caught and, as in his first innings, he had played capital cricket.

On Davis joining Hayes, who had gone in first wicket down, Surrey quickly hit off the runs. Hayes played more restrained cricket than usual, but Davis did some brilliant hitting, including one stroke

to leg which went over the ring. Lees did a fine bowling performance by taking nine wickets for nine runs each.

24 July: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6818.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 11)

Derbyshire, chiefly owing to another very fine innings by Mr Wright, who just lately has been batting better probably than at any other time in his career, made a large score against Warwickshire, at Birmingham, yesterday, and at the close the home side with one man out were 321 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 12)

Owing chiefly to a long innings by Quaife, at Birmingham, yesterday, Warwickshire was able to gain a lead of 74 on the first innings over Derbyshire.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

Warwickshire beat Derbyshire at Birmingham, yesterday, by seven wickets. The feature of the cricket was the continued success of Mr L G Wright, who made two hundreds in the mat for Derbyshire.

Warwickshire only required 124 to win, and these were obtained for the loss of three wickets.

24 July: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6819.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 11)

This match was begun at Sheffield yesterday. Yorkshire went in first and batted for three hours and 50 minutes for their runs.

There were two good partnerships during the innings, Mr H Wilkinson, who played good free cricket, and Rothery hitting up 77 runs for the first wicket, and W H Wilkinson and Myers making 100 for the seventh. Jayes bowled admirably for Leicestershire, taking six wickets for 13 runs each.

Leicestershire had an hour and 25 minutes' batting. They lost the wickets of Mr Wood and Mr de Trafford with only 51 on the board. Knight and King, however, by steady play, stayed together until the close. As the game now stands Leicestershire are 162 runs behind and have eight wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 12)

Yorkshire did so well at Sheffield yesterday that, provided the weather keeps fine, they ought to win their match with Leicestershire to-day.

They Leicestershire continued their first innings they collapsed badly, and the eight outstanding wickets fell for the addition of 38 runs. Yorkshire thus held a lead of 124, and this they increased to 419 when the innings was declared closed with eight wickets down, and Leicestershire, losing two wickets at the end of the day for 41, still require 378 runs in order to avoid defeat.

The feature of the cricket was the brilliant bowling of Ringrose for Yorkshire, who took six wickets for less than three runs each yesterday.

In Yorkshire's second innings there was a fine partnership by Myers and W H Wilkinson, which realized 116 runs in an hour and 35 minutes. Both played excellent cricket, as did Rothery and Tunnicliffe earlier.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

Yorkshire gained a victory over Leicestershire at Sheffield, yesterday, by 245 runs.

22 July: PHILADELPHIA v M.C.C.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6812.html)

Wednesday 26 July: Philadelphia, July 24.

The cricket match between and M.C.C. team, captained by Mr E W Mann and consisting mostly of University Blues, and the Gentlemen of Philadelphia was begun at Mannheim yesterday, having been postponed from Saturday owing to rain.

The home team went in first and were all out for 108. The Englishmen then went in and made 181, Mr F J V Hopley scoring 54 not out. When the Gentlemen of Philadelphia went in again they made 38 for three wickets. The innings to-day closed for 155.

July 25

The cricket match between the M.C.C. team visiting America and the Gentlemen and Players concluded to-day. The Philadelphians brought their second innings score up to 155, leaving the visitors 83 runs to make to win. These the Englishmen secured for the loss of only three wickets. - Reuter.

27 July: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6820.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 10)

After a bad beginning to their innings, at Portsmouth, yesterday, Hampshire made a remarkable recovery; but at the close of play Sussex, with all their wickets to fall, were only 262 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 7)

The fortunes of the match between Hampshire and Sussex at Portsmouth varied yesterday, but the home side nearly always held an advantage, and at the close of play, on a wicket that showed signs of wear, they were 102 runs ahead with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 July, page 10)

A keenly-contested match at Portsmouth ended on Saturday in a win for Sussex, who beat Hampshire by six wickets.

On Friday, Hampshire had the better of the position, being 102 runs on with only Mr Johnston and Norbury out, but when play was continued the home side failed to maintain their advantage. After adding six to his overnight score, Mr W V Jephson was caught in the slips. He batted altogether for an hour and three-quarters in excellent style, and made his runs chiefly with strokes past cover-point.

With six wickets down, Hampshire were only 175 runs ahead, but Mr Steele and Llewellyn scored 55 for the seventh wicket in 40 minutes. The end of the innings soon followed Llewellyn's dismissal, the last three wickets falling for two runs.

Sussex required 231 to win, and up to the partnership of Vine and Leach Hampshire more than held their own. Sussex had occupied two hours in scoring 111 runs for the loss of four batsmen and, as

only an hour and a half remained for the day, a doubt existed if Sussex, even if they stayed in, could get the runs in time.

The two professionals, however, quickly changed the aspect of the game. Vine had been two hours making 50, but his full total was reached in another three-quarters of an hour. Leach hit hard to the on, and the partnership realized the necessary 120 runs in only 50 minutes.

27 July: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6821.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 10)

Good progress was made with the match at Mote-park, Maidstone, yesterday, up to nearly 5 o'clock, when a severe storm put an end to the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 7)

Kent beat Somerset at Mote-park, Maidstone, yesterday, by an innings and 116 runs. While the wicket was easy in the morning their batsmen forced the game at a great pace, and in less than three hours advanced the score for 107 to 457; indeed, the innings itself lasted only four hours.

Mr Dillon, who made his second hundred of the week for Kent, played in his best style, being particularly good on the leg side; his partnerships with Hearne and Seymour for the first and second wickets each yielded the same number of runs, namely, 103.

Seymour got his 109 in brilliant form and, like Mr Dillon, was rather more than two hours at the wicket. All the Kent batsmen went in for hitting, and Mr Day and Mr Blaker were both seen to advantage, Mr Blaker getting 61 in half an hour.

With the wicket helping the Kent bowlers, Somerset soon found themselves in a hopeless position. Blythe was particularly difficult to play, and near the finish Fielder went on and got the last two wickets with successive balls. Among the features of the cricket were three catches in the long-field - two by Captain Poyntz - and a wonderful one by Mr Dillon, who, fielding on the boundary, held the ball high with his right hand.

27 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6822.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 10)

At the close of play in this match at Old Trafford yesterday Lancashire had rather the better of the game.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 7)

Lancashire beat Gloucestershire at Manchester, yesterday, by ten wickets. When play was continued Lancashire passed the visitors' total with six wickets in hand. Hallows hit well, completing his 50 out of 71 in less than an hour.

The home side held a lead of 147 runs on the first innings, and Gloucestershire lost five wickets before these were hit off. Indeed, excepting Board and Mr Jessop, no one offered much resistance. In 40 minutes they scored 98. Cook took in the match 11 wickets for just over ten runs each.

Lancashire only required 52 to win, and Mr MacLaren and Mr Spooner hit off the runs in 20 minutes.

27 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6823.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 10)

At Leicester, yesterday, the home side had slightly the better of the opening day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 7)

At the close of play at Leicester, yesterday, Derbyshire wanted 146 to win and had six wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 July, page 10)

Leicestershire gained a victory over Derbyshire, at Leicester, on Saturday by 87 runs.

On Friday night the visiting side, who had lost four wickets in their second innings, still required 146 to win, but on Saturday Jayes bowled so well that the last six men were got rid of for an addition of 58 runs. In the innings Jayes got nine wickets for just over eight runs each, and, as he caught Warren, he had a hand in the dismissal of every man on the side.

27 July: MIDDLESEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6824.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 10)

Mr P F Warner gave another fine display of batting at Lord's yesterday in the opening of Middlesex's first match with Essex. Going in first, he at once settled down to excellent cricket, and when fourth out at 323 he had been at the wickets for three hours and a half for his runs. As usual with him, Mr Warner scored all round the wicket, but he obtained most of his runs by drives and strokes on the leg side.

Middlesex started none too well, Mr G W Beldam being bowled at 32; but Tarrant, who batted in good style, assisted to add 75 for the second partnership, while Mr H E Pearce helped to put on 47 for the third wicket. Mr Pearce, who comes from Barnet, was included in the Middlesex eleven for the first time.

After lunch Mr Warner and Mr Bosanquet punished the bowling with such severity as to raise the score by 169 in an hour and 40 minutes. Mr Bosanquet batted splendidly, and he and Mr C A L Payne, for the fifth partnership, put on 121 in 50 minutes. Mr Bosanquet, who had made 179 out of 290, was then caught in the deep field, having obtained his runs in two hours and a half. He did not give a chance and scarcely made a bad stroke.

With the score at 480 for six wickets at ten minutes past 6, rain put an end to play for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 7)

Yesterday's cricket at Lord's was of a similar description to that witnessed on the opening day, Essex in turn running up a big score and two notable individual performances being accomplished.

Middlesex were batting all day on Thursday, scoring 480 runs for six wickets, and in 40 minutes yesterday the outstanding wickets added 48 runs, the batsmen naturally hitting out, the innings having lasted five hours and a half.

Essex went in shortly after half-past 12 and stayed in for the remainder of the day and only lost five wickets. The chief honours of this excellent performance rested with Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey. The start was not promising, as Mr Fane, who opened the innings with Carpenter, was caught at mid-on

at 28, but afterwards, with Mr Perrin in, matters went very well with Essex. By capital cricket runs were put on at a good pace, and when lunch was taken the score had been raised to 104 for one wicket.

Soon after the interval, however, Carpenter was finely caught in the deep field, having made 66 out of 116 in a little over an hour and a half. The second wicket added 88, and then, on Mr McGahey joining Mr Perrin, the Middlesex bowling was thoroughly mastered. Both batsmen played confidently, running no risks but allowing few chances of scoring to escape them; and they were not parted until the score had reached 349, when Mr Perrin's fine innings came to a close.

Altogether the stand for the third wicket lasted for two hours and 50 minutes and realized 233 runs. Mr Perrin was missed when he had scored 82, and again at 101, but otherwise his play was excellent. Mr Douglas and Mr Tosetti were quickly out, but Mr McGahey remained undefeated to the end.

Middlesex completed their eleven yesterday by the inclusion of Mignon, a fast right-hand bowler, who is on the ground staff at Lord's.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 July, page 10)

After a remarkable and exciting finish, Essex defeated Middlesex at Lord's, on Saturday, by seven wickets. That the match would be brought to a definite result did not seem at all possible when the game was continued, Essex with five wickets in hand having got to within 154 of their opponents' first innings total.

In 45 minutes the innings was finished off for an addition of 53 runs, and then after Middlesex had scored 152 runs for the loss of three batsmen Mr Warner declared the innings closed, Essex being left with 254 to get in two hours and 40 minutes. With the wicket still in perfect order Essex got the runs well within time.

Judging by the way in which the innings started, however, it did not look as though Essex intended to make a bid for victory, Mr Fane and Carpenter scoring at quite a normal rate. After Mr Fane had been caught at extra mid-on at 30, however, Mr Perrin joined Carpenter and the hitting began.

Quickly settling down, Mr Perrin drove beautifully, and with Carpenter taking advantage of every opportunity, runs were put on at a very rapid rate. The 100 was reached in something under an hour, but when 86 runs had been added in 55 minutes Carpenter was bowled. Reeves was sent in next, and the policy was attended with brilliant success, 59 runs being put on in 25 minutes.

At this point Essex were rather behind the clock, 70 runs being still wanted with only 50 minutes left for play. Mr Perrin and Mr Tosetti, however, hit off the runs in half an hour, Essex thus having 20 minutes to spare when the winning hit was made.

27 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6825.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 10)

Nottinghamshire fared badly in their return match with Yorkshire at Trent Bridge yesterday. Rhodes completed his thousand runs just before the close, and is the first cricketer of the season to take 100 wickets at score 1,000 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 7)

At Trent-bridge yesterday, Yorkshire beat Nottinghamshire by an innings and 55 runs. Yorkshire were batting altogether for nearly five hours.

Requiring 229 to avoid an innings defeat, Nottinghamshire opened with Mr Jones and G Gunn, Iremonger being slightly indisposed. Gunn left at eight and Mr Jones, who went in for some brisk hitting at the expense of Hirst, was bowled by Ringrose at 47.

Hardstaff and J Gunn made a stand for the third wicket, and Mr Hemingway, Mr Branston and Chambers batted freely; but there was nothing of consequence in the subsequent cricket, and Nottinghamshire were all out a second time for 174. Hardstaff played by far the most attractive cricket of the innings, and he is fast developing into one of the safest bats in the eleven.

27 July: SURREY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6826.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 10)

Although the Surrey bowling was considerably weakened by the absence of Lees and Mr N A Knox they managed to hold their own in the opening day's play against the Australians at the Oval yesterday.

It must be said at once that the Australians ought to have made more runs in the circumstances. As it was Mr Hill alone was seen to much advantage, although Mr Darling and Mr McLeod made useful scores.

There was nothing in the wicket to account for their comparatively small total. Their early dismissal was chiefly due to a fine bowling performance by Smith, who took six wickets for less than five runs each. Smith has the reputation as a bowler of only being able to bowl effectively on slow wickets; but yesterday he proved that he could also bowl on fast ones, and the secret of his success appeared to be in the fact that he beat the batsmen for pace. No one seemed able to hit him and he sent down very few short balls.

Surrey started their innings at ten minutes past 5, but after Hayward and Hobbs had taken the score to 23 without being parted, bad light prevented any further play.

During the afternoon the two eldest sons of the Prince of Wales visited the Oval and watched the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 7)

Surrey, by some good batting against the Australians, had the better of the day's cricket at the Oval yesterday. At the end of an innings each Surrey held a useful lead of 116, and at the close of play the Australians were 87 behind with nine wickets in hand.

Practically no rain had fallen overnight and the wicket was as true as on the first day, for when the home side continued their innings it was soon seen that the bowlers would be at a disadvantage. From the first runs came steadily; and Hayward and Hobbs, by attractive cricket, remained together until the score had reached 127 before Hayward was out to a well-judged catch at long on. Hayward hardly made a bad stroke and was almost at his best.

This start was followed up by some good batting by Holland, Stedman and Lord Dalmeny, while several of the others made useful scores. When Hobbs and Hayward were at the wickets the former had played very well indeed, but after Hayward was out he quite lost his game, for, apart from being missed when he was in the fifties, he was batting for nearly an hour for his last six runs.

Stedman, who went in second wicket down - an unusually high place in the order for him - began badly, but when once he had settled down he showed very good form, and he was only in for 80 minutes for his runs. Holland also did well, and the only really bad stroke he made was that from which he was caught. It was when he and Goatly were partners that the Australian score was passed, and as only four wickets were down Surrey found themselves in a strong position.

After Holland left there was little in the batting, with the exception of the well-hit innings of Lord Dalmeny. The Australian fielding was fairly good, but their bowling generally appeared to lack sting.

The Australians went in a second time at ten minutes to 6, and at the fall of Mr Gehrs's wicket play closed for the day.

After a remarkable finish, at the Oval, on Saturday, the Australians beat Surrey by 22 runs. It was one of the most interesting day's cricket that could be wished for, and few could have foreshadowed the result. The universal opinion must have favoured a draw from the position overnight, as the Australians were 87 runs behind with nine wickets in hand in their second innings, and a defeat seemed a remote contingency for Surrey.

It must be said at once that the visitors thoroughly deserved their win, which was probably due to three causes - the fine bowling of Mr Armstrong, the want of judgment which the Surrey batsmen showed in running between the wickets, and their over-anxiety to hit off the runs against Mr Armstrong and Mr McLeod, two of the most difficult bowlers they could have had to play against in the circumstances.

Surrey went in requiring only 156 to win with about two hours and ten minutes left for play. Mr Armstrong was put on when 47 had been scored without loss, and it was evident that his sole intention was to keep down the run-getting, as he almost invariably bowled well outside the leg stump, with only two fieldsmen on the off-side, one at cover point and the other in the long field. In these conditions runs were naturally difficult to get, and the batsmen were compelled to hit at balls in order to try to get the necessary runs which in other circumstances they would have left alone.

In this way four of the side lost their wickets in being caught on the leg-side, while Davis was out in trying to make a back-handed stroke; but even allowing for this state of affairs, Surrey ought not to have lost. Hayes was run out when apparently well set, Hobbs lost his wicket through a misunderstanding, while Smith backed up too far and failed to get back, and there is no doubt that these mistakes cost Surrey the match.

When it was too late for Surrey to win it also proved too late for them to save the game, and with the last four wickets going down at the same total, the Australians were able to gain a remarkable victory about five minutes before time.

When the Australians continued their innings on Saturday, Mr McLeod left without any addition to the score, while Mr Armstrong was out at 66. A long partnership by Mr Hill and Mr Noble, which lasted for an hour and three-quarters and produced 140 runs, naturally led one to suppose that the match would be drawn; but the remaining six wickets fell for another 65 runs, and this comparative collapse, as events proved, made victory possible for the side, for had they made more runs they could not have won.

For the early finish to the Australians' innings Surrey were chiefly indebted to Smith, who again met with marked success, and to appreciate the good work which he had done for Surrey a collection was made for him on the ground. In the match he took 12 wickets for 124 runs.

In the Australians' innings the batting of Mr Hill stood out by itself, but Mr Noble deserved a word of praise for keeping with him as he did, while Mr Trumper also batted well, although he was several times at fault in timing the ball.

Surrey went in just before 20 minutes past 4 in their attempt to hit off the runs, and so well did they start that there appeared good prospects of their accomplishing the task. Hayward and Holland put on 72 for the first wicket, although the latter gave a difficult chance to Mr Cotter at mid-on when he had scored seven, while Hayward was badly missed by the same player at cover-point at 42.

Hayward and Hayes then took the score to 96 before the former was well caught by Mr Duff, fielding at long-leg, after batting for an hour and a quarter. Hayward had done his best for his side, and in other conditions there is no doubt that he would have left the ball alone from which he got out.

When the 100 went up there was still 55 minutes left for play, and as there were only two wickets down, Surrey's chances of winning looked very hopeful. Then, however, began a series of disasters for the home side. Hayes was run out at 115, Lord Dalmeny left one run later, and Nice was caught at 117, and with half the side out 39 runs were still required to win in 35 minutes, so that Surrey appeared to have the match in hand; but the last five wickets fell for 16 runs, two men being run out, while, after the fall of the eighth wicket, Mr Armstrong, realizing that there was a chance of snatching a win, altered his field and quickly finished the match.

27 July: WARWICKSHIRE v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 10)

This match was begun at Coventry yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 7)

Warwickshire beat Northamptonshire at Coventry, yesterday, by four wickets.

27 July: THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	31	1926	233	3	68.78
Hirst	32	1612	341	8	67.16
Quaife	37	1540	255*	11	59.23
Mr P F Warner	24	1178	204	0	49.08
Hayward	41	1768	129*	3	46.26
Mr C McGahey	25	1101	277	1	45.87
Mr L O S Poidevin	28	1140	168*	3	45.60
Iremonger	32	1149	239	0	45.28
Kinneir	30	1313	158	1	45.27
Mr L G Wright	31	1399	195	0	45.12
Arnold	22	713	134	6	44.56
Bowley	25	1069	217	4	44.54
Mr B J T Bosanquet	23	832	179	4	43.78
Mr E M Sprot	22	815	141	1	43.57
Tyldesley	36	1443	250	2	42.44
The Hon F S Jackson	25	966	144*	2	42.00
Sharp	28	1004	110*	4	41.83
Mr C J B Wood	32	1214	160*	2	40.46
Seymour	28	1023	128	2	39.34
Mr R A Young	25	983	220	0	39.32
Mr A P Day	27	885	107*	4	38.91
Denton	40	1494	165	1	38.30
Mr R H Spooner	29	1057	164	1	37.75
Carpenter	26	939	138*	1	37.56
Vine	39	1385	148	2	37.43
Mr A C MacLaren	30	1021	140	2	36.46
Knight	31	1018	177	3	35.85
Mr A H Hornby	25	709	111*	5	35.45
Hayes	41	1328	105	3	34.94
G Gunn	30	976	126	2	34.85
Baker (Surrey)	34	1009	128*	5	34.79
Braund	28	869	130	3	34.76
Cuffe	23	727	145	2	34.61
Rhodes	34	1001	201	5	34.51
Board	26	796	119*	2	33.15
J Gunn	31	957	178	2	33.00
Mr M W Payne	23	693	178	1	31.50
Mr P Perrin	22	592	140	3	31.15
Mr A O Jones	34	1024	103	1	31.08
Relf	35	968	75	3	30.25
Reeves	23	688	135	0	29.91
Baker (Warwickshire)	29	807	102	2	29.86
Mr G L Jessop	31	898	234	1	29.86

Mr W H B Evans	24	645	139*	2	29.31
Holland	26	701	132	2	29.20
Hobbs	39	1074	155	2	29.02
Wrathall	24	638	102	2	29.00
Mr V F S Crawford	26	691	119	2	28.79
Pearson	23	656	93	0	28.52
Mr T S Fishwick	31	883	137	0	28.48
Mr G N Foster	22	594	152	1	28.28
Jayes	22	417	74	7	27.80
King	28	895	95	3	27.80
Mr C H B Marsham	24	606	67	2	27.63
Mr H G Garnett	31	792	88	2	27.31
Dr E M Ashcroft	21	545	73*	1	27.25
Hardstaff	23	613	121	3	26.92
Mr H Martyn	30	775	130*	1	26.72
Tunnicliffe	30	711	102	3	26.33
Llewellyn	25	579	77	3	26.21
Coe	29	719	100	1	25.67
Mr J F Byrne	33	836	222	0	25.53

Also listed: Mr C C Page average 24.94, Killick 24.65, Lilley 24.03, Mr S M J Woods 24.00, Davis (Surrey) 23.60, Cadman 23.33, Bowell 23.21, Stone 23.00, Mr A E Lawton 22.60, Thompson 22.28, Mr F L Fane 22.25, Cox (Sussex) 22.17, Whitehead 22.00, Myers 21.65, Mr H Wilkinson 21.64, Mr R E Hemingway 21.53, Lord Dalmeny 21.31, Mr C E de Trafford 21.03.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Haigh	605	162	1458	100	14.58
Thompson	505	120	1354	88	15.38
Rhodes	829.4	244	1890	113	16.80
Mr G G Napier	338.1	75	973	56	17.37
Lees	986.4	282	2371	132	17.96
Ringrose	361.4	62	1128	81	16.49
Hirst	415.5	90	1171	63	18.53
J T Hearne	422.5	112	1061	55	19.29
Mr W Brearley	792.4	140	2576	132	19.51
Myers	351.2	72	1184	60	19.73
Hallam	503.1	159	1151	57	20.18
Kermode	647.3	164	1841	90	20.45
Wass	495	101	1457	68	21.42
Warren	531.1	104	1844	76	21.63
Hayes	517.5	100	1504	69	21.79
Blythe	712.3	198	1648	84	21.94
Dennett	756.4	174	2277	103	22.10
Fairservice	476.2	146	1284	58	22.13
Arnold	525.2	106	1682	72	22.25
Jayes	513.1	99	1627	73	22.28
Bestwick	599.3	123	1833	81	22.62
Mr N A Knox	586.2	96	2015	89	23.64
Relf	881	289	1885	83	22.71
Killick	530	121	1475	64	23.06
Cox (Sussex)	1171.1	335	2750	117	23.50
Mr W W Odell	641.3	162	1785	75	23.80
Trott	314.3	62	1003	44	24.84
Hargreave	908.2	251	2141	86	24.29
J Gunn	706.2	144	1980	76	26.05
Santall	644.1	168	1001	61	28.24
Baldwin	590.5	154	1629	62	26.27
Tremlin	513.2	85	1794	67	26.77
Mr B J T Bosanquet	307.4	23	1218	45	27.06
Burrows	347.2	45	1351	49	27.57
Fielder	361.2	61	1370	48	28.64
Buckenham	508.5	71	1843	51	36.13

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THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	31	1474	303*	5	56.68
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	33	1400	162	1	43.75
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	35	1325	149	1	38.97
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	35	1215	108	1	35.78
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	37	1058	117*	5	33.06
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	25	597	93	4	28.42
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	39	1026	94	0	26.30
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	28	584	134	2	22.84
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	24	485	72	2	22.04
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	29	529	48	2	19.59
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	31	474	60	5	18.23
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	24	251	74*	10	17.92
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	24	342	78	3	16.28
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	15	104	25*	7	13.00
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	19	95	18	5	6.78

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr F Laver	635.3	181	1578	84	18.78
Mr W W Armstrong	633.1	212	1281	66	19.40
Mr C E McLeod	648.3	186	1559	71	21.95
Mr W P Howell	395	119	1012	46	22.00
Mr A Cotter	456.2	79	1467	66	22.56
Mr R A Duff	107.5	33	311	12	25.91
Mr A J Hopkins	202	51	621	22	28.22
Mr M A Noble	490	133	1248	41	30.43
Mr S E Gregory	7.1	0	47	0	--

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Lancashire	18	10	1	7	9	81.81
Yorkshire	20	14	3	3	11	64.70
Surrey	16	10	3	3	7	53.84
Sussex	20	8	3	9	5	45.45
Kent	18	7	5	1	2	16.66
Leicestershire	16	5	4	7	1	11.11
Middlesex	9	4	4	1	0	0.00
Nottinghamshire	14	5	5	4	0	0.00
Warwickshire	15	3	3	9	0	0.00
Gloucestershire	11	4	6	1	-2	-20.00
Essex	12	3	7	2	-4	-40.00
Worcestershire	12	2	5	5	-3	-42.85
Northamptonshire	9	2	5	2	-3	-42.85
Derbyshire	14	2	11	1	-9	-69.23
Hampshire	14	1	8	5	-7	-77.77
Somerset	13	1	8	4	-7	-77.77

The match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval - abandoned without a ball having been bowled - is not included in the above table.

31 July: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6829.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 August, page 11)

The opening day's play in this match at Derby yesterday went in favour of Derbyshire for at the close they were within four runs of the Warwickshire score and had eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 August, page 12)

Yesterday's cricket at Derby favoured the home county even more than that of Monday, for at the close of play Warwickshire, with only three wickets in hand, still required 167 to avoid an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 August, page 10)

The match at Derby was finished off yesterday in less than three-quarters of an hour, Derbyshire winning by an innings and 120 runs. Warwickshire were in quite a hopeless position, as, with only three wickets to fall, they wanted 167 to avoid an innings defeat.

Mr Byrne and Santall, who had played very well together on Tuesday afternoon, added 10 before Santall was out, the partnership for the eighth wicket having produced in all 61 runs. Mr Byrne continued to show good cricket and took out his bat after a stay of an hour and a quarter. In winning the game so easier, Derbyshire owed much to Cadman, who took 11 wickets for 80 runs.

31 July: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6830.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 August, page 11)

In spite of the fact that the wicket was a nice easy pace considerable progress was made in this match at Old Trafford yesterday.

Lancashire, who went in first, scored 27 runs in 15 minutes before Mr Spooner was out. Tyldesley could not settle down and, trying to turn a straight ball to leg, he was dismissed at 57. Mr Poidevin played on, and indeed Mr MacLaren was the only batsman who showed his form, and he reached 50 with the total at 105.

Mr MacLaren was eventually caught at mid-on off the first ball after lunch. He was batting for an hour and 50 minutes and, although he gave a hard chance to point when he had scored 17, he played fine cricket. Sharp also rendered good service until he was beaten by a yorker, while Mr Hornby hit freely to the on. Lancashire were at the wickets for two hours and 40 minutes.

Nottinghamshire began with the usual pair, and when the score was 18 Iremonger gave a chance at the wicket off Mr Brearley, but the ball passed through Worsley's hands and cut open his forehead, in spite of which, after a rest, he continued to keep wicket.

Cook dismissed Mr Jones at 42; but after he was out runs were very difficult to get, as may be gathered from the fact that Iremonger was struggling for an hour against the two fast bowlers before he was caught at fourth slip. Day showed good form until he spooned a ball to mid-on. Hallam and Taylor proved a stubborn pair for the last wicket and added an invaluable 36, so that the game remains in a fairly even position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 August, page 12)

When Nottinghamshire concluded their first innings, at Old Trafford yesterday, they were only 24 runs behind the home county. Lancashire began their second innings so disastrously that at one time they appeared in a bad position, as Mr MacLaren was caught at third man with the total 29, while with two runs added Tyldesley and Mr Poidevin were beaten by successive balls.

When Mr Spooner and Mr Garnett were together rain prevented play for two hours, but in spite of this delay, they increased the total by 42. Even later four wickets were down for only 73 when Sharp joined Mr Spooner. They offered such a protracted resistance, on a drying wicket, that they completely changed the aspect of the match. They put on 131 by good cricket before Mr Spooner was out. He gave a chance to Day at mid-off when he had scored 110, but his display was one of the best that he has given this season.

In the next over Sharp was cleverly caught at short slip. Afterwards Mr Hornby hit with much vigour and three times cleared the rails. He scored 48 out of 51 when Mr Brearley was in with him for the last wicket, and in all he was batting for 70 minutes.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 August, page 10)

Nottinghamshire offered a feeble resistance to Lancashire at Old Trafford yesterday. They required 330 to win, and after rain and two days' cricket the wicket was not very easy, but it was not so bad as to account entirely for the poor form shown by Nottinghamshire.

Iremonger left at seven and Mr Jones cut a ball into the hands of point at 35. Indeed, the only profitable partnership was between Day and Mr Hemingway for the sixth wicket, which produced 43. Day batted well and his 31 consisted of a five, six fours and two singles. The sixth, seventh and eighth wickets all fell at 106. Afterwards the end soon came, and Lancashire won by 207 runs.

31 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6831.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 August, page 11)

This match was begun at Leicester yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 August, page 12)

This match was continued at Leicester yesterday. [Pathetic coverage!]

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 August, page 10)

After having all the best of the cricket, Leicestershire won this match at Leicester, yesterday, by six wickets. Essex made a good attempt in their second innings to save the game, but in the end Leicestershire had only 105 to get to win.

31 July: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6832.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 August, page 11)

The Surrey and Middlesex match at the Oval was begun yesterday in fine weather and on a fast wicket, which however gave the bowlers considerable assistance. The ball did not perhaps turn much, but any bowler at all over medium pace was frequently able to make it get up quickly from the pitch, while occasionally one or two kept very low.

Middlesex were not nearly at full strength, but in any case they might be regarded as a fairly strong side, and when they won the toss a reasonably good score was expected from them. As events proved, however, the bowlers held the upper hand all day; 20 wickets fell for 266 runs, and none of the batsmen ever seemed to have a complete mastery of the bowling.

Middlesex began with Mr Warner and Mr E A Beldam, and they made a good start, runs at first coming fast. Over 50 had been scored before Mr Knox bowled Mr Warner, and then a series of disasters followed, five wickets being down for 78. Trott and Mr Littelljohn then added 28, and the total eventually reached 146.

Of the Middlesex batting there is not very much to be said. Mr Warner was not at his best, and undoubtedly the soundest batting was shown by Mr E A Beldam. Smith got three wickets very cheaply; but the majority of the bowling was done by Lees and Mr Knox, and both took good advantage of their opportunities and bowled well, and the batsmen found it hard to score from them in front of the wicket.

Even allowing for the state of the wicket, 146 did not look to be a large score to go in against, but Surrey did even worse than their opponents and their dismissal was chiefly due to Mignon, who got seven wickets for nine runs each. Mignon on a true wicket does not appear to be a difficult bowler either to play or to score off, but yesterday the wicket suited him exactly. He bowls over medium pace and brings the ball down from a considerable height, and he got three men caught at the wicket.

Only Mr Knox, who went in last and made one or two good hits, got over 20. Hobbs played steadily for some time, and Lees and Smith managed to add 27 for the eighth wicket. The Surrey innings was over just before a quarter past 6, and Middlesex had one over's batting. At the close the visiting side with all their wickets in hand were 34 runs ahead.

One of the best features of the day's cricket was the wicket-keeping of Mr Bird. Last year Mr Bird was just a capable wk- and no more; this season he has become really good, and he was in his best form yesterday. He caught four men at the wicket, the catch off Hearne looking to be a difficult one, and in addition he stumped Mr Knox.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 August, page 12)

Surrey did a fine performance at the Oval yesterday when they beat Middlesex by ten wickets. Overnight Middlesex held a lead of 34, with all their wickets in hand in the second innings, and although their advantage was small so far as actual figures were concerned, judging by the way in which the batsmen had to fight for their runs, it seemed as if even this number would prove to be of the greatest service to them.

When Middlesex continued their innings yesterday they could do little against the bowling of Mr Knox; and by the way in which the Middlesex batsmen "shaped," it seemed as though Surrey would experience some difficulty in getting the necessary runs, especially as 30 wickets had fallen for an average of about 13 runs each.

Surrey required 168 to win, and these were hit off by Hayward and Hobbs without loss in a little over two hours; and by the confident way in which they played it seemed hard to account for the poor form shown by Middlesex. It is true that they had no bowler who was able to take the same advantage of the state of the wicket as Mr Knox, but at the same time it was a very fine performance.

Hobbs was missed at slip before he had scored and again at mid-off when he had made 33, but otherwise he played splendid cricket, while Hayward was seen at his best. From the first his timing of the ball was very accurate and his innings hardly included a bad stroke. To have made so many runs in any circumstances would have been a fine achievement, but when it is taken into consideration that they were got in the fourth innings of the match and on a wicket on which the bowlers had up to that time carried everything before them, it would be difficult to find a performance of more merit.

Little could be said in favour of the Middlesex batsmen. Mr Warner made some good strokes as well as some bad ones, while Trott hit at almost everything. Mr Knox, by taking eight wickets for six runs each, had the satisfaction of taking 100 wickets this season for the first time in his career.

Surrey started their innings directly after lunch. Although many bowling changes were tried, the runs were hit off just before 5 o'clock.

31 July: SUSSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6833.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 August, page 11)

At Brighton, yesterday, the Australians were batting all day and lost only four wickets. Mistakes in the field had much to do with the bad position held by Sussex when stumps were drawn.

Mr Noble, when he had made only 20, gave an easy chance to R Relf at slip off Dwyer, and as Mr Trumper and Mr Armstrong had been cheaply dismissed, three of the best Australian batsmen ought to have been out for 70 runs. Afterwards Mr Noble played excellent cricket, with drives on each side of the wicket as his best scoring strokes.

Mr Duff and Mr Noble scored 123 for the third wicket in an hour and a half, when the former, who was in for two hours, was well caught at mid-on. He drove well and cut hard, and among his strokes were 11 fours.

Mr Hopkins stayed in 35 minutes while 62 runs were added, and then, with Mr Darling in, began a stand that lasted for the two hours and a half which led up to the close of play, and that increased the total by 258 runs. Mr Darling had the good fortune when he had scored 34 to be missed by Vine in the long field, and at 60 he offered a return catch to Leach. At times his cricket was tedious, but near the end of the day he scored off the tired bowlers with freedom.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 August, page 12)

At Brighton, yesterday, Sussex did moderately against the Australians, and had to follow on 295 runs behind. The Australians' batting was in marked contrast to that of Monday. Then they scored 474 for four wickets, but in an hour and a quarter yesterday the rest of the side were dismissed for an addition of 82 runs.

Mr Darling increased his overnight total by four only, when he was caught at slip, 275 runs having been scored in two hours and a quarter during his partnership with Mr Noble. The latter was next out after the total had been raised to 530. Although Mr Noble had given chances on Monday when he had made 20 and 164, and an opportunity of stumping at the beginning of yesterday's play, there was much that was admirable in his batting. He made nearly all his runs by drives on both sides of the wicket.

When Sussex went in they made a good start, the 100 being scored with only Vine out; but three runs later Mr Fry was caught at mid-off. He played by far his best cricket this season against the Australians, as, apart from his well-timed off-driving, he hit Mr Armstrong with power and precision to leg and cut Mr Cotter smartly. He made 50 out of a total of 74 in an hour, and his full innings lasted 20 minutes longer.

Seven Sussex batsmen were out for 136, but Leach and Cox made 43 for the eighth wicket in 35 minutes, and Seymour and Butt scored 72 for the last partnership.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 August, page 10)

The position of Sussex at Brighton, yesterday, was always hopeless, and in the end they were beaten by an innings and 76 runs. On Tuesday, in their second innings, Seymour had been dismissed just upon the time fixed for drawing stumps, and when Mr Fry and Vine continued the batting 268 runs were still required to avoid an innings defeat.

Mr Fry with his first run brought up his aggregate of runs for the season to 2,000, but after making 24 out of 33 he was caught at the wicket. With Killick and A Relf out before lunch, Sussex possessed little chance offering drawing the game; but Vine and Mr Chapman played steadily and their partnership for the fifth wicket added 59 in 45 minutes.

Later Dwyer scored 21 out of 32 for the eighth wicket in 20 minutes before being finely caught at mid-on, and then Vine was caught in the long field. His effort to save his side had lasted for three hours and ten minutes, and he only hit out when he saw that all chance of drawing the match had gone.

31 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6834.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 August, page 11)

The Kent eleven, who had the good fortune to win the toss, batted with characteristic vigour at Worcester yesterday. They stayed in until close upon 6 o'clock and made 432 runs, a high rate of scoring being kept up all the afternoon.

Mr H K Foster returned to the Worcestershire eleven after being kept out of several matches by illness, and Mr R E Foster was seen in the team for the first time this season. The batting was thus greatly strengthened, but the absence of Arnold, through an attack of influenza, left the bowling weak.

The great feature of the Kent innings was the fine cricket shown by Mr Dillon, who followed up his success against Somerset last week by again getting a hundred. He was fortunate in being missed at slip by Mr R E Foster when he had made 56, but for the most part his cricket was excellent.

Mr A P Day, who has proved such a valuable addition to the Kent eleven, hit with great power, while some of the brightest batting of the innings was seen while Mr Marsham and Mr Blaker were together, 82 runs being put on in 40 minutes for the seventh wicket. Mr Marsham made a six to leg off Burrows, and Mr Blaker hit Cuffe for two sixes in one over, the ball in one case pitching into the roadway.

At the end of the day Worcestershire had 20 minutes' batting, Bowley and Pearson opening the innings; 16 runs were scored, and then Mr Mason, with successive balls, clean bowled Bowley and Cuffe.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 August, page 12)

The match at Worcester yesterday was seriously interfered with by rain, which coming on shortly after half-past 1 prevented anything further being done until 5 o'clock.

In the time available for cricket, however, Worcestershire did very well, raising their overnight score of 16 for two wickets to 271 for four. This was mainly the work of Mr H K Foster and Pearson, both of whom batted splendidly. Their partnership for the third wicket yielded 171 in just over two hours.

Afterwards Mr R E Foster and Mr G N Foster offered a stubborn resistance, and at the close Worcestershire, with six wickets in hand, were only 161 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 August, page 10)

Mr R E Foster has done many brilliant things in the cricket field, but few more remarkable than his innings yesterday at Worcester. It was his first appearance in first-class cricket this season, but he played the Kent bowling with perfect ease and as the result of four and a half hours' cricket he took out his bat for 246. Among his hits were two sixes and 34 fours. He did not give a chance until he had scored 225.

After that, while getting runs as fast as possible in order that his side might declare, he might have been caught close to the boundary off Mr Dillon's bowling. He and Wilson put on 89 runs in less than half an hour.

Worcestershire declared their innings closed with the score at 627 for nine wickets. This is Worcestershire's highest total, and Mr Foster's 246 not out is the highest individual score ever made for the county.

When Kent went in against a balance of 195 runs two hours and 40 minutes remained for cricket. Up to a certain point the batting was excellent, but the third, fourth and fifth wickets fell in quick succession and, as Mr Day could not go in, the position looked rather bad. However, Mr Mason and Mr Blaker averted all danger and played out time, the match ending in a draw.

31 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6835.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 August, page 11)

The cricket in the return match between Yorkshire and Gloucestershire at Bradford, yesterday, was always attractive. Yorkshire, who lost the toss, bowled and fielded well, and although two fine innings were played by Board and Mr Jessop Gloucestershire were all out at 20 minutes past four.

Board played brilliant cricket; he went in when his side had lost two wickets for 29 runs and he was fourth out with the total at 174. Most of Board's runs were obtained by hard off-driving and cutting.

Mr Jessop scored so rapidly to begin with that he made his first 50 runs in half an hour. Then he slowed down, and although he was at the wickets for 20 minutes longer he only scored ten more runs. Although a useful stand was made by Mr Scott and Dennett, the batting after Mr Jessop left was disappointing and the last five wickets only yielded 49 runs.

Yorkshire in an hour and 35 minutes' batting got within 82 of their opponents' total for the loss of two wickets. Rothery, apart from a life received at cover-point from Spry when he had got 30, played a fine innings. He was only at the wickets for 65 minutes and he scored 76 out of 111.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 August, page 12)

Some rapid scoring was seen at Bradford yesterday in the second day's play of this match. Altogether Yorkshire were batting for a little under five hours, and they scored at the uniform rate of over 100 runs an hour.

The Gloucestershire bowling was very weak, but little fault could be found with their fielding. Mr Watts, a fast bowler from Bristol, bowled better than any of the seven bowlers tried, but his three wickets cost over 40 runs each.

There were several long partnerships on the Yorkshire side. Denton and Tunnicliffe put on 164 for the third wicket, Denton and Hirst scored 112 for the fourth wicket, Hirst and Rhodes contributed 64 [?] for the fifth, and Rhodes and Haigh added 85 for the sixth.

Denton made the highest score of his career in first-class cricket. He had a singular piece of luck. Mr Watts struck his stumps with a fast ball, but although the bails were forced up they fell back into position. Denton was batting a little over three hours and hit 29 fours.

Lord Hawke declared the innings closed at 20 minutes to 5. Gloucestershire then lost five wickets, and now require 193 runs to save an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 August, page 10)

By winning this match at Bradford, yesterday, Yorkshire obtained their seventh victory in consecutive matches. When play was continued, Gloucestershire required 193 runs to save an innings defeat and had five wickets in hand.

In the first half-hour Dennett, Mr Jessop and Mr Scott were all out for 17 runs. Mr Barnett and Spry added 43 for the [ninth?] wicket, but at half-past 12 the match was over, Yorkshire winning by an innings and 118 runs.

Mr Barnett's steady defence contrasted strongly with the feeble batting of most of his side. He batted all through the innings without making a mistake and he never seemed in trouble with the bowling.

Tuesday 1 August, page 11: YORKSHIRE'S NEXT SEASON'S ARRANGEMENTS

At a meeting of the Yorkshire committee, held yesterday afternoon at Bradford, it was decided to make fixtures next season with all the first-class counties except Northamptonshire, to play matches with

Cambridge University and the Marylebone Club, and also to arrange a fixture with the Parsees, in the event of their visiting this country. The county's home matches were allocated as follows: -

At Sheffield, Surrey, Kent, Hampshire and Derbyshire;
at Leeds, Middlesex, Gloucestershire and Leicestershire;
at Bradford, Lancashire, Sussex and Essex;
at Harrogate, Warwickshire and the Parsees;
at Dewsbury, Nottinghamshire;
at Huddersfield, Somerset;
at Hull, Worcestershire.

Wednesday 2 August, page 12: TYLDESLEY'S BENEFIT

The committee of the Lancashire County Club have decided to set apart the Lancashire and Yorkshire match, which will be played at Old Trafford on August Bank Holiday and following days next year, for the benefit of J T Tyldesley.

THE FOURTH TEST MATCH

The Australians' share of the gate money taken at the fourth Test match at Manchester amounted to £1,290 5s 3d.

MR D R A GEHRS

It is stated that Mr D R A Gehrs, the Australian cricketer, as received an appointment in a Glasgow engineering business, and that he will take up his permanent residence in Glasgow at the end of the present season.

3 August: ESSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6836.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in six of the seven matches yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 August, page 12)

Essex outplayed Middlesex on the slow wicket at Leyton, yesterday, and at the drawing of stumps last night Middlesex, with nine batsmen out, wanted seven more runs to save the follow-on.

Reeves again showed his value to Essex as a batsman. He went in fourth wicket down at 112 and was sixth out at 229, when he played on. His driving and leg hitting were clean and hard, and his finely-played innings of 84 lasted only 80 minutes. He made one late cut for which five were run, and 56 of his other runs were got in fours.

Mr McGahey and Mr Gillingham scored quickly in a partnership of 70 for the fourth wicket, and Mr Douglas was in with Reeves while 111 were made for the sixth. Hearne was in something like his old form with the ball, taking eight wickets at a cost of less than 12 runs each; but scarcely sufficient use was made of Rawlin, and when he was put on again late in the innings he had a couple of catches missed off him. Mr Bird kept wicket excellently.

Middlesex seemed incapable of timing Buckenham's bowling; with the strong wind behind him the Essex fast bowler came along at a wonderful pace and, while maintaining his length, he was very straight. Middlesex had five wickets down for 20 runs; but afterwards Mr Page, Rawlin and Hearne improved matters for them.

There was a good "gate," and a collection round the ground in the afternoon produced £12 for Tom Russell, the old Essex wicket-keeper, to whom the profits of the match are to be given as a benefit.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

Essex and Middlesex drew their match on Saturday, at Leyton, the final position being that Middlesex, who had followed on, had not only wiped off the arrears of 151 but stood 218 on with two wickets left. Thus it was virtually anybody's game.

But for a long time on Saturday Middlesex were perilously near defeat; and, when their sixth wicket went in the second innings, they were only 58 runs ahead and two hours and a quarter remained for cricket. Then came the stand for three-quarters of an hour between Tarrant and Mr Pearce, and this, producing 50 runs, made a drawn game practically certain. The rain storm about half-past 1 and the drizzle after luncheon befriended Middlesex in so much that the wicket was keeping easy.

The splendid recovery made by Middlesex from a losing position was chiefly due to Tarrant's batting. Tarrant went in first wicket down at 13 and was not out at the finish, with 162. From first to last - and he was batting four hours and a half - he was unwearied in the carefulness of his defence; everything good in the bowling was simply played, and only the bad length balls, of which there were many, yielded him his score. His elaborate defence, dull as it was to watch, saved his side.

The most polished batting on the last day of the match was done by Mr James Douglas, who made many beautiful strokes at the beginning of the innings. When the question of the result had been settled Hearne hit freely and made 56 out of 98 put on in the last hour.

It is to be regretted that the weather rather spoiled the "gate" of the match; for Tom Russell, whose usefulness to Essex behind the wicket extended over so many years, must rely on the subscription lists if he is to secure even a moderate sum.

3 August: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6837.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in six of the seven matches yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 August, page 12)

Thursday was a blank day at Beckenham, but so much progress was made yesterday that before the drawing of stumps the fourth innings of the match had been begun. Up to a certain point the game was a very even one, the completion of an innings on each side leaving Surrey with a lead of 14 runs.

The startling cricket came when Surrey went in for the second time. Probably the wicket was more difficult than at any other time during the day, the Kent bowlers getting a great deal of spin on the ball and making it come very quickly from the pitch; but for all that the collapse of Surrey's batting caused much surprise. In 65 minutes the innings was finished off for a total of 60, Blythe and Mr Mason bowling unchanged and proving irresistible.

The early batting did not suggest any conspicuous failure, the score reaching 47 before the fourth wicket fell, but the last six wickets went down for 13 runs. For Blythe the day was nothing less than a triumph, 12 wickets falling to him at a cost of 110 runs. In Surrey's first innings his average was spoiled by Lord Dalmeny's hitting, but in the second no one could do anything with his bowling.

Kent were left with only 75 to get to win, and of this number five had been scored without loss when stumps were drawn.

With the ground as it was Surrey felt the loss of W C Smith, who is kept out of the match by a chill. Although a little showery before lunch, the weather turned out fine in the afternoon and there was a very good attendance.

Surrey's first innings, which lasted an hour and 50 minutes, was only redeemed from insignificance by the hitting of Lord Dalmeny. Going in when four wickets had fallen for 56, he scored, in less than an hour, 60 runs out of 87, being out ninth at 143. Blythe bowled him with the first ball sent down after the game had been stopped by rain.

Nice and Mr Knox, although they did not do very much, stayed some little time with Lord Dalmeny, the seventh wicket putting on 30 runs and the eighth 27. Lord Dalmeny hit seven fours, driving well on both sides of the wicket.

Kent's innings began with a series of disasters, Mr Dillon, Seymour and Hearne being out before a run had been scored, while Mr S H Day left at 16. However Humphreys and Mr Mason saved their side, adding 90 for the fifth wicket. Humphreys withstood the Surrey bowling and fielding for an hour and a half, his 73 including 11 fours. There was an appeal against him for a catch at mid-on when he had made 44 and he might have been caught and bowled at 59, but having regard to the general character of the day's cricket his innings was of more merit than many a hundred.

After Mr Mason was got rid of, Hayes and Lees bowled with marked effect, the last five wickets only producing 28 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

Whatever chance Surrey may have had of getting Kent out cheaply at Beckenham on Saturday was ruined by a heavy shower of rain during the morning. The wicket at once became easy and Kent experienced no difficulty in obtaining the remaining 70 runs required to win.

Overnight Kent had been set 75 to get, Huish and Mr Day having scored five of these without loss. Cricket on Saturday was not possible until after 12 o'clock, but when once a start was made the two batsmen hit off the runs in just over three-quarters of an hour without being separated, Kent thus gaining a brilliant victory by ten wickets.

Mr Day was a long time before he made his first run, but afterwards he timed the ball well and he made some splendid cuts and drives.

3 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6838.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in six of the seven matches yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 August, page 12)

Although there was another heavy shower of rain in Nottingham yesterday morning, the wicket at Trent-bridge dried so rapidly under the influence of a gale of wind that it was found possible to make a start in this match shortly after 1 o'clock.

Though rather slow and easy at the start, the wicket obviously gave the bowlers some assistance later on, and all things considered Nottinghamshire did fairly well to run up a total of nearly 200. For this result they were chiefly indebted to a very fine innings by Iremonger, who, going in first as usual, claimed considerably more than half the runs scored when he left, fifth wicket down.

He opened very slowly, and indeed only made one scoring stroke in the first half hour, but afterwards he played very finely. Watching the ball with great care, his defence was always sound, and he got the majority of his runs by drives and nearly-placed strokes to leg. Mr Jones, who was forcing the pace, left with only 21 on the board, and Iremonger received most assistance from G Gunn, who in the course of his innings completed his 1,000 runs for the first time in his career.

Later in the innings Day and Payton did fairly well, but at this period Dennett bowled with marked success. Indeed after resuming at 124 he took six wickets in 17 overs for only 32 runs. The

Gloucestershire fielding was always good and clean, and Mr Barnett caught Mr Jones beautifully in the long field. The visiting side lost two wickets in the last half-hour of the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

Owing to the weather no play was possible on Saturday in the games between Nottinghamshire and Gloucestershire and Yorkshire and Hampshire . . .

3 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6839.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 10)

The return match between Somerset and Sussex at Bath yesterday could not be begun until after 4 o'clock and, as rain again set in later, play was limited altogether to an hour and a half.

The wicket gave the bowlers a great deal of assistance, Braund especially making the ball turn considerably, and in little more than an hour Sussex had lost five wickets for 44 runs. Killick overcame the difficulties admirably and made good all-round strokes, and with Mr Somerset brought about an improvement for his side.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 August, page 12)

The match between Somerset and Sussex, at Bath, could not be continued until after lunch yesterday, and with interruptions later through rain and bad light play was limited to a little more than two hours and a half. In this time, however, the bowlers were so much the masters of the situation that nine wickets fell for 138 runs.

As on Thursday, when he scored 32 out of 76, Killick alone met the bowling on the soft wicket with confidence. He placed the ball to leg and cute admirably, and made his runs in two hours without a bad stroke. Nine wickets were down for 117, but Mr Newham and Butt by careful play added 24 before the innings came to an end.

Relf and Cox at the beginning of the Somerset innings bowled so well that Mr Martyn, Robson, Lewis and Mr Johnson were dismissed for 18 runs. This brought Mr Woods and Braund together, and in 35 minutes they pulled the game round into a fairly even position. Braund played defensive cricket, but Mr Woods hit at nearly everything. He gave a chance in the long field, but otherwise he made no mistake in his forcing innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

This match ended at Bath in a draw on Saturday, play being practicable for little more than two hours and a half. On Friday Mr Woods had scored 47, and on Saturday he added 78.

3 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6840.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in six of the seven matches yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 August, page 12)

Nothing had been done at Worcester on Tuesday, and yesterday cricket was carried on in the most trying conditions. The game began in a regular hurricane of wind, several overs being bowled without any bails on the wickets and leaves and even small branches of trees blowing across the ground.

After lunch a driving rain made things very unpleasant for every one concerned; but in spite of all difficulties play went on without interruption until a quarter to 4. Then a heavy downpour caused the players to leave the field. The stoppage only lasted 40 minutes, a fresh start being made while the ground was still so wet that the bowlers and fieldsmen found themselves at a considerable disadvantage.

Play was in progress rather more than five hours, but it is doubtful if in a county match anything would have been done between half-past 2 and 5 o'clock. The crowd numbered about 3,000, and there was no doubt a strong desire that after the blank day on Thursday they should not be disappointed.

The Australians were batting from half-past 11 until 10 minutes past 6 for a total of 330. Their innings was curiously uneven, the batting going all to pieces after 300 runs had been scored with only three men out. Wilson brought about the breakdown, going on at 258, and in less than 50 minutes taking five of the last seven wickets at a cost of only 31 runs.

Some very fine batting was shown, Mr Trumper and Mr Noble putting on 141 in an hour and 50 minutes for the third wicket, and Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong 120 in an hour and a half for the fourth. Mr Trumper was seen in nearly his best form. He scored 110 out of 181, his innings lasting two hours and three-quarters. As usual, he hit freely all round the wicket, his driving being very powerful.

Mr Noble, who went in second wicket down at 40, was out fifth at 309, and played a splendid game. He gave a chance when he had made 74, but this was his only mistake. The Worcestershire bowling was weakened by the absence of Arnold, who is still suffering from influenza.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

Heavy showers at Worcester on Saturday morning restricted the cricket before luncheon to ten minutes. The afternoon, however, turned out fine, and the play was quite sensational in character, the Australians getting very near to a victory.

In face of a total of 330 Worcestershire had nothing to hope for but a draw. In the ten minutes before the luncheon interval they scored 14 runs without loss, but, on continuing their innings, they soon lost two wickets - Major Foster being out at 24 and Bowley at 25. Then came a time of comparative success, Mr R E Foster batting so well that the score was steadily carried to 64.

At this point Mr Cotter was put on for the second time, and he bowled in form that he has only once approached during his three months in England. He took three wickets in his first over, and so helpless were the batsmen in their efforts to play him that the innings came to an end for 78.

From the time he went on at 64 Mr Cotter sent down four overs and four balls for five runs and seven wickets, combining unusual accuracy of length with his great pace. The wicket as it dried in the sunshine gave him his opportunity, and he made the most of it. The last eight wickets fell in 35 minutes for 14 runs. Mr R E Foster, who was out to a catch in the slips, was in nearly an hour for his score.

Worcestershire followed on, the balance against them being 252. Mr Cotter continued his success, getting Major Foster caught by the wicket-keeper with his first ball, and getting out Mr R E Foster and Mr G N Foster with successive balls with the score at ten.

Nearly an hour remained for play and there was no telling what would happen. However, Mr Hutchings stayed with Bowley for close upon half an hour, the latter, during this time, being missed in the slips by Mr Laver with the score at 13. Mr Hutchings and Mr H K Foster were out in one over, five wickets being then down for 35, but Bowley and Pearson stopped further disasters, and at a quarter past 6 the match was left drawn.

Between a quarter past 4 and the drawing of stumps Mr Cotter took 12 wickets for 24 runs - one of the most extraordinary pieces of bowling this season.

3 August: YORKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6841.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in six of the seven matches yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 August, page 12)

A strong south-westerly wind blew at Hull yesterday, and under its influence the wicket on the Hull Club ground recovered steadily from the effects of the rain which fell on Thursday. The wicket was slow but easy, and gave the bowlers practically no assistance.

Yorkshire won the toss and, batting first, scored so rapidly that after being at the wickets for three hours and 40 minutes they were able to declare their innings closed with only four wickets down.

Denton for the second time in successive innings scored over 100. He went in at the fall of the first wicket with the score at 41. Three hours later, when the innings was closed, he was not out and had then made 133 of the 262 runs scored while he was batting. He was badly missed at mid-off by Llewellyn when he had made 38, this being his only mistake. He scored with freedom all round the wicket and hit 19 fours.

Rothery also batted well, but he should have been caught by Mr Steele at second slip at 38. He assisted Denton to add 66 for the second wicket. Afterwards Tunnicliffe stayed with Denton while 93 runs were put on for the fourth wicket, and when the innings was declared closed Denton and Hirst had put on 92 in 50 minutes without being separated.

Hampshire were sent in at 20 minutes to 5. Mr W V Jephson batted very steadily, and with three wickets down Hampshire now only require 66 runs, with seven wickets in hand, to save the follow on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

Owing to the weather no play was possible on Saturday in the games between Nottinghamshire and Gloucestershire and Yorkshire and Hampshire . . .

Monday 7 August, page 9: THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Hirst	34	1715	341	9	68.60
Mr C B Fry	33	2020	233	3	67.33
Quaife	39	1561	255*	11	55.75
Mr L G Wright	32	1480	195	0	46.25
Mr C McGahey	28	1248	277	1	46.22
Mr P F Warner	27	1234	204	0	45.70
Mr H K Foster	21	903	180	1	45.40
Hayward	45	1855	129*	4	45.24
Denton	42	1790	172	2	44.87
Arnold	22	713	134	6	44.56
Iremonger	35	1550	239	0	44.28
Mr B J T Bosanquet	23	832	179	4	43.78
Mr E M Sprot	22	916	141	1	43.57
Kinneir	32	1341	153	1	43.25
Mr L O S Poidevin	30	1157	168*	3	42.85
The Hon F S Jackson	25	966	144*	2	42.00
Sharp	30	1079	110*	4	41.50

Bowley	28	1102	217	1	40.81
Tyldesley	33	1456	250	2	40.41
Mr C J B Wood	34	1279	160*	2	39.98
Mr A P Day	28	959	107*	4	39.95
Mr R H Spooner	31	1186	164	1	39.86
Mr R A Young	25	983	220	0	39.32
Mr A H Hornby	27	822	111*	6	39.14
James Seymour	31	1111	122	2	38.31
Carpenter	29	1039	138*	1	37.10
Mr A C MacLaren	32	1107	140	2	36.90
Vine	42	1459	146	2	36.47
Knight	33	1047	177	3	34.90
Baker (Surrey)	34	1069	128*	5	34.79
Rhodes	35	1041	201	5	34.70
Braund	29	899	120	3	34.57
Board	28	875	119*	2	33.65
Hayes	44	1360	105	3	33.17
G Gunn	33	1614	125	2	32.70
Cuffe	35	731	145	2	31.78
Reeves	26	820	135	0	31.53
Mr M W Payne	23	693	178	1	31.50
Mr G W Beldam	20	562	94	2	31.22
J Gunn	34	900	178	2	30.93
Pearson	26	772	104	1	30.88
Mr A O Jones	37	1095	103	1	30.41
Baker (Warwickshire)	31	846	100	3	30.21
Mr G L Jessop	33	964	234	1	30.12
Mr P Perrin	25	967	140	3	29.86
Hobbs	43	1189	155	3	29.72
King	30	793	95	3	29.37
Mr W H B Evans	24	645	139*	2	29.31
Mr V F S Crawford	26	691	119	2	28.79
Mr S M J Woods	24	629	125	2	28.69
Rothery	21	565	118	1	28.25
Mr G N Foster	25	657	152	1	27.79
Tunnicliffe	32	806	102	3	27.79
Jayes	24	434	74	8	27.12
Mr T S Fishwick	33	893	137	0	27.06
Relf	38	968	75	3	26.97
Holland	29	722	132	2	26.74
Dr E M Ashcroft	22	554	73*	1	26.38
Mr H G Garnett	33	815	86	2	26.29
Wrathall	27	654	102	2	26.16
Mr C H B Marshall	27	652	67	2	26.06
Mr H Martyn	31	780	130*	1	26.00
Mr J F Byrne	35	876	222	1	25.76
Whitehead	31	797	137	0	25.70
Coe	31	744	100	2	25.65
Llewellyn	26	584	77	3	25.39

Also listed: Hardstaff average 24.96, Killick 24.80, Cadman 24.10, Stone 23.00, Lilley 22.97, Bowell 22.96, Mr A E Lawton 22.60, Davis (Surrey) 22.45, Mr R P Keigwin 22.45, Mr C C Page 22.30, Thompson 22.23, Humphreys 22.03.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Haigh	629	168	1516	102	14.86
Thompson	505	120	1354	88	15.38
Rhodes	852.2	252	1995	118	16.90
Mr G G Napier	336.3	75	973	56	17.37
Lees	1057.2	300	2572	142	18.11
Ringrose	390.4	70	1198	66	18.15
J T Hearne	484.4	132	1212	65	18.64

Hirst	485.3	97	1324	70	18.91
Mr W Brearley	836.1	147	2726	141	19.23
Myers	406.2	78	1242	64	19.40
Hallam	527.1	162	1214	69	20.56
Kermode	660.3	168	1892	92	20.56
Mr N A Knox	628.2	102	2137	101	21.15
Hayes	533.3	182	1557	73	21.32
Warren	586.3	106	1752	82	21.36
Blythe	790.4	216	2099	93	21.41
Wass	495	101	1457	68	21.42
Jayes	588	168	1820	82	22.19
Arnold	575.2	105	1602	72	22.25
Tarrant	362.4	99	897	40	22.42
Dennett	837.4	197	2487	110	22.50
Nice	351.5	86	951	42	22.64
Bestwick	626.3	129	1895	82	23.10
Relf	911	296	2065	85	23.53
Cadman	405.3	99	1090	46	23.69
Mr W W Odell	689	168	1954	82	23.82
Cox (Sussex)	1210.1	345	2868	120	23.90
Fairservice	499.2	151	1390	58	23.96
Killick	565.5	124	1613	67	24.07
Santall	667.3	171	1676	68	25.53
Hargreave	944.2	269	2238	88	25.43
J Gunn	781.5	150	2105	85	25.48
Trott	349.3	71	1186	45	26.57
Wilson	347	36	1265	47	26.91
Baldwin	608.5	156	1697	63	26.93
Tremlin	587.5	102	2027	75	27.02
Mr B J T Bosanquet	307.4	23	1218	45	27.66

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	33	1629	303*	5	54.60
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	35	1780	267	1	52.35
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	36	1330	149	1	38.00
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	37	1342	110	1	37.27
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	38	1151	117*	5	34.87
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	27	658	93	4	27.52
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	41	1122	94	0	27.36
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	28	594	134	2	22.84
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	26	521	72	3	22.65
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	31	548	48	2	18.89
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	32	474	60	5	17.55
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	26	251	74*	10	16.73
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	25	342	78	3	15.54
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	16	106	25*	7	11.77
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	21	96	18	6	6.40

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr F Laver	644.3	184	1611	84	19.17
Mr W W Armstrong	703.1	224	1457	75	19.42
Mr A Cotter	508	93	1610	80	20.12
Mr C E McLeod	664.3	192	1615	73	22.12
Mr W P Howell	419	123	1105	49	22.55
Mr R A Duff	107.5	32	311	12	25.91
Mr M A Noble	504.2	137	1287	47	27.38
Mr A J Hopkins	206	51	639	22	29.04
Mr S E Gregory	7.1	0	47	0	--

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Lancashire	19	11	1	7	10	83.33
Yorkshire	22	15	3	4	12	66.66
Surrey	18	11	4	3	7	46.66
Sussex	21	8	3	10	5	45.45
Kent	15	8	5	2	3	23.07
Leicestershire	17	6	4	7	2	20.00
Nottinghamshire	16	5	6	5	-1	-9.09
Middlesex	11	4	5	2	-1	-11.11
Warwickshire	16	3	4	9	-1	-14.28
Gloucestershire	13	4	7	2	-3	-27.27
Worcestershire	13	2	5	6	-3	-42.85
Northamptonshire	9	2	5	2	-3	-42.85
Essex	14	3	8	3	-5	-45.45
Derbyshire	15	3	11	1	-8	-57.14
Hampshire	15	1	8	6	-7	-77.77
Somerset	14	1	8	5	-7	-77.77

The match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval - abandoned without a ball having been bowled - is not included in the above table.

7 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6843.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 10)

Hampshire had rather the better of the first day's play in this match at Derby yesterday, and at the close the home side, with two men out, were still 221 runs behind.

The feature of the cricket was the batting of Llewellyn, and he and Mr Sprot made 173 of the runs in the Hampshire innings between them.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

The end of the second day's play in this match at Derby, yesterday, left the game in a fairly even position, Hampshire at the close of play, with four wickets to go down in their second innings, being 150 ahead. Llewellyn again batted very well, and when stumps were drawn he only required four runs to complete his second hundred in the match.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 10)

Rain put a stop to this match at Derby, yesterday, when the game was in an interesting position, the home side with six men out wanting 37 runs to win. In Hampshire's second innings Llewellyn completed his second hundred in the match.

7 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6844.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 10)

There was a large crowd at Bristol yesterday for the return match between Gloucestershire and Sussex, although the weather was dull and threatening. The wicket was soft, and in the absence of continuous sunshine it never became difficult, while a shower, which delayed play in the middle of the day for 20 minutes, also helped to keep the pitch easy.

Still, runs never came freely, and Sussex were largely indebted to Relf for their useful total of 238. He went in first and was seventh out, having scored 120 out of 219 put on in three hours and 35 minutes. Most of his runs came from clean crisp strokes on the off-side. His play behind the wicket was by no means so good, and he "edged" several balls, off one of which he should have been caught when he had made 42, but this was the only chance which he gave.

The only men who rendered him any assistance were Mr Goldie, who played bright and stylish cricket, and Cox, who gave a patient display. Dennett bowled better than his figures would suggest, while Huggins was doing excellent work when, in trying to catch a return from Cox, he fractured a knuckle in his left hand, and will not be able to play much more cricket this season.

Gloucestershire had an hour's batting at the close of play, and fared disastrously, losing four wickets very cheaply. Mr Sewell alone showed any capacity to cope with the bowling of Relf and Cox.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Monday's play went all in favour of Sussex, but such a complete change came over the game yesterday that Gloucestershire now require 47 runs to win, with seven wickets in hand.

The Gloucestershire innings, which began so disastrously that four men were dismissed for 39, was redeemed from complete failure by a masterly display on the part of Mr Sewell. He went in at the fall of the first wicket at 16, and when the innings closed for 181 he was not out with 114 to his credit. He made his runs in two hours and 35 minutes and at no time during his innings was he in much difficulty with the bowling. His cutting was as good as ever and he made a number of fine pulls off Cox. Langdon, who only made six, stayed in with him for 65 minutes.

In spite of Mr Sewell's admirable batting, Sussex claimed a lead of 57 on the first innings, and as the wicket was much faster than on the opening day there was little excuse for the poor exhibition which they gave when they went in again. Mr Jessop bowled with such an astonishing measure of success that he took the first five wickets for 13 runs.

Mr Smith alone made any resistance, and he batted finely for an hour and 45 minutes. Mr Jessop in all took six wickets for six runs each, his best performance of late years.

Gloucestershire wanted 153 to win, and Wrathall and Mr Barnett put on 64 of these, while Board and Langdon carried the score to 106.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 10)

Sussex were beaten at Bristol yesterday by five wickets after a game in which the cricket was always interesting. Gloucestershire, who were set to get 153 in the last innings of the match, had made 106 on Tuesday for the loss of three wickets.

Yesterday Langdon and Mr Jessop were both dismissed before the necessary runs were hit off, but Board carried out his bat for a fine innings of 48.

7 August: KENT v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6845.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 10)

The wicket at the St Lawrence ground yesterday played badly after the rain of the early morning, and with the ball continually bumping, particularly at the pavilion end, Kent were fortunate in making such a respectable score as 246. As it was they had a good share of luck, for there were sundry catches dropped by Essex, whose fielding generally was not by any means good.

Kent played the right game in hitting in the conditions existing yesterday, and with the wicket so treacherous bad strokes were plentiful. Mr Dillon, who scored his 51 out of the first 93 and was the second out, made the most of his luck; he was often brilliant in cutting, but as usual his chief scoring strokes were on the leg side. Seymour gave two chances while helping Mr Dillon to add 73 in less than an hour for the second wicket.

It was after luncheon that the game took a bad turn for Kent, and with six men out the score was only 118. Mr Douglas, who had gone on and taken four of these wickets in six overs for five runs, made the ball bump quite dangerously, and Humphreys had one very bad blow on the head that dazed him. He scarcely attempted to play the next ball, which bowled him, and was so unwell that when Essex went in he could not field.

There was a fine piece of hitting by Mr Blaker and Mr Mason, whose stand of 73 in half an hour for the seventh wicket rescued Kent from a bad position. Mr Blaker, experiencing some kindness from the Essex fieldsmen, forced the game brilliantly and was last out, having batted just over an hour for his 68.

Essex went in for about two hours and did fairly well. Carpenter's play was very good, and from the difficult bowling he made nine fours. Kent fielded splendidly and Mr Mason brought off two remarkable one-handed catches at short-slip.

In spite of the threatening weather and the cold wind, there was a very large attendance on the St Lawrence ground. The city corporation gave its financial aid in the decoration and electrical illumination of the city streets, and the Old Stagers have issued an unusually attractive programme for the week. Last night Mr Pinero's *The Schoolmistress* was played to a crowded house. The performance will be repeated on Thursday, and to-night and Friday will be devoted to Captain Marshall's *The Duke of Killiecrankie*.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

After a most interesting day's cricket at Canterbury, yesterday, the game was left in an even position, for Essex had gone in to make 236 and had scored 97 for two wickets. Essex had only themselves to blame for not being in a better position, for Mr Dillon, the one batsman in the Kent second innings to give considerable trouble, had quite a charmed life and gave one particularly simple catch on the off-side, which Mr Douglas missed.

But for all his good fortune Mr Dillon, for the second time in the match, made many fine strokes. He cut beautifully, and on the leg-side he was as strong as ever. While he and Hearne were together last time seemed in for quite a big score, but after the first wicket fell at 84 Kent fared disastrously.

The men came off badly in hitting, and with the wicket helping the bowlers at both ends there was a very large number of bad hits. Some fell out of harm's way and the Essex fieldsmen managed to misjudge several that should have been tolerably easy catches.

Mr Dillon was fourth out at 116, and subsequently there was little of note in the batting. Humphreys, although still unwell, decided to go in last, and his courage meant another dozen runs addition to Kent's score. Tremlin's bowling was one of the best things in the day's cricket.

In the early morning Essex, owing to some hitting by Reeves and Mr Tosetti, had managed to make 89 for their last six wickets, three of which, however, went at the same total - 187.

When they began the last innings of the match Mr Fane was quickly out, but Carpenter and Mr Perrin, both of whom were missed off Blythe's bowling when each had scored 20, put on 88 in 70 minutes for the second wicket, and then came a very fine catch at deep square leg by Mr Marsham that dismissed Carpenter. Mr Perrin and Carpenter played extremely well except for the two mistakes mentioned, and as the wicket had dried Kent badly missed their fast bowler, Fielder; but the experiment of giving Mr Dillon's leg-breaks a chance as a last resource turned out successful.

There was an immense improvement in the weather, and on a real August day with the large company present the St Lawrence ground presented a scene quite typical of the Canterbury week.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 10)

The cricket yesterday at Canterbury was ruined by rain and the Kent and Essex match was drawn, the end being that Essex still wanted 73 runs to win and had only two wickets left. The weather befriended Essex when their case seemed hopeless, and the capacity for stonewalling developed by Mr Douglas and Russell, who kept up their ends for three-quarters of an hour and added ten runs for the eighth wicket, checked the visitors' disasters until the rain came on heavily.

With the wicket made treacherous by an early shower, the game ran strongly against Essex in the morning. Blythe's bowling seemed almost irresistible, and four more men were dismissed for the addition of 17 runs. Mr Perrin played splendidly until he was seventh out to a fine piece of stumping at 141, and then came the careful play of Mr Douglas, who was in an hour and a quarter for eight runs.

Blythe's bowling during yesterday's cricket was remarkable, and his last spell read 23 overs, five wickets. Rain stopped play at ten minutes to 3, and the stumps were pulled up at half-past 5.

7 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6846.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 10)

The bowlers held the upper hand in this match, which was begun at Leicester yesterday. During the day 30 wickets fell for 303 runs, and Northamptonshire, with an innings to play, have only 68 to get to win.

The feature of the day's play was the success of Thompson, who took 13 wickets for 105 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

After an exciting finish at Leicester, yesterday, Leicestershire won this match by eight runs. Northamptonshire only wanted 68 to win in the last innings of the match, but Mr Odell bowled very finely, getting six wickets for under six runs each, and the visiting side were out for 59, of which Mr Horton and Mr Driffield made 32 between them.

7 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6847.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 10)

The return match between Somerset and Middlesex, at Taunton, yesterday, attracted a large Bank Holiday crowd; but play was frequently interrupted by rain, and when at 4 o'clock the game was abandoned for the day the actual time devoted to the cricket had been only 80 minutes.

Somerset, who won the toss, did badly at the start, Mr Johnson being out with only seven runs scored. Robson left at 31 and Mr Martyn two runs later; but Braund, who went in first, and Lewis showed good form.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Although the wicket at Taunton was practically under water on Monday evening, it had dried sufficiently yesterday to allow of the match between Somerset and Middlesex being continued soon after the time arranged. Play, however, was limited to four hours, rain in the afternoon setting in heavily.

The not outs, Braund and Lewis, continued a valuable partnership, until the overnight score of 56 for three wickets had been increased to 153, when Lewis was caught at slip. In the first half an hour

yesterday both batsmen should have been out, Braund giving chances off both Trott and Hearne, while Lewis offered an easy catch to Mr R N Douglas at slip off Hearne. Apart from this mistake Lewis batted admirably; he pulled and cut with great power. The stand added 120 in two hours and a quarter; but after the separation with the wicket becoming difficult the innings was finished off in less than an hour.

Braund, who was caught at slip off a ball that rose awkwardly, was [sixth] out, his innings having lasted for three hours and a half. Afterwards Mr Lee and Mr Newton forced the game with some success, the former lifting the ball well over the fielders.

The wicket rolled out well for Middlesex, but Mr R N Douglas, with the total at 29, was caught off a rising ball at slip. Mr J Douglas, however, batted well, and with Mr Beldam scored 30 in less than half an hour, when rain stopped play for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 10)

When rain, at 20 minutes past 4 yesterday at Taunton, stopped further play in this match, Middlesex were in a bad position, as, going in 234 behind, they had lost four wickets for 22 and suffered under the disadvantage of Mr R N Douglas being too indisposed to bat. The conditions were in favour of the bowlers, as during the three hours that play was possible 20 wickets fell for 236 runs.

The feature of the Middlesex first innings was the success of Bailey, a slow left-hand bowler, who was born in Surrey. On Tuesday the visitors had scored 59 runs for the loss of Mr R N Douglas, and so well did Bailey bowl when play was continued that the side were all out in an hour for an additional 75.

This left Somerset with a lead of 95 and, realizing that a win could only be gained by making runs quickly, Mr Woods sent in his hitters to force the game. Mr Martyn and Mr Lee began and, although the latter was out at 17 and Robson left four runs later, 50 runs were scored, mainly by Mr Martyn's brilliant hitting, in 20 minutes. He was in for 50 minutes while the total was raised to 106, and after the innings had lasted an hour and ten minutes Somerset declared, two hours then being left for play.

Bailey met with more success in the second innings of Middlesex, Robson at point making three catches off rising balls. Mr J Douglas, who had scored three, gave an easy chance to Mr Newton at slip off Lewis, a mistake that might have affected the result had the match been played out.

7 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6848.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 10)

Although rain fell heavily in the early hours, there was a full day's play in this match at the Oval yesterday with the exception of about five minutes' delay in the afternoon. Considering the threatening weather there was a large attendance - 14,477 paying at the gate - but it was not quite up to the usual Bank Holiday crowd.

It was a keen day's cricket, in which the batsmen for the most part had to fight hard for their runs, and the wicket was such that it gave Nottinghamshire, who won the toss and went in first, no advantage; in fact it was one of those occasions on which the captain of either side would probably just as soon have lost the toss as have won it.

It was soon seen when Nottinghamshire went in that the bowling would want very careful watching, and runs came slowly, but wickets fell fast. Mr Jones was caught at the wicket with only seven runs scored and Iremonger was out to a fine left-hand catch by Hayward at 14. Disasters, however, did not end here; as, for the addition of 16 runs, both G Gunn and Hardstaff were dismissed, while the first hour's batting only produced 35 runs.

After Hardstaff had been finely caught by Holland in the slips, Day joined J Gunn; and this proved to be the only stand of any note during the innings. They put on 47 for the fifth wicket before Day was run out. The score was then taken to 86 without further loss, when luncheon was taken.

When the game was continued, the Nottinghamshire batsmen could do little against the bowling of Lees, and the side were all out for the addition of only 26, Lees taking four out of the five wickets for 11 runs. Lees bowled splendidly throughout the innings and took eight wickets for just over five runs each, and in recognition of his fine performance a collection was made on the ground for him, which realized over £41.

Apart from Lees's bowling and the good fielding by Surrey there was little worthy of comment in the cricket. Day made some good strokes on the off-side, but J Gunn, who was batting for two hours and 20 minutes, did not time the bowling very well and he confined himself almost entirely to defensive cricket.

When Surrey went in about 4 o'clock, Hayward and Hobbs made a good start by scoring 41 for the first wicket; but afterwards things went badly for the home side, and with six men out for 80 Surrey had little the better of the position. At this point Lord Dalmeny joined Mr Crawford, and by some brilliant hitting the former turned the game for Surrey.

Lord Dalmeny last week at Beckenham showed his worth on a slow wicket, and yesterday he again played a very fine innings. He scored at a great pace and practically did not make a bad stroke, and although J Gunn had four men on the boundary for him, he failed to check his run-getting. While he and Mr Crawford were together 69 were put on in half an hour, of which Lord Dalmeny scored 57.

The Nottinghamshire fielding was very good. At the close of play Surrey were 55 runs ahead with two wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Surrey beat Nottinghamshire, at the Oval yesterday, by eight wickets. Overnight Surrey were 55 runs ahead on the first innings and had two wickets in hand, but the side were all out yesterday for the addition of seven runs. J Gunn proved to be by far the most successful bowler for the visitors, and the continued absence of Wass is a serious loss to Nottinghamshire, as their bowling is never really very strong.

Going in a second time 62 runs behind, Nottinghamshire again did badly. The wicket seemed to be not quite so difficult as on the first day; but with a few exceptions the Nottinghamshire batsmen could do little with the bowling of Lees and Mr Knox, and there is no doubt that their comparative failure was partially due to bad batting.

They had the misfortune to lose Iremonger before a run had been scored, but, in spite of a stand between J Gunn and G Gunn, which produced 50 in about as many minutes, for the second wicket, four of the side were out before the arrears had been hit off. Afterwards the visitors were always playing a losing game, and it simply became a question as to how many runs Surrey would be set to win.

Mr Jones left at 82, while at lunch time six men were out for 99. Afterwards Hardstaff and Hallam were the only batsmen to offer any resistance, and in the end Surrey had only 76 to get to win, and these were hit off for the loss of two wickets, the match being over at 20 minutes to 5. Lees had a large share in the easy success of the home side, and in the match he took 13 wickets for 109 runs. There was again a very good attendance.

7 August: WARWICKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6849.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather, it was found impossible to make a start in this match at Birmingham yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

As the result of some effective bowling by Hargreave and Santall, followed by equally good batting on the part of Lilley and Quaife, the Warwickshire eleven gained an overwhelming and over Worcestershire, at Birmingham, yesterday.

Owing to heavy rain, no play had been possible on Monday. As was only to be expected with the wicket so soft, both sides dispensed with their fast bowlers, Keene coming into the Worcestershire team in place of Wilson, and Moorhouse reappearing in the Warwickshire eleven after a prolonged absence.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 10)

Except for bad weather Warwickshire would in all probability have won their match at Birmingham yesterday, but after lunch a storm of rain broke over the ground and put further play out of the question, Worcestershire then wanting, with six wickets to fall, 114 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

In the course of half an hour in the morning Warwickshire added 36 to their overnight score of 276 for four wickets, the innings being declared closed as soon as Quaife had completed his 100.

Worcestershire had to face a balance of 204, and in getting their first four runs they lost Bowley and Mr Hutchings. However, Mr H K Foster, as in the first innings, played fine cricket, his strokes on the leg side being quite brilliant. At lunch time he was not out 60, and as it happened he had no further chance of batting.

Mr R E Foster, who stayed with his brother for 50 minutes, had a curious experience, a ball from Santall hitting his wicket without removing the bails and going away for four byes.

7 August: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6850.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 10)

The important bearing which the return match between these counties is likely to have upon the county championship gave the game even more interest than usual, and over 20,000 people watched the cricket at Sheffield yesterday, although the weather was showery. Play was several times stopped by rain, but on the whole a good day's cricket was seen.

Rain had made the wicket difficult to begin with, but this did not fully excuse the poor display which Yorkshire gave with the bat. Mr Jackson, who was captaining the team in the absence of Lord Hawke, won the toss and sent in Tunnicliffe and Rothery to open the batting at noon.

Play proceeded without interruption for 70 minutes, and in that time six wickets fell for 62 runs. Rain then delayed the play for half an hour, and in 20 minutes' further batting two more wickets went down for 11 runs, while ten minutes' play after luncheon was sufficient to bring the innings to an end for the addition of three more runs. Yorkshire were thus batting an hour and 40 minutes in all.

Mr Brearley, who made the ball get up awkwardly off the pitch, got the first two wickets in one over with the score at 11. Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe then added 30 for the third wicket before the latter was caught at slip. Hirst at 59 had his middle stump knocked out of the ground by a fine ball from Cook which came back quickly. Rhodes made a very tame effort to play a bumping ball from Mr Brearley, and was caught behind the wicket, and half the side were out for 62.

With the total unaltered Mr Jackson, who had played sound and skilful cricket, was deceived by the break of a ball from Cook and had his off-bail removed. The remaining batsmen all failed against Mr Brearley's bowling.

Lancashire, who began their innings at ten minutes past 3, ought to have lost a wicket to the first ball delivered. The field was set for Hirst's swerving deliveries, and Mr Spooner played the first ball up to short mid-on, but Tunnicliffe failed to hold it. The mistake proved expensive; for Mr MacLaren and Mr Spooner batted so well afterwards that the Yorkshire score was passed with 10 wickets in hand and the total reached 90 before Mr Spooner was bowled.

Rhodes, who was not put on until 50 runs were scored, bowled well and had the batsmen constantly in trouble. He got his one wicket, and immediately afterwards had Mr MacLaren stumped, while Tyldesley made several lucky strokes before being caught off him in the long field. After Tyldesley left there was a breakdown in the batting, but Lancashire held a strong position at the close, being 87 runs on with two wickets in hand.

The Yorkshire fielding, like their batting, was not up to their usual standard, for, in addition to the expensive blunder off the first ball of the innings, Mr Garnett and Sharp both gave easy chances to Rhodes and Myers.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Yorkshire made a splendid recovery in this match at Sheffield yesterday. Lancashire had gained a lead on the first innings on Monday of 87 runs and had two wickets in hand. These two wickets made the lead yesterday into 101 runs.

Going in a second time, Yorkshire lost Tunnicliffe with 16 runs scored, and when Rothery was also bowled the side were still 80 runs behind. From this point the game underwent a remarkable change. Fortune favoured the batting side, for when the score was 22 Denton hit a ball from Mr Brearley up to mid-on. The catch was a difficult one, the fieldsman having to run back to the ball, but after getting it in his hands he dropped it.

Denton played brilliantly after this and, with Mr Jackson batting skilfully at the other end, the arrears were hit off in 70 minutes from the beginning of the innings. The partnership was broken in the last over before the luncheon interval, when Cook, who went on a second time, got Denton caught at slip. The third wicket had increased the score by 143 runs. Denton was four short of his third hundred in consecutive matches when his innings closed. Apart from the chance given to Hallows he was lucky in snicking a few balls past the wicket, but he made many brilliant strokes.

Mr Jackson only scored one run after luncheon before being easier caught at slip from a ball which shot up off the shoulder of the bat. His steady defence while Denton was hitting had been of great service to his side. Hirst, for the second time in the match, had his middle stump knocked out of the ground, and with five wickets down Yorkshire were 81 runs ahead.

At this stage some magnificent hitting by Rhodes gave the game another turn in Yorkshire's favour. While Mr Smith was his partner 65 runs were scored in half an hour, and of the 101 put on in the hour and a quarter that he was at the wickets Rhodes claimed 74. Rhodes's first 35 runs were made up of eight fours and a three, and of the 14 fours with which he was credited 12 were obtained off Mr Brearley's bowling, most of them being got by hard clean driving. When he had scored 55 Rhodes should have been caught at deep mid-off by Mr Hornby, this being the only chance which he gave.

Yorkshire's innings closed at 20 minutes past 4, and Lancashire, who earlier in the day appeared to have an easy victory in prospect, had to go in to get 185 runs to win. A keen struggle soon developed. Neither Mr MacLaren nor Mr Spooner would take risks. They kept together for 40 minutes, scoring 28 runs, when a good length ball from Mr Jackson clean bowled the Lancashire captain.

Tyldesley was missed by Tunnicliffe off Mr Jackson when the score had reached 48, but the score had not been altered when Mr Spooner was bowled off his pads by Haigh. Tyldesley and Mr Poidevin were in difficulties in the last quarter of an hour, but they kept their wickets up. To-day Lancashire to win the match will have to score 135 runs, and they have eight wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 10)

A splendid match between these counties ended at Sheffield yesterday in a victory for Yorkshire by 44 runs. The effect of this result is to make the fight for the county championship keener than ever, for Lancashire now only hold a fractional lead against Yorkshire.

The success of the home side had not been anticipated after the weak batting which they showed in the first innings of the match. They made a brilliant recovery, however, owing chiefly to Mr Jackson, Denton and Rhodes.

Yesterday Lancashire had to score 135 runs to win, with eight wickets in hand. It was thought that the task would be within their power, but the bowling of Rhodes and Haigh proved too good for them.

Mr Jackson and Rhodes began the bowling, but the former did not keep so accurate a length as usual, and after 16 runs had been added to the overnight score of 50 he retired in favour of Haigh.

The result of this change was that, with his fifth ball, Haigh clean bowled Tyldesley. Mr Garnett returned a ball to Rhodes without scoring, and with four men out for 71 Lancashire were in serious difficulties.

Mr Poidevin and Sharp defended stubbornly for nearly 40 minutes. The former, however, had a stroke of luck when he had scored seven, for he hit a ball from Haigh hard against the stumps without removing a bail. Hirst had to go on for Rhodes before Sharp could be dismissed, and when the latter had been bowled Lancashire, with five wickets in hand, were within 82 runs of victory.

Rhodes then resumed, and with Haigh also bowling finely no one could stay with Mr Poidevin. After batting for two hours and showing great self-restraint, Mr Poidevin was stumped off Rhodes. Cook made a few good hits, but the end came at 20 minutes past 1 with the dismissal of Mr Brearley. During the match nearly 40,000 people paid for admission to the ground.

7 August: SOUTH WALES v THE AUSTRALIANS

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 10)

South Wales had quite a representative team at Cardiff yesterday, but it was not to be expected that they would hold their own against opponents so much stronger than themselves. However, an interesting day's cricket was seen and the match proved a great attraction, the crowd numbering fully 10,000.

Treating the match as more or less a holiday fixture, the Australians left out Mr Darling, Mr Trumper, Mr Laver and Mr Gregory. A great deal of rain had fallen at Cardiff, but, as the wicket had been covered up, play began soon after the usual hour. South Wales won the toss and took first innings.

Although the ball came along at different paces, the wicket was not really difficult, but most of the batsmen found the Australian bowling too good for them. Bancroft stayed in for more than an hour, and Diver played a vigorous game, his off-driving being very powerful. After [seven] wickets had fallen Mr W H Brain and Creber put on 32 runs in 40 minutes. Of the Australian bowlers Mr Howell, who has not had many opportunities this season, was the most effective.

When the Australians went in Mr Duff and Mr Gehrs hit up 43 runs in less than half an hour, but three wickets were down for 53. Mr Armstrong played finely towards the end of the afternoon, and at the drawing of stumps the Australians, with four men out, were only 26 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Certain irregularities with regard to the conduct of the match prevented yesterday's cricket at Cardiff from being taken quite seriously. Instead of the ten minutes allowed by Law 9 before the beginning of the day's play the wicket was swept and rolled overnight and again early in the morning, and the stumps were pitched a foot nearer the pavilion than they had been on Monday.

The Australians were batting until ten minutes past 4, and they carried their overnight score of 106 for four wickets to 361. Mr Hopkins and Mr McLeod played finely, but the latter was fortunate in being missed at the wicket when he had made four. Mr Hopkins hit 11 fours during a stay of two hours and 20 minutes and Mr McLeod 12 fours in a not out innings which lasted for two hours and a half. Mr Armstrong also batted well.

South Wales had to face a balance of 229, and at the end of the afternoon they required, with seven wickets to fall, 149 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in this match, at Cardiff, yesterday, and the game was abandoned . . .

Wednesday 9 August, page 10: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

For the fifth and final test match, at the Oval, next Monday, the Selection Committee have picked the team that won at Manchester a fortnight ago. Up to the present no reserve players have been chosen. The eleven will therefore be: -

The Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire) (captain), Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire), Mr C B Fry (Sussex), Mr R H Spooner (Lancashire), Mr W Brearley (Lancashire), Hayward (Surrey), Hirst (Yorkshire), Rhodes (Yorkshire), Tyldesley (Lancashire), Lilley (Warwickshire) and Arnold (Worcestershire).

10 August: ESSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6853.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 10)

Rain greatly interfered with this match at Leyton yesterday, no play being possible after lunch.

Essex, who went in first in the morning, did very well, for after Mr Fane was out, with only three runs scored, Carpenter and Mr Perrin came together and mastered the Nottinghamshire bowling, putting on 135 without being separated.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 11)

A full day's cricket was possible at Leyton yesterday and the batsmen held the upper hand all through; in fact, there appears little probability of a definite result being arrived at to-day.

Overnight Essex had scored 138 for the loss of Mr Fane's wicket; and, although the partnership of Carpenter and Mr Perrin was quickly broken yesterday, runs came at a steady pace, and when the innings was declared closed half an hour after luncheon the total had reached 317 for the loss of eight wickets. Carpenter, Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey between them claimed all but 80 of the full total.

Carpenter was batting got two hours and 40 minutes for his hundred, but he was missed when he had scored 44 and again at 74, and he ought to have been stumped at 77, while he made many of his runs by lucky snicks behind the wicket. Mr Perrin, who gave no chance, was batting got two hours.

When Nottinghamshire went in they played much brighter cricket than their opponents. Mr Jones, who scored his 100 out of 173 in two hours and 25 minutes, played with more restraint than usual in making his first 50 runs, but afterwards he hit in beautiful style. He was missed at the wicket when he had scored 13 and again in the long field at 77, but otherwise he made no mistake. Mr Jones and J Gunn have so far put on 120 runs without being separated.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 August, page 10)

The return match between Essex and Nottinghamshire ended, at Leyton, on Saturday, in a draw, a result which always appeared inevitable with the wicket playing as easily as at any time during the match.

The features of Saturday's play were the brilliant hitting of Mr A O Jones and the steady cricket of J Gunn. Nottinghamshire increased their overnight total of 210 for three wickets to 552 for nine before the innings was declared closed, and left Essex with two hours to bat and 235 runs to make to avoid an innings defeat.

Mr Jones and J Gunn, who had made 140 on Friday in an hour and three-quarters, remained together until a quarter of an hour after the luncheon interval, the fourth wicket realizing 361 runs in four hours and 25 minutes, of which 221 were scored in two hours and 40 minutes on Saturday.

Mr Jones, who gave chances when he had scored 13, 77 and 233, the last a very difficult one, was batting for five hours and 40 minutes for his runs, and his chief hits included one six (four overthrow) and 37 runs. He hit with great freedom and at one time scored 30 in three overs.

J Gunn was batting for five hours for his 151. He ought to have been stumped early in his innings, and he was missed at the wicket when he had made 72, but these were the only mistakes in a very steady innings.

When Essex went in a second time Carpenter was out to J Gunn's fourth ball, and Mr Fane when he had scored six had a narrow escape in the slips; but subsequently runs came with freedom, and at 6 o'clock, when there was no prospect of a definite result, stumps were drawn.

10 August: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6854.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 10)

Kent won the toss at Canterbury yesterday, and putting Lancashire in they had the mortification of seeing the visitors bat the whole day. The wicket after the first hour seemed fairly easy, and even at the start Mr MacLaren and Mr Spooner easily surmounted any difficulties that the bowling presented. It was a very fine day's batting and the rate of run-getting worked out at over 95 runs an hour.

Before luncheon, Mr MacLaren, Mr Spooner and Tyldesley were seen at their best, and they got their runs when the bowling was quite good. The hour's cricket when Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley were together, and the score was carried from 64 to 155, was very good indeed. Fielder bowled Mr MacLaren with a fine ball, at which he was trying to play back.

Mr Garnett's forcing and Tyldesley's beautiful wrist work took what sting there was left out of the Kent bowling, and after Tyldesley had played on - he was fifth out at 223 - everything was made easy for a big Lancashire score. Between 4 o'clock and a quarter past 6 only two other wickets fell, and in this time 244 runs were made.

Sharp, who went in fourth wicket down at 201 and was not out at the close, made 141 in two hours and 20 minutes, and after Tyldesley was out his was by far the best batting. There were a few mistakes in the field, but as a whole Kent worked hard in their long day's outing.

Splendid weather prevailed and the attendance of 12,000 people practically assures Huish of a substantial benefit. A collection on the ground for the Kent wicket-keeper realized £56.

Last night the Old Stagers repeated their performance of The Schoolmistress to a crowded house.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 11)

Kent were engaged throughout yesterday at Canterbury in an uphill game; and at the end of the day, with only four wickets left, they wanted another 131 runs to save an innings defeat.

The wicket yesterday was in no degree so easy as it had been while Lancashire were batting. Mr Brearley was able to get considerable work on the ball and his bowling bumped a good deal, while Kermode in the middle of the afternoon was also very difficult to play; and the result was that both men came out with fine figures in Kent's first innings. Only Mr Dillon and Mr A P Day played in anything like their form; and how good were the bowling and fielding may be judged from the fact that Mr Mason, although he was in for an hour, made only 17 runs.

It was after luncheon that the game ran so strongly against Kent, for the last eight wickets went down for 68 runs. Mr Dillon, who played such fine cricket in the first hour and a half for Kent, did well for a long time in the second innings; but the great batting feature of the day was the brilliant 62 of Mr A P Day.

He has done many fine things for Kent this season, but none better than this innings which was played when his side were in a very bad position. While he and his brother were adding 77 for the fourth wicket, the batting was particularly good.

The bowling was tiring, and it was only when Mr Poidevin went on with his slows that there was a recurrence of the check to Kent's scoring. Mr Brearley's first spell of bowling yesterday, including the breaks for luncheon and between the innings, lasted over four hours. He maintained a great pace and his length was always good.

At the beginning of the day Lancashire lost three wickets for the addition of 12 runs. There was a large company on the ground and the two days' collection for Huish amounted to £80.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 August, page 10)

Lancashire beat Kent at Canterbury on Saturday by eight wickets. Careless fielding and bad bowling by the visitors prolonged the game much beyond the expected time of finishing, indeed, the last four Kent batsmen met with such success that not only was the balance of the arrears, 131, hit off, but Lancashire were put in to get 32 to win. Fairservice had three lives and Blythe was once missed, and by much fortunate hitting these batsmen added 120 runs in 75 minutes for the ninth Kent wicket.

This surprising turn in the game aroused great enthusiasm; but the falling-off in the Lancashire cricket must have been disappointing to Lancashire's friends. From the score of the match given below it will be noticed that Mr Brearley took 11 wickets and he was the chief sufferer by the slack fielding on Saturday, and it was only after the dropped catches that he lost his length.

If Kent found no success on the cricket field, the 64th Canterbury Week from the social side thoroughly maintained its best traditions. By officially stepping in to help in the celebrations of the festival the corporation showed its zeal in the interests of the city. The Old Stagers played their part well and there was a crowded house for the second performance of The Duke of Killiecrankie, at the end of which, on Friday night, an epilogue entitled Shakespeare Redivivus was given.

10 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6855.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 10)

Leicestershire, in this match at Leicester yesterday, were in for the whole of the day, and at the close they had four wickets in hand. The feature of the cricket was the batting of Mr Wood and Knight.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 11)

Leicestershire gained an easy victory over Hampshire, at Leicester yesterday, by an innings and 215 runs.

10 August: MIDDLESEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6856.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 10)

Heavy showers prevented any cricket at Lord's after 10 minutes to 2 yesterday. There had before been a brief interruption, and at the time mentioned the weather broke up completely. Torrents of rain fell, saturating the wicket, and at a quarter to 4 stumps were drawn for the day.

With a strong and gusty wind blowing, the bowlers made the ball swerve a great deal, and off Mr G W Beldam Mr Trumper was at once caught at second slip, while Mr Hopkins and Mr Hill both left at eight.

After such a bad start the Australians made a wonderful recovery, Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong adding 111 in an hour, but the fourth partnership should have been a short one. Mr Bosanquet, who at the start bowled fast, changed to his better know slows when the total was 26, and off a full pitch Mr Armstrong lifted the ball to long leg where the fieldsman dropped the catch.

Instead of four wickets being down for 27 the total reached 119 before Middlesex met with any further success. Mr Armstrong made some powerful drives, but he was very lucky. Mr Noble, who completed his 50 in 70 minutes, played extremely well. Timing the ball perfectly, he scored much more freely than usual, getting many runs by fine late cuts. Mr Darling played Trott badly, and gave Mr Bosanquet, at third man, a simple chance that was missed.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 11)

Lord's ground was not so much affected yesterday by the rain of Thursday afternoon as had seemed likely, the turf drying naturally under the influence of a strong breeze. The wicket helped the bowlers a good deal, but in the course of a rather shorter day than usual - the ordinary hours being modified to suit the wishes of the Australians - 290 runs were scored.

When rain put a stop to Thursday's cricket the Australians had lost four wickets for 135, and this start, of course, meant a good deal more than it would have done if the weather had kept fine. The Australians followed up their advantage in capital style yesterday, and left off at the drawing of stumps with all the best of the game.

They took an hour and 40 minutes to complete their innings, being all out by half-past 1 for a total of 261. Mr Noble, who had played so finely on Thursday, only made a dozen more runs. He was batting two hours for his 68, his cricket from first to last being beyond reproach. Mr Duff and Mr McLeod added 30 runs together, but in spite of their efforts nine wickets were down for 215.

However, the innings was a long way from over, Mr Kelly and Mr Cotter making a number of fine hits and adding 46 before the former batsman was out "l-b-w." the Middlesex bowling yesterday was disappointing, no one seeming able to take full advantage of the state of the ground.

In facing a total of 261 Middlesex had rather a thankless task. Going in before lunch, they stayed at the wickets until 20 minutes to 6, and their innings was quite a curiosity. Out of 125 runs from the bat Mr Warner made 82 and Tarrant 20, nine members of the team scoring only 23 between them.

In the circumstances Mr Warner's performance, allowing for some element of luck, was a remarkable one. He withstood the bowling for nearly two hours and three-quarters, and so far as could be seen gave only one chance. He was fortunate, however, in the fact that three or four balls from Mr Cotter missed the wicket after getting through his defence. Twice in one over with his score at 12 he was fairly beaten. Still, he mastered the other bowlers, playing them with great skill.

The only batsmen who gave him any assistance were Tarrant and Mr MacGregor, 61 runs being added for the third wicket and 34 for the eighth. The Australian bowling was very good. Mr Cotter combined with his great pace a far more accurate length than usual and, although he had bad luck, he took four wickets for 43 runs.

At the end of the afternoon the Australians had about a quarter of an hour's batting. With nine wickets to fall they now hold a lead of 135 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 August, page 10)

The Australians beat Middlesex, at Lord's, on Saturday, by 132 runs, the match coming to an end just before half-past 5.

Given a full day's cricket some such result was only to be expected, the Australians, with one wicket down in their second innings for 19 runs, having left off on Friday with a lead of 135. Middlesex had to play some remarkably good bowling by Mr Armstrong, but it must be admitted that their efforts to save the game were rather feeble.

For the most part the Australians played very well on Saturday, but some catches that they dropped might easier have robbed them of their victory. Batting up to 2 o'clock they carried their Friday's

score to 195, and then declared the innings closed with nine wickets down. In doing this they put themselves in a safe position and were able for the rest of the afternoon to go right out for a win without any fear of being beaten.

Some of their batsmen failed, but Mr Duff, Mr Trumper and Mr Armstrong did exactly what was required, hitting hard and putting on runs at a rapid pace. Mr Duff played particularly well, and with ten fours as his chief figures scored 66 in 70 minutes. Mr Trumper helped him to put on 62 in three-quarters of an hour, and with Mr Armstrong in 47 were added in 20 minutes.

The score was up to 139 with four men out, but after this the batting broke down before J T Hearne's admirable bowling. After he went on for the last time Hearne took five wickets - four bowled - for 17 runs.

Middlesex wanted 312 to win, and had no chance of getting such a number in the time left for play after luncheon. When 60 went up for one wicket there seemed a good prospect of saving the game; but Mr Douglas, who had played in beautiful style, was bowled at 64, and afterwards the Australians were always winning.

Having no necessity to keep down runs Mr Armstrong set to work according to the methods of an ordinary leg-break bowler, and abundant success rewarded him. Going on with the score at 42 he took eight wickets for 50 runs, and finished off the match. He constantly made the ball do enough to beat the bat, and he always contrived to keep a fine length.

Of the Middlesex batsmen, apart from Mr Douglas, Mr E A Beldam alone played with much skill. He withstood the bowling for 70 minutes, and in the end was not out. Mr Wells made some good hits, but he was decidedly lucky. Mr Armstrong, who has this season shown a strong partiality for Lord's ground, enjoyed quite a triumph in the match, both as batsman and bowler, scoring 105 runs for once out and taking 11 wickets.

10 August: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6857.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 10)

This match was begun at Northampton yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 11)

Owing largely to some very fine bowling by Thompson, Northamptonshire gained a decided advantage in this match at Northampton yielded, for at the close, with five wickets in hand in their second innings, they were 219 runs ahead.

On Thursday Warwickshire had made 70 for the loss of three wickets, but when play was continued they only added 55. Thompson yesterday got seven wickets for 34 runs, and in all he took eight for just over eight runs each.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 August, page 10)

Warwickshire gained a remarkable victory over Northamptonshire at Northampton on Saturday, winning the match by nine wickets. The home side on the first two days had had the better of the game, and on Friday evening, with five men out, they were 219 ahead.

Eventually Warwickshire were set 272 to win. Mr Fishwick and Kinneir began the batting for Warwickshire, and they put on 170 before they were separated. Afterwards Devey hit finely and the runs were got without further loss. The proceeds of the match are to be given to Thompson as a benefit.

10 August: SOMERSET v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6858.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 10)

As the result of the first day's play at Taunton yesterday, Worcestershire in their return match with Somerset established a strong position, the home side at the close, with two wickets down in their second innings, requiring 125 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

The feature of the day's cricket was Mr R E Foster's batting. The condition of the wicket was shown by the dismissal of the Somerset eleven in an hour and a half, and when Worcestershire began their innings no signs of improvement were noticeable. Lewis and Robson made the ball turn considerably, but Mr R E Foster forced runs at a great pace.

Major W L Foster and Bowley had been dismissed for 31 runs when he came in, and so fast did he score that the 100 was made in 70 minutes, Mr R E Foster at this time having made 50 of the last 69 runs in three-quarters of an hour. Altogether he was batting for 70 minutes, and when he was caught in the long-field he had scored his runs out of a total of 126. He hit 18 fours. He gave a difficult chance to Mr Newton in the slips off Lewis when he had scored 15, but this was the only fault in his innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 11)

At Taunton, yesterday, Worcestershire beat Somerset by six wickets. At the close of play on Thursday their victory was well in sight, as Somerset, with two wickets down in their second innings, required 125 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

An excellent stand by Hardy and Braund, who scored 135 for the fourth wicket in less than an hour and a half, improved Somerset's position, but with six wickets down the home side were only 29 runs ahead. Mr Johnson, who went in at the fall of the fourth wicket, and Robson, however, hit well, and their partnership realized 105 runs in three-quarters of an hour. In the end Worcestershire had to get 189 to win.

Hardy played his highest innings for the county, and was unfortunate in being run out. The best batting on the side, however, was shown by Mr Johnson. When he had scored 40 he might have been caught at mid-off, but his innings was a very good one. His off-side strokes travelled at a great pace and he sent the ball to the boundary 14 times.

Worcestershire lost Bowley at 26 and Mr H K Foster 19 runs later. Major W L Foster and Mr R E Foster then placed the result beyond doubt by scoring 117 in an hour and three-quarters for the third wicket. Mr R E Foster again played beautiful cricket, scoring all round the wicket. He was in for less than an hour and a half, and he hit a five and 14 fours.

10 August: SUSSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6859.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 10)

Most of the Derbyshire batsmen failed yesterday, at Brighton, to do themselves justice on a good wicket. Mr Wright had the bad luck to play a ball hard on to his foot, from whence it rolled into the wicket, while Dr Ashcroft and Mr Ollivierre were both caught in the slips in endeavouring to hit.

With five wickets down for 52 Derbyshire were in a bad position; but Morton and Mr Hunter, by steady and plucky cricket, added 25 runs, while the latter and Warren put on 31. Warren played an extremely useful innings, in which he made some good hits to the on.

When Sussex went in Mr Fry, who gave an easy chance when he had made 25, and Vine put on 68 before Vine was run out. Three runs later Mr Young was splendidly caught at long leg by Mr Ollivierre, who dismissed Mr Fry with an equally good catch at mid-off. Sussex, with four wickets in hand, are now 48 runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 11)

At Brighton, yesterday, Sussex added 86 runs in 70 minutes to their overnight score. Killick on Thursday, when he made 67, had played excellent cricket, his cutting, especially that past point, being well timed and crisp, but when the game was continued he played very shakily. The feature of yesterday's batting was a very good innings by Mr Chapman. He made most of his runs by hard drives to the on.

Derbyshire began their second innings 134 runs behind; but they could do practically nothing against the bowling of Killick and Cox, and were all out by 20 minutes to 4, leaving Sussex winners by an innings and 41 runs. In the match Cox took eight wickets for 88 runs and Killick eight wickets for 69 runs.

10 August: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6860.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 10)

There was a slow wicket for the return match between these counties at Leeds yesterday. In the absence of the sun, however, the pitch was not difficult, for the ball turned very slowly. The conditions, perhaps, required the adoption of forcing tactics, but only three members of the Surrey team forced the game with much success, and two of these owed their scores in some degree to good fortune.

Surrey won the toss and scored 68 for five wickets before lunch. Holland made 27 of the total, but he ought to have been caught at mid-off by Hirst when he had made eight. Mr Raphael was out to the first ball he received after luncheon, and it then seemed as if Surrey would not make 100 runs.

Lord Dalmeny and Mr Crawford, however, batted very pluckily, the former making some beautiful drives. In three-quarters of an hour the two batsmen scored 62 for the seventh wicket, Lord Dalmeny then being caught near the boundary from a high drive. Mr Crawford was ninth out, caught at second slip in Myers's first over. He was missed by Tunnicliffe at slip when he had scored nine, but with this exception he played fine cricket, and he kept his wicket up longer than any one on the side. Rhodes bowled with a considerable amount of bad luck, but he was able to claim six wickets at a cost of about 12 runs each.

Yorkshire had an hour and 25 minutes' batting, and got to within 71 of Surrey's core for the loss of three wickets. Rothery made 26 of the first 32 runs, and afterwards Denton played most attractive cricket. In three-quarters of an hour he scored 50 out of 67.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 11)

The last half-hour's play in this match, at Leeds, yesterday, completely upset the calculations of all who were present. Yorkshire had outplayed their opponents so decisively that they had only to score 32 runs to win, but in obtaining these they lost five wickets, all to the bowling of Mr Knox.

Lord Dalmeny, in Yorkshire's first innings, did not put on Mr Knox until 168 runs had been scored. The reason for this delay in utilizing the fast bowler doubtless was to be found in the soft condition of the wicket and the treacherous character of the foothold. When he did go on Mr Knox took three of the last wickets for 22 runs.

In the evening, when Yorkshire went in a second time, the wicket was much faster and more suited to Mr Knox's bowling. Denton and Rothery were out in trying to get the runs quickly, while Mr Jackson lost his wicket through a brilliant one-handed catch by Mr Raphael. When two runs were needed both Tunnicliffe and Rhodes were caught in one over from Mr Knox. Hirst then made the winning hit off Mr Crawford.

The latter bowled splendidly in Yorkshire's first innings. He was on at the pavilion end throughout and took seven wickets. He kept a much better length than the other Surrey bowlers and, excepting

one over, in which Rhodes hit three fours off him, he was never severely punished. Rhodes batted brilliantly early in the day for Yorkshire, and bowled well in Surrey's second innings.

Holland and Mr Crawford showed good defence in this innings, but the rest of the batting was very weak and the side were all out in an hour and three-quarters.

Saturday 12 August, page 11: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The arrangements for the fifth and final test match, which begins at the Oval on Monday next, have now been completed. The gates will be opened at 9 o'clock each morning.

Play will begin at 11.30 on the first day and 11 o'clock on the second and third days, stumps being drawn at 6.30. The best entrance for the football stand will be the Vauxhall gates and for the covered stands the main gates.

THE M.C.C. TEAM IN CANADA

Ottawa, Aug. 10.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135213.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 11)

A match was played to-day in Government House Grounds between the M.C.C. team now touring in Canada and a team representing Ottawa. The weather was hot and there was a large attendance of the public. The wicket was good, but not very fast.

The Ottawa team were the first to bat, and were dismissed for 120 runs, while the visitors only made 71. A feature of the play was the bowling of MacDonell and Napier, the former taking four wickets for 33 runs, while McGiverin of the Ottawa team too seven wickets for 34. - Reuter.

Day 2 (report from Monday 14 August, page 10)

The match which was begun yesterday on the Government-house grounds between the M.C.C. team now touring in Canada and a team representing Ottawa was concluded to-day. The Ottawa eleven made 91 runs in their second innings, their total score in both innings being 211.

The M.C.C. team in their second innings made 136 runs for four wickets, and thus won with six wickets to spare. A feature of the play was Wyld's score of 80 not out. - Reuter.

Monday 14 August, page 10: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

For the fifth and final test match, which begins at Kennington Oval to-day, the teams will be: -

ENGLAND

The Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire) (captain)
Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire)
Mr C B Fry (Sussex)
Mr R H Spooner (Lancashire)
Mr W Brearley (Lancashire)
Hayward (Surrey)
Hirst (Yorkshire)
Rhodes (Yorkshire)
Tyldesley (Lancashire)
Lilley (Warwickshire) and
Arnold (Worcestershire)

AUSTRALIA (selected from)

Mr J Darling (South Australia) (captain)
 Mr C Hill (South Australia)
 Mr D R A Gehrs (South Australia)
 Mr P M Newland (South Australia)
 Mr R A Duff (New South Wales)
 Mr A Cotter (New South Wales)
 Mr S E Gregory (New South Wales)
 Mr A J Hopkins (New South Wales)
 Mr J J Kelly (New South Wales)
 Mr M A Noble (New South Wales)
 Mr V Trumper (New South Wales)
 Mr W P Howell (New South Wales)
 Mr W W Armstrong (Victoria)
 Mr C E McLeod (Victoria) and
 Mr F Laver (Victoria)

The gates will be opened at 9 o'clock each morning. Play will begin at 11.30 to-day and 11 o'clock to-morrow and on Wednesday. Stumps will be drawn at 6.30.

Monday 14 August, page 10: THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	34	2089	233	3	67.38
Hirst	38	1774	341	10	63.35
Quaife	31?	1162	255*	12	57.31
Mr E W Dillon	18	869	141	1	51.11
Mr H K Foster	25	1055	180	2	45.86
Mr P F Warner	29	1330	204	0	45.66
Mr C McGahey	32	1346	277	2	44.86
Mr C J B Wood	37	1511	200*	8	44.44
Denton	48	1948	172	2	44.27
Kinneir	35	1450	158	2	43.93
Hayward	49	1925	129*	5	43.75
Mr L G Wright	36	1568	195	0	43.55
Mr E M Sprot	24	989	141	1	43.00
Sharp	33	1235	142	4	42.68
Iremonger	37	1555	239	0	42.02
Tyldesley	41	1595	250	2	40.89
Arnold	25	731	134	7	40.81
Mr L O S Poidevin	34	1214	168*	4	40.46
Mr A P Day	30	1051	107*	4	40.42
Mr R H Spooner	34	1294	164	1	39.21
The Hon F S Jackson	29	1056	144*	2	39.11
Carpenter	33	1228	138*	1	38.37
Bowley	22	1138	217	2	37.93
Mr R A Young	28	983	220	0	37.80
Mr B J T Bosanquet	27	850	179	4	36.95
Mr A C MacLaren	38	1246	140	2	36.63
Hallows	20	618	130*	3	36.35
Mr R N R Blaker	20	653	120	2	36.27
Mr A O Jones	40	1393	274	1	35.71
Rhodes	39	1176	201	6	35.63
Mr A H Hornby	30	855	111*	6	35.62
Seymour	35	1173	122	2	35.54
Braund	33	1063	130	3	35.43
J Gunn	37	1203	178	3	35.38
Knight	38	1149	177	3	34.81

Vine	45	1492	146	2	34.69
Board	30	930	118*	3	34.44
Tarrant	23	631	164*	4	33.21
Baker (Surrey)	36	1028	128*	5	33.00
Mr P Perrin	29	845	140	3	32.50
Mr M W Payne	23	673	178	1	31.50
Hayes	48	1398	105	3	31.06
Llewellyn	30	838	102	3	31.03
G Gunn	36	1053	128	2	30.97
Cuffe	26	731	145	2	30.45
Reeves	29	879	135	0	30.31
Baker (Warwickshire)	32	887	102	3	29.89
Relf	41	1131	120	3	29.76
Pearson	28	792	104	1	29.33
Mr W H B Evans	24	645	139*	2	29.31
Mr G L Jessop	35	989	234	1	29.08
Mr T S Fishwick	36	1028	137	0	28.55
Mr V F S Crawford	27	709	119	2	28.38
Dr E M Ashcroft	26	680	73*	2	28.33
Hobbs	47	1234	155	3	28.04
King	33	822	95	3	27.40
Mr G W Beldam	24	599	94	2	27.22
Wrathall	29	715	102	2	26.48
Holland	32	783	132	2	26.19
Mr S M J Woods	28	676	125	2	26.00
Robson	22	543	61	1	25.85
Tunnicliffe	38	851	102	3	25.78
Whitehead	34	833	137	1	25.24
Coe	34	807	100	2	25.21
Rothery	25	805	118	1	25.20
Lilley	37	907	121	1	25.19
Killick	45	1107	104	1	25.15

Also listed: Mr H G Garnett average 24.82, Mr H Martyn 24.75, Jayes 24.63, Mr J F Byrne 24.55, Hardstaff 24.45, Mr G N Foster 23.82, Mr C H B Marsham 23.55.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Haigh	671	184	1588	107	14.84
Thompson	586.1	138	1626	108	14.91
Rhodes	946.4	268	2225	137	16.24
Mr G G Napier	338.3	95	973	56	17.37
Lees	1112.3	321	2714	155	17.50
J T Hearne	554.4	169	1373	76	18.06
Ringrose	393.4	72	1217	66	18.43
Mr W Brearley	932.4	157	3086	166	18.70
Myers	424.2	82	1286	68	18.91
Hirst	509.3	108	1444	76	19.25
Mr N A Knox	659.5	105	2238	114	19.61
Jayes	627.3	123	1993	95	20.70
Hallam	593.4	187	1340	63	21.26
Kermode	712.4	172	2092	98	21.34
Blythe	889.4	243	2453	110	21.39
Wass	495	101	1457	68	21.42
Bestwick	702	148	2099	97	21.63
Mr W W Odell	742	185	2083	96	21.69
Hayes	544.5	102	1611	73	22.06
Dennett	905.1	219	2632	119	22.11
Killick	609.3	128	1756	79	22.22
Warren	623.3	111	1983	88	22.53
Nice	351.5	86	951	42	22.64
Wilson	384.5	45	1407	62	22.69
Arnold	597.2	118	1811	79	22.92

Santall	759	199	1838	77	23.88
Tarrant	401.4	105	1075	45	23.88
Relf	971	314	2148	89	24.13
Hargreave	972.1	276	2319	95	24.41
Cadman	452.3	110	1223	60	24.46
Cox (Sussex)	1276.2	383	3036	122	24.88
Fairservice	544.5	162	1547	62	24.95
Trott	414.4	82	1415	55	25.72
J Gunn	859.5	175	2444	94	26.00
Tremlin	650.1	113	2729	81	27.51
Mr B J T Bosanquet	330.4	24	1334	48	27.79
Fielder	391.4	64	1503	54	27.83
Burrows	394.2	58	1514	53	28.56
Mr G L Jessop	288.5	96	1253	43	29.13
Baldwin	662.5	166	1873	64	29.26
Buckenham	688.2	98	2380	76	31.05

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	38	1893	303*	6	56.43
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	38	1851	267	1	50.02
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	39	1374	110	1	36.15
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	39	1345	149	1	35.39
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	40	1172	117*	5	33.49
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	44	1253	94	0	28.47
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	30	738	93	4	28.38
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	28	594	134	2	22.84
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	27	537	72	3	22.37
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	35	585	103*	6	20.62
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	34	565	48	3	18.87
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	28	305	74*	10	16.94
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	27	346	78	4	15.04
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	17	109	25*	7	10.90
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	22	107	18	6	6.68

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr W W Armstrong	757	242	1560	89	17.52
Mr F Laver	668.1	188	1677	88	19.05
Mr A Cotter	541	102	1695	84	20.17
Mr W P Howell	464	141	1180	64	21.85
Mr C E McLeod	699.3	200	1686	76	22.18
Mr R A Duff	107.5	32	311	12	25.91
Mr M A Noble	519.2	141	1326	48	27.62
Mr A J Hopkins	221	56	685	24	27.70
Mr S E Gregory	7.1	0	47	0	--

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Lancashire	21	12	2	7	10	71.42
Yorkshire	24	17	3	4	14	70.00
Surrey	20	12	5	3	7	41.17
Sussex	23	9	4	10	5	38.46
Leicestershire	19	8	4	7	4	33.33
Kent	17	8	6	3	2	14.28
Warwickshire	18	4	4	10	0	0.00

Middlesex	12	4	5	3	-1	-11.11
Nottinghamshire	18	5	7	6	-2	-16.66
Gloucestershire	14	5	7	2	-2	-16.66
Worcestershire	15	3	5	7	-2	-25.00
Essex	18	3	8	6	-5	-45.45
Northamptonshire	11	2	7	2	-5	-55.55
Derbyshire	17	3	12	2	-9	-60.00
Hampshire	17	1	9	7	-8	-80.00
Somerset	16	1	9	6	-8	-80.00

The match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval - abandoned without a ball having been bowled - is not counted in the above table.

14 August: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6861.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 August, page 9)

The game at Derby went all in favour of Surrey yesterday. On an easy wicket their bowlers did such good work as to dismiss the home team in three hours for just over 200, and before stumps were drawn a lead of 30 runs had been secured for the loss of only three men.

Although Mr L G Wright and Cadman scored 38 for the first wicket, half the Derbyshire men were out for 96; Mr Lawton brought about a considerable improvement, but he alone showed to much advantage. Batting only an hour, he made 78, and had the bad luck to slip when attempting a big hit, giving mid-off a simple catch. Driving with great power, Mr Lawton hit a six off Mr Crawford, and 11 fours. Morton helped him to add 70 in 35 minutes.

For a time it seemed likely that Surrey would also fare badly. In the absence of Hayward, their usual batting order had to be altered, and Holland and Baker were out for 16 runs. Hayes and Mr Raphael, however, by brilliant hitting, put on 220 in an hour and three-quarters. Hayes, who completed his 100 in less than an hour and a half, was not out 139 when stumps were drawn. Both he and Mr Raphael took many risks and made a few faulty strokes, but for the most part their cricket was brilliant.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 August, page 9)

On a true and easy wicket at Derby, yesterday, the batsmen scored so freely that only eight wickets fell for an aggregate of 449 runs. The visitors, who led by 30 overnight, continued making runs very fast, the seven outstanding wickets adding 113, and the innings of 550 lasted only five hours and 50 minutes.

Hayes, who obtained 50 more in an hour, played with wonderful dash, scoring his 189 at an average rate of one a minute. He gave no chance and his strokes all round the wicket were clean and hard. After he left at 310 Mr Crawford showed good form, making his first innings of 100 in a county match. When he had got accustomed to the pace of the wicket he played good cricket, scoring his runs in about two hours and a half.

The feature of his innings was the way he hit past cover point; this stroke he brought off with remarkable certainty, sending the ball time after time to the boundary. Lord Dalmeny and Smith hit hard, the latter and Mr Crawford adding 79 in 35 minutes.

Owing chiefly to Dr Ashcroft, Derbyshire reduced their arrears to 207 before play ended, owing to bad light; and they have now nine wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 August, page 10)

The result of a very heavy scoring match at Derby was a victory for Surrey by nine wickets yesterday. Success for the visitors seemed probable from the overnight position of the game, Derbyshire with one wicket down being still 207 behind.

Dr Ashcroft and Morton, who became partners with the score at 53, made a fine stand, in all adding 196 in three hours. Morton played very soundly and gave no chance. After he left Lees dismissed Mr H F Wright, Cadman and Dr Ashcroft in one over, the fall of these wickets practically settling the result.

Dr Ashcroft, who was finely caught by Holland with one hand high up at slip, scored his runs in four hours. He made a number of fine strokes all round the wicket, and he never seemed in much difficulty with the bowling.

Although Derbyshire were in an almost hopeless position, Mr Lawton and Mr L G Wright added 51 for the sixth wicket, and after their dismissal Warren scored 22 in an over from Mr Knox - five fours and a two - and saved the innings defeat. Lees bowled finely and the Surrey men as a whole fielded well.

14 August: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(From our special correspondent)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6862.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 August, page 9)

The final Test match for the year began yesterday in perfect cricket weather on an easy wicket slightly on the slow side and before an enormous crowd, probably of over 25,000 spectators. The English Eleven was composed exactly as it was at Manchester, as were the Australians, except that Mr Hopkins played instead of Mr Gehrs.

There has been, taking the whole series of matches, something monotonous about these contests. Every time the Australians have lost the toss and every time, except at Nottingham, the Englishmen have batted the whole of the first day; and never once on the first day has there been anything out of the common in the pace of the scoring.

It was a disappointment to everybody, even to the English Eleven, when Mr Darling again lost the toss, and as the day went on this piece of bad luck looked likely to be of rather great importance. From the way the bowlers made holes on the ground with their feet it seems likely that the wicket may not wear well on the third day, and the English bowling, strong at all points, may be too difficult for any eleven to make a good score against in the last innings.

There is also a presumption, on the whole well founded, that the Englishmen are a stronger side than the Australians; and, this being the case, every true sportsman would have liked to see the Australians favoured with the luck of winning the toss. An English victory, if it had then been secured, would have been more creditable, or rather would have made the relative merits of the two teams even more obvious than it is. However, the luck of the toss is part of the game, and nothing more can be said.

The usual pair, Hayward and Mr MacLaren, began for England against the bowling of Mr Cotter and Mr Noble, the former bowling from the Vauxhall end. Mr Cotter has not been a success in these Test matches; but it has been the opinion, so it is said, of the Australians themselves, that he may develop into a good bowler; and it is satisfactory to be able to say that yesterday his bowling showed considerable improvement. He was occasionally short, but, on the whole, his length and direction were both far better than he has hitherto shown in these matches; and, if he could raise his arm more, he might become a really great bowler.

Mr MacLaren was well caught off him at slip by Mr Laver, and Tyldesley clean bowled by a ball he seemed to play rather across at and with not sufficient reach forward; but a long stand was then made by Hayward and Mr Fry. Hayward played as he has all through these matches, with admirable accuracy and the most correct cricket. He gets very much in front of the wicket but he plays the ball, and there is no player in England with a sounder defence.

The pair put on exactly a hundred runs; and a huge total seemed likely, as Mr Cotter cannot keep up his great pace as Mr Brearley can, and the other bowlers seemed to present no great difficulty to such batsmen on such a wicket. The stand lasted about an hour and 35 minutes; then Hayward brought off a skilful hook to leg off a long hop, but trod on his wicket and retired, having done a great deal to take the sting out of the bowling.

Mr Jackson then came in and another long stand of 151 runs was made, when Mr Fry shortly after the tea interval was clean bowled by a ball that kept a little low. Mr Fry's innings was the best he has ever played against the Australians. Even granting that the wicket was easy and the bowling none too strong, still not only did he give no chance, but only once did he make a bad hit, and that was off Mr McLeod - and once Mr Duff after bowling five consecutive bad balls nearly bowled him with the sixth, which happened to be a good one. His batting was really perfect and, although the run-getting was not very fast, still it was not slow while he was in, the scoring averaging just about 60 an hour; some of his drives were very powerful, and for the first time this season he made some good cuts, although this is obviously not his stroke.

The tea interval at 4.30 was a turning point in the game; for Mr Fry, Mr Spooner and Hirst all got out soon after play was resumed, and Mr Jackson, in trying to force the game, was caught off a skyer

for 76 at about 5.30, and seven wickets were down for 322. Mr Jackson's innings was not one of his best, and he gave a tolerably easy chance of stumping off Mr Armstrong when his score was 27.

His defence was as strong as ever, but he did not time the ball so well as usual. This was probably owing to the fact that the match was in a tolerably safe position when he went in, and he likes batting when his side is in a tight place; he seemed to play yesterday as if he wanted to score fast, and this is distinctly not his game. He is by no means a slow player, but he cannot hit balls of all or even many lengths, and if he attempts to do so he is apt to mistime, which was the case yesterday.

Mr Spooner hit a fast ball into his wicket, while Hirst seemed to hit a ball somehow on to the wicketkeeper's knee and afterwards it went into the air. Arnold and Rhodes by exceedingly dull and slow play, except during the last 10 minutes, played out time, the score at the end of the day being 381 runs for seven wickets.

So the first day's play finished very much as it did at Leeds, Manchester and Lord's; and it was, perhaps, somewhat on the slow side all day. The day was hot and there was rather a listless appearance in the Australian out cricket. This was very likely an appearance only, for the fielding was fair and only one real chance was missed, and that was a case of stumping by Mr Kelly who, but for this, kept very well all day.

The bowling was none of it bad, but none of it was really good, although every allowance must be made for the lifeless, easy wicket which was emphatically what is generally called a half stump one. Mr Cotter was the best, and his bowling may be described as more than fair all day. Mr Hopkins had not much to do, and it looked as if he ought to have been tried more, for he seemed to bowl with a fair length, as did Mr Laver; but the wicket did not seem to suit Mr Armstrong, for he puzzled the English side less than usual, although he bowled more on the wicket.

The throwing was the best feature of the Australian fielding, and this is always a beautiful sight to see, especially that of Mr Trumper, Mr Hill, Mr Hopkins and Mr Duff.

England are now in a string position, all the more strong as this season's cricket seems to point to the fact that the Australian batting has hitherto lacked soundness. No doubt the wickets this season have not been so easy as they were a few years ago; and very seldom, perhaps, in Australia to the colonial batsmen have any practice on wickets such as the English wickets have been this year.

Still, they have not been really difficult; but the Australians want more batsmen such as Mr Noble is and Mr Murdoch was, for the purely dashing style of Mr Trumper and Mr Duff has not this year been so successful as formerly. Perhaps, too, the English bowling is stronger, for, although Richardson and Lockwood have not left their mantles on anybody, unless it is Mr Brearley, yet the bowling has great variety.

The Australians have, however, often shown themselves to be great fighters; and many are still living in hopes of seeing Mr Trumper play a great innings to-day, and this may turn the fortune of the match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 August, page 9)

No rain had fallen at the Oval since the match began, and the wicket yesterday was not at the start appreciably affected by the dew, as at this time of year is sometimes the case, especially when play begins so early as 11.

There was nothing remarkable about the close of England's batting, but the batsmen played a free game and scored 49 runs in very little over 30 minutes. Mr Cotter secured all the last three wickets, and in the whole innings he got seven wickets for 148 runs.

On a wicket that in no way helped the bowlers this was a very good performance and everybody was glad to see this young bowler at last justifying his selection. He kept up his pace all through; and, although he did not seem to bowl so fast as early in the season, he kept a far better length and seemed to have more control over the ball; and it was well that this was so, as the rest of the Australian bowling never reached a high standard, although Mr Laver and Mr Hopkins both bowled fairly well.

The English team was strong all through in batting, and on such a wicket every allowance must be made for the bowlers, for the ball seldom got up and came along easily. The total of 430 was, of course,

a formidable one, but not more than in these days might have been expected on such a wicket, but it made it almost a certainty that England cannot be beaten.

When the Australians went in to bat the wicket was as easy as possible, as it had not begun to wear and the dew had completely disappeared. Mr Brearley and Hirst began the bowling, and again the Australians made a bad start, the two crack batsmen of former years, Mr Trumper and Mr Hill, both failing. Mr Trumper, by no means for the first time, found Mr Brearley his master; and, after "edging" one ball dangerously through the slips, he was bowled to the regret of many.

Mr Hill did not play well, and by the way he frames it hardly looks possible for him to make a long score. He goes at off balls in a style quite unlike that of any great batsman, and his repeated failures in Test matches, as well as Mr Trumper's, has weakened the Australian batting terribly.

Mr Duff and Mr Noble, however, batted splendidly in very different styles, Mr Duff playing a really magnificent free game, and Mr Noble, by the soundest of defensive batting, laying the foundation of a long score. Mr Duff can never have played a finer innings. Such a free batsman of course takes some risks, but not until he had scored 78 did he give what may be called a fair chance. He then skied a ball straight in the air, and a complete misunderstanding between Mr MacLaren and Hirst caused the ball to be dropped, with serious consequences for England.

Mr Noble and Mr Duff raised the score from 44 to 159, when Mr Noble was well caught in the slips for 25, got by very slow play, but play which in the circumstances was the right game. Mr Noble never looked like getting out, and his downfall made a great difference in the appearance of the game. Mr Armstrong played well, but just as he was getting set he was finely caught behind the wicket by Mr A O Jones, who had taken Lilley's place in consequence of the latter's having split his finger. Strictly speaking, a substitute keeping wicket is against the rules; but Mr Darling readily gave his consent to the breach of a rule that might well be changed, as a strict observance of the letter of the law in the matter of keeping wicket is a serious handicap to the fielding side.

Mr Duff and Mr Darling then played fine, free cricket for a short time; but, with his score at 146, Mr Duff put a ball up and was caught by the bowler. Mr Duff was twice missed, at 78 at slip and at 134 by Hayward in the long field; nevertheless, not only was it a fine piece of batting, but more attractive play has not been seen this year. He hit all round the wicket, both cleanly and hard, some of his drives and pulls being masterly. The score when he was out - fifth wicket down - was 237; and, considering that the Australians had certainly not a strong batting side all the way through, the position looked by no means good for them.

Mr Darling, however, had to be reckoned with, and he was batting well, and by rapid play knocked up 57 before he was bowled. Mr Darling is emphatically a dangerous batsman and is a most fearless hitter, and his play was just what was expected of him and was the right game; but when he got out nobody would have been surprised if the innings had been soon over.

Mr Hopkins and Mr McLeod both failed, but Mr Kelly and Mr Laver played well, although, of course, neither can be called a high-class batsman. Mr Kelly has real grit and determination, and though his style is stiff and inelegant, he can judge the length of the bowling in a way superior to many wicket-keepers. He gave no chance, and was finally run out for a most useful innings of 42; and a total of 363 seems to point to a draw as the most probable result.

The wicket so far has been quite the easiest that any of the Test matches have this year been played on. It was of the lifeless "half-stump" order, and hardly a ball of good length got up higher than the stumps and all bowling looked easy. On such a wicket it cannot be said that the large scoring was unlooked for, and, indeed, it would have been surprising if it had been smaller.

The wicket was so easy that it is difficult to judge of the merits of either the batting or the bowling. No doubt the batting was good and attractive, but as none of the bowling looked difficult it is probably correct to say that the batting, taking it altogether, was not so skilful as at Lord's, Leeds or Manchester. Rhodes was very simple to play, and so was Arnold; and the failure of the latter to make the ball get up proved what sort of wicket it was, for even in Australia Arnold could make the ball get up every now and then.

Mr Brearley bowled by far the best on a wicket very unlike that of Manchester, and as a feat of endurance his bowling was remarkable. To bowl short on such a lifeless pitch was useless; and he grasped that fact and on the whole he kept the ball fairly well up and yet of a good length. Mr Jackson seemed to get more spin than the others, and Hirst bowled fairly well; but, as has been said before, it was a heartbreaking wicket for any bowler to bowl on; and, although after the failure of

Mr Trumper and Mr Hill the Australians' score was more than respectable, it was not a bad feat to get them out for 363, which would have been much less but for the unfortunate mistake which let off Mr Duff. The fielding might have been better, for not only were some catches missed, but there were one or two bad overthrows.

The Australian innings was over at ten minutes past 6, and England, on going in to bat for one over, lost Arnold, who was clean bowled by Mr Cotter; and, with Lilley disabled, England have only eight wickets to lose on the third day. But, unless the weather should change or the wicket wears very badly, it seems impossible to expect anything else than a draw.

There was another huge crowd, not far short, if at all, of that of the first day, and the arrangements were excellent.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 August, page 10)

The third day of the last of the Test matches was played in cooler weather at the Oval yesterday, and on a wicket that wore well and was appreciably faster than on either of the first two days, and before a large crowd, but by no means so large as before. The position on Tuesday evening pointed to a draw, and a draw proved to be the result; but there were two periods when first one side and then the other looked like gaining a victory.

Hayward and Mr MacLaren went on with England's innings, and there was a rapid downfall of wickets that was surprising considering the run-getting of the first two days. Mr MacLaren was finely caught at the wicket and Hayward, who did not shape at all well to Mr Armstrong, was "l-b-w" to him; and then Tyldesley and Mr Fry came together.

Mr Cotter and Mr Armstrong both bowled well, although off a bowler who is so uncertain as to direction as Mr Cotter is runs are almost bound to come, and they did come. Mr Noble went on for Mr Cotter at 44 and got Mr Fry caught at long off by Mr Armstrong, who held a hard hit with his right hand, an exceedingly fine catch. It may be noted here that the Australian captain very late in the season materially strengthened the Australian fielding by removing Mr Armstrong from short slip, where he cannot field, to mid-off where he can.

England at this match held a lead of 115 runs, which practically five wickets down, as Lilley was incapacitated; and this was the first important crisis of the third day's play, when a victory for Australia might be said to be probable - which had not been the case since the first day at Nottingham.

Mr Jackson came in, and soon after Tyldesley survived a confident appeal for a catch off the fast bowler behind the wicket, and it is no secret that the Australians thought that it was a fair catch. If this were the case they deserve the sympathy of everybody, for they would have then had decidedly the better of the game; but it is fair to say that it did not look a clear case from the pavilion.

The Australians, all through the morning, bowled and fielded like a really good side, but the two batsmen gradually wore down the bowling, and putting on 55 runs brought the score to 103, when Mr Jackson was clean bowled by Mr Cotter with a very fine ball that broke. Mr Spooner and Tyldesley then stayed in until luncheon, when the score was 124 for five wickets and England were 191 runs on.

After luncheon the game went altogether in favour of England; but again it most unfortunately happened that Mr Spooner was loudly appealed against for "l-b-w" when his score was only five, and was given in. The word "unfortunately" is used not because it was certain that the decision was a wrong one, for this is practically never the case on the question of "l-b-w," but because it was unfortunate that twice in a day an umpire had to give a difficult decision on an occasion when the match was in a critical position. But, although there is every wish to condole with a young bowler like Mr Cotter on what he felt to be such a disappointment, it was distinctly bad taste on his part to show his feelings so obviously as he did.

The run-getting now became fast and furious, both batsmen playing a fine open game, in fact, the best hitting of the match took place, although by this it is not meant that the play was better than that of Mr Duff and Mr Darling in Australia's first innings. The bowling, however, had lost its sting; and Mr Armstrong, for almost the first time in the test matches, was treated in very cavalier fashion, and no chances were given.

Mr Jackson declared when England had lost six wickets, Mr Spooner having been caught close to the pavilion after a fine hard-hitting innings of 79. Tyldesley carried out his bat for a splendid 112, in which all his great gifts of all-round hitting and quickness of foot were as conspicuous as ever.

The Australians had two hours and a half to make 329 runs, and it may be said here that Mr Jackson very likely would have declared earlier, but for the fact that the regular wicket-keeper could take no further part in the match, while Mr Brearley was suffering from a cold and Mr Jackson had slightly strained himself. With his eleven in such a "crooked" condition he could hardly be expected to run any risk.

Mr Duff was unwell, and Mr Hopkins and Mr Trumper began the batting for the Australians. Mr Hopkins was soon run out; but Mr Trumper made some beautiful strokes and looked really set for a good score when he got under a rising ball from Mr Brearley and was caught behind the wicket. Mr Hill played far more carefully at the off balls than in the first innings, but when he was clean bowled by a good ball from Arnold and Mr Noble was quite defeated by a fast ball from Hirst which kept a little low and for which he was late, it looked as if England might snatch a victory.

Mr Armstrong and Mr Darling, however, by very steady play averted defeat, and stumps were drawn at 6 o'clock, as there was no chance of finishing the game.

It is no secret that the umpiring all through the test matches has several times been unfavourably commented on - by the Australians chiefly, although more than once by the English side. It may be admitted that, on the whole, luck has been against the Australians in this respect; but in justice to the umpires, who are a most deserving set of men, it can hardly be too often pointed out that the difficulty of umpiring is so great that for mortal man to succeed is well nigh impossible.

It is on the matter of "l-b-w" that the chief difficulty arises, and this difficulty is much increased by the state of the law. This is too large a subject to be discussed here; but it is sufficient to say that the law as it stands seems to make it to the advantage of the batsmen continually to shift both legs in front of the wicket. Umpires are, therefore, constantly being appealed to for "l-b-w"; and it is a great pity that some players who grumble at decisions on this point should not get to understand, by standing umpires themselves, how easy it is to make mistakes.

In the Test matches of this year there have been about nine decisions, six of which were on this very question of "l-b-w," about which it is certain that great doubt exists as to the correctness of the decisions. But it should be pointed out that certainly concerning eight decisions there was considerable difference of opinion among the players themselves who were in the best position to judge as to whether the umpires were right or wrong.

If this is the case, how can umpires be blamed if they did make mistakes? Cricketers must learn to regard the matter of umpiring as they do the weather; it is a question, to a large extent, of luck inking first to one side and then to the other. But, if they themselves would like less responsibility to be thrown on the umpires, they can do a great deal by not incessantly putting one or both legs between wicket and wicket on what may be called bowler's territory.

The averages for the five Test matches are given below: -

PLAYED 5 - ENGLAND WON 2, DRAWN 3.

[Note: the Test averages can be found on Cricket Archive at http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Events/0/Australia_in_British_Isles_1905/Team_Averages.html]

14 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6863.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 August, page 9)

Wrathall, who has played for Gloucestershire for 12 years, is likely to reap an adequate reward from the proceeds of the match, which started at Bristol yesterday. The attendance was most satisfactory, and as the game went all in favour of the home county there is sure to be a large company present to-

day if the weather hold fine. Lancashire were greatly handicapped through Mr MacLaren, Mr Spooner, Mr Brearley and Tyldesley all being engaged in the Test match at the Oval.

Going in first, Lancashire were dismissed in two hours and 50 minutes upon a good wicket for the moderate total of 209. Gloucestershire replied with 225, and as they only lost three men they have already secured a strong position.

The noteworthy features of the Lancashire batting were a good display by Sharpe and some vigorous hitting by Cook. The former tried hard to place his side in a favourable position, but he was badly supported. Gloucestershire owed much of their success to their brilliant fielding.

When they went in to bat they lost Wrathall and Mr Barnett for 51, but then Mr Sewell and Board put on 166 for the third wicket in an hour and a half. They started quietly, but as soon as the former had reached 50 in 70 minutes he scored so fast that he reached his 100 in another half-hour. Board was dismissed at 217, having played sound cricket. The Lancashire fielding was not very safe.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 August, page 9)

By a display of fine all-round cricket such as they have not before given this season Gloucestershire established a very strong position in their match with Lancashire, yesterday, at Bristol. When failing light brought play to a close at 6 o'clock the visitors, with four wickets in hand, still wanted 13 runs to save the innings defeat.

Unless the rain, which came on later in the evening, should interfere with the progress of the match to-day, the result can hardly be favourable to the visitors. So slovenly was their fielding and so ineffective their bowling that the innings of the home side, which had realized 225 on the first day for three wickets, did not close until the total had been advanced to 374.

Mr Sewell batted for two hours and a quarter for his 130. His cricket was almost faultless, for he only made one really bad stroke. Mr Brown, too, did well, making 60 in about the same number of minutes, but he was missed when he had scored 26.

When Lancashire went in a second time just after lunch they were 165 behind. They made an indifferent start and, although Mr Garnett and Heap played extremely carefully, half the side were out for 99. Then Mr Hornby and Mr Wright made a stand lasting 45 minutes, although they only scored 23 runs. After Mr Wright left, Hallows were lucky, but Mr Hornby exercised great patience, and he was still not out when the light became bad and brought the day's cricket to a close.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 August, page 10)

Lancashire made a fine effort at Bristol yesterday to avoid defeat. In the morning, when the outlook was extremely gloomy, Hallows gave a dashing display of hard and resolute hitting. In the course of an hour and a half he scored 89 without making a serious mistake, and owing to his good innings the Lancashire total, which had stood at 152 for six wickets on Tuesday night, was increased to 269.

Still, this only left Gloucestershire to get 105 to win. Mr Jessop changed the customary order of batting, and in 50 minutes before lunch five wickets fell for 22 runs. Kermode and Cook bowled very well, and if they had been well supported in the field the success of these two bowlers would have been even more pronounced.

Mr Sewell was missed before he had scored, and although that mistake did not have much effect; but the life Mr Findlay gave to Mr Barnett when he had made two and the one he gave to Mr Brown at 19 were followed by these batsmen's winning the match for their county without being separated.

Their play in the afternoon was marked by exceptional confidence, and in spite of the awkward position in which their side was placed they scored 83 runs in an hour. They gradually wore down the bowling by steady cricket, and then they hit with great confidence and power. Lancashire were beaten by five wickets, this being the first time they have been defeated in Gloucestershire since 1886.

14 August: HAMPSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6864.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 August, page 9)

Kent had the better of the first day's play in this match at Portsmouth yesterday, for at the close they were only 30 runs behind with eight wickets in hand.

Mr Johnston and Bowell made a good beginning for Hampshire by scoring 62 for the first wicket in 50 minutes, and after Bowell left Mr Johnston received such useful aid from Mr Sprot and Llewellyn that at lunch time 132 runs were made for the loss of two batsmen.

From this point, however, a remarkable bowling performance by Blythe on the perfect wicket so changed the character of the game that an hour and 20 minutes afterwards the side were all dismissed for an additional 51 runs. Mr Johnston, who had scored 52 at the interval, batted 20 minutes longer for a single, and the batsmen one after the other found the greatest difficulty in playing Blythe. After lunch he obtained six wickets for 17 runs. Mr Johnston made some good on-drives, but he gave two chances.

When Kent went in, Mr Dillon and Seymour scored 90 in less than an hour for the second wicket, and then in the 35 minutes which led up to the close of play, Mr Dillon and Mr S H Day added 33 without further loss.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 August, page 9)

After having all the worst of Monday's cricket Hampshire, at Portsmouth yesterday, played up so well that at the close they were 171 runs ahead with three wickets to fall in their second innings.

Overnight Kent had scored 153 for the loss of Mr Mason and Seymour; and off the second ball after the game had been continued Mr Dillon, without any addition to the score, was caught at cover point. Mr A R Day left seven runs later, but the stand which followed between Mr S H Day and Humphreys again put the visitors in a strong position.

Mr S H Day, by good all-round cricket, scored much faster than Humphreys, and when he was caught at slip the partnership had added 91 in 50 minutes. He was in altogether for an hour and 40 minutes, and his runs were made out of an aggregate of 131. The remaining five wickets made only 62, so Kent's advantage on 130 on the first innings was much smaller than at one time seemed likely.

The dismissal of Mr Johnston, Mr Sprot and Bowell for 87 runs, however, appeared to place Hampshire in an almost hopeless position; but Llewellyn and Stone scored 141 in an hour and a half, and when the former was caught at point Hampshire were 98 runs on with six batsmen to go in. Seven wickets were down for 244, but Mr Bignell and Mr Steele increased this total by 57 in three-quarters of an hour.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 August, page 10)

At one time yesterday, Hampshire, at Portsmouth, appeared to have this match in hand, but in the end Kent won by three wickets. On Tuesday Hampshire left off with a lead of 171 runs with three wickets to fall and, chiefly owing to an excellent innings by Mr Bignell yesterday, they were able to set Kent 272 to get to win.

Mr Bignell, who made his first hundred for his county, batted in good form, although he showed some inability occasionally to time his drives correctly. He scored his runs out of 171 in two hours and 20 minutes. It was not until the eighth partnership that Kent appeared anything but a beaten side.

Mr Mason, Mr Dillon and Seymour were dismissed before lunch for 63 runs; and, although Mr S H Day and Mr A P Day scored 54 for the fourth wicket, seven batsmen were out for 172. Kent's chances of winning the match now seemed hopeless; but upon Huish joining Mr Baker the bowling was completely mastered and, playing with great steadiness, they hit off the hundred runs which were necessary to win in an hour and a quarter.

14 August: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6865.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 August, page 9)

There was nothing in the wicket at Brighton yesterday to account for five of the Middlesex batsmen being disposed of for a total of 69 runs. This state of the game was brought about by Cox, who up to this had been bowling in irresistible style and who made the ball swerve a great deal. In this way he got out Mr Douglas, Mr Bosanquet and Mr L S Wells, all of whom he clean bowled, while he had Tarrant beautifully caught at the wicket, wide on the off side.

Mr MacGregor then joined Mr [E] A Beldam, and these two batsmen began a partnership which lasted for an hour and three-quarters, and they added 132 runs to the Middlesex total and changed the whole fortune of the side. Both batsmen played a very watchful, steady game, picking out with judgment the right balls to hit. Mr Beldam left at 198; Mr Litteljohn only stayed at the wickets while 18 runs were added, but when Trott joined Mr MacGregor the total was increased by 56 runs.

Mr G W Beldam was down to play, but he was unfortunately taken ill and no one was available to take his place. Middlesex therefore batted one short.

Mr Young and Vine opened the Sussex innings, making 22 before Mr Young was stumped off the wicket-keeper's pads. Killick played on at 32, and Vine was easily caught at slip at 58. Sussex, with seven wickets to fall, are now 189 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 August, page 9)

At Brighton, yesterday, Relf, who was not out 23, and Mr Latham, not out 11, continued their innings. Both batsmen played very cautiously. With the score at 154, Mr Latham left, he and Relf having added 96 runs. With a further addition of 20, two wickets fell, Relf being easily caught at slip and Mr [Chaplin] bowled. Relf had played fine cricket for over two hours without a mistake.

Mr H L Simms, who was in the Malvern eleven this year, made a most promising debut in county cricket. He is a fine, free bat, who hits very hard. He and Leach, by fine hitting, added 82 to the Sussex score. Mr Simms was batting an hour for his runs and Leach five minutes longer.

Being 46 behind, Middlesex began their second innings with Mr Douglas and Mr Beldam. The latter left at 20, and at 27 Tarrant was out to a wonderful catch on the leg boundary, Leach catching the ball with one hand after jumping up to it. Mr Douglas made some beautiful cuts in his innings, while Mr Bosanquet drove with great power.

Going on during the latter part of the Middlesex innings, Seymour met with great success. At the close of play Sussex required 130 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 August, page 10)

Sussex had won this match at Brighton yesterday at a quarter to 2 by six wickets, although the home side would have been much harder pressed to gain a victory had Middlesex held all the catches that were offered to them. Mr Young was missed when he had made four, Vine with his score at two and Killick at 19.

Mr Young and Vine, who started the Sussex innings, made 27 for the first wicket when Mr Young was out. Vine and Killick added 32 runs for the second wicket, out of which the latter made 24 before he was caught at the wicket. Vine left at 112; he started by batting with great caution, but towards the close of his innings he made some good hits. On Mr [Chaplin] joining Mr Latham the runs were quickly hit off.

17 August: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6868.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 9)

For this match, which began at Old Trafford yesterday, the home county lacked the services of Mr MacLaren, Mr Hornby and Mr Brearley, and the absence of the fast bowler was seriously felt when Derbyshire won the toss and took first innings on an easy wicket.

Fifty were rapidly scored before Cadman was caught at short slip by Mr Spooner, who was acting as captain. Mr Wright and Dr Ashcroft then put on 89 before the former was out. Mr Wright made a bad stroke to mid-on when he had scored 27, but otherwise he played very well. Dr Ashcroft, who might have been caught at mid-on when he had made 36, batted soundly, but the best form was shown by Morton and Mr Lawton, who added 104 for the sixth wicket in 80 minutes.

Mr Lawton remained in until he was well caught at long-on for an excellent innings of 101. He scored 50 out of 68, and altogether made his runs out of 160. In his first over to Kermode Mr Lawton was very uncomfortable, but afterwards his driving on both sides of the wicket was excellent.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 9)

Rain having fallen heavily, play in this match at Old Trafford was not continued yesterday until late in the afternoon. With only eight runs added for the loss of two wickets, the Derbyshire innings was declared closed.

The home county began disastrously on a soft wicket, as Mr Garnett was caught at cover-point with only a single scored, while at ten Mr Spooner was bowled by a fine ball that broke considerably. Tyldesley and Mr Poidevin, however, improved matters, and caused Morton, Burton and Mr Ollivierre to take turns with the ball. The last-named induced Tyldesley to hit out, with the result that he was well caught at long-on. The third partnership had realized 54, and Tyldesley, chiefly by fine drives, hit eight fours.

Mr Poidevin made several clever pulls, but the Derbyshire bowling was good, and when Cadman captured the first two wickets only a single had been hit off him. Lancashire are now 320 behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 August, page 10)

This match was left drawn at Manchester, on Saturday, Derbyshire at the close, with six men out in their second innings, being 149 runs ahead.

17 August: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6869.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 9)

The Australians had much the better of the opening day's play against Northamptonshire at Northampton yesterday. Unfortunately the full strength of Northamptonshire could not be put into the field, Mr Pool, Mr W H Kingston and Mr H E Kingston being kept away by illness. To make matters worse East again hurt his weak knee and could take no part in the game when the Australians went in, the loss of his bowling being much felt.

Northamptonshire won the toss, and when, after three batsmen had been rather cheaply got rid of, 100 went up without further loss, a good score seemed in prospect. However, Mr Howell, by taking three wickets in four balls and bringing off a catch at slip, changed the situation completely, the total, with seven wickets down, being only 104. Something was done to retrieve these disasters, but the score in the end only amounted to 149.

The Australians made light of the county's bowling, hitting up 240 runs in about two hours and a half for the loss of three wickets. Mr Gehrs and Mr Gregory opened the innings in fine style, their stand of 157 runs being the best first-wicket partnership for the team during the whole tour. They were only together for an hour and 35 minutes.

Mr Gehrs's 83 - his highest innings in England - included 11 fours. Mr Hopkins also played a vigorous game and got his 55 not out in an hour.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 9)

This match, at Northampton yesterday, was greatly interfered with by rain. Play was not possible until a quarter to 1, and after two interruptions cricket was ended for the day soon after half-past 5. In the time available, however, the Australians scoring at the rate of over a hundred runs an hour carried their total of 240 for three wickets to 533 for six.

The wicket was always wet and easy, but as to the extreme brilliancy of the hitting there could not be two opinions. Mr Hopkins, who had the satisfaction of making his first hundred during this tour, was batting for three hours and ten minutes for his 154. His innings, which included 21 fours, was a fine display of hard driving, but he had the luck to be badly missed from two consecutive balls when his score stood at 79. He and Mr Darling added 82 runs in 50 minutes, and while he and Mr Armstrong were together 114 were put on in 70 minutes.

The fiercest hitting of the day was seen during the partnership of Mr Armstrong and Mr Trumper, when 35 minutes' play produced 90 runs. Mr Trumper completed his 50 in less than half an hour. The Australians now hold a lead of 384 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 August, page 10)

At Northampton on Saturday the county again gave a poor batting display, and at 20 minutes past 4 the Australians gained a very easy victory by an innings and 329 runs. The wicket had not quite recovered from the rain of Friday, although it had dried rapidly under a strong wind and sunshine, and, owing to some good bowling by Thompson, the visitors' innings closed for an addition of 76 to the overnight total of 533 for six wickets.

Mr Trumper was altogether at the wickets for only 50 minutes for his 68. He hit with great freedom and he made 52 of his runs in fours. The seventh wicket had added 102, and Mr Armstrong went on batting well, raising his 77 to 122.

Going in again, 460 behind, Northamptonshire were all out in a couple of hours. Mr Howell went on to bowl at 106 and took three wickets for seven runs, making his record for the match nine for 51.

17 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6870.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 9)

The home county were seen to great advantage at Trent-bridge, yesterday, against Middlesex. Wass reappeared, and the side also included Mr Heymann, an amateur who was making his first appearance in first-class cricket.

Middlesex were kept in the field all day, only three wickets having fallen for 383 runs at the close of play. Bad fielding helped Nottinghamshire, for several easy chances were missed, but the home batsmen were seen to better advantage than has been the case for some time on their own ground.

Mr Jones followed up his brilliant display at Leyton last week by scoring over 100, for which he batted for three hours and ten minutes without giving a chance. The first-wicket partnership realized 117, at which total Iremonger was caught. Another long stand followed on G Gunn joining Mr Jones, the pair putting on 150, and after the latter was out G Gunn continued to play well.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 9)

Owing to rain, it was impossible to continue this match at Trent Bridge yesterday until past 4. The home county went on batting and it was nearly 6 o'clock when the innings was declared closed.

Middlesex, in the short time at their disposal, played steady cricket, but had lost one wicket for 40 at the close of play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 August, page 10)

This match, at Trent-bridge, ended in a draw on Saturday, although Middlesex had a narrow escape from defeat. The visiting side, in spite of some plucky batting by Tarrant and Trott, had to follow on.

In their second innings they did much better, but at the close, with nine men out, they were only 48 runs on. Wass accomplished a good bowling performance in the first innings of Middlesex.

17 August: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6871.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 9)

There were more spectators present at Taunton yesterday than have been seen there at any former period of the season. This was due to the fact that the match with Kent has been set apart for the benefit of Robson, who with bat and ball has done valuable work for Somerset since 1894.

The home side had much the worst of the day's play. Although they batted first they were all dismissed in two hours and three-quarters for 211. Mr Palairet gave a characteristic display, and one which shows that absence from first-class cricket has in no way impaired his powers. He was missed before he had scored, but this was his only mistake, and, although his play on the off-side lacked a little of its former crispness, it was full of power and precision. His best partners were Lewis and Mr Martyn, and when the latter was in 60 runs were added in 45 minutes.

Had Somerset taken advantage of their chances in the field three wickets would have been down for 15, Mr Dillon being let off when he had scored 11 and Seymour at two. They turned their luck to such splendid account that they were still together when stumps were drawn and they had carried the score to 166, and Kent, with nine wickets in hand, are only 45 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 9)

Owing to the threatening weather and the way in which play went steadily against Somerset at Taunton yesterday the attendance was not a large one, so Robson is likely to receive but a poor benefit.

Kent had already placed themselves in a strong position before stumps were drawn on the first day, and they strengthened it so materially as the match went on that when an innings aside had been completed they held a substantial lead of 328. That number was reduced by 78 runs in the last hour and a half, but two wickets were lost, and Somerset still require 250 to save the innings defeat.

Mr Dillon and Seymour, who had played so well on Thursday, each scored over a hundred before they were dismissed. Seymour was the first to leave. He ought to have been caught when he had scored two, but afterwards he made 131 in two hours and 40 minutes by excellent cricket. He was particularly strong on the off side. Mr Dillon, on the other hand, hit well to leg and drove finely. He was batting for just over three hours.

After these two left, Mr Mason, who was twice missed, scored 133 out of 234 in an hour and 50 minutes by vigorous batting. Kent owed much of their success to the slackness of their opponents in the field.

Going in a second time, the home county soon lost Hardy and Mr Martyn, the latter being badly run out. Mr Johnson and Mr Palairet, however, gave a delightful exhibition of cricket and were still together when stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 August, page 10)

Somerset gave a bright and attractive display of batting in their second innings at Taunton on Saturday, but their bad fielding had placed them in such a hopeless position that they could not escape being beaten by an innings and seven runs.

When the game was continued, they still required 250 runs to avoid the innings defeat, and they had eight wickets in hand. The start was a disastrous one, Mr Palairet, who with Mr Johnson had done so well overnight, being caught off the first ball bowled. Mr Johnson, who was well supported by Lewis, played most attractive cricket and made 86 out of 159 before he was caught at long-off.

When he left, Robson forced the game and scored 58 in 45 minutes. Afterwards Braund found no one to stay with him until Mr Harcombe, the last man, came in. Then 51 were added before the end was reached. Mr Harcombe showed most promising form. Mr Mason was again the most effective bowler for Kent, and the fielding was very good.

17 August: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6872.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 9)

At Hastings, yesterday, Sussex batted all day for the loss of only three wickets. A long first-wicket partnership between Mr Fry and Vine was the foundation of their big score, the two staying together until the luncheon interval and scoring 188 runs.

Mr Fry batted in his best form, his driving being splendidly timed, while Vine also played good cricket and up to the interval scored almost as fast as Mr Fry. The latter hit out brilliantly after the interval, and in a quarter of an hour he increased his total from 70 to 100, Vine in the same time scoring only a single. Vine was the first out, his wicket being smartly thrown down by Bowell from cover-point, while 21 runs later Mr Fry was caught at the wicket.

The partnership between Mr Young and Killick for the third wicket realized 104 in an hour and a quarter, but Killick gave two easy chances of stumping off Mr Ede. Subsequently, Mr Young and Relf punished the tired bowling severely and added 98 in 50 minutes before stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 9)

The good batting by Sussex on Thursday at Hastings, when 411 runs were scored for three wickets, was not maintained yesterday. Mr Young and Relf increased the overnight total by 45 when the latter was out, after batting for an hour and 20 minutes, and four runs later Mr Young was caught behind the wicket.

The rest of the side did little, the last five wickets falling for an addition of 38 runs. Play in the afternoon was considerably interfered with by bad light. Nearly an hour was lost between 4 and 5 o'clock, while at 20 minutes to 6 stumps were pulled up.

Mr Bacon and Bowell made a good start for Hampshire by scoring 44 for the first partnership, and Mr Sprot and Bowell took the score to 119, although the latter when he had made 22 was missed by Mr Fry and long leg off Vine. Mr Fry fell in attempting to make the catch and so injured his knee that he was unable to field afterwards.

Subsequently Mr Sprot played fine cricket; he hit to the on with great power and scored his runs in just over an hour and a half. At the close Hampshire, with six wickets to fall, wanted 158 runs to save the follow on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 August, page 10)

Hampshire failed badly against Sussex at Hastings on Saturday, and in the end the home side won by an innings and 87 runs.

On Friday, at the close, the chances were greatly in favour of Hampshire making a draw, as in their first innings they had scored 191 for the loss of four wickets, but when the game was continued Mr Sprot alone batted with confidence, and the innings was finished off in an hour and a half for the addition of 106 runs.

Mr Sprot was in altogether for two hours and a quarter, and he made a number of fine strokes all round the wicket. He went in at the fall of the first wicket and was out seventh, after making his runs out of a total of 195. Eight batsmen were dismissed for 241, but Mr Ede played soundly, with the result that Hampshire, on going in a second time, had only to make 201 to avoid the innings defeat.

Although, chiefly owing to a sound display by Mr Bacon, 64 runs were scored for the first two wickets, the side afterwards did so badly that the remaining wickets fell in an hour and 10 minutes. Relf and Killick both bowled well.

17 August: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6873.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 9)

After beating Derbyshire in decisive fashion on Wednesday, the Surrey team journeyed on to Birmingham, where yesterday comparatively little success attended their efforts, as Warwickshire, batting first on an excellent wicket, scored 372 for the loss of eight batsmen.

Kinneir, when only 16 runs had been scored, was easily caught at point off a ball which scarcely pitched half way, but Mr Fishwick and Devey soon obtained a mastery over the Surrey bowling, putting on 95 runs before a misunderstanding led to Devey being run out. Mr Fishwick and Quaife then increased the total to 195 [?] before the former was dismissed. His 95 - in every way a stylish and good display - extended over two hours and 40 minutes, and was marked by extremely fine cutting and driving.

Quaife, who for a long time played in his usual steady manner, gave no chance, and with Charlesworth assisted in making 90 in an hour and a quarter. Charlesworth's success was especially gratifying to Warwickshire, as last summer he seemed to have quite lost his form, and this season until yesterday obtained only two scores of note. He took an hour and 20 minutes to get his first 50, but afterwards he hit with such power that in 35 more minutes he added 41. At one period he hit eight fours in three overs.

Of the Surrey bowlers only Hayes and Mr Crawford caused the Warwickshire batsmen any trouble. Lilley could not play owing to the injury he sustained in the test match at the beginning of the week.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 9)

There was scarcely any cricket at Birmingham yesterday. Heavy rain at night made play impossible at the ordinary time for starting, and some showers fell during the afternoon, the result being that nothing was done until after half-past five.

Mr Byrne having declared Warwickshire's innings closed, Hayward and Hobbs went in for Surrey to the bowling of Hargreave and Santall. However, only 13 runs had been scored when bad light, followed by heavy rain, caused stumps to be drawn.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 August, page 10)

Surrey, with nothing to play for but a draw on Saturday, saved the match quite easily. Fortunately for them there was not much sunshine and, with a strong wind blowing all the afternoon, the wicket dried slowly without ever becoming really treacherous.

Against Warwickshire's total of 372, Surrey had, during the few minutes available for play on Friday, scored 13 runs without loss. Hobbs was soon out on Saturday, but Hayward and Hayes, playing good cricket, put on 93 runs for the second wicket. Mr Crawford also played in capital form, but owing to Santall's fine bowling the innings was finished off for 217, Surrey failing by six runs to avoid the follow-on.

However the afternoon was so far advanced when they went in for the second time that they had practically no fear of being beaten. Hayward and Hayes were again seen at their best, adding 106 after the first wicket had fallen for 25, and being still together when the match was left drawn.

17 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6874.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 9)

At Worcester, yesterday, the batsmen did not fare very well, as 17 wickets fell in the course of the day for 375 runs. Apart from the batting of Mr R E Foster, who again gave evidence of being in his best form this year, the feature of the game was the smart fielding, Mr Brownlee, Mr Jessop, Mr Sewell and Mr Brown doing brilliant work when Worcestershire went in.

Gloucestershire quite failed to profit by winning the toss, being all out shortly after the luncheon interval for 160. Mr Jessop made the highest score for Gloucestershire and showed the best cricket. He made his 45 runs in an hour, hitting seven fours. Earlier in the innings Mr Sewell and Wrathall played fairly well.

Owing chiefly to Mr R E Foster, Worcestershire headed their opponents' total with five wickets down. Mr R E Foster, hitting with characteristic skill, made his 71 in an hour and a quarter, and after he left Mr Burns and Cuffe scored freely. At the close Worcestershire, with three wickets in hand, held a lead of 55 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 9)

Owing to the weather no play was possible in this match at Worcester yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 August, page 10)

Friday had been a blank day at Worcester, but on Saturday, although the wicket did not become really difficult, the match was finished off, Worcester winning soon after 4 o'clock by eight wickets. The advantage of 55 runs they had gained on Thursday stood them in good stead, as the three outstanding wickets in their first innings went down in a few minutes for an addition of only five runs.

Gloucestershire, on going in for the second time, never looked like making a good fight, the first five wickets falling before the bowling of Arnold and Cuffe for 62 runs. Mr Barnett played sound cricket for an hour and a quarter, but he could not get much assistance and the innings closed for 126.

Worcestershire only wanted 67 to win, and when they went in Mr Jessop, accepting defeat as inevitable, did not put on either Dennett or Huggins to bowl. The task of hitting off the runs was, therefore, rendered very easy.

17 August: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6875.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 9)

Essex were not able to take a strong batting side to Huddersfield for the first of their matches with Yorkshire yesterday. Mr Fane, the Rev F H Gillingham and Mr Tosetti were all absent from the team.

Essex went in first on a fast wicket, and as the ground has very short boundaries all the conditions were favourable to free scoring. The team, however, batted indifferently and were all out in three hours. Mr McGahey was the top scorer, and he was at the wickets for an hour and three-quarters. He should, however, have been caught at the wicket when he had scored 15.

Reeves showed more confidence than any of the other batsmen. He was only batting for half an hour, but he made 36 of the 45 runs put on for the fourth wicket. Connor and Benham contributed useful scores late in the innings, but both made a number of lucky strokes. Some brilliant catches were made in the slips, and Ringrose, in a large degree owing to these catches, came out with the good analysis of six wickets for 79 runs. He did not, however, bowl so well as Hirst, who had very bad luck.

Yorkshire lost Mr Smith's wicket in Tremlin's first over, but Rothery and Denton batted brilliantly, scoring 111 for the second wicket in 70 minutes. Yorkshire are now only 14 behind and have seven wickets in hand. There was a larger attendance at the match than has been seen at Huddersfield for several years.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 9)

Owing to rain play was not possible at Huddersfield yesterday until 20 minutes past 3. The conditions then favoured the batsmen, the wicket being soft, but easy.

This advantage was put to excellent use by Yorkshire. Denton and Hirst had an hour and a quarter's partnership for the fourth wicket, and scored 112. Both batsmen were caught at deep square-leg in attempting pull strokes off Buckenham.

Denton, who had made 87 runs on Thursday, should have been caught yesterday by Tremlin at second slip when he had scored 94. This was the only chance given in three hours' batting. His cutting and driving were brilliant. Hirst was batting for an hour and a half yesterday without making a mistake, and got most of his runs by hard driving.

Yorkshire were 119 runs ahead with half their wickets in hand, and Rhodes and Haigh afterwards punished the Essex bowling severely. Both drove brilliantly and they increased the score by 100 in the first 50 minutes of their partnership, but they were separated 12 runs later, when Rhodes was caught near the boundary off a slow leg-break ball from Mr McGahey.

Yorkshire are now 251 runs on with four wickets to fall. Owing to indisposition Mr Perrin could not field.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 August, page 10)

Some remarkable bowling by Rhodes enabled Yorkshire to win this match, at Huddersfield, on Saturday. Rain prevented the game being continued until a quarter to 4. The Yorkshire first innings was then declared closed, and Essex had to go in again, 251 runs behind, with two hours and a quarter left for play.

The first three wickets put on 47 runs in 50 minutes, but Rhodes afterwards carried all before him. He had taken up the bowling, in place of Ringrose, when the score was 24. Off his first four overs seven runs were scored and he did not take a wicket. From that point, however, he got six wickets for two runs, three of them being captured in one over.

Mr Perrin, who made half the Essex score, alone seemed able to do anything against Rhodes's bowling, and he was eventually caught off him at long-off. Essex were all out in an hour and 20 minutes, Yorkshire winning by an innings and 193 runs.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	25	18	3	4	15	71.42
Lancashire	23	12	3	8	9	60.00
Sussex	25	11	4	10	7	46.66
Surrey	22	13	5	4	8	44.44
Leicestershire	19	8	4	7	4	33.33
Kent	19	10	6	3	4	25.00

Warwickshire	19	4	4	11	0	0.00
Worcestershire	16	4	5	7	-1	-11.11
Gloucestershire	16	6	8	2	-2	-14.28
Nottinghamshire	19	5	7	7	-2	-16.66
Middlesex	14	4	6	4	-2	-20.00
Essex	17	3	9	5	-6	-60.00
Northamptonshire	11	2	7	2	-5	-66.66
Derbyshire	19	3	13	3	-10	-67.50
Somerset	17	1	10	6	-9	-81.81
Hampshire	19	1	11	7	-10	-83.33

The match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval - abandoned without a ball being bowled - is not included in the above table.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	37	2378	233	3	69.88
Hirst	39	1859	341	10	64.10
Quaife	42	1740	255*	12	58.08
Mr E W Dillon	21	1103	141	1	55.15
Denton	47	2082	172	2	46.25
Mr E W Mann	19	783	157	2	46.05
Hayward	53	2118	129*	6	45.06
Mr H K Foster	29	1072	180	2	44.66
Mr P F Warner	31	1379	204	0	44.48
Mr C J B Wood	37	1511	200*	3	44.44
Mr C McGahey	34	1399	277	2	43.71
Tyldesley	44	1763	250	3	43.00
Kinneir	35	1459	158	2	42.91
Mr L G Wright	40	1713	195	0	42.82
Mr E M Sprot	28	1151	141	1	42.62
Sharp	36	1363	142	4	42.58
Iremonger	38	1646	233	0	42.52
Mr L O S Poidevin	37	1355	168*	4	41.06
The Hon F S Jackson	31	1163	144*	2	40.10
Mr R N R Blaker	23	786	120	3	39.30
Mr R A Young	29	1131	230	0	39.00
Hallows	23	774	130*	3	38.70
Mr R H Spooner	37	1379	164	1	38.30
Arnold	28	797	134	7	37.95
Mr A O Jones	41	1516	274	1	37.90
Seymour (Kent)	28	1256	131	2	37.66
Mr A P Day	33	1090	107*	4	37.58
John Gunn	38	1271	178	4	37.38
Mr B J T Bosanquet	31	1008	179	4	37.33
Carpenter	35	1250	138*	1	36.75
Bowley	34	1173	217	2	36.65
Rhodes	41	1276	201	6	36.51
Hayes	51	1675	189	4	35.63
Braund	35	1124	130	4	35.61
Vine	48	1617	146	2	35.15
Mr A C MacLaren	38	1268	140	2	34.94
Knight	36	1149	177	3	34.81
Mr A H Hornby	32	835	111*	6	34.03
Tarrant	27	778	162*	4	33.82
George Gunn	37	1163	126	2	33.22
Dr E M Ashcroft	30	918	145	2	32.78
Board	34	1032	119*	3	32.22

Mr P Perrin	31	884	140	3	31.57
Mr M W Payne	23	683	178	1	31.50
Relf	44	1279	120	3	31.19
Baker (Surrey)	38	1024	129*	5	31.03
Llewellyn	34	955	102	3	30.80
Cuffe	27	761	145	2	30.44
Mr T S Fishwick	37	1123	137	0	30.35
Reeves	31	915	135	0	29.61
Pearson	30	826	104	2	29.57
Mr W H B Evans	24	645	129*	2	29.31
Baker (Warwickshire)	33	874	102	3	29.13
Mr V F S Crawford	27	708	119	2	28.36
Mr G L Jessop	39	1048	234	1	27.52
King	33	822	96	3	27.40
Mr G W Beldam	24	591	94	2	27.22
Hobbs	50	1279	155	3	27.21
Mr A E Lawton	30	784	112	1	27.03
Robson	24	611	61	1	26.56
Rothery	26	653	118	1	26.32
Heap	20	441	58	3	25.94
Killick	48	1260	104	1	25.53
Wrathall	33	790	102	2	25.48
Tunnicliffe	27	881	102	3	25.32
Holland	33	783	132	2	25.25
Whitehead	34	833	137	1	25.24
Coe	34	807	100	2	25.21

Also listed: Lilley average 24.97, Mr S M J Woods 24.93, Mr J E Raphael 24.82, Jayes 24.63, Hardstaff 24.62, Mr H Martyn 24.41, Mr H G Garnett 24.34, Mr J F Byrne 24.24, Mr G N Foster 23.82, Howell 23.37, Mr C H B Marshall 23.31, Lord Dalmeny 22.62, Mr C C Page 22.30, Stone 22.13, Mr E Barnett 21.83, Davis (Surrey) 21.83, Cadman 21.61, Mr J W H T Douglas 21.61.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Haigh	620.3	187	1610	110	14.63
Thompson	431.4	141	1841	114	16.14
Rhodes	987	273	2328	143	16.27
Mr G G Napier	338.1	75	973	56	17.37
Ringrose	424.4	81	1300	72	18.05
Lees	1185	335	2969	162	18.32
Mr W Brearley	974.5	167	3237	171	18.82
Myers	428.2	82	1289	68	18.95
J T Hearne	600.5	174	1479	77	19.20
Hirst	573.3	120	1664	84	19.80
Jayes	627.3	123	1993	96	20.76
Hallam	616	192	1388	65	21.03
Blythe	1015.1	280	2667	126	21.16
Wass	528	117	1559	73	21.35
Kermode	784.4	182	2361	110	21.37
Mr N A Knox	728.5	112	2530	118	21.44
Mr W W Odell	742	185	2083	96	21.60
Killick	695.3	149	2023	92	22.04
Bestwick	721.3	151	2182	95	22.26
Hayes	557.5	109	1672	74	22.59
Dennett	1089.2	232	2965	130	22.80
Wilson	397.3	47	1461	64	22.82
Santall	790.4	210	1918	84	22.83
Cox (Sussex)	1357.1	386	3241	141	22.98
Arnold	653.2	129	1989	86	23.12
Cadman	496.4	110	1371	58	23.63
Relf	1038.5	330	2305	96	24.01
Warren	659.3	117	2188	91	24.04
Tarrant	462.1	124	1233	50	24.66

Hargreave	1005.1	283	2367	88	24.86
Fairservice	560.5	165	1625	63	25.79
John Gunn	896.5	181	2581	97	26.60
Trott	471.4	162	1551	58	26.74
Burrows	397	53	1525	55	27.74
Mr G L Jessop	427.5	110	1357	48	28.27
Tremlin	689.1	114	2322	82	28.31
Mr B J T Bosanquet	370.4	25	1532	52	29.46
Huggins	587.5	182	1518	51	29.78

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	39	1895	303*	6	58.28
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	41	1881	267	1	47.02
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	42	1474	110	1	35.95
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	41	1397	149	1	34.92
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	43	1288	117*	6	34.81
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	33	903	154	4	31.13
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	45	1399	146	0	31.08
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	29	680	134	2	25.55
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	28	620	83	3	24.80
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	37	603	103*	6	19.45
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	35	591	48	3	18.46
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	29	347	74*	10	18.94
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	29	384	78	5	15.16
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	18	121	25*	8	12.10
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	23	117	18	6	6.88

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr W W Armstrong	846.5	272	1776	96	18.50
Mr F Laver	713.1	198	1804	93	19.39
Mr W P Howell	479.4	144	1231	63	19.53
Mr A Cotter	602	108	1916	93	20.80
Mr C E McLeod	723.3	204	1780	76	23.15
Mr R A Duff	111.5	33	326	12	27.16
Mr A J Hopkins	248	59	764	27	28.29
Mr M A Noble	552.5	150	1445	50	28.90
Mr S E Gregory	7.1	0	14	0	--

The following have each bowled in two innings: - Mr C Hill (South Australia), 8.4, 2, 16, 2; Mr D A Gehrs (South Australia), 6.1, 0, 33, 1.

The following have bowled once only: - Mr J Darling (South Australia), 2, 0, 10, 0; Mr J J Kelly (New South Wales), 2, 0, 7, 0; Mr V Trumper (New South Wales), 2, 1, 4, 0.

21 August: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6876.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 10)

The match which began at Derby yesterday is the last in which Derbyshire or Nottinghamshire will take part this season. Some interesting cricket was seen, a very gratifying feature of the game being the success that attended Hardstaff and Payton, two of the young Nottinghamshire professionals. Hardstaff is one of the most improved members of the team and Payton a recent recruit from the ground staff at Trent-bridge.

The visiting side were batting for four hours, and as five wickets fell before lunch for 137 and the sixth went down at 160, the big score came as a welcome surprise. Mr A O Jones, when well set, was bowled off his pads, and John Gunn off his foot. Hardstaff and Payton turned the fortunes of the innings, putting on 116 runs together in an hour and ten minutes.

In the course of his fine innings, which lasted two hours and a quarter, Hardstaff enjoyed a remarkable piece of luck. When he had made 36 he slipped down on the pitch and should have been run out by several yards, but Mr Ollivierre, with the ball in his right hand, broke the wicket with his left, and the batsman just managed to get back in time. Payton, who took out his bat for 66, played in excellent style and with great confidence.

Derbyshire lost two wickets in half an hour and then an appeal against the light, which had been defective when the innings began, caused stumps to be drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 10)

Rain in Derby during Monday night was followed by sunshine yesterday. When the game was continued the pitch gave the Nottinghamshire bowlers a good deal of assistance.

Derbyshire increased their overnight score of 29 for two wickets to 173, but they ought not to have obtained nearly such a good total, many catches being dropped. Wass carried all before him, taking eight wickets for about 12 runs each. This was an excellent performance, but he would have had a far better average if the fieldsmen had given him proper support.

Mr Lawton and Mr Macdonald put on 55 runs for the fifth wicket. The former, playing with unusual steadiness, showed capital form, but Mr Macdonald was lucky, Iremonger missing him twice at point. Warren afterwards hit well, but could get very little help.

Derbyshire were 156 behind and, with the wicket as it was, Nottinghamshire naturally made them follow on. The pitch proved easier than before and, Mr L G Wright taking full advantage of its altered condition, gave a very fine display, hitting up 79 out of 136. After he left it seemed quite likely that the match would end yesterday, but Mr Hunter and Humphries put on 31 for the eighth wicket and saved the innings defeat.

The visiting side were left with 43 to get to win. They went in at 20 minutes past 6, and when five runs had been scored in one over, bad light caused stumps to be drawn. Rain afterwards fell rather heavily.

In Derbyshire's second innings Mr A O Jones made a brilliant one-handed catch close to the pavilion rails.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 10)

With all ten wickets in hand, Nottinghamshire only wanted 38 runs to win yesterday, at Derby, but this light task caused them some trouble, four batsmen being got rid of before the final hit was made. They thus won the match by six wickets.

As the result was such a foregone conclusion not a single person thought it worth while to pay for admission at the gates.

21 August: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6877.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 10)

Mr Perrin played a very fine innings at Leyton yesterday, and it was this than enabled Essex to establish their strong position in the match with Warwickshire, their score at the drawing of stumps being 349 for six wickets.

Mr Perrin went in first wicket down at 125, and he reached his 100 when the score stood at 301. Fine driving marked his game and, although as a rule he kept the ball down, he "went for" Quaife's slows and hit several of them into the pavilion of thereabouts. With his score at 37, he was nearly caught by Kinneir in the deep field. Kinneir ran a long way and, getting to the ball, only just failed to bring off the catch.

Mr Fane was badly missed in the third over of the game, and then he and Carpenter put on 125 for the first wicket. Both Mr Fane and Carpenter played very correctly, but neither was so bright to watch as usual. After the professional was out Mr McGahey helped Perrin to add 65 and then the latter did the majority of the scoring, and, except for the dropped catch, when Charlesworth missed Mr Fane, Warwickshire fielded well, and Quaife's return from cover-point when Mr Trick was run out exposed the folly of risking short runs unnecessarily. It was Mr Trick's first appearance for Essex.

Lilley's accident in the Test match last week still kept him out of the Warwickshire eleven, and his place was taken by Smith.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 10)

At Leyton, yesterday morning, Mr Perrin carried out his bat in the Essex innings. He played excellently to the end and was at the wickets about three hours and three-quarters for his 173. His batting was marked by hard driving and, except when playing Quaife's slows, he kept the ball well down.

Warwickshire played their uphill game with great steadiness and with such a fair amount of success that by the time stumps were drawn they were within 113 runs of the Essex total and still had four wickets in hand. At the beginning of their innings there was some good cricket by Mr Fishwick, who made the majority of his runs by strokes on the leg side.

But the feature of the batting was the three-figure innings of Quaife, who went in second wicket down at 82, and was not out at the close of the day. Quaife, as usual, was assiduous in his care in waiting for the loose ball from which to score and his batting was tedious to watch. Still, his game was very profitable for his side and his partnership with Baker for the sixth Warwickshire wicket yielded 127 runs in two hours and a quarter.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 10)

Except for one brief period after luncheon, when four Essex wickets in the second innings were down for 70 runs and Hargreave seemed to have found a "spot," the game at Leyton yesterday never seemed likely to have a definite result, and yesterday evening stumps were pulled up at 6 o'clock and the game was left drawn.

The day's cricket offered singularly few points of interest. In less than an hour in the morning Warwickshire's first innings was finished off for an addition of 50 runs. Quaife did little more, being seventh to leave at 312; he was batting four hours and a quarter, and made his 110 out of 230.

The best things in the Essex second innings were the free batting of Carpenter and Reeves, and the careful play of Mr McGahey. Essex did not declare until practically every chance of a finish had disappeared. In 70 minutes Warwickshire had made 53 for two wickets, and the game ended with their being 198 runs behind with seven wickets to fall.

21 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6878.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 10)

Gloucestershire made a disastrous start in their match with Surrey at Bristol yesterday, but they recovered so well that they had none the worst of the day's play. They lost three good wickets for 24, and although Mr Jessop, batting with much greater caution than usual, made 74 in 85 minutes, they had eight wickets down for 174.

At this stage Mr Brown and Dennett kept together for 40 minutes with the result that 67 runs were added. Even when they were parted the end was a long way off, for Huggins helped the left-hander [Dennett] to put on another 55 before the innings came to an end.

Surrey then had half an hour's batting and in that time Mr Raphael, Hayes and Mr Knox were dismissed, and the visitors, with seven wickets in hand, are 358 behind.

The batting honours went to Mr Brown and Mr Jessop. The former, as usual, played a most enterprising game, while Mr Jessop has rarely given such a steady display. He only hit nine fours, three of which came in one over from Mr Knox, while he made no fewer than 28 singles, showing excellent judgment in running. He gave an easy chance to Hayes at slip when he had made 38.

There was nothing in the day's cricket better than the bowling of Lees. He was bowling during nearly the whole of the four hours and 20 minutes that the innings lasted, yet he sent down very few really bad balls and he got seven wickets for just over 13 runs each.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 10)

Play at Bristol yesterday went all in favour of Gloucestershire, and they finished the day wanting 49 runs to win with nine wickets in hand.

The strong position they hold was largely secured through the excellent bowling of Mr Jessop who, during the day, took eight wickets at a cost of 98 runs. Surrey, who had lost three wickets for 38 on Monday, were all out for an addition of 72.

The wicket had been damaged to some extent by rain during the night, but its condition was not bad enough to account for the collapse of the visiting side. Baker alone showed any skill in dealing with the bowling and he carried his bat through the innings. He also did well when Surrey followed on, 186 behind.

The deficit was cleared off at a cost of four wickets, mainly owing to Hayes and Hayward, although neither player was seen at his best. No one else did much except Smith, who hit very pluckily towards the close. Gloucestershire only wanted 57 to win, and when stumps were drawn they had scored eight for the loss of Board's wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 10)

Gloucestershire beat Surrey at Bristol, yesterday, by eight wickets. They went in overnight to get 57 to win, and scored eight for the loss of Board's wicket.

Before the balance of 49 were obtained Mr E Barnett was dismissed. Langdon, however, hit with great vigour and took out his bat. Lees in the match took nine wickets for 117 runs.

21 August: LANCASHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6879.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 10)

Lancashire had to take the field, at Liverpool, yesterday, in their return match against the Australians without Mr MacLaren, Mr Brearley, Mr Poidevin, Mr Hornby or Kermode. Unfortunately the weather left much to be desired. Two slight showers fell, and after lunch the light turned so defective that, had an appeal been lodged, the umpires could scarcely have refused to stop the game, while at the conclusion of the Australian innings a steady downpour set in and prevented any more cricket.

The play, however, proved full of interest and variety. Mr Hopkins, who went in first with Mr Trumper, was out to a catch at short-leg at 22, but then, with Mr Hill in, so complete a mastery was obtained over the Lancashire bowling that at lunch time the score had reached 162 with only one wicket down.

Increasing the total afterwards to 185, Mr Trumper and Mr Hill put on 163 runs in an hour and 50 minutes before a good ball from Cook hit the top of Mr Trumper's leg stump. After his dismissal Cook bowled so finely that five batsmen were disposed of for the addition of 40 runs, the score with seven wickets down being no more than 225. At this point Cook since the luncheon interval had clean bowled five men for 25 runs.

Mr Darling and Mr Laver stopped the breakdown in the batting, putting on 79 in 50 minutes, but Sharp took the last three wickets in quick succession, and the Australians were all out in four hours and five minutes for 313. This was a capital performance on the part of the visiting side, for the pitch was soft on the top and the ball came along at different paces.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 10)

The Lancashire team found themselves placed at a great disadvantage at Liverpool yesterday and they were beaten by an innings and 67 runs.

There was considerable excuse for the failure of the county team, as, on a wicket materially affected by rain, they had to face a total of 313, lacking at the same time the services of Mr MacLaren, Mr Poidevin and Mr Hornby. For all that, it must be said that, in an attempt to follow up some resolute hitting by Mr Spooner and Mr Garnett by cricket of a similar description, the majority of the Lancashire batsmen were the victims of their own recklessness.

As the play went Lancashire were twice dismissed in three hours and 40 minutes for an aggregate of 246 runs, the main cause of their downfall being the bowling of Mr Armstrong, who took 12 wickets at a cost of only 92 runs. In the first innings the last eight Lancashire wickets fell for 51 runs, and in the second, after Mr Spooner and Mr Garnett had put on 45 in just over half an hour, nine wickets went down for 87. Too much praise could scarcely be awarded the Australians for their fielding, nothing like a chance being missed.

Following upon a bright morning, the weather turned dull and two slight showers fell, but there was again a crowd of about 6,000 people at the Aigburth ground. Only once in the course of the 12 Australian tours in this country since 1878 have Lancashire secured a victory over the Colonials.

21 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6880.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 10)

Worcestershire had considerably the better of the day's cricket, at Leicester, yesterday, for the home side, with seven men out, were 137 runs behind at the close.

Mr H K Foster played a great game, the feature of his display being hard, clean off driving. He and Pearson put on 70 runs in 35 minutes, and when he was in with Mr R E Foster 50 were added in half an hour. After five wickets had fallen for 173, Cuffe batted steadily for an hour and a quarter and carried out his bat.

The start of the Leicestershire innings was disastrous, three men being dismissed for 34 runs. Afterwards Knight and Mr Joyce played well and while they were together 63 runs were put on.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 10)

Yesterday, as on Monday, at Leicester, this match went in favour of Worcestershire, who left off with a great advantage. In the early part of the day Leicestershire lost their last three wickets fairly cheaply, and they were 116 behind on the first innings.

Worcestershire's second innings was noteworthy for an exceptionally fine display by Arnold. He went in when three men were out for 60, and was himself the last to leave with the score at 261. He started rather quietly and took an hour and 40 minutes to get 50, but he adopted freer methods afterwards.

Leicestershire were put in wanting 378 to win, and they lost Mr De Trafford and Mr Wood for 69. Subsequently, J H King and Knight increased the score to 98 without further loss, and then stumps were drawn earlier than usual owing to defective light. With eight wickets to fall, the home county now require 280 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 10)

At Leicester, yesterday, Worcestershire gained a victory by 110 runs. With two wickets down for 98, Leicestershire wanted 280 to win. This was in itself a sufficiently heavy task, and unfortunately for them rain in the morning had a damaging effect on the pitch.

Three wickets were lost for an addition of only 25 runs, and with half the side out for 123 an early finish to the game seemed in prospect. However, Coe and Whitehead made a brilliant effort for their side, and in the course of an hour carried the score to 229, Coe being out at last to a catch at cover point.

Whitehead, who was the ninth man to leave, withstood the bowling for an hour and a half, his only mistake being an easy chance off a bumping ball when he had made 63. After he was out the innings, which had lasted three hours and a half, soon ended.

21 August: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6881.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 10)

Kent bowled and fielded very well at Hastings yesterday, but in spite of this, Sussex, at the close, held a reasonably safe position, and a good first-wicket partnership by Mr Fry and Vine had much to do with the success.

With Blythe, Hearne, Fairservice and Mr Mason all keeping an accurate length and the field well placed, runs were never easy to obtain, 103 being scored in the two hours before lunch, while during the half-hour afterwards before Vine was out the total was increased by only 15. At the same time, both batsmen played excellent cricket, Mr Fry during the early part of his innings cutting and placing to leg with more frequency than usual. Later on he made some fine drives, but he scored slowly, for when stumps were drawn he had been in for five hours.

Killick, who scored principally with clean cuts, was quite at his best and was unfortunate in being run out. Mr Goldie played attractive cricket for 50 minutes and helped to score 80 for the fourth partnership.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 10)

Kent, in their first innings at Hastings yesterday, failed so badly that at the close Sussex appeared to have the match in hand, as, with Hearne out in their second innings, the visitors wanted 214 to avoid an innings defeat.

Rain in the night had affected the wicket, and although it was not ever really difficult, the bowlers were able to get some help. Mr Fry made a couple of bad strokes at the beginning, and after batting half an hour for an additional 12 runs, he was caught at cover point off a feeble stroke. Afterwards Relf alone offered any serious resistance. He was the ninth to leave after a bright innings that lasted an hour and three-quarters.

Kent in their first innings were all out in an hour and three-quarters, but when they followed on Mr Dillon and Hearne, by good cricket, scored 116 for the first wicket. Kent's collapse was due almost entirely to an excellent bowling performance by Relf, who got seven wickets for just over five runs each.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 10)

With the wicket to some extent made difficult by rain, Kent, at Hastings, yesterday, never looked like saving their match against Sussex, and at 20 minutes to 5 they were beaten by ten wickets.

Mr Dillon, who had batted so well on Tuesday, was caught at mid-off after the overnight total of 116 had been raised to 133, and Cox continued to bowl with such effect that at lunch time seven batsmen were out for 229. Seymour, who went in at the fall of the second wicket, was dismissed at this stage. He alone up to the interval seemed able to cope with the bowling, and his total was made out of 96 scored during his two hours' batting.

Afterwards Mr Marsham, mainly by vigorous drives, scored 36 in 40 minutes while Humphries was making three. Later Humphries hit freely, and he and Blythe, by putting on 68 for the last wicket, avoided the innings defeat, and in the end set Sussex seven runs to get to win.

21 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6882.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 10)

A fine stand for the first wicket was made by Mr Warner and Mr Douglas in this match at Bradford yesterday. The wicket was rather soft, the ball came slowly off the pitch and the Yorkshire bowling before luncheon proved ineffective. In rather less than two hours' play Mr Warner and Mr Douglas scored 119 runs, and they had not been separated at the luncheon interval.

Afterwards both batsmen carried the score to 131, and both lost their wickets at this total. Mr Warner was the first to leave, being "l-b-w," while Mr Douglas was finely caught behind the wicket. Mr Warner played the better cricket of the two, and Mr Douglas was decidedly lucky. He was badly missed at mid-on by Grimshaw when he had made 16; the total then was 32, and 90 more runs were added before the first wicket fell. Mr Douglas was also missed at the wicket at 56.

The majority of the remaining Middlesex batsmen discounted the excellent start by rather poor batting. Mr Bosanquet played a good innings before being caught from a high drive near the edge of the boundary, but the others did not do well. Hirst bowled finely all the time he was on and he had some very bad luck. The other Yorkshire bowlers failed to keep a good length, and Rhodes, Haigh and Myers were all rather severely punished.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 10)

The Yorkshire eleven accomplished one of their best batting performances of the season at Bradford yesterday. The wicket was faster and more treacherous than on Monday, and it was the general impression that they would not be able to score more than half the number of runs which Middlesex had made. They succeeded, however, in keeping their wickets up for four hours and three-quarters, and they got to within four runs of their opponents' score.

Tunnicliffe and Rothery put on 38 for the first wicket, but the foundation of the team's excellent performance was laid by Denton. He played an innings which, in the circumstances, must be described as one of the finest of his career. He went in at the fall of the first wicket, and he was fourth out, having scored 63 of the 99 runs made while he was at the wickets. The outfield was slow and runs had to be forced, but with such skill and vigour did Denton hit that he did not make a dangerous stroke in his innings.

Hirst played a daring game, but he was very lucky. He might have been caught at long on when he had made three, and he was afterwards missed at long off by Mr Litteljohn and Mr Palmer. Rhodes, Grimshaw and Haigh all batted steadily, and when the ninth wicket fell Yorkshire were only 19 behind the Middlesex total. Mr Smith and Hunter looked like hitting off these runs, but with the score at 281 Mr Warner cleverly threw down Hunter's wicket and ended the innings.

When Middlesex went in again Mr Douglas was stumped in Rhodes's first over. Tarrant then stayed with Mr Warner for 40 minutes, and at the close the visiting side were 31 ahead with nine wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 10)

Yorkshire had very bad luck at Bradford yesterday. They got Middlesex out for 87, and made 59 of the 92 runs necessary to win by 25 minutes past 1. Then rain came on and robbed them of victory, further play being impossible.

The wicket yesterday morning was very difficult and the majority of the Middlesex batsmen were helpless before the bowling of Rhodes and Haigh. Mr Warner alone played the bowling with confidence. He had made 17 of the 27 runs which Middlesex had scored on Tuesday night for the loss of Mr Douglas's wicket, and when play was continued he obtained 31 of the next 36 runs, and was then caught at the wicket. His defence was admirable and his hitting in front of the wicket clean and well-judged.

Trott and Mr Palmer were the only other batsmen who reached double figures, but the latter ought to have been caught near the on boundary by Mr Smith when he had made 5. Six of the Middlesex batsmen failed to score, and their nine outstanding wickets went down in a little over an hour yesterday for 60 runs, and the last five wickets only realized 12 runs. Rhodes had 13 runs hit off his bowling on Tuesday evening for the capture of Mr Douglas's wicket. Yesterday he took six more wickets for 32.

Yorkshire required 92 to win, and in an hour before luncheon Tunncliffe and Rothery scored 59. Rain stopped play a few minutes before the luncheon interval, and shortly after 5 o'clock stumps had to be pulled up and the match abandoned as a draw.

Tuesday 22 August, page 10: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND DIVISION

The present position of the Counties taking part in the County Championship, Second Division, is given below: -

	(No. of matches)				(No. of Points)		
	Played	Won			Poss.	Obt.	Percentage
		Won	Inns	Drawn			
Norfolk	7	5	1	0	21	17	80.85
Monmouthshire	8	5	2	0	24	19	79.16
Devon	9	5	2	1	27	20	74.07
Yorkshire II	7	5	0	0	21	15	71.42
Wiltshire	9	5	2	0	27	19	70.37
Durham	7	4	0	0	21	12	57.14
Bedfordshire	9	3	3	0	27	15	55.55
Buckinghamshire	8	2	2	0	24	10	41.66
Glamorgan	12	2	4	1	38	15	41.66
Suffolk	8	2	1	1	24	9	37.50
Staffordshire	7	2	0	0	21	6	28.57
Hertfordshire	9	1	2	0	27	7	26.92
Dorset	7	1	1	0	21	5	23.80
Cambridgeshire	6	0	2	0	18	4	22.22
Surrey II	6	0	2	0	18	4	22.22
Northumberland	8	0	2	0	24	5	20.83
Oxfordshire	7	1	0	1	21	4	19.04
Berks	10	0	2	1	30	5	16.66
Cornwall	6	0	1	0	18	2	11.11

Three points for a win, two points for a match decided on the first innings. One point to each side in a drawn match - i.e., a match in which no result on the first innings is obtained.

Thursday 24 August, page 10: THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AVERAGES

Although it was not expected at the beginning of the season that Nottinghamshire would prove to be a side likely to come near winning the county championship, yet with practically all the same players available as last season, it was thought that they would occupy a fairly high place in the table. They finished their season yesterday with the match against Derbyshire; and, as present, as they hold

tenth place with six wins against seven defeats, the results of their season are rather disappointing.

The chief weakness of the side has been in bowling, and in this respect they have been severely handicapped, for Wass was for a long time, owing to an injury, unable to play cricket. This was most unfortunate, for while he was able to play Wass was in very good form and accomplished one or two fine performances. He comes out top of the bowling averages, while John Gunn, considering the amount of work which has fallen to his share, has a good record.

In batting the side has once more been uneven, and Mr Jones, Iremonger and the two Gunns have alone been anything like consistent. G Gunn is a greatly improved player, but none of the other young players, except Hardstaff, seem to have come on very much. Both Mr Jones and Iremonger have done well, but neither has come up to his form of last season, and at one time of the year Mr Jones met with little success.

Iremonger heads the batting, with John Gunn, by far the best all-round player on the side, second, and Mr Jones third. All these three have scored over 1,000 runs, while G Gunn only missed his 1,000 by two. The averages are given below: -

Played 20; won 6; lost 7; drawn 7.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Iremonger 1442 at 46.51, John Gunn 1121 at 43.11, Mr A O Jones 1312 at 42.33, George Gunn 998 at 33.26, Hardstaff 814 at 28.06, Mr R E Hemingway 541 at 19.32.

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Wass 66 at 22.15, Hallam 53 at 22.39, John Gunn 91 at 25.83.

THE DERBYSHIRE AVERAGES

Derbyshire, who finished the season yesterday, came out with a record of three wins against 14 defeats, and they have not done nearly so well as last year. Their three wins this season were gained against Yorkshire, who, however, had several of their best players away, Northampton and Warwickshire.

Neither in batting nor in bowling can the side be called strong. In Warren and Bestwick they had, perhaps, as good a pair of fast bowlers as any county team, and Cadman has at times proved effective, but there is undoubtedly a lack of variety.

In batting, too, the team has been very inconsistent. Mr L G Wright has played better probably than at any other time in his long career, and his batting has been one of the most gratifying features of Derbyshire's cricket this season. He easily heads the list, averaging 43 and having made 1,651 runs. The averages are given below: -

Played, 20; won, 3; lost, 14; drawn, 3.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr L G Wright 1651 at 43.44, Dr E M Ashcroft 838 at 31.03, Mr A E Lawton 740 at 28.46, Cadman 690 at 21.56, Mr C A Ollivierre 700 at 19.44.

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Bestwick 100 at 20.20, Cadman 50 at 21.86, Warren 77 at 25.74.

24 August: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6883.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 9)

Essex did very well at Leyton yesterday, when they kept Yorkshire in the field the whole day and scored 404 for the loss of six batsmen. They have failed a great many times, and yet they are the only county team who have beaten the Australians, and on several occasions they have batted extremely well.

Yorkshire found them in their best form, and nothing better in batting could have been desired than most of that of yesterday. Mr Fane and Carpenter, by beautiful cricket, for the second time in the week made over 100 for the first wicket. Mr Gillingham's fine driving powers were practised with great effect, and just when there seemed a chance of the game's changing, Reeves went in and played a dashing innings.

Mr Fane's 100 was a highly finished innings, extending over two hours and three-quarters, and he was second out, his partnerships with Carpenter and Mr Gillingham for the first and second wickets having yielded 116 and 132 runs. His cutting was particularly good; but the blame for the running out of Carpenter rested wholly on his shoulders.

Carpenter was missed by Dolphin, the wicket-keeper, when he had made ten, and this mistake no doubt had a very serious influence on the course of the game, and there was another blunder by Dolphin, which gave Mr Gillingham a life at 40. Otherwise the Yorkshire fielding was generally good.

The strong, forcing game of the Essex batsmen, however, seemed altogether too much for the Yorkshire bowlers, whom Mr Gillingham and Reeves punished unmercifully, and they scored runs very fast off Mr Ernest Smith, who was bowling slow. Mr Smith got three wickets, but they were captured at great cost.

There was a large attendance, and the enthusiasm was very marked when Reeves was getting his 71 out of 90 added in 50 minutes for the fifth wicket. It will be noticed that Mr Jones and Hunter are absent from the Yorkshire side and that Mr Perrin is away from Essex.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 8)

Yorkshire did so badly at Leyton yesterday that when stumps were drawn last night they had followed on and, with one wicket down in their second innings for 15, they were still 408 runs behind, and to-day there is every prospect of their having to finish their uphill fight on a slow wicket.

Their collapse yesterday was one of those disasters that in cricket may overtake the finest of batting sides. They had gone in with practically nothing but a draw to hope for and, although the wicket remained hard and true, they were got out in an hour and three-quarters for 98.

Their discomfiture was mostly brought about by Mr Douglas, who, going on as first change at 25, after his opening over got five wickets in eight balls without having a run hit from him. He bowled out Tunnicliffe with the fifth ball of his second over before luncheon, with the last delivery of the over he got out Hirst, who hit across at a good length ball, and then with the last three balls of the third over he performed the "hat trick" - Rhodes played on, Haigh hit across one and Myers played over one that hit the leg stump.

Mr Douglas, generally a fairly simple bowler of medium pace, came off the pitch much quicker than usual, and the length and the pace were the things that told. Mr Douglas, after his first three overs, the analysis of which was three overs (one maiden), three runs, five wickets, met with no further success.

When his fifth wicket was taken Yorkshire had six men out for 39 runs, but Lord Hawke and Denton afterwards added 45 for the eighth wicket. This stand and two showers carried the innings up to a quarter to 5, when Lord Hawke was last out.

When Yorkshire followed on Rothery was caught at mid-on before a run was scored, and with Tunnicliffe and Denton together the bad light stopped the game at half-past 5. Denton had had his usual life, Carpenter missing him in the slips off Tremlin's bowling when he had made ten runs.

The rather startling turn in the game made an obvious impression on the large crowd, and the Essex bowlers had a great ovation as they returned to the pavilion. To-day it has been arranged to continue the match at 11 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

Yorkshire achieved the fine performance of saving their match with Essex, at Leyton on Saturday, and now no possible combination of circumstances can deprive them of the championship.

The chances seemed strongly against their averting defeat on Saturday, for, with nine wickets left in the second innings, they were 408 runs behind. But the batsmen from the first set themselves rigidly to play for the draw, and with what success may be imagined from the fact that in six hours of actual cricket only six more wickets fell and 212 runs were scored. It was a triumph of self-restraint.

Hirst's defence was a masterpiece. Here was a batsman of a great forcing school so assiduously adapting himself to those tactics the practice of which could alone save Yorkshire that, although he went in second wicket down at a quarter past 11, it was 5 o'clock when, after an innings of four and three-quarter hours, he was sixth out at 212. He was taken off his guard at the finish when Reeves took to [swinging the ball slowly] over the batsmen's head, and Hirst, having dealt with several in the same over, was deceived by the flight of the one that hit the stumps.

While Hirst was mostly instrumental in saving his side, Tunncliffe had a large share in the destiny of the game, and was in with Hirst while 136 were added in three hours and a quarter. When Hirst left Mr Ernest Smith came in and, getting most of the bowling, he kept up his end for just an hour without making a run. It seemed almost incredible that this most punishing batsman should have had the capacity to stay in an hour without scoring.

Yorkshire had many periods of anxiety. With an hour to play there were only four wickets left; but at half-past 5 Lord Hawke joined Mr Smith and these two batsmen saved the game, Yorkshire at the finish having three wickets to fall with arrears of 196.

The turf at Leyton had recovered from the effects of Friday's rain, and after midday the ball came along quite truly and rarely rose more than half-stump high. Essex did their best in the field and with the ball; but this batting of Yorkshire rather exposed the real weakness of the side in the matter of any great bowling talent.

There was a large crowd to see the finish, and it was regrettable to find a slight recurrence of the unsportsmanlike spirit that was noticed in the Lancashire match a few Saturdays before. While Yorkshire were fighting so well and so courageously an uphill game, a few spectators, deficient in manners as well as knowledge of the game, repeatedly jeered at the batsmen, and Lord Hawke, when he went in, absolutely refused to go on with his innings until the crowd desisted.

24 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6884.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 9)

At Southampton, yesterday, Hampshire, by scoring 153 runs before lunch for the loss of Bowell, Mr Bacon, Mr Sprot and Stone, made a fair beginning against Warwickshire, but afterwards the rest of the side did so badly that in less than an hour they were all dismissed for the addition of 85.

Mr Sprot drove well and with Llewellyn scored 46 in 35 minutes for the third wicket, but after he was caught in the slips Llewellyn and Bignell alone batted in good form. In the quarter of an hour of their partnership before the interval they made 40 runs; but when the game was continued Llewellyn soon threw away his wicket in attempting an impossible second run when he was batting in an easy, confident style and was apparently set for a big score. Mr Bignell, who was in only an hour and a quarter, again showed good form, his cutting and leg placing being clean and hard.

A trial was given to Mr G Belcher, last year's captain of the Brighton College eleven, and Gladdon, who is engaged at the United Services ground at Portsmouth, but neither showed very promising batting form. The professional, however, who began the bowling when Warwickshire went in, kept a good length at a medium pace.

The visitors lost two wickets for eight runs; but Mr Fishwick and Quaife batted very steadily, and at the close they had quite retrieved the early disasters.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 8)

At Southampton, yesterday, Warwickshire passed Hampshire's score with seven wickets down, and at the close, with one wicket still to fall, they held a lead of 44 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

Although Warwickshire were only 44 runs ahead with a wicket to fall when this match was continued at Southampton on Saturday, they so completely outplayed Hampshire that, in less than two hours from the beginning of the day's cricket, they had won by six wickets.

With the exception of Mr Ede, who went in at the fall of the seventh wicket, none of the Hampshire batsmen in their second innings played Santall and Charlesworth with confidence; and that the bowlers' success was not due to the condition of the ground was shown when Mr Fishwick and Baker made the 49 runs necessary to win in little more than half an hour.

Mr Fishwick again batted with skill and freedom, and he and Santall were mainly responsible for the severe defeat with which Hampshire ended their season.

24 August: KENT v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6885.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 9)

Kent have during the last 21 years beaten five Australian teams at Canterbury, but it is in the highest degree improbable that in the match which began yesterday they will add to their list of victories. The Australians won the toss and gave such a fine display of batting that at the end of the afternoon their score stood at 367 with only eight wickets down.

Up to a certain point they did not seem likely to do so well as this, as, in spite of some characteristically brilliant play on the part of Mr Trumper, four wickets were lost for 116. Afterwards, however, the Kent bowlers were punished severely, Mr Darling having such capable partners in Mr Noble and Mr McLeod that 129 runs were put on in an hour and a half for the fifth wicket, and 101 in an hour and a quarter for the seventh.

For the second time during the tour Mr Darling played a three-figure innings, and, as usual, his driving was beautiful. His play was not entirely free from fault, but the four chances which he gave - at 14, 47 and two from successive balls at 69 - were all extremely difficult. The first went to mid-off; the second to the bowler; and the other two to slip and the wicket-keeper.

Mr Noble was in for two hours, but he never seemed to have complete mastery over the bowling. He gave no actual chance, but early in his innings he made some bad strokes through the slips. Mr McLeod went in sixth wicket down at 245 and withstood the bowling for the rest of the afternoon, his share of the 122 runs added in an hour and three-quarters amounting to 67.

As is always the case, the presence of the Australians provided a great attraction at Canterbury, 7,000 or 8,000 people watching the game. The weather was delightful.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 8)

At Canterbury, yesterday, the Australians followed up their fine batting on Tuesday with some highly effective bowling, and they left off at the drawing of stumps with an overwhelming advantage, Kent, with six wickets to fall, wanting 133 to avoid a single innings defeat.

The Australians were batting for only 20 minutes in the morning, but in that time they carried their overnight score of 367 for eight wickets to 403. Mr McLeod, who was the last man out, has scarcely

batted so well in any former match during the tour. He was in for just over two hours and did not make the slightest mistake.

Kent, on going in to bat, could do very little against Mr Cotter's bowling, and although Mr Dillon made some fine hits, six wickets fell in an hour and a quarter before lunch for 47 runs. Mr Cotter took four of the wickets and only 20 runs were hit from him. After the interval the batting improved, Mr Marsham and Huish playing with considerable skill; but the innings was over by about 4 o'clock for 116, rain having caused a delay of half an hour. Mr Cotter, who is finishing the tour in much better form than he showed earlier this season, had the fine record of seven wickets for 58.

Following on 287 behind, Kent were in a desperate position, but this time the batting was more worthy of the team's reputation. Alec Hearne, combining strong defence with good hitting on the off-side, withstood the bowling until the drawing of stumps, having then made 46. After three wickets had been lost for 82, Mr Mason hit up 38 runs out of 54, his innings only lasting 35 minutes.

The Australians suffered from the fact that, owing to an injury to Mr Kelly's hand, Mr Howell had to keep wicket during a great part of the day. Although the weather was dull the crowd numbered over 6,000.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

The Australians beat Kent, at Canterbury on Saturday, by an innings and 35 runs, an hour and a quarter's cricket bringing the match to a conclusion. Few people thought it worth while to see the finish, it being felt that Kent's position was hopeless.

After following on against a balance of 287, the county had lost four of their best wickets on Friday for 154 runs, and at no time on Saturday did there seem much chance of avoiding a single innings defeat. Alec Hearne stayed in until the score had reached 187, and Mr A P Day, playing with far more confidence than he had shown on Friday, made some fine hits on the leg-side and helped Hearne to put on 51 runs for the fifth wicket; but the other batsmen did very little.

Mr Marsham was run out, his wicket being thrown down from cover-point, and Humphreys was caught in the slips from a ball that got up awkwardly. In gaining such an easy victory the Australians owed much to Mr Cotter, who took in all a dozen wickets.

24 August: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6886.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 9)

On a slow wicket, this return match, at Old Trafford, produced some curious cricket yesterday. As the pitch dried it became difficult, and the ball not only turned but at one end showed an unmistakable tendency to shoot, while at the other it often got up quickly.

Middlesex occupied three hours and three-quarters in making their runs. The longest stand was for the first wicket, 39 runs being out on, and only one other partnership realized over 30. Mr Douglas played very good cricket for his runs. Tarrant was batting for no less than an hour and 20 minutes, and he was very lucky. In the afternoon wickets fell more quickly, but runs were most difficult to get, while unquestionably Lancashire felt the need of a left-handed bowler.

Lancashire batted for an hour and 35 minutes and, chiefly owing to Mr Wells, they lost four wickets cheaply. Mr Spooner was quite deceived by the length of the ball off which he was out, while Tyldesley and Mr Poidevin were beaten by shooters. After being twice missed, Mr Garnett batted well, while Mr MacLaren, after making six, did not score in the next half-hour.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 8)

In this match at Old Trafford, yesterday, the wicket was slightly easier, and Lancashire, by a combination of good batting and good fortune, managed to establish a slight lead on the first innings.

The fifth wicket realized 54 before Mr Garnett left. Mr MacLaren was missed by Mr Bosanquet at cover-point when he had made 29 and by Mr Palmer, in the deep field, at 41, but on the whole he played a fine innings. Mr Wells, while fielding, strained a muscle in his left thigh and had to retire. Mr Bosanquet went on to bowl instead of him and with his fast medium deliveries met with considerable success.

With Mr Findlay as his partner, Mr MacLaren completed his 50, and then hit Tarrant for four fours in one over. In the end Lancashire held a lead of 32 on the first innings.

When Middlesex went in again, Mr Warner and Mr Douglas scored 51 before the former was caught at cover-point. Tarrant was out in the same over. Later Mr Douglas and Mr Bosanquet batted admirably. They doubled the total and Mr Douglas completed his 50 out of 114.

Just after half-past 4 rain came on, and an hour later play was abandoned for the day. The visitors, with eight wickets in hand, are now 100 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

Owing to the weather and the state of the ground, no play was possible in this match, at Manchester on Saturday, and the game was in consequence abandoned as a draw . . .

24 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6887.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 9)

The opening day of this match at Worcester, yesterday, was favoured by fine but dull weather. The wicket was in excellent order, being of a nice easy pace, while the outfield was fairly fast.

Worcestershire, who won the toss, made good use of their opportunity, scoring 321 in the course of the day for the loss of six wickets. Bowley and Pearson gave the side an excellent start, putting on 132 for the first wicket. Pearson, who displayed much greater enterprise than Bowley, claimed 86 of the number. He had several narrow escapes of playing on to Lees. Bowley played very sound cricket, his late cutting being admirable.

Mr H K Foster was out to a fine ball from Smith at 143, but the score was advanced to 164 before Pearson was caught at the wicket. On-driving had been the feature of his innings, which lasted for well over two hours. Pearson gave two chances. He returned a ball rather wide to Smith when he had made 52, and he might have been stumped off that bowler at 92.

Mr R E Foster and Arnold added 45 for the fourth wicket. Mr Foster played particularly well on the off side, his cutting being beautifully timed. He made his 45 in an hour out of 66. The cricket became much less attractive after he left. Arnold and Cuffe both played a defensive game on a pitch on which the ball never rose much above stump high and came along straight at an easy pace.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 8)

Although a few overs were sent down late in the afternoon, play in this match at Worcester, yesterday, was practically confined to the two and a half hours before lunch, the afternoon turning out wet.

The Worcestershire innings was completed in 50 minutes, the three outstanding wickets adding 42 runs. Cuffe played with the same caution as on Thursday afternoon and, although last out, he added only 11 to his overnight score.

Surrey made an indifferent start against the bowling of Arnold and Wilson. The former, with a cross wind to help him, swung in rather a puzzling fashion, while Wilson was difficult to time. Hobbs, Hayes and Holland were cheaply dismissed, but Mr Raphael and Baker seemed likely to obtain a mastery over the bowling when the former was bowled at 75,

Mr Crawford and Mr Baker after an hour and three-quarters' delay through rain scored fast, the Worcestershire bowlers being handicapped by a wet ball. Both batsmen made some fine off-drives from over-pitched balls. Then further rain fell and, after 10 minutes' play had produced 24 runs, the game was abandoned for the day. Surrey now require 119 to save the follow on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

The heavy rain which interfered with play on Friday in this match at Worcester had made the wicket so decidedly in favour of the bowlers early on Saturday that the six outstanding Surrey wickets fell for the addition of 71 runs to the overnight total of 99 for four wickets.

Baker and Mr Crawford alone played the bowling with any confidence, and when the former left at 140 Cuffe quickly finished off the innings. Mr Crawford played the best cricket, his batting being characterized by sound defence and good punishing power on the off side. Cuffe kept an excellent length and, being aided by the state of the ground, was extremely difficult to play.

When Surrey followed on 197 behind, Baker was bowled at nine, and a victory for Worcestershire appeared probable. From this point onwards, however, the game went in dry's favour. Playing with confidence and timing the ball with great accuracy, Hayes adopted from the first bold methods, and his refusal to depart from his characteristic game proved the salvation of his side. Holland gave him splendid support, and although he played defensive cricket until his side seemed in a safe position his innings was an attractive one.

In all Holland and Hayes added 229 for the second wicket in under three hours. When Holland was run out, Surrey were, of course, safe from defeat; and at a quarter to 6 the game was abandoned as a draw, Surrey then being 96 runs on with eight wickets in hand.

Hayes has rarely played a finer innings than his 152 not out. He came in at a most critical time, but by free hitting soon altered the outlook. He made his runs at the rate of 50 an hour and gave no actual chance, and, considering the risks which he ran, his bad strokes were singularly few.

Monday 28 August, page 9: THE HAMPSHIRE AVERAGES

Hampshire, on Saturday, finished their season with a severe defeat by Warwickshire, and of their 20 county matches they have lost 12 and only won one, against Derbyshire, at Southampton.

The side at no time of the year had enough bowling strength to make it likely that they would win many games. Mr Hesketh-Prichard has played very little; Llewellyn, who in past seasons has had a great amount of work to do, seems to have lost his form as a bowler, and Baldwin, on the whole, has been the most effective.

In batting the side has at times been strong, and at other times very weak. Captain Greig, Mr Hill, Mr Evans and Captain Wynyard have not, unfortunately, been able to play regularly. Llewellyn, towards the end of the season, showed what a good batsman he really is, but undoubtedly Mr Sprot has been the mainstay of the eleven. He has made 1,206 runs in 30 innings, and his hard work for the side both when batting and in the field has been worthy of all praise.

No fewer than three Hampshire batsmen, Mr Hill, Captain Greig and Llewellyn, made two centuries in one match in 1905. The averages are given below: -

Played 20 - Won, 1; lost, 12; drawn, 7.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Captain J G Greig 724 at 51.71, Mr A J L Hill 647 at 49.76, Mr E M Sprot 1,206 at 41.58, Llewellyn 1,010 at 32.58, Bowell 824 at 22.27, Stone 575 at 19.82.

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Baldwin 63 at 30.31, Langford 31 at 31.09, Mr H W Persse 35 at 33.20, Llewellyn 33 and 35.57. Note: Mr H Hesketh-Prichard took 29 wickets at 21.75.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

Worcestershire finished their season on Saturday, and out of 18 matches they have lost five and won five. Considering, however, that the side are strong in batting and have a good deal of bowling a better record might have been expected.

Worcester is probably as easy a ground to score on as any on the present day, and this may in some degree account for the fact that none of the Worcestershire bowlers come out with a good record, for both Arnold and Wilson have on occasions bowled very well indeed.

Mr R E Foster only came into the team late in the year, and found his form at once; and when he was playing the eleven was exceedingly strong in batting, for Mr H K Foster has been at his best nearly all through the year, and Bowley, who made a most favourable impression in the Gentlemen v Players match at Lord's, Arnold, Pearson and Cuffe have all done well.

Arnold has, of course, been the great all-round player of the side, but Cuffe's performances both in batting and bowling have been most gratifying, and altogether the prospects of Worcestershire cricket seem bright. The averages are given below: -

Played 18 - won, 5; lost, 5; drawn, 8.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr R E Foster 644 at 92.00, Mr H K Foster 1,050 at 50; Arnold 782 at 43.33, Bowley 1,079 at 35.96, Cuffe 850 at 33.41, Pearson 925 at 33.03.

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Wilson 68 at 23.95, Arnold 70 at 24.62, Cuffe 49 at 29.02, Burrows 51 at 29.29.

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	38	2531	233	3	72.31
Hirst	43	2020	341	10	61.21
Quaife	45	1865	255*	12	57.12
Mr E W Dillon	25	1234	141	1	51.41
Denton	50	2202	172	2	45.87
Mr C McGahey	37	1592	277	2	45.48
Hayward	55	2185	129*	6	44.61
Mr P F Warner	35	1537	204	0	43.91
Mr H K Foster	29	1184	180	2	43.11
Mr C J B Wood	39	1540	206*	3	42.77
Mr L G Wright	42	1793	195	0	42.69
Mr E M Sprot	30	1206	141	1	41.58
Kinneir	39	1497	158	3	41.56
Iremonger	38	1616	229	0	41.43
Tyldesley	47	1797	250	3	40.84
Mr L O S Poidevin	38	1373	168*	4	40.38
Arnold	31	957	134	7	39.87
Sharp	39	1382	142	4	39.48
The Hon F S Jackson	32	1180	144*	2	39.33
Mr R N R Blaker	23	786	120	3	39.20
Carpenter	38	1444	133*	1	39.02
Mr A O Jones	43	1596	274	2	38.19
Hayes	55	1899	189	5	37.98

Mr R A Young	30	1135	220	0	37.86
Mr P Perrin	33	1083	173*	4	37.34
John Gunn	39	1297	178	4	37.05
Mr B J T Bosanquet	35	1105	179	5	36.83
Mr R H Spooner	40	1421	164	1	36.43
Hallows	25	800	130*	3	36.36
Braund	35	1124	130	4	36.25
Seymour (Kent)	42	1440	131	2	36.00
Mr A C MacLaren	39	1330	140	2	35.94
Vine	49	1686	146	2	35.44
Bowley	37	1217	217	2	34.77
Rhodes	44	1387	201	6	34.39
Captain E G Wynyard	18	583	115	1	34.29
Mr A H Hornby	32	885	111*	6	34.03
Mr T S Fishwick	40	1387	147	1	34.02
Knight	36	1199	177	3	33.30
Cuffe	30	892	145	3	33.03
George Gunn	39	1187	126	3	32.97
Baker (Surrey)	42	1165	128*	6	32.36
Relf	45	1339	120	3	31.88
Pearson	33	982	104	2	31.67
Mr M W Payne	23	693	178	1	31.60
Dr E M Ashcroft	32	930	145	2	31.60
Tarrant	31	806	162*	5	31.00
Reeves	34	1052	135	0	30.94
Baker (Warwickshire)	36	946	102	5	30.51
Board	36	1004	119*	3	30.42
Llewellyn	36	1034	102	1	29.54
Mr W H B Evans	24	645	139*	2	29.31
Devey	21	550	125	2	28.94
Mr G L Jessop	40	1120	234	1	28.71
Mr J R Mason	20	545	133	1	28.68
Mr V F S Crawford	27	709	119	2	28.36
Mr A E Lawton	32	845	112	1	27.25
Mr G W Beldam	24	589	84	2	27.22
King	35	855	95	3	26.71
Hobbs	51	1292	155	3	26.70
Hardstaff	36	880	121	3	26.66
Robson	24	611	61	1	26.56
Holland	37	828	132	2	26.51
Whitehead	48	918	137	1	26.22
Tunnicliffe	41	946	102	4	26.05
Killick	49	1238	104	1	25.79
Rothery	30	715	118	2	25.53
Coe	36	852	100	2	25.05

Also listed: Lilley average 24.97, Mr S M J Woods 24.96, Heap 24.72, Wrathall 24.68, Mr H G Garnett 24.66, Mr H Martyn 24.41, Mr F L Fane 24.02, Mr J E Raphael 23.88, Mr W Findlay 23.50, Mr G N Foster 23.49, Jayes 23.09, Mr J F Byrne 22.67, Santall 22.65, Bowell 22.64, Mr C H B Marsham 22.38, Mr C C Page 22.30, Lord Dalmeny 22.16.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Haigh	736.3	204	1736	115	15.09
Thompson	431.4	141	1841	114	16.14
Rhodes	1058.4	233	2583	165	16.64
Lees	1274.3	353	3206	175	18.32
Cook	240.3	40	812	43	18.83
Ringrose	443.4	82	1334	73	18.25
Mr W Brearley	1007.5	177	3326	174	19.11
Myers	454	83	1361	71	19.16
J T Hearne	657.5	194	1585	81	19.56
Wass	519.5	125	1705	83	20.54

Hirst	643.3	132	1849	88	21.01
Kermode	814.4	102	2391	112	21.34
Hallam	637	194	1439	67	21.67
Jayes	676.3	126	2192	101	21.70
Blythe	1090.1	293	2868	132	21.72
Mr N A Knox	745.5	113	2611	120	21.75
Coe	374.3	79	1049	48	21.85
Killick	731.3	158	2120	97	21.85
Bestwick	755.5	157	2283	104	21.98
Mr W W Odell	776	191	2224	89	22.46
Dennett	1071.2	252	3127	138	22.65
Cox (Sussex)	1418.1	408	3396	147	22.82
Arnold	736.5	154	2187	95	23.92
Santall	877.1	231	2191	95	23.06
Wilson	471.4	54	1709	74	23.09
Hayes	581.5	109	1736	73	23.14
Relf	1100.2	355	2421	104	23.27
Nice	354.5	89	968	42	23.52
Cadman	498.4	116	1371	58	23.63
Hargreave	1081	305	2585	108	23.93
Warren	685.3	120	2252	91	24.74
Mr G L Jessop	471.1	124	1455	56	25.88
John Gunn	952.5	186	2669	102	26.18
Mr J R Mason	382.5	97	1107	42	26.35
Sharp	327.5	60	1090	41	26.53
Tarrant	510.1	232	1385	52	26.63
Fairservice	623.3	180	1838	68	27.02
Trott	489.4	105	1619	50	27.44
Mr B J T Bosanquet	395.4	34	1574	57	27.61
Tremlin	722.5	134	2428	66	28.23

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	41	1872	303*	7	55.05
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	43	1951	267	1	46.45
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	45	1483	117*	7	38.50
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	44	1622	110	1	37.72
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	43	1502	149	1	35.76
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	45	1399	146	0	31.08
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	35	928	154	4	29.93
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	29	690	134	2	25.55
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	30	631	83	3	23.37
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	38	679	103*	6	21.21
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	37	605	48	3	17.79
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	31	359	74*	10	17.69
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	30	388	78	5	15.02
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	18	121	25*	8	12.10
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	25	133	18	7	7.38

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr W W Armstrong	878.3	277	1868	108	17.20
Mr F Laver	731.1	200	1855	99	18.73
Mr W P Howell	488.4	146	1257	63	19.95
Mr A Cotter	657	113	2142	105	20.40
Mr C E McLeod	768.1	221	1843	82	22.47
Mr R A Duff	111.5	33	326	12	27.16
Mr M A Noble	582.5	154	1468	53	27.69
Mr A J Hopkins	253	59	791	27	29.29

Mr S E Gregory 7.1 0 14 0 --

The following have each bowled in two innings: - Mr C Hill (South Australia), 8.4, 2, 16, 2; Mr D A Gehrs (South Australia), 6.1, 0, 33, 1.

The following have bowled once only: - Mr J Darling (South Australia), 2, 0, 10, 0; Mr J J Kelly (New South Wales), 2, 0, 7, 0; Mr V Trumper (New South Wales), 2, 1, 4, 0.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	27	18	3	6	15	71.42
Lancashire	24	12	3	9	9	60.00
Sussex	26	12	4	10	8	50.00
Surrey	24	13	6	5	7	36.84
Leicestershire	20	8	5	7	3	23.07
Kent	20	10	7	3	3	17.64
Warwickshire	21	5	4	12	1	11.11
Worcestershire	18	5	5	8	0	0.00
Gloucestershire	17	7	8	2	-1	-6.66
Nottinghamshire	20	6	7	7	-1	-7.89
Middlesex	16	4	6	6	-2	-20.00
Essex	19	3	9	7	-6	-50.00
Northamptonshire	11	2	7	2	-5	-55.55
Derbyshire	20	3	14	3	-11	-64.70
Somerset	17	1	10	6	-9	-81.81
Hampshire	20	1	12	7	-11	-84.61

The match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval - abandoned without a ball being bowled - is not included in the above table.

Monday 28 August, page 9: It is proposed to present A A Lilley, the Warwickshire cricketer, who has kept wicket in 27 England v Australia matches, with a national testimonial. A preliminary meeting is to be held in Birmingham on Thursday next. Lord Hawke, the Hon F S Jackson, Mr A C MacLaren and many other prominent cricketers have written cordially supporting the proposal.

28 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6888.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather it was found impossible to make a start with the matches between Gloucestershire and the Australians, at Cheltenham, and between Somerset and Warwickshire, at Taunton, yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 August, page 10)

There was some improvement in the weather at Cheltenham yesterday, but the conditions were still most unfavourable for cricket. The storms which prevented a ball being bowled on Monday were followed by steady rain, which lasted for 16 hours; but in spite of the drenching which the wicket received it made such a rapid recovery that the game was started at 1 o'clock.

A heavy storm caused a delay of half an hour in the afternoon, and a second downpour about 5 o'clock stopped the game for 45 minutes. In this way cricket was limited to rather less than three hours. Mr Darling won the toss, and in the absence of bright sunshine or a drying wind, this gave his side a decided advantage, for the wicket all day was too soft to give the bowlers any assistance. In spite

of the way they were handicapped, the home side did very well, for they got rid of seven of their opponents for 184.

Mr Darling played a very fine innings. He was rather uncertain to start with, but he soon settled down and combined vigorous hitting with sound defence. His driving was full of power and he generally selected the right ball to hit. He only needed one to complete his 100 when he was out to a well-judged catch in the long field. He got his runs out of a total of 167, in two hours and a quarter.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 9)

The Australians made a great effort to win their match with Gloucestershire at Cheltenham yesterday, and although they failed, the honours of the game clearly rested with them. Their first innings was quickly brought to a close for 195 after lasting for three hours and a quarter, and the home side were afterwards all out for 137.

The wicket had become difficult, and apart from Wrathall they failed before the excellent bowling of Mr Laver and Mr Howell. At the end of the innings the visitors thus held a lead of 58 and this was quickly converted into one of 135 at the expense of Mr Trumper's wicket. Mr Trumper and Mr Darling forced the game well and they made the Gloucestershire bowling look very simple, Mr Jessop and Dennett being unable to make the same use of the pitch that Mr Laver and Mr Howell had done.

With his side in a safe position Mr Darling declared his innings closed at 10 minutes past 4. That left Gloucestershire 80 minutes at the outside in which to get 136, as it had been agreed to draw stumps early as the Australians had to travel to Bournemouth. No effort was made to get the runs as the wicket was too difficult for that to be attempted; but in playing for a draw the county met with so many disasters that when the game was finally abandoned they had one wicket in hand and their total was only 77.

Batting in a bad light, they fared very badly before the bowling of Mr Cotter, who took six wickets for 36 runs. It was mainly owing to the skilful defence of Mr Jessop that Gloucestershire escaped defeat. He saw four wickets fall in the closing 40 minutes, and Dennett the last man was in during the final quarter of an hour.

28 June: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6889.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 August, page 10)

A bad light and rain interfered with cricket, at Manchester yesterday, and, although play was possible in this match for three hours, the conditions were depressing.

Leicestershire, who went in first on a slow and easy wicket, lost Mr De Trafford at 48, but J H King made some fine drives before he was "l-b-w" with the score at 81. Mr Wood, who at the start scored faster than Mr De Trafford, played very slow cricket after Knight came in. He took two hours to make 50, and eventually he was bowled, with the score at 165, in trying to get Sharp to leg.

Knight, in the meantime, had been batting very well indeed. At half-past 4 rain came on and no more cricket was possible.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 August, page 10)

Play was only possible for a few overs in this match, at Old Trafford, yesterday, owing to the weather. Leicestershire added nine runs to their score of 192 without losing another wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 9)

The season at Old Trafford was concluded yesterday, when this match ended in a draw. The visitors completed their innings after batting for just under five hours. The chief feature was the display of Knight, who batted some part of each of the three days.

Mr MacLaren and Mr Spooner batted very finely for Lancashire, and they put on 102 before the former was caught in the long field. Mr Spooner played one of his best innings, and was eventually bowled by a ball that he tried to force to the on. The only other exhibitions worthy of note were given by Mr Poidevin and Mr Findlay. This pair put on 50 for the eighth wicket and prevented a collapse.

28 August: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6890.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 August, page 10)

Cricket at Lord's yesterday was limited to rather less than two hours, rain setting in immediately the players went to lunch and drenching the soft ground. It was soon seen that further progress would be impossible, and before 4 o'clock stumps were pulled up.

Middlesex could not get together anything like their best team, but on going in first they made excellent use of the time at their disposal, 109 runs being scored for the loss of three wickets. In doing so well they were much indebted to Mr Palmer. He went in second wicket down at 45 and gave a fine display, his off-driving being very clean and powerful. He was batting for just three-quarters of an hour, and made 44 out of the 57 runs put on during that time.

Excellent cricket of a different kind was shown by Mr E A Beldam and Mr J Douglas. The latter hit well at the beginning of his innings, but he afterwards played a defensive game, being at the wickets for 25 minutes without getting a run.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the matches between Middlesex and Kent, at Lord's . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 9)

Cricket at Lord's yesterday was of necessity tame and uninteresting, a draw being always inevitable. Owing to rain play on Monday was out of the question after luncheon time, and on Tuesday not a ball could be bowled. Even yesterday morning the wicket was too wet to permit of the early start intended, nothing being done until ten minutes to 1.

Middlesex went on batting, and in 50 minutes Mr James Douglas and Mr Pearce added 89 runs to the score of 109 for three wickets. Then at 20 minutes to 2 the innings was declared closed. This step promised no advantage to Middlesex, as they could not hope to make Kent follow on.

As events turned out Kent made runs easily enough, their total standing at 163 for five wickets when just before 5 o'clock the match was given up.

29 August: NORTH v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6891.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 August, page 10)

The fine batting and bowling of Hallows were the chief features of yesterday's cricket at Blackpool, where the second annual festival opened in dull weather. The men representing the North and the South were drawn chiefly from Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Essex and Worcestershire.

The South made a fair start by scoring 50 for the first wicket, but afterwards the side collapsed and were all out before lunch for under 100. Bowling throughout the innings, Hallows made the best of his opportunities on a rather soft pitch, and he got seven wickets for just over seven runs each.

The North began badly, the two Gunns and Mr Ollivierre all being dismissed in a quarter of an hour without scoring, but Mr Jones played a bright innings, and afterwards Hallows and Rudston added 79 in an hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 August, page 10)

Owing to rain, the second day of the Blackpool festival was almost completely spoiled, play being limited to an hour and 40 minutes.

The North increased their lead to 111; but afterwards, on a soft wicket which never allowed the bowlers to get a foothold, Mr McGahey and Bowley forced the game so successfully that 95 were made before the former was caught in the country; and with nine wickets to fall the South are now only 16 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 9)

Hallam bowled with such success, at Blackpool yesterday, that the hopes of the South's making a close fight were soon extinguished.

On Tuesday, Mr McGahey and Bowley had scored 95 for the loss of the former's wicket, and consequently the deficit had been reduced to 16. Five wickets, however, fell in the first half-hour yesterday for 19, and Mr Perrin, who scored 35 in an hour and a quarter, was the only batsman to play with much success, and finally the North were only set 71 to win. These they obtained for two wickets in 50 minutes.

Hallam's bowling yesterday was remarkably good; he kept an excellent length and, assisted by the wicket, made the ball turn a great deal.

28 August: SOMERSET v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6892.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather it was found impossible to make a start with the matches between Gloucestershire and the Australians, at Cheltenham, and between Somerset and Warwickshire, at Taunton, yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 August, page 10)

Cricket in this match at Taunton, yesterday, was greatly interfered with by rain, only two hours and ten minutes' play being possible, after a blank day on Monday.

When Warwickshire went in on a slow wicket, Kinneir batted for an hour and a quarter for his runs, and Quaife and Mr Byrne did the best work by scoring 51 in three-quarters of an hour for the fourth wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 9)

After being greatly interfered with by rain, this match was left drawn at Taunton yesterday. At lunch time such a result seemed probable and there was little interest in the afternoon's cricket.

The Warwickshire innings closed for the addition of 61 runs in an hour. Quaife, who had made 44 overnight, was dismissed at 179, having, in two hours, scored 63 out of 137.

Before lunch Somerset scored 84 for the loss of three wickets, Mr Martyn compiling a hard hit 40 in 55 minutes, while Braund and Mr Woods added 45 in 35 minutes. Braund made his 68 out of 128 in an hour and a quarter, hitting 12 fours, and Lewis, after a bad start, batted finely.

Mr Woods declared the innings closed with the score at 272 for nine wickets, giving Warwickshire 50 minutes in which to bat. The visitors lost two wickets and had scored 72 runs before stumps were drawn.

28 August: SURREY v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6893.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 August, page 10)

Cricket at the Oval yesterday was only possible for an hour and a quarter. Surrey went in first, and on the slow pitch they scored 102 runs by very good batting for the loss of one wicket.

Holland was quite brilliant in his forcing game. He began the innings with Hayward, and in an hour's batting his share of the first 88 runs was 63, 40 of which were made in fours. He was bowled in trying to hit.

Hayes then joined Hayward, and after the bad light had stopped the game at 20 past 1, rain set in so heavily that at 3 o'clock it was decided to abandon play for the day. Thompson bowled well yesterday, but he had no luck, the ball on several occasions beating the batsman and missing the wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 August, page 10)

Owing to the weather no play was possible yesterday in the matches between . . . Surrey and Northamptonshire, at the Oval.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 9)

Surrey beat Northamptonshire at the Oval yesterday by an innings and 124 runs. The wicket had been ruined by the rain of Tuesday, and when Northamptonshire went in to bat against Surrey's score of 211 they could do little with the bowling of Mr Crawford and Smith.

Mr Crawford was unchanged in the double innings, and in his spell with the ball, which lasted two hours and three-quarters, he had an aggregate of 11 wickets for 44 runs. He was most effective in the first innings, but his length was always good and his break beat the batsmen continually. Smith bowled his slows particularly well in Northamptonshire's second innings, and in getting his seven wickets he had only 11 runs hit from him. Surrey fielded splendidly, and Strudwick was at his best behind the wicket.

The complete triumph of Surrey was scarcely foreshadowed by the position of the game yesterday morning, for so little progress had been made that only one batsman was out in the first innings of the match for 102 runs. Lord Dalmeny, however, changed the order, and first put in his forcing players while the ball cut through. The policy succeeded in the case of Lees, whose 38 were made very quickly, just when they were wanted.

Northamptonshire failed to get the 62 necessary to save the follow on; indeed, such was their collapse that they had four men out in the first innings for six runs and five in the second for 14 runs.

Early in the day Northamptonshire had done well in the field. Mr Driffield's left-hand, medium-paced bowling was effective, and there was a particularly fine catch by Mr Simpson, deep on the off-side, which got out Lees.

28 August: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6894.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 August, page 10)

Sussex did well against Yorkshire, at Brighton, yesterday, and at the close, with nine wickets to fall, they were 159 runs behind. Play before lunch was, owing to rain, limited to less than an hour, and in that time Yorkshire scored 54 for the loss of Rothery's wicket. With the ground afterwards always helping the bowlers, Yorkshire had to struggle hard for runs, and their total at the end of the innings was considerably larger than at one time seemed probable.

Tunnicliffe was out from the second ball bowled after the interval, and disasters followed so quickly that five wickets were down for 89. Rhodes, in the meantime, had batted steadily and, showing more skill in mastering the difficulties of the wicket than the other Yorkshire batsmen, he gradually improved his side's position. Mr Smith helped him to add 33 for the sixth wicket in 20 minutes and, after Myers had been cheaply dismissed, Lord Hawke stayed in for 35 minutes while 43 runs were scored.

Up to the fall of the ninth wicket Rhodes had taken no risks, but when Dolphin was in he hit out at every ball. He made some beautiful strokes, notably a square cut and leg hit off consecutive balls from Relf, but when he had made 67 he was badly missed at square-leg by Leach off Killick. Altogether he batted for an hour and three-quarters in difficult conditions, and his innings was a very good one, for Killick and Cox made the ball get up quickly, and both required careful watching.

Sussex had 40 minutes' batting and, just before the time fixed for drawing stumps, Vine was dismissed.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 August, page 10)

Yorkshire, at Brighton, yesterday, had the better of the play, and when stumps were drawn they held a lead of 102 runs, with nine wickets in hand.

The feature of the day's cricket was Mr Fry's innings. He went in when play began, and on a really difficult wicket he batted splendidly against the bowling of Hirst and Rhodes for two hours before he was last out. He hardly made a bad stroke, and chiefly by drives off Rhodes he scored eight fours.

Mr Goldie alone of the other Sussex batsmen made any resistance to the bowling. When he was in with Mr Fry 33 were put on for the fifth wicket in 35 minutes, but afterwards Hirst met with such success that the rest of the side were dismissed for an additional 22 runs.

Yorkshire began their second innings at ten minutes to 5 and, with Cox and Killick making the ball turn and get up quickly, it was expected that the visiting side would fare badly before stumps were drawn. Rothery was soon out, but Tunnicliffe and Denton played steadily for 25 minutes, when an appeal for bad light was allowed.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 9)

Yesterday's play in this match, at Brighton, was again interfered with by rain, and in the end the match was left drawn. The batsmen experienced some difficulty in getting runs when the game was continued, Denton adding only three to his overnight's score before being caught at the wicket, while Hirst was out from the next ball.

Rain, however, which stopped the game at this stage for 50 minutes, caused the wicket to play much better, although the ball always required watching. Tunnicliffe and Rhodes took advantage of the conditions; and it was due to the latter's fine innings, which lasted for a little more than an hour, and Haigh's hard hitting, that Yorkshire, at three o'clock, were able to declare and set Sussex 221 runs to get to win.

The home side had two hours and 20 minutes before them, and Mr Fry and Vine batted so well at the beginning of the innings that a possibility appeared of the runs being made. They slowed down, however, later, 50 runs occupying as many minutes, and all hope of winning the game disappeared when a shower interrupted the play for 20 minutes.

Ninety runs were scored before Vine, who had played fine cricket for nearly an hour and a half, was out, and with Killick in stumps were drawn at half-past five. Mr Fry again played very well, his driving of Rhodes's bowling being excellent, and chiefly with this stroke he made eight fours.

Tuesday 29 August, page 10: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND DIVISION

The present position of the counties taking part in this competition is given below: -

	(No. of matches)				(No. of Points)		
	Played	Won			Poss.	Obt.	Percentage
		Won	Inns	Drawn			
		on 1st					
Norfolk	8	6	1	0	24	20	83.33
Monmouthshire	8	5	2	0	24	19	79.16
Devon	10	6	2	1	30	23	76.66
Wiltshire	9	5	2	0	27	19	70.37
Durham	8	5	0	0	24	15	62.50
Yorkshire II	8	5	0	0	24	15	62.50
Bedfordshire	10	3	3	0	30	15	50.00
Buckinghamshire	8	2	2	0	24	10	41.66
Glamorgan	13	2	4	1	39	15	38.46
Staffordshire	8	3	0	0	24	9	37.50
Suffolk	8	2	1	1	24	9	37.50
Hertfordshire	10	2	2	0	30	10	33.33
Dorset	7	1	1	0	21	5	23.80
Surrey II	6	0	2	0	18	4	22.22
Northumberland	8	0	2	1	24	5	20.83
Cambridgeshire	7	0	2	0	21	4	19.04
Berks	10	0	2	1	30	5	16.66
Oxfordshire	8	1	0	1	24	4	16.66
Cornwall	6	0	1	0	18	2	11.11

Three points for a win, two points for a match decided on the first innings. One point to each side in a drawn match - i.e., a match in which no result on the first innings is obtained.

Yorkshire finished their season yesterday with their match against Sussex, and after an interval of two years they have regained the County Championship.

Their record for this season is 18 wins, three defeats and seven drawn games. They were certain of the championship after their fine achievement of Saturday last in drawing their match with Essex, when on the last day they stayed in for about six hours for 227 runs; and their draw with Sussex yesterday leaves them with a percentage of 71.42, against 60.00 of Lancashire.

It was not, however, until fairly late in the season that they seemed likely to have a chance of finishing first. They started well, but they had lost three matches by the beginning of June, being beaten by Lancashire, Derbyshire and Kent. Then came a long period of success, and perhaps the turning point came when they beat Lancashire on August Bank Holiday and the following days after a great finish. From then onwards, with the exception of the match against Essex, they never looked like losing a game, and were robbed of an easy victory over Middlesex owing to rain.

There will be few who will deny that Yorkshire have thoroughly deserved their success. Whether or not they are quite as good as they were a few years ago may be doubtful. Their batting now is not as strong as then and, it may be said, not so strong as Lancashire's; for, although Hirst and Denton have played better than ever and Rhodes is a vastly improved batsman, they have lost Mr Mitchell, Mr Taylor, Brown and Washington, and Tunnickliffe is past his best.

Perhaps too their fielding is not quite so wonderful as then, but the bowling is probably better, for, while Hirst has lost something of his pace, Rhodes and Haigh have done as well as ever, and after these there have been Mr Jackson, Myers and Ringrose. Such an amount and variety of really good bowling must be almost unprecedented of late years in county cricket. They have bowlers of every type and for every occasion, and thus none of them need be overworked. In this respect Yorkshire have been far ahead of any other county.

In batting Hirst easier heads the averages, and one performance among very many fine ones which he has done this season will be long remembered - his 341 against Leicestershire, when he saved the match for his side. The averages are given below: -

Played 23 - won 18, lost 3, drawn 7.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Hirst 1713 at 61.17, Denton 1963 at 48.73, Rhodes 1117 at 36.03, The Hon F S Jackson 530 at 29.44, Tunnickliffe 913 at 27.66, Rothery 738 at 26.35, Haigh 721 at 21.20, Myers 638 at 19.33.

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Haigh 97 at 14.73, Rhodes 128 at 15.76, Hirst 88 at 18.33, Myers 62 at 19.50, Ringrose 60 at 20.10.

THE LANCASHIRE AVERAGES

Lancashire finished the season yesterday with a record of 12 wins against three losses. There can be no doubt that they were the second-best team of the year and that they were very little the inferiors of Yorkshire.

They were, perhaps, quite a hard side to beat owing to their wonderful batting strength, which is certainly unequalled by any other county team this season; but the number of drawn matches which they have played shows that their bowling was not the equal of that of Yorkshire and, in consequence, they were not such a good match-winning eleven.

Mr Brearley has been, perhaps, the most successful bowler of the year, and by some critics is regarded as a really great fast bowler. His power of bowling for a very long time, sometimes for as much as three or four hours together, without losing his length, and his determination have been worthy of all praise, and his value to Lancashire has been very great indeed.

But, taken as a whole, there was not sufficient variety in the Lancashire attack. Kermode is a very good bowler, and Cook and Sharp have both done fairly well, but with Hallows not being in anything like the form he was in in 1904 a really good slow bowler was needed.

As has been said, the Lancashire batting was magnificent. Mr MacLaren, Mr Spooner and Tyldesley form a wonderful trio of batsmen. Mr Poidevin played a number of fine innings, often coming off when runs were wanted, and he must be regarded as a very good player in that he knows his own limitations and does not attempt to do what is beyond his powers. Even when the early batsmen failed, the "body" of the team were all capable of making runs, and Mr Hornby seems especially good in pulling a match out of the fire. The averages are given below: -

Played 25 - won 12, lost 3, drawn 10, abandoned 1.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr L O S Poidevin 1378 at 44.38, Hallows 763 at 42.38, Tyldesley 1255 at 40.48, Mr R H Spooner 1212 at 40.40, Mr A C MacLaren 959 at 39.95, Sharp 1318 at 39.93, Mr A H Hornby 877 at 38.54, Mr H G Garnett 930 at 24.47

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Mr W Brearley 121 at 18.64, Cook 38 at 19.10, Kermode 107 at 21.43, Sharp 35 at 28.77.

THE SOMERSET AVERAGES

Somerset have had a very unsuccessful season, winning only one match out of 18, and they finished last but one on the list. Their victory against Gloucestershire was a fine piece of cricket, but it was hardly one of those startling performances which Somerset have on occasions in past seasons been able to set against many bad failures.

It is disappointing that a county who play the game as Somerset do so entirely for its own sake should not meet with greater success; but unless new bowling is found - and a really good fast bowler is what seems most needed - the team can hardly hope to win many matches.

In batting, too, the side has not been so strong as in some past years. Mr Palairret has played very little; Mr Johnson has not been at his best, and Braund on the whole has been the most consistent. The averages are given below: -

Played 18 - won 1, lost 10, drawn 7.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Braund 976 at 34.85, Mr S M J Woods 719 at 25.67, Robson 578 at 25.04, Mr H Martyn 618 at 20.60,

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Robson 37 at 31.13, Braund 60 at 37.13. [Note: Bailey took 29 wickets at 15.31.]

MR W BREARLEY

It is announced that, owing to the claims of business, Mr Brearley, the Lancashire fast bowler, will retire from first-class cricket at the end of the present season.

31 August: ENGLAND XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6895.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 10)

At Bournemouth, yesterday, the bowlers always obtained some assistance from the condition of the ground with the result that considerable progress was made in the first match of the festival. After Dr Grace had been bowled with three scored, Mr Fishwick and Braund placed the England eleven in an excellent position by scoring 85 for the second wicket in less than an hour; but with the exception of Arnold, who batted for an hour and 10 minutes, the rest of the side did little to support the good beginning, and the innings ended in two hours and three-quarters.

Except for a chance given by the professional when he had scored 31 to Mr Hill in the deep field off Mr Armstrong, Mr Fishwick and Braund played good cricket during their partnership, the cutting and off-driving of the latter being clean and well placed, while Mr Fishwick hit well on both sides of the wicket.

The Australians batted with great freedom and brightness. Mr Darling and Mr Trumper, who began the innings, made 58 in little more than half an hour when the former, who had been badly missed at mid-on when he had scored 22, was bowled. When 107 had been scored the second wicket fell, Mr Trumper being caught at cover point, Quaife holding the ball at the second attempt. Mr Trumper batted in his best style.

Mr Hill continued the rapid rate of run-getting, and when he was caught at mid-on the third wicket had put on 33 in 20 minutes. So far the Australians had the better of the game; but with the cheap dismissal of Mr Armstrong, Mr Hopkins and Mr McLeod, six wickets were down for 162. Mr Noble and Mr Cotter, however, batted steadily, and at the close the Australians, with four wickets to fall, were 46 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 10)

Yesterday's play at Bournemouth went in favour of the Australians, and at the close, with all their wickets in hand in the second innings, they wanted 135 to win.

Although it was clear that the ground was giving the bowlers considerable assistance, Braund especially making the ball turn very fast, the Australians added 89 runs to their Thursday's total in 70 minutes for the for remaining wickets. Mr Noble played carefully and was in altogether for two hours and 20 minutes, but Mr Cotter hit resolutely. At the same time Braund required careful playing, and his four wickets yesterday morning were obtained at a cost of 30 runs.

The England eleven did badly in losing Mr Fishwick, Braund and Dr Grace for 35 runs, but Quaife and Arnold made a useful stand. Each was in for about an hour and, while Quaife exercised great restraint, Arnold drove with freedom. The two scored 66 in 50 minutes, and after Quaife had been caught in the slips and Arnold had played on, Llewellyn hit with so much brightness and vigour that his runs were scored out of an aggregate of 72 in 50 minutes. Later Stone, after being missed at the wicket before he had scored, made several excellent strokes, and in the end the Australians were set 159 to win.

They had only a quarter of an hour's batting before the close, and in this time Mr Trumper showed admirable form.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 September, page 9)

After an interesting match the Australians defeated an eleven of England at Bournemouth on Saturday by one wicket. The Australians left off in a strong position on Friday for, with all their wickets in hand, they wanted only 135 runs to win.

Rain in the night had made the wicket difficult. When the game was continued Mr Trumper hit in brilliant form, two leg boundaries being scored in one over from Braund, and he made 30 out of 40 for the first wicket in less than half an hour.

Mr Darling and Mr Hill continued the forcing methods and runs were scored quickly, although at the same time wickets fell fast, and the two last-named and Mr Armstrong were out with 88 still required. Mr Noble and Mr Hopkins considerably improved the Australians' prospects by scoring 40 for the fifth wicket, Mr Hopkins driving vigorously, while Mr Noble maintained his customary strong defence.

Subsequently Mr Cotter, with powerful on-drives, two of which pitched over the ring, made a win for his side appear certain. Only six runs were wanted when he was seventh out, and then Mr McLeod and Mr Laver tied the England score. Both were dismissed at this stage amid considerable excitement; but with Mr Gehrs in last an "extra" sent up the winning number.

The Australians were very lucky, quite a number of boundaries being gained by snicks and strokes over the heads of the slips. Some of the England fielding was indifferent, but Braund was a brilliant exception, a feature of the innings being his catch low down in the slips which dismissed Mr Noble.

31 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6896.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 10)

There was a complete change in the conditions at Cheltenham yesterday, the wet weather of Wednesday giving place to bright sunshine and a drying wind. This had the effect of making the ground so treacherous that batsmen were in trouble throughout the day. So great was the advantage held by the bowlers that in the course of four hours and 25 minutes 22 wickets fell while 300 runs were scored.

Gloucestershire finished the day in a good position, for they are leading by 100 with eight wickets in hand. It is but fair to Middlesex to say that they were very poorly represented, and their side included six professionals.

The home team batted first, and so well did Tarrant bowl - he took five wickets for 21 in his first eight overs - that, in spite of some plucky batting by Board, six men were out for 65. Mr Brown and Mr Godsell completely altered the aspect of affairs by adding 67 in 50 minutes, the former hitting with great skill. Still the innings only realized 148.

This proved to be 48 more than Middlesex could make. Mr Payne and Tarrant played careful cricket and put on 50 for the second wicket. As soon as they were parted Dennett was almost unplayable. Before he claimed a wicket 24 runs were made from him, but in the end he got seven men out for 44. Both he and Tarrant made splendid use of their opportunities and bowled with exception skill.

Batting a second time during the last 50 minutes Gloucestershire made 52 and lost Mr Barnett and Mr Godsell.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 10)

Gloucestershire finished their season at Cheltenham yesterday with a victory over Middlesex by 174 runs. They outplayed their opponents in every department and their success was well deserved.

The wicket, which had given the bowlers so much assistance on Thursday, was less difficult, but it was still far from being fast or true, and the home county did well to increase their total from 52 for two wickets to 231.

This meant that the visitors had to get 280 to win. At no time, however, did they look likely to succeed. For the most part their batting was feeble; and, apart from a stand by Mr Schwarz and Tarrant, nobody was able to make much headway against the bowling of Dennett, who was ably supported in the field. He was largely instrumental in bringing the Middlesex second innings to a close for 105 in the course of an hour and a half, as he dismissed half the men for 46. This brought his record for the match up to 12 wickets for 90, by far his best performance of the season. Mr Schwarz took 45 minutes to make his runs, and the next highest score was Tarrant's 15.

If there was again nothing noteworthy about the batting of Middlesex, three Gloucestershire men greatly distinguished themselves. Mr Sewell played the best cricket of the match. He timed the ball beautifully, as was shown by the cleanness of his cutting and by the safeness of his driving. With Board he out on 101 for the third wicket. Wrathall hit up 57 in 80 minutes, but he was extremely lucky, for he was missed four times off Tarrant.

31 August: LANCASHIRE v ENGLAND XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6897.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 10)

Five counties were represented in the England eleven which opposed Lancashire yesterday in the second match of the Blackpool Festival. Lancashire had a good side, although Mr Spooner and Kermode were unable to play.

Mr Jones was perhaps unfortunate in winning the toss; for, after the England team had been dismissed in three hours for 193, the wicket rolled out better, and in the opening hour of the Lancashire innings Mr MacLaren and Mr Garnett scored 94 for the first wicket. Tyldesley failed, but at the close of play the county score had reached 140 for three wickets.

John Gunn, who scored 50 for the England eleven in an hour and a half, made some excellent drives, but the feature of the day's cricket was Mr MacLaren's attractive display. In one over he drove J Gunn for two fours and a six, and his free hitting was most attractive to watch. He scored his first 50 in three-quarters of an hour, and altogether he was batting for an hour and a half.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 10)

It was cold and cheerless at Blackpool yesterday and, except for half an hour when Cook was at the wickets, the cricket was not very interesting to watch. In just under two hours 113 runs were added to the Lancashire score before the last wicket fell, and of these 45 were made by Cook, who, hitting fearlessly, twice lifted the ball out of the ground.

The Lancashire lead of 60 on the first innings was hit off by Mr Wood and Kinneir, and both played sound cricket until the former was caught by Mr Garnett in the long field. Later, first with Knight and then with Bowley, G Gunn helped to give the England eleven a good lead, amounting to 115 runs when play closed, while there are still only three wickets down.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 September, page 9)

After an exciting finish at Blackpool on Saturday this match was drawn, Lancashire only wanting one run to win with three wickets to fall.

The Eleven of England had declared their innings closed and sent in Lancashire to get 169 runs. In attempting to make the winning hit Cook was out, and there was no time left for the next man to go in.

31 August: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6898.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 10)

Lord Dalmeny, on winning the toss in this match at the Oval yesterday, sent Kent in to bat; but this policy proved rather disastrous for Surrey, as at the close of play the home side were 114 runs behind on the first innings with only four wickets in hand.

It must be said at once, however, that the wicket appeared to be no worse when Surrey were batting than had been the case earlier in the day, and several of the home side were out through their inability to time the pace of the ball off the pitch. The bowlers were always able to get a good deal of work on the ball and the bowling wanted careful watching; but there is no doubt, judging by the way in which the Kent batsmen got their runs, that Surrey ought to have done better when it was their turn to go in.

Although the ball frequently beat the bat, runs came steadily when the visitors opened their innings, and at lunch time they had scored 128 for three wickets, so that there seemed every prospect of Kent

making a large score; but after the interval Mr Knox and Smith bowled very well, and the side were out for the addition of 74 runs.

The features of the cricket were the batting of Mr S H Day and the bowling of Smith. Mr S H Day, although several times beaten, played a fine innings, and except for a chance behind the wicket when he had scored 53 he made no mistake. With Alec Hearne, who batted steadily and well, he helped to add 49 for the third wicket, and with Mr Mason 51 were put on in 50 minutes for the fourth, and these were the best stands during the innings.

Smith proved by far the most successful bowler for Surrey and, although he sent down several loose balls, he also bowled many good ones. The Surrey fielding as a whole was sound, and the catch which dismissed Mr Marsham was a fine one, as Hayes took the ball in the slips low down with his left hand.

When Surrey went in they started very badly. Holland was out at 13 and Hayes left from the next ball to a good catch at slip. Their disasters, however, did not end there, for Hayward was caught and bowled four runs later; and, although Baker made some good strokes, half the side were out for 51.

At this point Mr Crawford was joined by Lord Dalmeny, and by some free cricket the score was taken to 88, when the latter was leg-before-wicket from the last ball sent down.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 10)

There was a keen day's cricket at the Oval yesterday, in which Surrey regained all the ground which they had lost on Thursday, and they turned what almost appeared to be a losing position into a probable victory.

In the morning Kent more than held their own; but after lunch there was a great change, which quite altered the course of the game, and Surrey, at the drawing of stumps, only required 46 to win with six wickets in hand.

For this state of affairs Surrey were chiefly indebted to Lees, who did a very fine bowling performance in Kent's second innings, and their collapse was almost entirely due to him, although Smith also bowled very well, in fact much better than his figures would indicate. In the morning Lees was difficult to score from, but he met with his greatest success after lunch, when his analysis read: - 8.4 overs, 3 maidens, 12 runs, 5 wickets.

When the game was continued yesterday Surrey, who overnight had scored 88 for the loss of six wickets, fared badly against the bowling of Blythe, and the four outstanding wickets only added 37 runs, and this was chiefly the work of Mr Crawford and Smith. Mr Crawford had played very fine cricket and was seldom at fault in his timing of the ball.

On going in a second time Kent, who held a useful lead of 77 on the first innings, soon lost Mr Dillon and Seymour; but Mr S H Day batted well against much fine bowling, and at lunch time the score had been raised to 57 for the loss of four men, so that Kent at that time were 134 runs ahead with six wickets in hand.

After the interval, however, there came the wonderful bowling of Lees, and the whole side were out for another 27 runs. Lees has frequently bowled with much less success on much more difficult wickets and, after making due allowance for the excellence of the bowling and the good fielding, Kent ought to have done better; but speaking generally the batsmen erred on the side of caution and no one tried to force the game.

As it was, Surrey were sent in requiring 162 to win; and, judging by the way in which the Kent batsmen had "shaped," their task did not appear to be a light one. However, some good batting by Holland, Hayward and Baker enabled Surrey to get the upper hand. Hayward batted finely, and with Baker put on 44 for the third wicket before he was caught and bowled.

The total was then 93, but two runs later Baker was out, and another wicket might have proved serious to Surrey. Mr Crawford and Hobbs, however, managed to play out time.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 September, page 9)

After an exciting finish, the match between Surrey and Kent, at the Oval, ended on Saturday in a tie. On Friday Surrey had scored 116 for the loss of four men in the last innings out of the 162 which was necessary to enable them to win, so that when the game was continued they still required 46 runs with six wickets in hand.

Some rain had fallen in the night, but not in sufficient quantity to make the wicket easier; in fact, judging by the way in which the batsmen "shaped," it appeared to be more difficult. Still Surrey ought to have got the runs, and their failure to do so was due to their lack of discrimination in picking out the right ball to hit. So long as the batsmen were content to play steadily and wait for their opportunities to score, things went all right for them, but several of the side were out in attempting to hit recklessly, and thus instead of being able to win they had a very anxious time at the finish before they managed to make a tie.

As it was Kent lost a good opportunity of snatching a victory, as Smith, who in the end was the chief figure in saving the game for Surrey, ought to have been caught when he had only made seven. After he went in he got all the runs except three.

When Mr Crawford and Hobbs continued their innings both played a very watchful game and the score was taken to 135 before the former was caught at slip, the partnership in all having realized 40. With only 27 runs required to win, Surrey, with half their wickets in hand, appeared to have the game well in hand; but with only two added to the total Lord Dalmeny was caught at third man in attempting to hit, and Lees was out to a good catch by Mr Marsham at deep long off.

Up to this point Hobbs had played very steadily, but when the score had reached 144 he was bowled in trying to force the game, and with two wickets to fall Surrey still wanted 18 runs. Then came the mistake by Humphreys, who missed Smith at long off from Blythe's bowling, and this probably cost Kent the match.

As it was, the partnership of Smith and Strudwick produced 10 runs before the latter was caught at slip, and when Mr Knox, the last man, came in, eight were still required to win. However, in one over from A Hearne Smith got a four, a two, and then a single which made the match a tie; but in the next over, in attempting to get the winning hit, he gave an easy catch to third man, and thus the game was brought to a sensational close.

For a parallel result at the Oval, it is necessary to go back to 1894, when Surrey, who were that year champion county, played a tie with Lancashire.

31 August: SUSSEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6899.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 10)

Sussex's performance at Brighton, yesterday, on a slow but easy wicket, was a singularly uneven one. Mr Fry and Vine gave the side a capital start by scoring 118 runs for the first wicket. Mr Fry then ran himself out; but afterwards Vine and Killick added 86 runs and the score stood at 204 for two wickets.

From this time onwards the Sussex batting broke down and the remaining eight wickets only added 86 runs. Mr Simms was the only one of the remaining batsmen who did himself justice, he and Killick making some good hits in their respective innings.

Mr Fry batted in faultless style, though he was, perhaps, a little slow in his methods; but Vine's effort was one in which lack of enterprise was always evident, and in confirmation of this it may be stated that he was at the wickets for three hours and a quarter and his style of play was just as tedious when the Sussex score stood at 200 for one wicket as it was when he began his innings.

Had the Sussex batsmen showed more entered in trying to hit Mr McGahey's slows, the side might have made a much larger total.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 10)

Essex started their innings yesterday at Brighton with Mr Fane and Carpenter; but the former left with the score at 17, and against some good bowling by Killick and Relf the side fared badly, four wickets being down for 49 runs.

Mr Gillingham then joined Reeves, and this pair, by attractive cricket and some good hitting, added 55 runs before Reeves left. Mr Douglas helped Mr Gillingham further to increase the Essex score, while the former batsman and Freeman made the longest stand of the innings, putting on 61 runs.

Mr Gillingham's innings was marked by some fine cutting and powerful driving. He went in when things were going badly for Essex, and he with Reeves, and later with Mr Douglas, turned the whole aspect of the match.

Mr Douglas, although he ought to have been caught when his score stood at 22, deserves every credit for his good display. He showed great discrimination in picking the right ball to hit, and when he did hit, he did so with great power and precision. The Essex innings, like that of Sussex, was an uneven display, and on each side four batsmen were responsible for the great majority of the runs.

Sussex began their second innings by losing Mr Young with their score at 12, and at a quarter past five play ended for the day owing to bad light.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 September, page 9)

Sussex beat Essex, at Brighton, on Saturday by 163 runs. Although Mr Fry made the highest score of his side, his innings could not be called a good one. He was missed twice before he had made 10, and was eventually caught in the long field in trying to force the game. The rest of the Sussex innings was only remarkable for the wonderful catch by Mr Gillingham which got rid of Cox. Sussex declared their innings soon after 3 o'clock.

Wanting 255 runs to win, Essex never looked like saving the game and were all out in under two hours for 91. Reeves was the only batsman who was able to make runs off the Sussex bowling. His innings, taking into consideration the circumstances, was perhaps the best in the whole match. He made his runs without a mistake and hit with tremendous power, some of his drives to the on being magnificent, and he never appeared to be in any difficulty with the bowling.

31 August: YORKSHIRE v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6900.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 10)

The 29th Scarborough Festival began yesterday, when Yorkshire met a fairly strong side representing the M.C.C. and Ground. The wicket was soft and treacherous, and the bowlers held the upper hand so completely that, during about four and a half hours' play, 25 wickets fell for 262 runs.

Mr Leveson-Gower won the toss and the M.C.C. and Ground went in first. Mr Spooner and Mr De Trafford started confidently, 31 runs being scored in 20 minutes before Mr De Trafford was caught at long off. Then Mr Spooner, who had made a brilliant drive from Mr Jackson out of the ground, was caught at point.

Two other wickets fell with the total at 33, but owing to some fine hitting by Mr Raphael, the score was taken to 80 before the fifth wicket fell. The last five wickets only produced 28 runs, and the M.C.C. and Ground were all out ten minutes before lunch time. Rhodes and Haigh bowled well, but both were assisted by bad batting. Six catches were made in the innings, and of these only the one caught by Mr Jackson at short-leg, by which Mr Townsend was dismissed, was at all difficult.

Yorkshire ought to have been out for a smaller total than they obtained. Only Mr Jackson and Hirst made respectable scores, and Mr Jackson should have been caught at slip by King when he had made two, while Hirst was twice missed. In addition Mr Ernest Smith gave a chance to the bowler before he had scored. Thompson bowled well, coming out with better figures than Rhodes, but he bowled an extraordinary number of no-balls.

There was another breakdown in the M.C.C. and Ground batting, when they went in a second time. Five wickets went down in a little over half an hour for 30 runs. Thompson and Mead then played out time; but the M.C.C. and Ground at the close were only 42 runs ahead with five wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 10)

The first match of the Scarborough Festival was concluded at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Yorkshire winning by three wickets.

The final stage of the game proved much more interesting than it had promised to be. Some plucky hitting by Mead was largely responsible for the M.C.C. and Ground being able to increase their second-innings total from 44 for five wickets to 98, and Yorkshire thus had to get 97 to win the match.

The wicket was still very difficult, but at lunch time Yorkshire had scored 37 for one wicket, and appeared to have an easy victory in prospect. Mr Napier and Thompson, however, bowled so well afterwards that five wickets were down for 56 runs, and when the sixth wicket fell 26 runs were still required. Rhodes batted with confidence and judgment at this stage; and before he lost the assistance of Haigh, who was caught at point, all doubt as to the result of the match had been removed.

Friday 1 September, page 10: THE WARWICKSHIRE MATCHES

Warwickshire, with five wins, four defeats and 13 drawn games, at present occupy seventh position in the County Championship. A side with so much sound batting as they possess cannot be called altogether weak. Quaife and Kinneir have both done very well; but as a team Warwickshire have been about the slowest scorers of any county, and more than once this has proved a handicap to them, for their bowling was not strong enough to get out good sides on good wickets moderately cheaply.

Most of the bowling has fallen on Santall and Hargreave, but neither comes out with a very good record, while Moorhouse has done little. The averages are given below: -

Played 22 - won 5, lost 4, drawn 13.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Quaife 1785 at 68.11, Kinneir 1324 at 42.70, Mr T S Fishwick 1112 at 32.70, Devey 515 at 30.29, Lilley 662 at 26.48, Santall 643 at 25.72, Baker 691 at 24.87, Mr J F Byrne 820 at 23.42.

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Santall 84 at 22.72, Charlesworth 33 at 23.42, Hargreave 88 at 24.65, Quaife 38 at 29.68.

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AVERAGES

Northamptonshire, who finished their season with a defeat at the Oval on Wednesday, have only been able to win two games out of 12 played. For some years they have proved themselves the best of the second-class counties, but their first year in first-class cricket showed them to be a side that was not sound enough in batting and that in bowling depended far too much on one man to meet with much success.

Thompson has been one of the best bowlers of the year, but there was no one to give him sufficient help and, on the whole, Northamptonshire have been an easy side to make runs against. In batting Mr Pool comes out with a good record, but no one else of the regular players except Thompson averages over 20. The averages are given below: -

Played 12 - Won 2, lost 8, drawn 2.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr C J T Pool 664 at 36.88. [Note: Thompson 445 at 22.25]

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Thompson 75 at 16.90, East 38 at 22.26

Friday 1 September, page 10: THE LILLEY TESTIMONIAL

A meeting was held at Birmingham yesterday evening to set on foot a national testimonial to Lilley, the Warwickshire wicket-keeper, who has kept wicket in 27 England v Australia matches.

Mr G H Cartland, chairman of the Warwickshire County Club, presides, but stated that he did so quite unofficially; he wished the movement every success.

Mr R Willett stated that, at the request of a number of gentlemen in the cricket world, he had convened the meeting and had received numerous letters in support of the proposal for a national testimonial.

Among others who had written were Lord Hawke, Lord Londesborough, Lord Harris, the Hon F S Jackson, Sir John Holder, Sir W Jaffray, Sir Hallewell Rogers, Sir James Smith, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr P F Warner, Mr J J Darling, Mr G Cadbury and others.

Mr MacLaren wrote: - "Lilley has not only kept wicket admirably for England, but has also come to the rescue with the bat when runs were wanted almost on every occasion. His judgment has never been at fault and his captains have not been slow to profit by the same. English cricket owes a great deal more to Lilley than many are aware of."

It was decided that a national testimonial should be inaugurated to commemorate Lilley's services to English cricket and that the Marylebone Cricket Club and all county and other cricket clubs should be invited to co-operate, and that all county clubs be invited to appoint a representative upon the committee to be formed to carry out the movement. It is hoped to raise at least £1,000, and the committee will decide the form that the testimonial shall take.

Saturday 2 September, page 10: THE MIDDLESEX AVERAGES

Middlesex, who finished their county matches yesterday, have hardly done so well this year as might have been expected; for it was felt that the inclusion in the side of Tarrant, who became qualified early in the season, might make a good deal of difference, especially in the early matches when the want of another bowler and a sound batsman has been much felt. The side has, however, rarely been able to put a representative team in the field, and in their August matches they have not been so successful as usual.

Mr J Douglas was at his best, and his 116 against Surrey in June, considering that he had then had no practice in first-class cricket this year, was a great performance; but Mr C M Wells has failed to do himself justice. Mr Warner has seldom played better, and Mr Bosanquet, although he has done few startling bowling performances, has batted excellently. Mr G W Beldam has not been regularly available but has played some useful innings; while Mr Hunt, Mr Stogdon and Mr Moon have been seen very little.

In bowling, J T Hearne, on the whole, has been most effective. Tarrant has proved himself a useful all-round cricketer, but has perhaps hardly done so well as was hoped. Certainly Middlesex seem to have been handicapped by not being able to put anything like the same side into the field in many matches in succession; but it is rather disappointing that a county so rich in amateur talent should not have done better.

Mr MacGregor, Mr M W Payne and Mr Bird have all kept wicket well, and Mr Bird in particular, in the matches in which he played for Middlesex, showed what a greatly improved wicket-keeper he is. The averages are given below: -

Played 18 - won 4, lost 7, drawn 7.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr J Douglas 578 and 44.46, Mr B J T Bosanquet 954 at 43.26, Mr P F Warner 981 at 39.24, Tarrant 627 at 28.50

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: J T Hearne 56 at 21.87, Mr B J T Bosanquet 47 at 25.93, Tarrant 41 at 26.14, Trott 46 at 29.84

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

Gloucestershire finished their season yesterday with a victory over Middlesex, and they came out with a record of eight wins, eight defeats and two drawn games. Thus, the welcome improvement which was seen last year in Gloucestershire cricket has been fully maintained. They have, perhaps, been more fortunate than usual in getting together strong sides all through the year, and, at their best, they undoubtedly were a good eleven.

The bowling needs some strengthening, but Mr Jessop has done much better in this respect than for several years past; Dennett has been one of the most successful left-handers of the year, and Huggins has at times been effective.

The fielding, especially on the off side, has, as a whole, been excellent, and, with the exception of Mr Jessop, who has not quite done himself justice, most of the batsmen have been in form, and one of the most gratifying features of the Gloucestershire season has been the success of Board. He seems to have lost none of his powers as a wicketkeeper, and in addition he has batted as well as, if not better than, ever before in his career.

Mr Sewell leads the batting averages, and it is most unfortunate that such a fine batsman cannot play more regularly. The averages are given below: -

Played 18 - won 8, lost 8, drawn 2.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr G L Jessop 942 at 31.40, Board 881 at 30.37, Wrathall 748 at 24.12, Mr R T Godsell 756 at 22.25, Mr W S A Brown 518 at 20.72. [Note: Mr C O H Sewell 384 at 42.66]

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Dennett 131 at 19.48, Mr G L Jessop 47 at 23.61, Huggins 54 at 27.85

TESTIMONIAL TO MR A C MACLAREN

It is proposed to start a testimonial to Mr A C MacLaren, the captain of the Lancashire eleven. Already the scheme has taken definite shape by the grant of £250 by the Lancashire County Committee, who seek in this substantial way to give the movement official recognition.

Several influential gentlemen in the cricket world have intimated their desire to contribute sums carrying from £5 to £50, but those who are moving in the matter wish it to be understood that sums, however small, will be welcome.

The testimonial may not inappropriately take the form of a birthday present on December 1. Before that time, however, there are many preliminaries to arrange, and now that the cricket season is nearly over there is a desire to ascertain the measure of financial support which may be expected.

Mr A N Hornby, the president of the club, is in cordial sympathy with the scheme, and Mr James Horner, the honorary treasurer of the club, has consented to act in a similar capacity to the fund.

Monday 4 September, page 10: THE SUSSEX AVERAGES

Sussex brought their season to a close on Saturday with a victory over Essex, and take third place in the county championship with 13 wins and four defeats, against five matches won and four lost in 1904.

Although their percentage of drawn games is not so high, more matches have been left unfinished than any other county with the one exception of Warwickshire. But they have always been a good side to watch, and drawn games are bound to be fairly frequent so long as the Brighton wickets maintain their high standard for run-getting.

Although Sussex have been without the valuable services of K S Ranjitsinhji, their batting has invariably been sound and Mr C B Fry has again come out with a wonderful average and stands in a class by himself. Vine, Killick and Relf have given him good support on many occasions, while the reappearance of Mr K O Goldie has strengthened both the batting and bowling.

Mr R A Young, after the Cambridge University season was over, did some fine performances; and considering that it was his first year in first-class cricket, he was indeed an acquisition to the batting strength of the county. He is a player who should have a great future before him. Of the other new hands, Mr Chapman has also done fairly well.

In bowling Sussex have had to rely chiefly on Cox, Relf and Killick, all of whom have done very well indeed, in fact the first-named has never bowled better, and he got through a tremendous lot of work with great credit to himself. Killick, late in the season, did well, and Mr Goldie was useful on occasions; but Vine did little bowling, while Tate, after many years of useful service, practically dropped out of the side. The averages are given below: -

Played 28 - won 13, lost 4, drawn 11.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr C B Fry 1912 at 86.90, Mr R A Young 638 at 45.57, Vine 1647 at 36.60, Relf 1251 at 32.92, Killick 1241 at 27.57, Leach 734 at 22.93, Mr K O Goldie 674 at 19.25, Mr C L A Smith 522 at 18.00, Cox 570 at 16.76

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Killick 101 at 20.28, Cox 154 at 21.40, Relf 98 at 23.96

THE KENT AVERAGES

Kent, with a record of 10 wins against seven defeats, have not done quite so well as in 1904; but there is no county at the present time whose prospects look brighter, for many of the players, the majority in fact of those who have fairly regularly played in the last two years, have not yet reached their best.

In bowling, even if Blythe and Mr Mason alone can be regarded as of really high class, there is considerable variety, and Fairservice has probably much improved. Fielder, however, has rarely bowled well, and was left out of the side on a good many occasions.

When Mr Mason, Mr S H Day and Mr Dillon came into the team regularly the batting, too, was exceptionally strong. Kent were not perhaps a side likely to make what in the present day is regarded as a really large score, for the majority of their batsmen score quickly and take risks, but this is a good fault and Kent were always a good side to watch.

The only newcomer to the team is Mr A P Day, and he has had a most successful season. He only left Malvern last year, and to score over 1000 runs for his county in his first season in first-class cricket is a performance of considerable merit. The averages are given below: -

Played 22 - won 10, lost 7, drawn 4, tied 1.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr E W Dillon 1268 at 50.72, Mr R N R Blaker 787 at 39.30, Mr A P Day 1050 at 35.80, James Seymour 1284 at 34.70, Mr J R Mason 520 at 27.36, Mr C H B Marsham 746 at 22.60, A Hearne 655 at 20.46, Humphreys 662 at 20.06

BOWLING

Blythe 130 at 19.74, A Hearne 32 at 22.15, Humphreys 30 at 22.33, Fairservice 62 at 25.79, Mr J R Mason 41 at 26.95, Fielder 44 at 32.25

THE ESSEX AVERAGES

The performances of Essex in 1904 hardly gave much promise, unless some new bowling was found, that the team would do very much this year; and they finish their season with three wins against ten defeats.

They have been a rather curious side, for at times they fail badly against comparatively weak elevens, while, on the other hand, in addition to their great victory of the year over the Australians, they came near to beating Yorkshire and Lancashire, the two strongest counties of the season.

The great weakness of the eleven has been in bowling, and the chief work has fallen on Tremlin, who has shown much improvement, and Buckenham, while the fielding at times has been uncertain.

In batting, Mr Perrin, who for so long has been the mainstay of the team, took some time to find his form, but in the last six weeks or so of the season he was quite himself again. Mr McGahey and Carpenter have both done well. The most improved batsman on the side is Reeves, but his bowling has suffered in consequence. The averages are given below: -

Played 20 - won 3, lost 10, drawn 7.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr C McGahey 1550 at 46.96, Carpenter 1296 at 38.77, The Rev F H Gillingham 536 at 38.23, Mr Perrin 1086 at 37.44, Reeves 1088 at 32.00, Mr F L Fane 661 at 23.60

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Mr J W H T Douglas 31 at 26.54, Tremlin 81 at 29.64, Buckenham 73 at 35.15, Reeves 44 at 35.70

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C B Fry	42	2777	233	4	73.07
Hirst	47	2031	341	10	56.34
Quaife	48	2004	255*	13	55.66
Mr E W Dillon	28	1310	141	1	48.51
Mr P F Warner	35	1537	204	0	43.91
Hayward	58	2278	129*	6	43.80
Denton	54	2249	172	2	43.25
Mr C J B Wood	42	1686	100*	3	43.23
Mr H K Foster	29	1164	180	2	43.11
Mr C McGahey	41	1572	277	2	42.87
Mr L G Wright	42	1793	195	0	42.69
Mr E M Sprot	30	1206	141	1	41.58

Iremonger	39	1616	239	0	41.43
Kinneir	42	1569	158	3	40.73
Mr L O S Poidevin	41	1433	168*	5	39.80
Mr R N R Blaker	23	786	120	3	39.30
Tyldesley	50	1824	250	3	38.80
Arnold	35	1060	134	7	38.57
Sharp	40	1389	142	4	38.57
Mr A O Jones	47	1545	274	4	38.25
The Hon F S Jackson	34	1205	144*	2	37.65
Carpenter	40	1465	138*	1	37.56
Mr A C MacLaren	42	1476	140	2	36.90
Mr B J T Bosanquet	35	1105	179	5	36.83
Braund	38	1245	130	4	36.61
Rhodes	48	1464	201	8	36.60
Hayes	58	1918	189	5	36.18
Mr R H Spooner	43	1515	164	1	36.07
J Gunn	43	1366	178	5	35.94
Vine	53	1825	146	2	35.45
Mr R A Young	33	1170	220	0	35.78
Rev F H Gillingham	18	566	95	2	35.37
Hallows	28	907	130*	2	34.88
Knight	41	1312	177	3	34.52
Bowley	41	1338	217	2	34.30
James Seymour	45	1471	131	2	34.20
Mr P Perrin	37	1176	173*	4	34.12
Mr A H Hornby	32	885	111*	6	34.03
Mr A P Day	39	1149	107*	4	32.82
G Gunn	43	1278	126	4	32.76
Mr T S Fishwick	44	1389	137	1	32.53
Baker (Surrey)	45	1122	128*	6	31.33
Dr E M Ashcroft	32	930	145	2	31.00
Relf	48	1380	120	3	30.66
Mr M W Payne	25	726	178	1	30.25
Reeves	38	1138	135	0	29.94
Cuffe	34	914	145	3	29.48
Mr W H B Evans	24	645	139*	2	29.31
Devey	23	586	125	3	29.30
Board	40	1080	119*	3	29.18
Tarrant	34	845	162*	5	29.13
Baker (Warwickshire)	38	956	102	5	28.96
Pearson	37	1011	104	2	28.86
Llewellyn	38	1094	102	0	28.78
Mr V F S Crawford	27	709	119	2	28.36
Mr J R Mason	23	589	133	2	28.04
Mr G L Jessop	44	1153	234	2	27.45
Mr G W Beldam	24	589	94	2	27.22
Holland	40	1017	132	2	26.76
Killick	52	1338	104	2	26.76
Hardstaff	36	880	121	3	26.66
Tunnicliffe	45	1068	102	5	26.65
Mr A E Lawton	34	870	112	1	26.36
Hobbs	53	1286	155	3	26.16
Rothery	34	784	118	2	26.13
Whitehead	37	934	137	1	25.94
Robson	25	618	61	1	25.75
Wrathall	38	923	102	2	25.63
King	38	883	95	3	25.22

Also listed: Lilley average 24.97, Mr H Martyn 24.83, Mr S M J Woods 24.82, Coe 24.51, Mr H G Garnett 23.79, Mr G N Foster 23.40.

BOWLING

Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
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Haigh	777	215	1818	123	14.18
Thompson	481.1	149	2009	124	16.20
Rhodes	1125.2	292	2753	165	16.68
Smith (Surrey)	342.5	74	905	54	16.76
Mr G G Napier	257.1	80	1031	61	16.90
Lees	1305.1	385	3247	182	17.84
Ringrose	443.4	82	1384	73	18.95
Mr W Brearley	1050.4	191	3488	181	19.25
Myers	481	85	1383	71	19.47
Cook	272.3	48	901	46	19.58
Hirst	694.3	144	1980	99	20.00
J T Hearne	685.5	207	1676	83	20.19
Wass	579.5	125	1705	83	20.54
Hallam	703	209	1660	80	20.76
Blythe	1157	321	3014	144	20.93
Coe	385	80	1081	51	21.19
Mr N A Knox	771.2	119	2676	124	21.58
Kermode	829.4	197	2441	113	21.60
Dennett	1125.3	288	3313	153	21.65
Killick	796.5	189	2341	107	21.87
Cox	1513.3	445	3599	164	21.94
Bestwick	763.5	157	2285	104	21.98
Mr W W Odell	796	194	2279	101	22.56
Arnold	793.3	158	2397	106	22.61
Jayes	696.3	127	2294	101	22.71
Hayes	587.5	110	1750	76	23.02
Hargreave	1152.5	322	2790	120	23.32
Cadman	496.4	116	1371	58	23.63
Wilson	482.4	56	1759	74	23.77
Relf	1150.2	381	2570	106	23.79
Warren	799.3	122	2307	94	24.54
Santall	911.2	236	2312	94	24.59
J Gunn	989.4	199	2827	111	25.46
Tarrant	551.1	135	1582	69	25.53
Mr G L Jessop	512	130	1592	62	25.67
Mr B J T Bosanquet	395.4	34	1574	57	27.61
Fairservice	637.3	181	1891	68	27.80
Trott	520.4	111	1724	62	27.80
Tremlin	766.5	148	2536	89	28.94

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr W W Armstrong (Vict.)	43	1879	303*	7	52.19
Mr M A Noble (N.S. Wales)	46	2003	267	2	45.52
Mr J Darling (capt) (S. Australia)	49	1643	117*	8	40.07
Mr V Trumper (N.S. Wales)	48	1760	110	1	37.44
Mr C Hill (S. Australia)	47	1590	149	2	35.33
Mr R A Duff (N.S. Wales)	45	1369	146	0	31.08
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S. Wales)	38	986	164	4	29.00
Mr S E Gregory (N.S. Wales)	29	650	134	2	25.55
Mr D R A Gehrs (S. Australia)	33	645	83	4	22.24
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)	41	705	103*	6	20.14
Mr A Cotter (N.S. Wales)	40	691	48	3	18.67
Mr J J Kelly (N.S. Wales)	32	362	74*	10	16.45
Mr F Laver (Victoria)	33	416	78	5	14.82
Mr P M Newland (S. Australia)	18	121	25*	8	12.10
Mr W P Howell (N.S. Wales)	28	134	18	9	7.05

BOWLING

Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
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Mr W W Armstrong	925.3	285	2076	117	17.74
Mr F Laver	756.3	205	1907	104	18.33
Mr W P Howell	549.2	156	1441	78	18.47
Mr A Cotter	683.1	117	2222	113	19.66
Mr C E McLeod	781.1	223	1891	82	23.01
Mr R A Duff	111.5	33	326	12	27.16
Mr M A Noble	569.5	156	1490	53	28.11
Mr A J Hopkins	253	59	791	27	29.29
Mr S E Gregory	7.1	0	14	0	--

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	28	18	3	7	-	15	71.42
Lancashire	25	12	3	10	-	9	60.00
Sussex	28	13	4	11	-	9	52.94
Surrey	26	14	6	5	1	8	40.00
Leicestershire	21	8	5	8	-	3	23.07
Kent	22	10	7	4	1	3	17.64
Warwickshire	22	5	4	13	-	1	11.11
Worcestershire	18	5	5	8	-	0	0.00
Gloucestershire	18	8	8	2	-	-	0.00
Nottinghamshire	20	6	7	7	-	-1	-7.69
Middlesex	18	4	7	7	-	-3	-27.27
Essex	20	3	10	7	-	-7	-53.64
Northamptonshire	12	2	8	2	-	-6	-60.00
Derbyshire	20	3	14	3	-	-11	-64.70
Somerset	18	1	10	7	-	-9	-81.81
Hampshire	20	1	12	7	-	-11	-84.61

The match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval - abandoned without a ball being bowled - is not included in the above table.

4 September: ESSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6901.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 September, page 9)

On a bowler's day, at Leyton, yesterday, the Australians established an advantage, finishing 49 runs ahead at the end of an innings each. The match had an extra interest invested in it by the fact that it is the last of the Australian games on a London ground, and in addition there is plenty of curiosity aroused as to the fate in store for Essex, who, amid their many failures in the championship, possess the distinction of being the only county side who have beaten the Australians.

The wicket yesterday was similar to that on which the first game was played; the turf was just damp on the top and the ball came off it at a great pace and did its work quickly. Here, then, was the secret of much of the success of Tremlin. He kept a fine length and his analysis of seven wickets for 72 was one of his best performances in his year's work.

Mr Cotter, who was largely responsible for the small score made by Essex, always looked very difficult to play. Generally his length was good, and the Essex batsmen were handicapped by having to play him in what was mostly a very bad light. There was nothing removed from the commonplace in the day's batting, if Mr McGahey's patient defence is exempted.

When the Australians went in at midday Mr Trumper began well and made a couple of very fine cuts; but at 24 he was the first victim to Tremlin's good bowling. Others followed steadily, although Mr Darling played a successfully bold game for a considerable number of overs. The Essex fielding, too,

was quite brilliant, and the left-hand catch at slip by Buckenham which got out Mr Noble was one of the best things of the day.

It was always a great struggle for runs, and the innings was over after about two hours and 20 minutes' actual cricket. Essex had the misfortune to lose the services of J Freeman, their wicket-keeper, who received a bad blow in the face from Tremlin's bowling early in the innings.

Mr Laver's length and Mr Cotter's pace were too much for Essex; and although there were a couple of catches dropped in the slips seven wickets were down for 61. Reeves sustained some injury to his left hand from Mr Cotter's bowling, but after retiring he came back and finished his innings. Mr McGahey, who was missed when he had scored three, kept the side from utter collapse, and Tremlin helped him to add 25 for the seventh wicket.

The Australians had an over in the third over of the match, but no runs were made.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 September, page 5)

The wicket was faster and the ball came along at a much more even pace at key yesterday than it had done on Monday; and the Australians benefited to the full by this change in their conditions. Their second innings lasted virtually the whole of the day, and the end was that Essex were out in to make 360 to win. They had got 18 of these without loss when bad light stopped the game a quarter of an hour before the appointed time.

With their great task before them Essex laboured under a disadvantage in the loss of one of their most successful batsmen of the year; for Reeves, whose thumb was damaged on Monday, was incapable of taking the field yesterday, so that his county was deprived of his bowling, as they will probably to-day be of his batting.

Mr Darling had, in the exigencies of the game, altered his order on Monday night; and yesterday Mr Laver and Mr Howell, who figured last on the card, took the best part of an hour in making 65 for the first wicket. Mr Howell was quite good in his driving, but Mr Laver's care was such that he took 80 minutes to make his 21 before being second out at 84.

It was after the third wicket had fallen at 103 that the finest batting of the day was seen in the partnership of Mr Darling and Mr Noble. Mr Darling drove very hard, and he was particularly severe of Buckenham's fast bowling. Mr Noble practised a greater variety of strokes, in which the cut preponderated. The fourth wicket yielded 88 runs, and the Mr Noble was leg-before-wicket, and at 203 Mr Darling was bowled by a good ball from Tremlin for a splendid innings of 61, played in about 70 minutes.

Both Mr Trumper and Mr Hill went in unusually late. Mr Trumper began well, but was soon out leg-before-wicket, and subsequently the cricket had for its feature the batting of Mr Hill, who was quite in his best form and remained not out 56. The Australians were very keen in their running and never neglected a single, tactics which were made additionally profitable by sundry overthrows.

The innings lasted four hours and a quarter. Tremlin again bowled well, bringing his aggregate in the match to ten wickets for 153 runs, and Mr Douglas's length and straightness were very serviceable to his side.

Essex went in at half-past 5, and in a quarter of an hour made 18, stumps then being drawn owing to the bad light.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 September, page 9)

Essex managed to draw their match with the Australians yesterday, at Leyton; but it was something of a scramble for them, and when the end came at a quarter to 6 they had only one wicket left and were still 204 runs behind. And so the Australians were deprived of their revenge for the only beating given them by any of the counties during the tour.

The last day's cricket was virtually spoiled by the weather, for the Essex ground suffered so much from the heavy downpour of the early morning that the game could not be proceeded with until after half-past 2. It became a question whether the Essex batsmen would be capable of keeping in for roughly three hours against the Australians on a slow wicket.

To begin with their chances of saving the game became quite bright. Mr Fane batted particularly well, although for the most part he devoted himself solely to defence. He and Mr Gillingham made 41 for the first wicket; he had Mr Perrin with him until 67; and then he and Mr McGahey stayed together for nearly an hour and added 26 runs.

It was half-past 4 when the third Essex wicket fell and there remained another 75 minutes for play. Reeves altered his mind and, in spite of his badly damaged hand, decided to go in. A quarter of an hour later Mr Fane was caught and bowled, being fourth out at 130, having played extremely well for two hours and 20 minutes.

Afterwards the game went steadily against Essex, and with nearly 20 minutes left for play the last man came in. The Australians fielded and bowled keenly, but Buckenham and J Freeman kept up their ends and saved the match.

4 September: GENTLEMEN OF THE SOUTH v PLAYERS OF THE SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6902.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 September, page 9)

For a time excellent fielding and wicket-keeping did much to compensate for the weakness of the Gentlemen's bowling at Bournemouth, yesterday, but mistakes later allowed the Players to gain the upper hand.

Bowley and Vine scored 116 for the first partnership and gave promise of a big total; but Mr Robson kept wicket in brilliant form and dismissed the next four batsmen, and five wickets were down for 189. Relf was well caught high up at short-leg, and six of the Players were out for 205.

Llewellyn, when he had made 20, ought to have been caught by Dr Grace at point, and Arnold, just before he was out, was missed by Mr Byrne at mid-on. The total otherwise would have been considerably less, as the two professionals scored 94 in little more than an hour for the seventh wicket, and Llewellyn, hitting out fearlessly, afterwards made his runs out of an aggregate of 149.

Bowley, who hit 11 fours, Arnold and Llewellyn all batted admirably, with well-timed drives on both sides of the wicket. The catches which dismissed Quaife and Braund were very good, Mr Robson, standing back, taking the former low down and Braund up at the wicket on the leg-side. His stumping of Vine was also extremely smart and altogether he gained a large share of the day's honours.

After Arnold was caught at mid-off from a lofty stroke Llewellyn and Stone added 55 in 25 minutes when, at a quarter to 6, bad light stopped further play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 September, page 5)

The commanding position established by the Players on Monday at Bournemouth was considerably strengthened yesterday by Llewellyn, who in 70 minutes scored 103 runs out of a total of 142 made for the three remaining wickets. Llewellyn's innings contained 27 fours, chiefly by drives on both sides of the wicket; and except for the easy chance which he had given on Monday, when he had made only 20, his strokes were invariably well-timed.

The Gentlemen did fairly well for a time, but with the early batsmen disposed of the weakness of the side as a combination became evident, the last six wickets falling in three-quarters of an hour for 44 runs.

Dr Grace batted well and had scored 43 out of 92 when he was second out, and Mr Bignell and Mr Goldie played bright cricket, the latter making his runs in 40 minutes. Mr Fry was scarcely at his best, his 21 occupying three-quarters of an hour. At the close of play the Gentlemen required 279 runs to avoid the innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 September, page 9)

Rain fell heavily at Bournemouth yesterday morning and the Gentlemen and Players' match could not be continued until after lunch. Then the wicket helped the bowlers so much that the Gentlemen, in their second innings, were all dismissed in an hour and 20 minutes.

Mr Robson, Mr Fishwick and Mr [G] Bignell stayed in some time, and the two last-named batsmen with vigorous drives showed the best form, adding 25 runs for the seventh wicket. Arnold and Dennett took full advantage of the conditions, both making the ball get up quickly from the pitch.

4 September: NORTH v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6903.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 September, page 9)

Some bright and interesting batting was seen in the second match of the Scarborough Festival yesterday. The wicket, which had been protected from rain, proved much faster than the one available for the first match, and runs came rapidly throughout the day.

There was less than two hours' cricket before luncheon, and this produced 166 runs for the loss of Tunnickliffe's and Mr Spooner's wickets. Tunnickliffe pulled a ball into his wicket by a very bad stroke, while Mr Spooner was caught from a lofty drive.

Denton and Tyldesley had a partnership for the third wicket which produced 102 runs. Both played pretty cricket, Tyldesley excelling in his off-drives and Denton in his leg strokes. Tyldesley had one bad over from Tarrant before reaching double figures; he was missed by Mr Leveson-Gower at mid-on and narrowly escaped losing his wicket from the next three deliveries.

Hirst and Rhodes indulged in some very rapid scoring; they were only together for 55 minutes, but in this time they added 108 runs for the sixth wicket. Rhodes drove brilliantly and played the better cricket of the two. Hirst was very lucky, for Tarrant missed him at long-on when he had scored 37 and Board dropped a simple catch at the wicket when he was 58.

There was an interval for tea when Hirst had completed his hundred, and this proved disastrous, for four wickets went down in the next half-hour for 30 runs. Mr Bosanquet bowled a fast medium pace early in the day, but subsequently adopted slow breaks, and with these took three of the last four wickets.

Lord Hawke is absent from the North team owing to lameness, and Mr Jackson had to withdraw for business reasons.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 September, page 5)

There was another bright day's cricket at Scarborough yesterday. The game was delayed on three occasions by light rain, but the interruptions were of brief duration, and during the day four and a half hours' cricket was possible.

The South, who were batting for three hours, fell 203 short of the North's score. Mr Raphael, Killick and Mr S H Day batted well before luncheon, when 104 runs were scored for the fall of three wickets. Afterwards Mr Bosanquet played brilliantly and contributed 70 out of 101. Most of his runs were obtained by good wrist play. Both Haigh and Rhodes bowled well.

The North, although holding a long lead, decided to bat again, and in an hour and 25 minutes scored 125 for two wickets. They are this 328 runs ahead and have eight wickets to fall. Mr Spooner was badly missed at mid-on when he had made 17 owing to a misunderstanding between Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Napier; but with this exception he batted brilliantly.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 September, page 9)

Owing to the weather, no play was possible at Scarborough yesterday, and the match was abandoned . . .

4 September: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6904.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 September, page 9)

Surrey had much the better of the opening day's play in this match at the Oval yesterday, and at the drawing of stumps they were only 44 runs behind the Leicestershire total with nine wickets in hand.

The home side, however, in some degree owed their strong position to mistakes in the field, as Hayward was missed in the slips when he had only scored four, and again at the wicket 40 runs later. Holland, too, ought to have been caught with his figures at 42.

Leicestershire began their innings badly, as Mr de Trafford drew a ball into his wicket before a run had been got; but then Mr Wood and King, although both were missed, the former giving a difficult chance to point with his total at seven while King was missed at slip at 18, put on 49 for the second wicket. Afterwards King batted steadily and well, and chiefly through his good play the total was taken to 106 for the loss of three men by lunch time.

Just, however, when things appeared to be going well with them Leicestershire collapsed, and after the interval the seven remaining wickets fell for the addition of 58 runs. Coe made some good strokes on the off-side, but with the exception of him the rest of the team could do little with the bowling of Lees and Smith. King was batting over two hours for his runs and, except for the chance referred to, his cricket was marked by great precision and he made some very fine cuts.

Hayward and Holland opened the batting for Surrey shortly after 4 o'clock, and from the first runs came fairly freely. Apart from the luck that both batsmen experienced their play was very attractive and there was little to find fault with in their cricket. The total was taken to 111 before Holland was out to a good catch at long leg after a partnership which had lasted for an hour and 35 minutes.

Baker came in, and play ended for the day a few minutes before time owing to bad light.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 September, page 5)

A splendid batting performance by Surrey yesterday at the Oval enabled them to finish the day with a very strong position, as at the close Leicestershire were 361 runs behind with all their wickets in hand in their second innings.

Although Hayward batted very well, the feature of the cricket was some wonderful hitting by Lord Dalmeny and Mr Crawford after lunch. When Mr Crawford went in he was not very comfortable with Whitehead's leg-breaks; but he soon settled down, and both he and Lord Dalmeny scored at a tremendous rate and, considering the pace at which runs came, there were very few bad strokes made. Both played splendidly and they were not separated until they had increased the total by 260 runs, made in two hours and ten minutes.

Overnight Surrey had scored 120 for Holland's wicket, and when they continued their innings runs came freely from the start. Baker helped Hayward to take the total to 192 before the former was caught at slip, the partnership in all having realized 81. Hayes and Hobbs did little, and then at 247 Hayward's fine innings, for which he was batting for three hours and three-quarters, was brought to a close by a magnificent catch by Gill at mid-off, who held a very hard drive with one hand above his head.

Mr Crawford was then joined by Lord Dalmeny, and the total was taken to 293 without further loss by lunch time. Lord Dalmeny in his fine innings hit one five and 17 fours, while Mr Crawford, who was batting about two and a half hours, made 22 fours. After Lord Dalmeny was out, leg-before-wicket at 507, Mr Crawford and Lees added 42 in ten minutes before the Surrey innings was declared closed. The rate of scoring can be judged when it is stated that in two hours' actual cricket after lunch Surrey scored 256 runs.

Being 385 runs behind on the first innings, Leicestershire went in a second time; but there was nothing in the cricket, and play was stopped for the day shortly before 6 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 September, page 9)

The county cricket season was brought to a close with the match between Surrey and Leicestershire, which ended in a draw at the Oval yesterday. So much rain had fallen that it was impossible to continue the game until 3 o'clock; and then, with the wicket playing slow and easy, there never was a chance of a definite result being arrived at.

Overnight Leicestershire in their second innings had scored 24 without loss, and with the conditions from the first favoured the batsmen runs came steadily, and the total was taken to 111 before Mr Wood was easily caught and bowled. For the addition of two runs Mr de Trafford, who had played much steadier cricket than usual, played on, and Knight was "yorked" by the next ball.

King and Whitehead then came together; but all interest had gone from the game and, as there was no object on continuing and the light got very bad, stumps were drawn at half-past 5.

Tuesday 5 September, page 9: THE M.C.C. AND GROUND AVERAGES

The M.C.C. and Ground averages are given below: -

10 Matches - Played 9, won 5, lost 2, drawn 2, abandoned 1.

BATTING

150 or more runs: Tarrant 190 at 38.00, Capt E G Wynyard 349 at 34.90.

BOWLING

20 or more wickets: Thompson 36 at 11.72, J T Hearne 21 at 18.28.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - SECOND DIVISION

The final position of the counties taking part in this competition is given below: -

	(No. of matches)			(No. of Points)			
	Played	Won	Inns on 1st	Poss.	Obt.	Percentage	
Norfolk	8	6	1	0	24	20	83.33
Monmouthshire	8	5	2	0	24	19	79.16
Devon	10	6	2	1	30	23	76.66
Wiltshire	10	6	2	0	30	22	73.33
Durham	8	5	0	0	24	15	62.50
Yorkshire II	8	5	0	0	24	15	62.50
Bedfordshire	10	3	3	0	30	15	50.00
Buckinghamshire	8	2	2	0	24	10	41.66
Glamorgan	14	2	4	2	42	16	38.09
Staffordshire	8	3	0	0	24	9	37.50
Suffolk	8	2	1	1	24	9	37.50
Hertfordshire	10	2	2	0	30	10	33.33
Cambridgeshire	8	0	3	0	24	6	25.00
Dorset	8	1	1	0	24	5	20.83
Northumberland	8	0	2	1	24	5	20.83
Surrey II	8	0	2	1	24	5	20.83
Berks	10	0	2	1	30	5	16.66
Cornwall	8	0	2	0	24	4	16.66
Oxfordshire	8	1	0	1	24	4	16.66

THE M.C.C.'S TEAM FOR SOUTH AFRICA

It is officially stated that the Marylebone Club have as yet received no definite reply from South Africa as to the conditions they laid down when agreeing to send out a team this autumn. Nothing has been settled up to the present, and it is feared that the delay may militate against the success of the tour.

Thursday 7 September, page 9: THE SURREY AVERAGES

Surrey completed their season's fixtures with their drawn game against Leicestershire yesterday, and with 14 wins and six defeats they rise from 11th place last year to fourth on the list in the County Championship.

There is no comparison between the side of 1904 and that of the present year, for they have shown such great improvement in all departments that it is hard to reconcile the one team with the other. Last year the eleven from various causes failed to do themselves justice; but with almost the same material they have risen to be one of the best county sides of the year, and at one time there appeared a possibility of their being in the running for the County Championship.

Having a settled captain has done wonders with the eleven, and Lord Dalmeny must be congratulated on the way in which he has captained them. They have worked much better together; their fielding, which was often seriously at fault in 1904, has invariably maintained a high standard, and the improvement in this department has been a large factor in their increased success.

Their bowlers, too, have made rapid strides, and from comparative weakness they have turned out to be quite formidable. The majority of the work has fallen on Lees and Mr Knox; both have done splendidly and they have not been wanting in support, for Hayes, Smith and late in the season Mr J N Crawford have done many good performances.

Lees has probably never bowled better; while Mr Knox, who was practically unknown until this season, has proved himself to be one of the best fast bowlers in England. Smith has always been looked upon as being effective only on slow wickets, but his fine bowling against the Australians in their return match at the Oval showed that this was something of a fallacy.

In batting Hayward has once again been the mainstay, and the value of his fine cricket cannot well be over-estimated. Hayes, the all-round man of the side, has done remarkably well; his fielding at slip has often been brilliant, his bowling has greatly improved and his batting, although still inclined to be reckless, has been of great service to the side.

Lord Dalmeny is a greatly improved batsman, as his form against Leicestershire would alone prove if proof were needed; while Mr Crawford has more than maintained the good opinion formed of him. Hobbs, the newcomer in the side, gave brilliant promise; but, although doing good work, he has not quite fulfilled expectations, but there is no doubt that the Surrey season proved rather too arduous for him. Anyhow he showed that he was possessed of much ability and should be of great service to the side in the future.

Although Surrey were rather disappointing in August, they should feel satisfied with their season's work. The averages are given below: -

28 matches - Played 27, won 14, lost 6, drawn 6, tied 1, abandoned 1.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Hayward 1472 at 43.29, Hayes 1616 at 39.41, Baker 944 at 28.60, Lord Dalmeny 905 at 26.89, Holland 879 at 26.68, Hobbs 1004 at 24.48, Davis 583 at 21.59, Lees 664 at 17.94. [Note also Mr J N Crawford 458 at 45.60.]

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Lees 169 at 17.01, Smith 40 at 18.65, Mr N A Knox 105 at 20.25, Hayes 58 at 21.00.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

Leicestershire, who last year were bracketed seventh in the County Championship, have had a most successful season, and their record of eight wins and five defeats is the best that they have ever had, and they now take fifth place on the list.

The strength of the side again lay in the batting, and no fewer than ten of their players have averages of over 20. Mr Wood has batted consistently well throughout the summer, and his record in scoring over 1,500 runs, with an average of 47, is a very fine performance. Knight has again done well, but King, while maintaining his standard in batting, has not been so successful a bowler.

In bowling, Jayes, who became a regular member of the side for the first time, has taken more wickets than anyone else, and Mr Odell, although rather slow in finding his form, eventually did better than last year. The averages are given below: -

Played 22, won 8, lost 5, drawn 9.

BATTING

500 or more runs: Mr C J B Wood 1567 at 47.48, Knight 1085 at 33.90, J H King 853 at 30.46, Mr V F S Crawford 546 at 28.73, Whitehead 875 at 26.51, Coe 775 at 23.48, Mr C E de Trafford 665 at 20.15.

BOWLING

30 or more wickets: Coe 49 at 22.77, Mr W W Odell 76 at 23.18, Jayes 96 at 23.43, King 33 at 29.36, Gill 30 at 29.40.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The final position of the counties is given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	28	18	3	7	-	15	71.42
Lancashire	25	12	3	10	-	9	60.00
Sussex	28	13	4	11	-	9	52.94
Surrey	27	14	6	6	1	8	40.00
Leicestershire	22	8	5	9	-	3	23.07
Kent	22	10	7	4	1	3	17.64
Warwickshire	22	5	4	13	-	1	11.11
Worcestershire	18	5	5	8	-	0	0.00
Gloucestershire	18	8	8	2	-	-	0.00
Nottinghamshire	20	6	7	7	-	-1	-7.69
Middlesex	18	4	7	7	-	-3	-27.27
Essex	20	3	10	7	-	-7	-53.64
Northamptonshire	12	2	8	2	-	-6	-60.00
Derbyshire	20	3	14	3	-	-11	-64.70
Somerset	18	1	10	7	-	-9	-81.81
Hampshire	20	1	12	7	-	-11	-84.61

The match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval - abandoned without a ball being bowled - is not included in the above table.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "One point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

7 September: C I THORNTON'S XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6905.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 September, page 9)

Mr F S Jackson's remarkable fortune in tossing against the Australians was again demonstrated in the concluding match of the Scarborough Festival yesterday. Mr C I Thornton had secured what is practically a representative England side to meet the Australians, nine of the team having taken part in the season's Test Matches.

Before tossing Mr Jackson gave Mr Darling the choice between a dry and a soft wicket. The pitch prepared for the match had been protected from the rain by canvas sheets. Mr Jackson disapproved of the proceeding and had another wicket prepared, the choice between the two being left to Mr Darling. The dry pitch was utilized.

The England captain followed up his good fortune by playing another brilliant innings. He went in to bat when three wickets had fallen for 59 runs, and he was last out three hours later, having contributed 123 of the 223 runs scored in the time. He was indebted to the good defence of Thompson and Hunter for the opportunity of scoring his third three-figure innings of the season off Australian bowling.

Thompson stayed with him for an hour, after the seventh wicket had fallen with the score at 120. When Thompson was caught at deep square-leg after hitting out at one of Mr Armstrong's leg-breaks Mr Jackson's score was 75 and the total 213. Hunter then defended finely, and amid much cheering Mr Jackson reached three-figure.

When requiring 15 Mr Jackson made three magnificent on-drives from successive balls from Mr Armstrong, the third stroke sending the ball out of the ground. He was finally caught at slip. His driving was brilliant, but he also made many fine strokes behind the wicket.

The Australians had 35 minutes' batting. Mr Darling was missed at the wicket in Hirst's first over before scoring. When 27 had been made Rhodes was put on for Thompson, and had Mr Trumper leg before wicket in his first over.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 September, page 11)

There was a great improvement both in the weather and the wicket at Scarborough yesterday, and as the result the Australians made a large score. They passed the home total with eight wickets down, and at the close of play they held a lead of 105 with one wicket still to fall.

For this performance the Australians were chiefly indebted to Mr Hill, who made his fourth three-figure innings of the tour. He went in at the fall of the second wicket, when the total was 40, and was not dismissed until four and a half hours later, the score in the meantime having been increased by 333 runs.

Although this is Mr Hill's highest score in the Australians' present tour, it cannot rank as one of his best innings. He made a number of faulty strokes behind the wicket, and when 144 he should have been caught in the long field off Mr Bosanquet's bowling by Denton, who slipped as he was attempting the catch.

Apart from Mr Hill's innings, there were few individual performances of note. Mr Darling, who made 31, was four times missed. Mr Armstrong stayed with Mr Hill while 98 runs were being added for the fourth wicket, but the longest stand was made for the ninth wicket, when Mr Hill and Mr Laver were together. They became partners at 25 minutes past 4, when eight wickets were down with the score at 272, and they were not separated until a quarter to 6, when Denton stoned by his former mistake by making a brilliant running catch from deep third man, which dismissed Mr Hill. The partnership produced 101 runs.

The England team's bowling was lacking in sting, and although Mr Bosanquet soon took three wickets, he was freely punished afterwards. In bowling Mr Howell, Hirst took his hundredth wicket, and thus achieved the feat of scoring over 2,000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the season's cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 September, page 10)

Rain spoiled the last day's play in this match at Scarborough on Saturday, and in the end the game had to be abandoned soon after 3 o'clock as a draw. Overnight the Australians, with a wicket in

hand, were 105 runs ahead on the first innings, and on Saturday they increased their advantage to 110.

The feature of the cricket was the batting of Mr Spooner; but with three men out Mr Thornton's England Eleven were only two runs ahead. Afterwards Mr Jackson improved matters, and at the finish they held a lead of 66, with five wickets to fall.

7 September: GENTLEMEN OF THE SOUTH v PLAYERS OF THE SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6906.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 September, page 9)

Although the first match of the Hastings festival was begun at the time arranged yesterday play lasted only for 35 minutes. Rain so flooded the ground that soon after lunch stumps were drawn for the day.

In the time available for the cricket the Players made good use of an easy wicket, Hayward scoring skilfully on the leg-side while Marshal cut well. The latter was bowled at 38, and after Hayes had made long-leg boundaries off Mr Crawford and Mr McGahey and Hayward had hit Mr Knox to the on for four rain stopped further play.

It is unfortunate that the weather should be so unpromising as the future of the festival depends upon the success of the present week.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 September, page 11)

Cricket at Hastings yesterday was limited to three hours, rain preventing play before lunch; but fortunately for the success of the festival the attendance was up to the average.

Under the influence of the sun the wicket played treacherously as the afternoon advanced, and the Players at one time looked like being dismissed for a much smaller score. Lees, however, who went in when seven wickets had fallen for 118, hit out fearlessly, and made his runs out of a total of 82 in three-quarters of an hour. He was missed twice from lofty strokes, and Hearne, who helped him to score 37 for the last wicket in a quarter of an hour, was let off in similar fashion.

The best batting for the Players was shown by Hayes. On Thursday he had scored eight, and when play was continued he was in for nearly an hour and a half, occupied chiefly with defending his wicket. He, nevertheless, made some good leg hits and drives.

Mr Crawford and Mr Knox bowled unchanged yesterday, but towards the end the latter gave Lees an opportunity of hooking a number of short-pitched balls.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 September, page 10)

Saturday's cricket at Hastings was curtailed by rain, play lasting for only an hour and 20 minutes before lunch. On Friday the Gentlemen had scored 26 for the loss of Mr Raphael; and with Lord Dalmeny, Mr McGahey, Mr Day and Mr Sewell dismissed in 50 minutes when play was continued half the side were out for 91 runs.

Mr Jessop at this stage, however, with a characteristic innings, improved the Gentlemen's position. He was batting for half an hour and, taking numerous risks, he was eventually well caught in the long-field. Mr Crawford, who was in with Mr Jessop while 56 runs were scored for the sixth wicket, batted with admirable skill on the soft wicket and played the best cricket of the innings.

Lees and Cox bowled unchanged until 113 appeared on the board, and then Hearne, going on for the latter, was hit by Mr Jessop for 25 in three overs. He got Mr Jessop's wicket, however, with the first ball of the fourth over, and Mr Goldie's with the one following.

(From our special correspondent)

The past cricket season has been dominated by the Australian visit, and the five Test matches have absorbed most of the public interest. This is inevitable, as far as the general public is concerned; but to the careful observer of the game there are other features which are full of interest, and chief among these is the effect that has been caused by the ukase issued by the M.C.C. a few years ago against the too elaborate preparation of wickets.

There can be no doubt that the plain watering and rolling and discontinuance of some special form of top dressing which was prevalent some years ago has this year for the first time had a real effect on the wickets. The pitches have been more sporting; and even on grounds like the Oval and Fenner's bowlers have had assistance that in former years was denied them.

At Manchester it has been said that the wickets have been dangerous; but there have been no really serious accidents, as must have been the case against bowling like Mr Brearley's if the wickets had been very rough, and it is certain that the game has been considerably improved by the few number of wickets like those at Trent Bridge, Birmingham and Brighton in former years.

Older cricketers, at any rate, have rejoiced at the smaller number of drawn games, and it is absurd to say that the batsmen have been too heavily handicapped when the batting and bowling averages are considered. There is, however, one fact that cannot be lost sight of in the case, and that is the possibility of the wickets or some of them becoming dangerous.

In this connection it must be remembered that forty years ago, when no doubt wickets were far rougher than they are now, bowlers with high actions like Mr Brearley, Wass and Fielder were not seen; and up to 1863 the ball was not allowed by the rules to be delivered when the hand was above the level of the shoulder. The rule was then altered; but high actions only came in gradually, and in the meantime the grounds improved; for bowlers like Mr Kortright and the Australian, Mr Jones, would have been so dangerous at Lord's in the sixties that cricket would almost have been impossible.

If in years to come the wickets become like they were and the bowlers keep the high actions they do now, an outcry may arise and artificial preparation of wickets will again become the fashion, and drawn games will again resume their hideous sway. There is no reason to suppose that this will be the case; but there is a possibility of it; and, sooner than this should happen, a pious hope may be expressed that lower actions may in the future become common, and the wickets must be very rough indeed if some bowlers become really dangerous.

Jackson and Tarrant at Lord's in the sixties bowled men out, but they inflicted no serious injuries on their opponents, and better cricket and keener matches can never be seen than was seen in those days, when every match was finished unless stopped by weather and fast bowlers were not prematurely worn out like Richardson, who lost his pace and spin after five years' play and almost in the prime of life.

Some say, with a certain amount of truth, that slow play is the ruin of cricket; but round-arm bowling is far more difficult to keep accurate than over-hand; and if fast round-hand bowling should again become the fashion on natural wickets there will be many more balls to hit, and batsmen will not leave balls off the wicket alone. *Carpe diem* will be the motto; you must score when you can, for the almost impossible ball is bound to come, and if you neglect to take advantage of every loose ball you will soon tire of the game, because you will get no runs.

The condition of the wickets has been of especial importance this year, when the Australians have been in England. That they have not been successful in the Test matches is due primarily to the fact that they are not so good a side as the best English team; but apart from other reasons, which will be discussed later on, the Australians must have found the wickets at Lord's, Leeds and Manchester very different from those at Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, and their failure, or comparative failure, in batting must partly be put down to this cause.

The Test matches were five in number, and the first match at Nottingham and the last at the Oval were the only two in which the Australians had a time when they looked like winning. At Nottingham England, on winning the toss, only made 196 on a good wicket; but when Mr Hill and Mr Noble had put Australia in a commanding position Mr Jackson got three wickets in an over, and the result was that the Colonial score only exceeded that of England by 25 runs.

Australia had terribly bad luck owing to Mr Trumper's accident, for he began well, and if he had played one of his 1902 innings his side might have won. But, as it was, will Mr Jackson's wonderful over Australia had much the better of the position; but in England's second innings it became obvious that the Australian bowling would be weak, and England ran up a very large score. Even then a draw seemed inevitable; but Mr Bosanquet came out with an extraordinary piece of bowling and the Australians were paralyzed, and England won a great victory just in time.

Mr Laver in the first innings bowled very well; but it looked as though Australia had not much confidence in themselves, for on the second day Mr Armstrong bowled for three hours balls that were practically impossible to hit, while unless the batsmen tried to hit they could not be got out. The Australian tactics were perfectly fair and reasonable, but it certainly looked as if their captain had abandoned all hopes of winning the match and was playing for a draw. Such tactics, common enough in these days on the third day, are not often seen at an earlier stage.

The second match at Lord's was the only match of the series that was spoilt by weather; but it was in this match that the Australians showed their best cricket. England were batting all the first day when the wicket, though not exactly easy, was at its best; the batting, however, was tame, and the Australian score of 181 on the second day, when the wicket was at its worst, was a far finer performance - in fact, seldom has better batting ever been seen on a difficult wicket than that shown by Mr Trumper, Mr Duff, Mr Darling and Mr Armstrong. A collapse would have surprised nobody, for the wicket was really difficult; but Rhodes never bowled worse under what are generally considered for him favourable circumstances, and the English bowling all round was by no means up to the mark.

England in their second innings put themselves in much the stronger position, Mr MacLaren playing a grand innings; but, all things considered, the Australians had every reason to congratulate themselves on the way they acquitted themselves in this match, for the toss was a vital factor on such a wicket, and this they lost.

The third match was played at Leeds on rather a bumpy wicket; but the Australians appeared to have made a mistake in leaving out Mr Cotter, and they had no bowler to take advantage of the help the ground gave them, while their batting compared badly with that of the English side. Mr Jackson played a splendid innings of 144 not out, and only Mr Armstrong and Mr Noble did well for Australia, Mr Trumper failing completely.

The experience and coolness of Mr Gregory saved them from a severe defeat; but both in this match and that at Manchester the Australians were at their worst - Mr Laver had lost some of his spin, Mr Cotter had not yet found any precision in length, Mr Noble was but a shadow of his former self, and Mr Darling had no course open to him but that of keeping on Mr McLeod to keep down the runs at one end and Mr Armstrong at the other.

To the regret of many at Manchester, where all through the season to win the toss was almost essential to win a match, Mr Jackson was again successful in the toss. Again did no Australian bowler seem able to take advantage of the wicket, and Hayward and Mr Jackson took what little sting there was out of the bowling; indeed, the English score of 446 runs was one that no eleven could have made on such a wicket had the Australian bowling been anything like it was in the days of Messrs Spofforth, Turner, Boyle, Giffen, Palmer and Trumble.

What should have happened in England's innings occurred in that of Australia. Mr Brearley made the ball get up and occasionally keep a little low, and Arnold kept an admirable length, as did Rhodes. In fact, on this Manchester wicket England could perfectly well have got on with these three bowlers and no other bowler at all, and it must be said that Mr Brearley was very difficult the whole time.

The only really great batting feat for the Australians was an innings of 73 by Mr Darling. He was missed four or five times, but his batting was splendid and a treat to behold; but, apart from this and a good innings by Mr Duff, there was nothing in the play of the Australians who looked a beaten side all through.

Between the Manchester match and the last match at the Oval there was a sudden and startling change in the bowling of Mr Cotter; and as a consequence, not only at the Oval, but in the other matches of the tour, the Australians played in a different way altogether. Mr Armstrong bowled with a length and precision no other leg-break style of bowler has equalled, and Mr Cotter, while still keeping nearly, if not quite, all his original pace, became more master of the length of the ball, and his bowling appeared to come off the ground faster than any bowler since the days of the great George Freeman.

Mr Trumper, although nothing like the scorer that he was in 1902, was more consistent, and when the last Test match was played the Australians were at the top of their form. Again they lost the toss, and again did England, this time chiefly owing to Mr Fry, who played a splendid innings of 144, piled up more than 400. Australia did not collapse this time, and some grand batting and hitting was shown by Mr Duff, whose 146, the only century scored by an Australian in the Test matches, was the main factor for a good score of 363.

It was when England began their second innings that the exciting cricket occurred, and only when Hayward, Arnold, Mr Fry and Mr MacLaren fell for very small scores, England, for the first time since the first day's play at Nottingham, were in a tight place. Mr Jackson, after a rather precarious start, and Tyldesley (who, however, in the opinion of the Australians was caught behind the wicket when he had made about 20) relieved the situation; and then Mr Spooner and Tyldesley by some very rapid hitting put on a lot of runs on the third day, and the Australians, having nothing to play for but a draw, played out time.

The Englishmen, before the Oval match had begun, had won the rubber, but they had a very anxious hour at the beginning of the third day, and the bowling of Mr Cotter and Mr Armstrong, on the easiest of the whole series of Test-match wickets this year, showed what different cricket might have ensued if all along the bowling had been what it was at the Oval.

There is not much to say about the other matches the Australians played; and of the counties only Essex brought about their downfall, though Yorkshire had the best of one of the matches, and there were some pretty close finishes, one against Surrey and one at Bournemouth against a fairly strong scratch eleven.

In comparing the Australian Eleven with their predecessors, it is probably true to say that they occupied a middle position. They were not as good as the celebrated teams of 1882 and 1884, but they were not appreciably worse than those of 1896, 1899 and 1902, and some way better than any of the others.

As compared with that of 1902, they had no bowler as good as Mr Trumble; but a very different tale might have been told if Mr Cotter had developed his powers earlier in the season, say after the second Test match. But until he had found his length, which was not until after the fourth Test match, they no doubt were weak in bowling, when playing against a representative England eleven, and another reason for this was the failure of Mr Noble.

This was a fact quite unforeseen by the cricket world generally, for Mr Noble was probably regarded up to this year to be as good a bowler as existed in the world. On one or two occasions he bowled well, but besides a falling off in skill he was also unlucky, and suffered especially by faulty fielding in the slips.

Mr Laver began very well, but seemed to lose his spin later on, and much of the bowling had to be done by Mr Armstrong and Mr McLeod; but while the latter was very useful in keeping down runs, he was by no means up to international form. Mr Armstrong was, however, a really good bowler, and a greater master of length than any leg-break bowler that we have seen; indeed the accuracy of his bowling when sending down over after over a long way to leg, but at a length that no batsman could hit, was wonderful.

But it was the batting that was really at fault, speaking of the Test matches alone. It was dashing and attractive, but it was generally unsound; and Mr Noble and possibly Mr Armstrong alone could be called sound players.

It was said before that allowance ought to be made for the greater liveliness of the wickets this year as compared with those in Australia, and by liveliness is meant the something which made the ball get up. Mr Trumper and Mr Hill were the two batsmen who were at sea owing to the condition of things, and the failure of these two was the chief reason of the weakness of the batting.

Mr Hill played on the off side in a style by no means like a high-class bat. He scraped and fished for the ball in such a way that it always looked that he might be out any ball; and, although Mr Trumper made some lovely strokes, he was often caught in the slips or at the wicket, and he probably would have been far more successful if he had not been in such a hurry to score.

Mr Duff is a very fine bat of the dashing order; even he did not often look to be really set; but he played a great innings at the Oval in the last Test match. Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong were sound players, but both were probably rather overweighted with responsibility thrown on them by the

frequent failure of Mr Hill and Mr Trumper; and though they both played well in Test matches they did nothing extraordinary, and after these and Mr Darling there was a decided tail; but Mr Darling played nearly as well as ever he did.

In selecting the team, those responsible made a mistake in bringing over players past their prime, like Mr Howell, Mr Gregory and Mr McLeod. They would have done better if younger players had been brought, who, even if not better than the older ones, would have gained experience that would have been invaluable in further years. The selection of Mr Newland must remain a mystery.

It was the opinion of Mr Jackson that the English side was the strongest he had ever played with. As far as batting is concerned, this is no doubt correct, and in bowling the side was good, but there was no fast bowler the equal of either Richardson or Lockwood.

The Australians had very bad luck in losing every toss and in the accident to Mr Trumper in the first match. But there can be no doubt that as a side they were distinctly inferior to that of England; but there is some reason for thinking that they had the worst of the luck in some of the decisions of the umpires.

County cricket pursued the even tenor of its way, and Lancashire had to yield the first position up to Yorkshire; but perhaps the most noteworthy event of county cricket was the revival of Surrey. This was partly due to the excellence of Mr Knox as a fast bowler, the improvement and stamina of Lees, the good batting of Hayward and Hayes, and, most important of all, the energy and keenness the whole eleven put into their play under the really skilful leadership of Lord Dalmeny, who played practically all through the summer, and not only showed his eleven an excellent example in fielding, but more than once got his side out of a tight place by a free-hitting innings.

Yorkshire were not equal to the elevens of four or five years ago; but, nevertheless, their bowling was very strong, the strongest, indeed, of all the counties, and Mr Jackson, Denton and Hirst made a fine backbone to the batting of the side; but the fielding was not quite as good. Yorkshire always seemed to possess the faculty of putting a little bit of extra go and energy in their play at a critical moment, and no other side had such a fine trio of all-round players as Mr Jackson, Hirst and Rhodes.

Lancashire were very unlucky in losing practically the services of Hallows, owing to ill-health. The bulk of the work fell on the shoulders of Mr Brearley and Kermode, but, fortunately, at the end of the season, a new bowler was discovered in Cook. But, all the same, there was even then a great lack of variety in the attack, and they would have stood in great danger of collapse had it not been for the fine bowling of Mr Brearley, who was distinctly the best fast bowler in England and whose great strength pulled him through an arduous season's work; but he was much helped by the fiery nature of the ground at Manchester. The batting was fairly strong all through, another no side could be certain of getting an eleven out cheaply when Mr MacLaren, Mr Spooner, Mr Poidevin and Tyldesley had to be got rid of.

Sussex had a stronger eleven than they ever had before; and, though of course this was chiefly owing to Mr Fry, who practically in county cricket never failed, a great deal was owing to the all-round form of Killick and Relf, the former of whom made an astonishing advantage as a bowler, while Cox bowled well all through the season. A very good new batsman was found in Mr Young, the Cambridge Freshman, who is a player who, if he can play regularly, may take very high rank, as he is a batsman of the consistent order.

Kent did not do quite so well as was expected, though they were a good eleven. Fielder fell off in bowling, and they were consequently without a really good fast bowler, and somebody was wanted to support Blythe, who was quite one of the best bowlers in England. An eleven that has such good young bats as Seymour, Humphreys, Mr Dillon and the two brothers Day must be a good side; but the want of a good fast bowler and the inability of Mr Mason to play regularly keeps them back.

Middlesex were an unsatisfactory side, and there was a great falling off in the play of several of their leading players. Hearne is getting on in years, Mr Bosanquet and Mr Wells have lost much of their effectiveness as bowlers, and Trott can neither bowl, field nor bat as he used to, though he is, or ought to be, in the prime of life for a cricketer. Mr Warner and Mr Douglas both batted very fairly, and this was practically the only redeeming feature of the side, though Tarrant promises very well for the future.

There was not much difference between Nottinghamshire, Essex, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Gloucestershire, though if Worcestershire could always command the services of

their best eleven they would stand far higher up the list. Derbyshire lacks something, possibly a captain, who can bring the best out of a side, for they have enough good players to make a really good eleven.

Counties, speaking generally, may be divided into two classes; those who, like Yorkshire, Lancashire, Surrey, Middlesex and Kent are financially in a secure position, and those like Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire and Somerset who are perpetually hovering on the brink of solvency and insolvency. Everyone must admire the devotion of the leading members and committees of the latter class of counties, for the task of making two ends meet financially and finding young players and keeping things going generally is a thankless and very difficult task; and more than one county have had to have recourse to bazaars and similar methods to raise money.

Players have to be found from Australia if need be, and there is gradually growing up a state of things which may have an important influence in the future. During the past season Kermode, Trott, Cuffe, Tarrant and Mr Poidevin have been regular members of their respective counties, and Dwyer is qualifying for Sussex and Marshal for Surrey.

Australia has a small population, and no doubt English counties can hold out monetary considerations sufficient to induce Colonial players to leave their country and become for purposes of cricket English. In the present circumstances this is perhaps unavoidable, but it may have important consequences in the future history of international cricket. If Australia with her small population is to lose some of her best young players they will be much handicapped. Mr Poidevin, Tarrant and possibly Kermode would have increased the strength of Australia this year most materially; and the same thing will occur again.

Some rule may be made making it possible for Australians living in England to play for Australia in Test matches in this country. In county cricket any player may play for his native county, and there seems to be no good reason why this principle should not be extended. The Australians themselves may have some sentiment in the matter, but it might easier happen that the best bowler in the world may be an Australian resident in this country; and it is certain that if the Australians liked to play such a man it would be satisfactory to all parties if they did, otherwise it might happen that two or three first-rate cricketers could take no part in the great Test matches simply because there are sentimental reasons for their not playing for either side.

Two other matches deserve honourable mention among the year's great matches - namely, Gentlemen and Players and Oxford and Cambridge. Both were finished and both produced excellent cricket, and in the University match there was a really fine finish.

The usual superiority of the professional bowling gave the Players a well-deserved victory, but the all-round capacity of so many of the professional players was a great source of strength. Such all-round players as Hirst, Rhodes, Hayes and Arnold, who can be relied on to perform well in all three departments of the game, stiffen a side enormously, and there was another reason why the Players were such a formidable side.

It is a rare exception to find a really good captain in the ranks of the professionals; but Lilley as a captain is worthy of comparison with even the best amateurs, and is far superior to any professional that has ever appeared. He is an excellent judge of the game and manages the bowling, which is one of the most difficult tasks of a captain, with shrewd judgment and with a great regard for impartiality in which several of his predecessors were painfully deficient.

Mr Warner played very well in both innings of this match, and at Lord's he is one of the best batsmen in England.

The public must be accustomed to seeing year after year the old familiar names still performing with the same success. In batting the names of Fry, Jackson, Hayward, Tyldesley, Hirst and others appear again with huge averages, and in bowling it is taken for granted that Rhodes, Haigh, Arnold and Blythe will take more than 100 wickets.

But many others have come to the front this year; Quaife, Denton, Iremonger and Mr Jones have got a lot of runs, and Hayes, Bowley and George Gunn are excellent batsmen, as also are Mr Wood, Mr Spooner and Mr L G Wright. Mr Wright never played better, and as he is well over 40 years old all credit is due to him.

Among the bowlers Lees and Mr Knox have both done very good work for Surrey, and Mr Knox, excepting Mr Brearley, is perhaps the best really fast bowler in England. Mr Brearley was on the whole the leading bowler of the year, and Warren, Thompson, Haigh, Cox and Wass have also done well.

It is curious to note that, though cricket is very hard work, all-round players are more numerous than ever. Mr Jackson, Hirst, Rhodes, J Gunn, Hayes, Mr Jessop, Thompson, Killick, Relf, Mr Crawford, Braund, Arnold, Cuffe and Haigh are all excellent in this respect, and there are others who could also be mentioned.

The increased help that bowlers have received from the state of the wicket has had the effect of fewer drawn matches, and it is equally gratifying to have to report more comparatively low-scoring matches and close finishes. Such matches as Lancashire and Yorkshire at Sheffield, Surrey and Kent at the Oval, the University match, Kent and Middlesex, and others do far more to make the public interested in the great game than matches of which the leading features are huge scoring, tired bowlers and indecisive results. If only the unwearying compilers of weekly averages, records and tables could be induced to leave off from their labours still greater improvement would be seen.

Tuesday 12 September, page 9: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Mr Trumper, the first of the Australian cricketers to start for home, left London yesterday with his wife, and will have a short time on the Continent before joining one of the German boats at Genoa. Mr Darling, Mr Gregory, Mr Howell and Mr Kelly leave on Monday, and the rest of the team, going back in two or three parties, will travel by later boats.

11 September: SOUTH v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6908.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 September, page 9)

The Australians were to have begun the last match of the tour at Hastings yesterday against an eleven of the South of England. Heavy rain, however, during the night had made the ground unfit for play, and as it was still falling at the time arranged for play to begin all idea of cricket was at once abandoned for the day.

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

Yesterday, at Hastings, although the ground dried slowly after the heavy rain of Monday, play was possible for three hours. As the sun shone with some power during the afternoon, the bowlers generally held the upper hand, and at one time, when the wicket was at its worst, seven batsmen were dismissed for an aggregate of 19 runs.

At the beginning of the South of England's innings Hayward made several good drives, and when he was third out he had obtained his runs out of a total of 63. The next partnership, between Mr Sewell and Braund, increased the total by 58 in little more than half an hour. Both batsmen scored freely to leg off Mr Armstrong; but after Braund had been caught in the long field, Mr Noble effected a remarkable change in the game.

He had gone on for Mr Armstrong at 88 and his first two overs had proved rather expensive, Mr Sewell driving and cutting him finely, while Braund placed him well to the on. The fourth wicket fell at 121, and so marked was Mr Noble's subsequent success that, although Lees and Mr Knox scored ten for the last partnership, the side were all out in less than half an hour.

The Australians had rather more than an hour's batting, and in this time they made their position reasonably safe by getting within 53 of their opponent's total with only three batsmen out. Mr Darling, after being missed by Dr Grace at point, was caught off the next ball; but Mr Armstrong and Mr Hill batted well, and when both were out Mr Noble and Mr Gregory scored 30 without being separated.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 September, page 8)

The only full day's play during the Hastings festival was possible yesterday, but any chance of the South of England and Australian match being brought to a definite result was early spoiled by numerous mistakes in the field.

The Australians on Tuesday had left off with a total of 81 for the loss of Mr Darling, Mr Armstrong and Mr Hill; and the ground so helped the bowlers when the game was continued that it seemed likely that the South of England would be little behind on the first innings. Braund's bowling was especially difficult to play, and chiefly owing to his excellent length and break eight wickets were down for 135.

At this point the fielding became so bad that Mr Hopkins and Mr McLeod were enabled to add 64 in 35 minutes, and when the innings ended the Australians held a lead of 77. Mr Hopkins played good cricket until he had made 40 when he was missed in the slips, but Mr Kelly gave two easy catches early in his innings, and in addition he ought to have been easier run out.

The South of England on going in a second time were favoured by similar good fortune, as during his partnership with Mr McGahey, which realized 97 for the second wicket in an hour and 20 minutes, Hayward was missed in the slips when he had scored six, and again at 16, at long-on, while Mr McGahey ought to have been caught in the slips at 21.

After Mr McGahey was bowled wickets fell fast; but Hayward drove with power and made the position of the South of England so safe that the innings was declared closed with seven wickets down, and the Australians were sent in to make 90 runs to win with less than half an hour remaining for play. Hayward was in for an hour and 40 minutes.

The only object Dr Grace could have had in declaring was to give Mr Armstrong an opportunity of obtaining his 2,000 runs in addition to 100 wickets for the tour. He scored five fours off Braund's second over, and so achieved a record for an Australian cricketer.

THE AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

The Australians completed their tour yesterday, and out of 38 matches played they have won 16, drawn 19 and lost three.

Their record, however, good as it would appear at first glance, cannot be considered satisfactory from an Australian point of view owing to their want of success in the Test matches. It is true that they had the worst of the luck, and it was most unfortunate that they should have lost the toss on each of the five occasions; but at the same time there is no doubt that they were not the equals of the full strength of England.

At the beginning of the tour it was thought that the side would be weak in bowling, and the inclusion of Mr Laver, who came over as manager, in the eleven leads one to suppose that they fully realized that their bowling strength would not be equal to the strains that might be put upon it. Then, again, Mr Cotter did not find his length until almost too late to be of much service so far as the Test matches were concerned, while Mr Noble, of whom great things were expected, was unable to maintain his form.

Their batting, too, was at fault in their matches against England, and, although Mr Armstrong and Mr Darling did fairly well, and Mr Duff played a very fine innings at the Oval, the comparative failure of Mr Hill, Mr Noble and Mr Trumper considerably weakened the batting strength.

Apart from the Test matches, however, the Australians should feel well satisfied with their season's work, as they only lost one match, and that against Essex, one of the weakest of the counties. One of the most exciting games was their return fixture against Surrey at the Oval. The home side lost a good chance of beating them, but some very fine bowling by Mr Armstrong, combined with some reckless batting by Surrey at a critical point, enabled the Australians to win the game.

The team of 1905 will not compare favourably with some of the greatest sides sent over, and the inability of Mr H Trumble to make the trip deprived the side of the man who did so much to make the team of 1902 so successful. It was not only his bowling that was missed, for his fielding at slip

would have supplied just what was wanted. As it was, slip proved to be the weak spot in the team, and missed catches in this position were responsible for a good many runs.

So far as individual players are concerned, Mr Armstrong had improved wonderfully both with bat and ball, and if there is one man who can look back to the tour with satisfaction it is he. In 1902 he gave great promise as an all-round cricketer, and the good opinions formed of him have been fully realized.

In conclusion a word of praise must be given to Mr Darling for the able manner in which he captained the side, while the wicket-keeping of Mr Kelly has proved of the greatest service to the Australians, especially as Mr Newland, his understudy, was very disappointing.

Apart from some uncertainty in the slips the Australian fielding has been good, and in their accurate returns to the wicket they, as in former tours, have again been an object lesson to the majority of English sides. The averages are given below: -

Played, 38 matches; won 16; lost 3; drawn 19.

[Note: the full Australian tour first-class averages can be found on Cricket Archive at http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Events/0/Australia_in_British_Isles_1905/Team_Averages.html]

Below will be found the chief English averages against the Australians: -

BOWLING [Note: 10 or more wickets]

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Ringrose	54.1	7	174	13	13.33
Tremlin	85.4	16	288	18	16.00
Buckenham	79.4	11	318	17	18.70
The Hon F S Jackson	96.5	11	283	15	18.53
Hargreave	88	22	297	15	19.80
Mr W Brearley	214.5	32	863	37	23.32
Haigh	89.4	21	293	11	26.63
Mr B J T Bosanquet	83.4	3	351	13	27.00
Braund	88.4	10	376	13	28.92
Rhodes	208.3	37	596	20	29.80
Hirst	95.4	18	333	10	33.30

[Note: J T Hearne 7 wickets at 9.57]

BATTING [Note: 100 or more runs]

	Innings	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
The Hon F S Jackson	14	776	144*	3	70.54
Mr H Martyn	4	173	130*	1	57.88
Hayward	15	692	129*	1	49.42
Mr C B Fry	14	588	144	2	49.00
Denton	8	291	153*	1	41.57
Braund	7	279	117	0	39.85
Tyldesley	15	556	118*	1	39.71
Hobbs	4	157	94	0	39.25
Rhodes	10	255	70	3	36.42
Mr A O Jones	8	215	103	0	35.83
Holland	4	143	61	0	35.75
Arnold	7	177	52	2	35.40
Mr C McGahey	6	148	45	1	29.60
Mr G W Jupp	4	117	74	0	29.25
Grimshaw	4	116	41	0	29.00
Tunnicliffe	4	115	52	0	28.75
Mr P F Warner	7	196	85	0	28.00
Board	4	111	59	0	27.75
Mr A C MacLaren	16	441	140	0	27.56
Mr R H Spooner	10	265	79	0	26.50

Mr C O H Sewell	5	118	45	0	23.60
Hirst (Yorkshire)	9	163	40*	1	20.37
Lilley	7	121	37	0	17.28
Mr B J T Bosanquet	10	117	27	3	16.71

14 September: YORKSHIRE (CHAMPION COUNTY) v REST OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6909.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 September, page 5)

The last match of the season - between Yorkshire, the champion county, and the Rest of England - was begun at the Oval yesterday. With the exception of Mr F S Jackson, Yorkshire were at full strength; but the Rest of England eleven, although a strong side, could not be considered a fully representative one with such players away as Mr C B Fry, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr R H Spooner and Mr W Brearley. Although runs appeared difficult to get, for the most part it was a fairly interesting day's cricket; and at the close the Rest of England eleven were 126 runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

After the rain which had fallen during the last few days the wicket was naturally slow, but the ball got up quickly at times and gave one the impression that the pitch was still firm below the surface. Anyhow, the batsmen were often at fault in their timing of the ball, and mistakes in the field added considerably to the run-getting. Yorkshire had their fair share of luck, for Hirst, when he had scored 14, ought to have been caught in the slips by Mr Crawford off Lees's bowling, and he also gave an easy chance to Tyldesley at third man at 54 off Mr Crawford. There were also several other difficult chances given.

Yorkshire, who won the toss, began well. Rothery and Tunnicliffe put on 48 for the first wicket, when the former was caught at mid-off. Denton was bowled by a good ball, and Tunnicliffe was out in attempting to pull, and three good wickets were down for 83. Afterwards Hirst, profiting by his good fortune, made some fine strokes, and at lunch time the score had been taken to 138 for four wickets.

After the interval Yorkshire did not do nearly so well, and the whole side were out for the addition of 52 runs. This was due to the good bowling of Mr Crawford and Arnold, who bowled unchanged after lunch. Hirst, who was batting for nearly two hours, was particularly strong on the leg side.

The Rest of England started badly by losing Mr Wright when only 11 runs had been made. Then Hayes and Hayward put on 48 in three-quarters of an hour for the next wicket, although the latter was missed in the long field by Tunnicliffe when he had scored 15. At the fall of Hayward's wicket play closed for the day.

The proceeds of the match are to be divided between the Cricketers' Fund and the London Playing Fields Committee.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 September, page 7)

There was another interesting day's cricket at the Oval yesterday and when stumps were drawn at the close of Yorkshire's second innings the county side held a lead of 231 runs.

Overnight the Rest of England had scored 64 for three wickets and when the game was continued it was soon seen that the bowling would require careful watching. Quaife, Lilley and Tyldesley were all out for the addition of only 24 runs; but just when it appeared as if the Rest of England would be out for a comparatively small score Mr Crawford came to the rescue of the side and, as he received valuable support from the "tail," the total only fell 18 runs short of that of Yorkshire.

Mr Crawford played a very fine innings, although he was fortunate in being missed at the wicket off Hirst's bowling when he had only made two. His cricket combined sound defence and good punishing powers when the opportunity offered itself, and he made a number of good off-drives. Apart from his play, there was little in the batting worthy of comment. Rhodes bowled very well, although at times he did not seem able to keep his length, while Hirst was unlucky in having two catches missed off him.

When Yorkshire went in a second time Mr Crawford and Arnold bowled so well that four wickets were down for 48 runs. When, however, the Rest of England seemed to be getting the upper hand some good batting by Rhodes and Haigh again turned the game in favour of Yorkshire. The pair put on 55 in just over 35 minutes for the fifth wicket, and afterwards Ringrose helped Haigh to add 45 in 25 minutes for the ninth.

Rhodes got his runs just when they were wanted, and his play was chiefly marked by some good strokes on the off-side. Haigh, who was batting about two hours, was also particularly strong on the off-side, and, as a whole, his cricket was sound and attractive to watch, but he was lucky in being misjudged in the long field by Hayward when he had scored 25, while he gave a difficult chance in the slips just before he was out.

Of the remainder of the side, Denton made several good strokes, while Ringrose hit with considerable power towards the close of the innings. The Rest of England now require 232 runs to win with an innings to play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 September, page 9)

The first-class cricket season was brought to a close on Saturday, when Yorkshire, the champion county, beat the Rest of England eleven, at the Oval, by 65 runs. The Rest of England in the last innings of the match required 232 to win, and with the wicket playing a trifle easier there seemed at one time the probability of the runs being got; but some good bowling by Hirst, whose analysis after lunch was 12.4 [overs], six maidens, 17 runs, four wickets, turned the game, and the Rest of England after the interval always appeared to be a beaten side.

Mr Wright and Hayward made a good start by scoring 46 before the latter was stumped, and then Mr Wright and Hayes put on 43 for the second wicket. The former, who was caught at mid-on in attempting to pull, was batting for an hour and a quarter without giving a chance. He made one or two bad strokes, but his cricket on the whole was sound and attractive to watch.

With 100 on the board without further loss the Rest of England were in a good position; but afterwards they saw all prospects of a victory gradually slip from their grasp. At lunch time four wickets were down for 113, and after the interval, owing chiefly to Hirst's bowling, there was a collapse and the whole side were out for the addition of 53 runs. Quaife played very well, but no one else did anything, and the match was over at 4 o'clock.

For the time of year the attendance has been fairly good, and the Cricketers' Fund and the London Playing Fields' Committee, between whom the proceeds of the match have been divided, should receive some benefit.

Friday 15 September, page 5: THE M.C.C. TEAM FOR SOUTH AFRICA

It is understood that Denton, Haigh, Hayes, Thompson, Dennett and Relf have received invitations to join the team that the M.C.C. are sending to South Africa in November; also that Mr P F Warner will be captain and that Mr L J Moon and Mr F L Fane are going.

Saturday 16 September, page 7: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Mr J Darling, Mr S E Gregory, Mr J Kelly and Mr W P Howell left for Australia yesterday, sailing from Tilbury in the P. and O. steamship China.

Monday 18 September, page 4: OBITUARY

MR WALTER BODEN, a well-known Derbyshire sportsman, died on Saturday at his residence, the Pastures, Derby. He was 68 years of age, and was educated at Rugby, afterwards entered the business of his father, a lace manufacturer, at Derby, Chard and other towns.

He was actively associated with many branches of sport. The establishment in 1870 of the Derbyshire County Cricket Club was due mainly to his efforts; and for the first few years he was hon. secretary of that organization; whilst from 1895 to 1899 he was president. He was selected to play for the Gentlemen of the North v Gentlemen of the South, and in 1874 he played for Derbyshire against Kent.

He was a familiar figure with the Maynell Hounds, and was also one of a small band of sportsmen who helped to resuscitate Derby races. For over 30 years he was an officer in the Derbyshire Yeomanry, retiring with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He once took a prominent part in local affairs, being an ardent supporter of the Conservative cause, and generous contributor to charities, and a staunch Churchman.

He married, in 1888, Miss Vaughan-Lee, daughter of Major Vaughan-Lee, of Llanelly, and Dillington-park, Somerset.

Monday 18 September, page 4: THE END OF THE CRICKET SEASON

The cricket season was brought to a close at the Oval on Saturday, and the chief averages are given below. K S Ranjitsinhji was absent from England during the summer, and Mr C B Fry, who was second to him last year, has the best record. Curiously, his actual average is again 70.

Hirst has maintained his form as the best all-round professional in England, and has repeated his last year's performance of scoring over 2,000 runs and taking over 100 wickets.

In bowling, while there has been some falling off among the old hands, several cricketers have made reputations, among them being Mr N A Knox and Jayes, while Mr Brearley has shown form much in advance of anything he has done before, and must be considered the bowler of the year.

[Note: final first-class averages follow. These can be found on Cricket Archive from http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Seasons/1905_ENG.html]

Friday 22 September, page 9: CRICKET

At a meeting of the Gloucestershire county committee last night at Bristol the invitation to Dennett to join the M.C.C. team for South Africa was considered. The committee decided that, considering the strain it would entail on their slow bowler to play five consecutive seasons without a rest, it was not desirable he could participate in the tour, and reluctantly declined to give their consent. At the same time it was resolved to make such arrangements as would enable Dennett to remain in England without being a loser financially.

The committee had previously granted permission to Board to go on the tour. The committee also decided to give full winter pay to Board, Wrathall, Spry, Langdon, Mills, Huggins and Dennett, and part pay to Winstone.

Saturday 21 October: TESTIMONIAL TO MR L G WRIGHT

A meeting was held at Derby yesterday afternoon to inaugurate the testimonial to Mr L G Wright, who has now completed 21 years of service with the Derbyshire Club and who, during the past summer, enjoyed a record season. Sir Clement Bowring was voted to the chair and there was a fairly good attendance.

Mr Arthur Wilson, on behalf of the Derbyshire County Cricket Club, enumerated Mr Wright's claims to a testimonial, which, he said, were appreciated, not only in Derbyshire, but by the whole cricket world. Several gentlemen testified to the high esteem in which Mr Wright was held and to the widespread nature of the desire that his services should be worthily recognized. The Midland Railway Company, where Mr Wright was employed and to whose club he has rendered 25 years' service, were making a special effort in connection with the fund.

A committee of management was appointed and several promises of support were announced. It was stated that several gentlemen well known in the cricket world had consented to act on the general committee.

Wednesday 31 October: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

The officers of the Cambridge University Cricket Club for next season have been elected as follows: -
Captain, Mr C H Eyre (Pembroke); honorary secretary, Mr M W Payne (Trinity); assistant treasurer, Mr R A Young (King's).

Monday 13 November, page 11: DEPARTURE OF THE M.C.C.'S TEAM FOR SOUTH AFRICA

All the members of the M.C.C.'s team for South Africa, with the exception of Captain Wynyard, who had gone on to Southampton by an earlier train, left Waterloo soon after 11.30 on Saturday morning, sailing later in the day on the Kinfauns Castle. Mr P F Warner, the captain, spoke very hopefully of the prospects of the side.

Among those on the platform to see them off were Mr A G Steel, Mr and Mrs A J Webbe, Mr W W Read, the Rev J C Crawford, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr R O Schwarz, Mr E H D Sewell, Mr O R Borrodaile, Mr Albert Raphael, S Apted, G F Hearne, F H Huish and G Fielder.

The team consists of Mr P F Warner (captain), Captain E G Wynyard, Mr F L Fane, Mr H D G Leveson Gower, Mr J N Crawford, Mr L J Moon, Mr J C Hartley, Lees, Hayes, Denton, Haigh, Blythe, Relf and Board.

Thursday 16 November, page 11: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The report of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club for last season states that the county's finances show a great improvement on those of the year before, for, whereas in 1904 there was on the revenue account a debit balance of £588 8s 6d, this season there is a profit of £1,117 10s 4d, which increases the total balance to the credit of the club to £11,514 15s 5d.

This is especially gratifying because only two county matches proved a financial success - namely, that against Lancashire on the August Bank Holiday and the following days at Sheffield, and that against Middlesex at Bradford. The Australians received from the county the sum of £2,125 8s 6d, being £865 5s 6d as the result of their matches with Yorkshire at Sheffield and Bradford and £1,260 3s their share of the test match at Leeds.

For the first time the committee took up the management of the test match and the Australian fixtures played in the county and decided to give to each of the three grounds upon which these matches were played 20 per cent of the profits and to retain the remaining 40 per cent.

The county membership has increased greatly. The income for the year was £14,127 4s 9d. The club has £10,500 invested in corporate securities. Championship awards are to be made to the members of the county eleven at the annual meeting to be held in Sheffield on November 29.

Friday 17 November, page 12: THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

At the meeting of the committee of the Warwickshire County Club held in Birmingham yesterday evening it was stated that in all probability next season's programme would comprise matches with the same counties as were met last summer - namely, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Sussex, Derbyshire, Surrey, Somerset, Essex, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Hampshire and Worcestershire.

The fixtures with Cambridge University have not been renewed. The home match against Northamptonshire was allotted to Coventry. All the other home matches will be played at Edgbaston.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The report to be presented at the annual meeting states that although the past season shows a net loss of £332, the club is in a better position than for many years past, owing to the great success of the fancy fare and fete by which a profit of over £1,000 was made.

The committee state that the gate receipts at Southampton in ordinary county matches compare unfavourably with those of other districts, and they will be compelled to consider the advisability of reducing the number of matches played there in view of the greater interest shown in other centres.

Tuesday 21 November, page 7: THE BOARD OF CONTROL AND THE TEST MATCHES

A meeting of the Board of Control was held yesterday afternoon in the pavilion at Lord's. Lord Alverstone (Surrey) took the chair, and there were also present Lord Harris (M.C.C.), Mr W E Denison (Nottinghamshire), Mr J Horner (Lancashire), Mr R E Foster (M.C.C.) and Mr F E Lacey (secretary of the M.C.C.).

The accounts for the five test matches were practically passed, but the exact figures were not all settled, some small points having still to be adjusted. Under the system of pooling the receipts the general result is as follows: -

The 40 per cent to the five clubs on whose grounds the matches were played will yield about £847 each to the M.C.C., Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Surrey; to 50 per cent to the M.C.C. and the first-class counties will produce about £300 each; and the 10 per cent to the minor counties about £62 each. It will be seen that, apart from the Australians' share, the matches resulted in a big profit.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The report of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club for last season shows that there was a loss of £518. The total adverse balance amounts to £3,359. The membership decreased by nearly 100. Twenty matches were played, of which six were won, five lost and nine drawn, and the same counties will be played next season as last.

THE WEST INDIAN TEAM FOR ENGLAND

It has been definitely arranged that a West Indian team will visit this country next summer. Mr F E Lacey is making the fixtures and the programme is to consist of 19 matches.

Arriving at the end of May, the team will play their first match on June 11 and their last on August 16. There are to be two matches at Lord's - one, of course, against the M.C.C. Yorkshire has promised a guarantee of £100 for a match at Harrogate, and it is hoped that other counties will follow their generous example.

CRICKET IN SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town, Nov. 20

Five test matches have been arranged between South Africa and the M.C.C. team, three of which will be played at Johannesburg and two at Cape Town. Six days will be allowed for the final match at Johannesburg and five days for the second match at Cape Town. - Reuter.

Tuesday 28 November, page 7: THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Worcestershire County Cricket Club was held at Worcester yesterday afternoon, when Lord Coventry was re-elected president, Mr Paul Foley honorary secretary and Mr H K Foster captain.

The report showed that the membership numbered 1,280 as compared with 1,378 in the year before, while the loss on the year's working was £518 as against £327 in 1904, thus bringing the total deficiency up to £3,359. The accounts, however, did not include the club's share of the profits on the test matches. The gate receipts amounted to £953, against £811 in 1904, the wages of the ground staff to £664, against £574, and match expenses to £1069, against £1,027.

During a short speech Mr H K Foster stated that he considered Bale one of the finest wicket-keepers that he had ever seen and but little inferior to Lilley. The benefit match for R Burrows realized £110 10s 1d.

In addition to the matches played last season, a game will probably be arranged with Northamptonshire next year.

Wednesday 29 November, page 11: CRICKET IN SOUTH AFRICA

ARRIVAL OF THE M.C.C. TEAM

Cape Town, Nov. 28

The members of the M.C.C. team arrived to-day and met with a most enthusiastic reception. There was a civic welcome on board the Kinfauns Castle before they landed. All the visitors are in excellent health.

A lunch was given at the City-hall in honour of the visitors, the Mayor of Cape Town presiding. In reply to the toast of the M.C.C. team, Mr Warner, the captain, referred to the criticisms which had been passed upon the selections, and said that he was glad that South Africa generally considered them a good side. He had had an opportunity of seeing the programme of matches which had been prepared, and was delighted with it.

In conclusion, Mr Warner spoke of cricket in South Africa, and dwelt on the rapid improvement which it had shown. Twenty-five matches, including four test matches, have been arranged.

The M.C.C. play their first match at Cape Town, against the Western Province, on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday next. The home side will be as follows: -

M Bisset, Kotze, J Carolin, P Jones, A Difford, G Rowe, Horwood, S Snooke, C Duff, H Coggins and M Commaille. - Reuter.

Thursday 30 November, page 11: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Lord Hawke presided at the annual meeting of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, which was held yesterday afternoon in the pavilion at the Bramall Lane Cricket Ground, Sheffield.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, Lord Hawke stated that the county club had received £315 as its share of the sum allotted from the Australian match receipts to the first-class counties.

In addition the Yorkshire Club received £745, which was 40 per cent of the net profit given to the counties where test matches had been played. Of this sum the county club took 40 per cent - namely, £344 - and the other 60 per cent was divided between the clubs of Leeds, Sheffield and Bradford. The amount from the Australian test matches brought up Yorkshire's profit on the season to £1,767, and the county now had a balance in hand of over £12,000.

Lord Hawke said that this would enable the club to meet any adverse circumstances for years to come. He considered that the county's success was in a great measure due to the fine team they had had for the last six or eight years; that showed how very important it was that they should leave no stone unturned to develop their young players to the fullest extent.

He was glad to think that in the past season their young players had not failed them. Those who had been tried in the first eleven had given more than satisfactory promise, and if they would only be true to the county of their birth and stay at home and withstand the temptations of the Lancashire League, they would take a good place in the world of county cricket.

Lord Hawke added that during the past season the committee had started a scheme whereby young players were allocated to the different grounds in the county, the county club paying half of their wages and the local club the other half. The advantage of this was that in time they hoped to see none but Yorkshire born players on the grounds where county matches were played. So far the scheme was only in its infancy, and they hoped years went on to allocate more and more young players to those different grounds.

Lord Hawke advised the establishment of a shed for practice in wet weather. He considered this a necessity for both the first and second team's players.

The report was adopted without discussion. Presentations were made to the county team in recognition of their success in winning the county championship last season.

It was announced that Yorkshire, with the view of encouraging cricket in the Principality, had again arranged to play Glamorgan at Cardiff. Matches with Oxford University had also been arranged for next season.

THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Captain C A R Hoare presided over the annual meeting of the Hampshire County Club at Portsmouth yesterday. For the first time for several years the balance-sheet showed assets over liabilities, this being principally due to the fact that £1,028 was raised at the county fete.

In the annual meeting it was mentioned that the receipts at the county ground still compared unfavourably with other grounds in the district, and next season three matches are to be played at Portsmouth, instead of two.

Mr E M Sprot was again chosen as captain of the team, and in the course of discussion on the question of team selection it was mentioned that the executive were endeavouring to build up a nucleus of the side from young professionals, seven of whom would be qualified to play next season, when it was also hoped to have the assistance of Mr H Hesketh-Prichard and several other amateurs.

The balance-sheet showed total receipts of £4,173, the subscriptions having totalled £1,260 and gate receipts £1,234. The expenditure included match expenses of £1,444, wages £981 and rent £534.

It was desired to enlist the services of a good fast bowler, and trials are to be given to promising young cricketers with birth qualifications.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club have decided not to make fixtures with Kent for next season. In place of the Kent matches, Northamptonshire will be met, the other County Championship matches arranged being with Yorkshire, Lancashire, Middlesex, Gloucestershire, Sussex, Leicestershire,

Derbyshire, Surrey and Essex. In addition the M.C.C. and Ground will be met at Lord's and the West Indians at Trent Bridge.

Saturday 2 December, page 12: CRICKET

In connexion with the proposal to raise a memorial to the late Mr R A H Mitchell, the famous Eton and Oxford batsman, Lord Harris writes as follows: -

"At a recent annual general meeting of the Eton Rambles Cricket Club it was resolved that a fund should be raised for the purpose of placing a memorial of Mr R A H Mitchell at Eton. The proposal is (1) to have a picture painted on him, to be placed in the new pavilion on Agars Plough; and, if funds permit, (2) to procure a replica, which Mrs Mitchell would be asked to accept; and (3) to devote any balance remaining to the furtherance of cricket at Eton.

"Subscriptions are limited to £2 2s, but, feeling sure that there must be many outside the club who would like to join in doing honour to Mr Mitchell, they are not limited to members of the Eton Ramblers Club. We shall be greatly obliged if you will assist us in drawing attention to the proposal. Subscriptions can be sent to the R A H Mitchell Memorial Fund, at Messrs Hoare's Bank, Fleet-street, E.C."

Tuesday 5 December, page 12: THE M.C.C. TEAM IN SOUTH AFRICA

WESTERN PROVINCE v M.C.C.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6912.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 4 December, page 11)

Newlands, Dec. 2

The M.C.C. team began the first match of their tour to-day against an eleven of the Western Province. Although the weather was overcast there was a good attendance.

The home side made one alteration in the team already telegraphed, Whitehead replacing Duff, while Leveson Gower, Moon and Lees were omitted from the English side. Warner won the toss and elected to bat first. At lunch the score stood at 89 for one wicket.

When stumps were drawn the visitors had scored 315 for five wickets. - Reuter.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 5 December, page 12)

Fine weather favoured the second day of the match between the M.C.C. and an eleven of the Western Provinces, and the wicket was in good order. There was only a moderate attendance.

The Englishmen continued their first innings and were all out by lunch for 365. Relf, who had made 27 not out on Saturday, played with the utmost steadiness and carried out his bat for 61.

On going in, the local team did badly and were all out for 96. Snooke was top scorer with 24, while Coggins by steady play made 20. The rest of the team offered little resistance to Haigh, Hartley and Blythe. Haigh maintained a splendid length throughout and varied his style with excellent results. The English fielding was magnificent.

Following on, the Western Provinces did better, scoring 80 for the loss of three wickets. Coggins again did well, making 43 by sound cricket, his off strokes being especially brilliant. He was not out when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 6 December, page 11)

In bright but windy weather, and before a small attendance, the Western Province XI continued their second innings to-day, and were all out before lunch, the match resulting in a victory for the M.C.C. team by an innings and 127 runs. The innings lasted two hours and three-quarters.

Monday 4 December, page 11: CRICKET

The annual meeting of the captains of the first-class counties, for the purpose of appointing umpires for 1906, will be held at Lord's this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

To-morrow the annual meeting of secretaries to arrange next year's fixtures will be held at Lord's, beginning at 11.30 a.m., and on Wednesday morning the captains of the minor counties will meet to appoint umpires.

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND KENT MATCHES

With reference to the abandonment of the annual matches between Nottinghamshire and Kent, it is officially stated that the first move in the matter was made by the Kent County Committee, and Nottinghamshire had no option but to make arrangements with some other county.

An interesting point in connexion with the Nottinghamshire County Club is that Alfred Shaw and William Gunn, two of the most famous professionals of their day, have both been nominated for seats on the committee. The election will take place in January.

Tuesday 5 December, page 12: THE FIXTURES FOR 1906

The annual meeting of the county secretaries to arrange the matches for next season will be held at Lord's to-day, beginning at 11.30. Most of the matches have already been determined on, but a good deal of time will of necessity be occupied in filling in dates.

So far as the leading counties are concerned few changes are expected, but Sussex have determined to lighten their heavy programme by dropping the matches with Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. Nottinghamshire and Kent will not meet. To make up for this departure from custom Nottinghamshire will play Northamptonshire and Kent will play Leicestershire.

A little time back there was reason to fear that Northamptonshire would not get a sufficient number of fixtures to retain their place in the championship, but they have now secured the eight out and home matches required.

Mr F E Lacey, secretary to the M.C.C., is arranging a programme of about 19 matches for the West Indian team, who will arrive in England at the end of May.

The new captains of the Universities are Mr C H Eyre (Cambridge) and Mr W S Bird (Oxford).

As regards the county fixtures on the Bank Holidays, two alterations have been agreed to, Kent playing Sussex instead of Essex and Essex meeting Gloucestershire, who for many years have regularly played Sussex.

At the meeting of the minor counties this morning, before the chief meeting, a proposition will be brought forward to group the minor counties' competition into two divisions - North and Midlands and South and Western.

UMPIRES FOR 1906

The captains of the first-class counties held their annual meeting at Lord's yesterday afternoon for the purpose of selecting umpires for county matches in 1906. At the end of the meeting, which was, of course, private, the names of the 20 men chosen were made known.

They are W Attewell (Nottinghamshire), A J Atfield (Gloucestershire), R G Barlow (Lancashire), Brown (Cheshire), J Carlin (Nottinghamshire), F W Marlow (Sussex), A Millward (Worcestershire), J Moss

(Nottinghamshire), A Pike (Nottinghamshire), C E Richardson (Leicestershire), W Richards (Warwickshire), V A Titchmarsh (Hertfordshire), W A J West (Northamptonshire), J E West (Middlesex), A A White (Kent), F G Roberts (Gloucestershire), F G Willoughby and R Dench (Nottinghamshire), A Woodcock (Leicestershire) and A E Clapp (Somerset).

The changes from this year's list are Roberts, Willoughby, Dench, Woodcock and Clapp for James Phillips, Alfred Shaw, T Mycroft, A D Pougher and S Wade. The letter of resignation from Phillips, who, after the present tour in South Africa, is giving up umpiring for a new career as a mining engineer, was read at the meeting.

The county captains present were Lord Hawke, Lord Dalmeny, Mr C B Fry, Mr A O Jones, Mr C H B Marsham, Mr G McGregor, Mr H K Foster, Mr A E Lawton, Mr J F Byrne, Mr G L Jessop, Mr C E de Trafford, Mr T Horton and Mr S M J Woods. Lancashire was represented by Mr G R Bardswell, Essex by Mr O R Borradaile and Hampshire by Mr F Bacon.

Wednesday 6 December, page 11: THE FIXTURES FOR 1906

The annual meeting of the county secretaries was held yesterday in the pavilion at Lord's. Mr F E Lacey, secretary of the M.C.C., presided, and there were present Mr W Barclay Delacombe, Mr A E Lawton and Mr F C Newton, Derbyshire; Mr O R Borradaile and Mr H G Owen, Essex; Mr G L Jessop, Gloucestershire; Captain C A R Hoare, Dr Russell Bencraft and Mr F H Bacon, Hampshire; Mr C H B Marsham, Mr J R Mason, Mr T Pawley and Mr A J Lancaster, Kent; Mr T J Matthews and Mr J Horner, Lancashire; Mr C E de Trafford and Mr T Burdett, Leicestershire; Mr G McGregor and Mr A J Webbe, Middlesex; Mr A J Darnell, Mr P W Dale and Mr T Horton, Northamptonshire; Mr H Turner and Mr A Widdowson, Nottinghamshire; Mr S M J Woods and Mr H Murray Anderson, Somerset; Mr C W Alcock and Mr K J Key, Surrey; Mr W Newham and Mr C B Fry, Sussex; Mr R V Ryder, Warwickshire; Mr H K Foster, Worcestershire; Lord Hawke, Mr F W Frank, Mr J B Wostenholme and Mr F C Toone, Yorkshire; Mr E Roper, Liverpool and District; and Mr G W Beldam, London County.

At the opening of the meeting Mr Lacey stated that he was arranging the fixtures for the West Indian team, and he asked the counties to help him to make the tour a success. The main object of the tour was to raise the standard of cricket in the West Indies.

So much having been done in advance, the secretaries had a comparatively light task, the list of fixtures being completed much earlier than it used to be a few years ago.

As is always the case when the Australians are not here, county matches will dominate the season. Some slight changes will be noticed, the most important being the dropping of the old-established matches between Nottinghamshire and Kent. There will be three benefit matches - one for W Lees, at the Oval, the return match between Lancashire and Yorkshire, at Manchester, for Tyldesley, and the Middlesex and Somerset match on Whit Monday, at Lord's, for Titchmarsh, the well-known umpire.

As at present arranged, there will be very little cricket in September, the Hastings Festival having apparently fallen through, and no mention being made yesterday of a match at the Oval between the champion county and the Rest of England. The last two fixtures of the Scarborough Festival have not yet been determined on, but they will be announced later.

A small but much-needed alteration in the general arrangements at Lord's is that the match between the M.C.C. and Oxford University will extend over three days. The chief fixtures for the season are given below: -

[Note: the full first-class fixture list for 1906 can be found on Cricket Archive at http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1906_f_Match_List.html]

THE MINOR COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

Before the meeting of the secretaries of the first-class counties yesterday, the annual meeting of the Minor Counties Association was held in the pavilion at Lord's.

Mr E G Buxton (Norfolk) presided; and among those present were Mr R W Allen and Mr W W Marks (Bedfordshire), Major C Turner and Sir C E M Y Nepean (Berkshire), Mr P J de Paravicini and Mr H E Bull (Buckinghamshire), Major O Papworth (Cambridgeshire), Mr F W Featherstone (Devon), Mr W R Wilson

and Mr R H Mallett (Durham), Mr W H Manfield (Dorset), Mr J Bray (Cornwall), Mr J H Brain (Glamorgan), Mr E S Philips (Monmouthshire), Mr J Horner and Mr T Matthews (Lancashire second eleven), Mr F C Toone and Mr R W Frank (Yorkshire second eleven), Mr K J Key (Surrey second eleven), Mr M T Baines (Oxfordshire), Dr J Earl Norman and Mr H M Harford (Hertfordshire), Mr R G Mortimer and Mr F G H Clayton (Northumberland), Mr W C Hancock (Staffordshire), Mr R L Hodgson (Suffolk) and Mr A M Miller (Wiltshire).

The minutes of the last general meeting having been read, the election of officers for next season was proceeded with. Dr J Earl Norman and Mr R H Mallett were re-elected honorary secretaries; Mr W C Hancock was elected to the emergency committee, in the place of Mr A J Darnell, and the advisory committee, consisting of Mr P J de Paravicini, Mr R H Mallett and Mr J Earl Norman, was re-elected.

The chief business before the meeting was the consideration of the proposal to group the minor counties for competitive purposes. The scheme, which has already been published, provides that the counties shall be grouped into two or more divisions according to their geographical positions; that every county shall play one match with every other county in its division, each county having as far as possible an equal number of out-and-home matches, and that the two counties which shall have obtained in their respective divisions the greatest number of players shall play a final three-days' match at the end of August, and the winner of the final match shall be reckoned the champion county of the second division.

In introducing the scheme, Mr Mallett said that it would involve very little extra expense, and that it would materially increase public interest in the minor counties competition. The table of results given simply in points and not in percentage, as at present, would be more easily understood.

A long discussion followed, in the course of which considerable opposition was raised to the proposals of the emergency committee. The chief objections were that the northern counties had not had sufficient time in which to consider the matter and that some of the southern counties had arranged their fixtures before the scheme was brought to their notice. In the end it was decided to hold a special meeting of the association in April to discuss the proposals in detail, with a view to their adoption in the season of 1907.

The motion of Hertfordshire that five points shall be scored for a win in a completed match, two for a win on the first innings, and that matches in which no result on the first innings is attained shall not be included in the table of results was lost.

It was decided to ask the M.C.C. committee to sanction for another year the application of the closure rule at any time in minor county matches.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, to Mr Lacey for the trouble which he has taken on behalf of the association, and to the board of control for their handsome donation, behind the meeting to an end.

THE SOMERSET COUNTY CLUB

Mr S M J Woods has intimated to the committee of the Somerset County Cricket Club his desire to resign the captaincy of the eleven. The resignation, however, will not take effect until the end of next season.

The annual meeting of the club is fixed to take place at Taunton on December 11. The financial statement for the year issued yesterday shows a deficit of £454, as compared with £420 last year, when the amount was made up by a call on the guarantors.

Thursday 7 December, page 7: THE M.C.C. TEAM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Worcester (Cape Colony), Dec. 6.

A two days' match was begun to-day between the M.C.C. team and a team representing the country districts. The weather was hot and the attendance was only moderate.

The home team was all out in its first innings for 107, Difford being top scorer with 33. Hartley took nine wickets for 26 and Hayes three for seven.

When stumps were drawn the English team had made 273 for five wickets. Moon made 49, principally by clean driving. Denton scored 63 and Leveson Gower, who was not out at the close of play, contributed 79, his late cutting being the distinguishing feature of his play. Altogether the visitors gave a splendid all-round display. - Reuter.

MINOR COUNTIES UMPIRES

A meeting of the captains of the Minor Counties was held at Lord's yesterday to appoint umpires to stand in the competition matches next season. Among those present were Mr A M Miller (Wiltshire), Major O Papworth (Cambridgeshire), Mr P J de Paravicini (Buckinghamshire), Sir C E M Y Nepean (Berkshire), Mr W C Hancock (Staffordshire), Mr R W Frank (Yorkshire Second Eleven), Mr W Hardy Mansfield (Dorset), Mr W T Garrett (Surrey Second Eleven), Mr J H Brain (Glamorgan), Mr R L L Hodgson (Suffolk), Mr H R Orr (Bedfordshire) and Dr J Earl Norman (Hertfordshire).

The following umpires were selected: - North. - C E Bartram, M Myers, W Copeland, Owen Firth, J Gregory, G P Harrison and W Hearne. Midlands. - H Coulson, C Marshall, R Rogers, G Rye, J Stevens, A Stockwin, T Attewell and F Rudd. South. - R Barker, C E Brown, W Griffiths, J Holton, C Hughes, R Humphrey, W Jennings, A W Mason, C Mills, J Perkins, Sergeant Willis and G Hutchings.

Friday 8 December, page 12: THE M.C.C. TEAM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Worcester, Cape Colony, Dec. 7.

The M.C.C. team won their match against the Country Districts team by an innings and 62 runs. - Reuter.

Cape Town, Dec. 7.

The following will represent the Western Province in the match against the M.C.C. team beginning on December 9: - A Difford, S Snooke, M Bisset, A Bisset, S Horwood, H Coggins, P Jones, G Rowe, W Short, W Trickett and Whitehead. - Reuter.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A meeting of the committee of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club was held at Bristol yesterday to allocate certain fixtures for next season. It was decided that the matches for the Cheltenham Week should be with Kent and Sussex, while the match with Lancashire will be played at Gloucester. The venue of the Worcestershire match is to be fixed later on.

It was decided to renew the fixture with Cambridge University, and the match will be played between June 6 and 14. The annual meeting of the county club will be held on January 25.

Saturday 9 December, page 9: LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Lancashire County Cricket Club was held yesterday afternoon at Manchester, the president, Mr A N Hornby, presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman congratulated the members on the fact that they had had a good year financially and otherwise. They must not, however, look for such a good season next year as the Australians would not be here and the Yorkshire match had been set apart for Tyldesley's benefit, which, he hoped, would be a good one. Moreover, a considerable expense had to be faced on account of new stands, and further there was the cost of a second eleven to be considered. They were going to make serious efforts to recruit the county team from the players in the second eleven.

Mr Hornby was unanimously re-elected president and Lord Brackley was added to the list of vice-presidents. All the other officers, including the retiring members of the committee, were re-elected. A resolution giving the committee power to co-opt three members, which was defeated last

year by a large majority, was passed, subject to the condition that no members defeated in election for office should be co-opted for the year and that members co-opted should represent North, South and West Lancashire.

9 December: WESTERN PROVINCE v M.C.C.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6913.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 11 December, page 13)

The second match between the M.C.C. team and an eleven of the Western Province began here to-day in fine weather and before a fair attendance. Warner left out Hartley, Board and Blythe. Blythe is suffering from a cut foot.

Winning the toss, Western Province batted first. A very poor resistance was made to the splendid bowling of Crawford and Lees, and at lunch seven wickets were down for 53. A feature of the play was the magnificent one-handed catch by Relf which dismissed A Bisset.

On resuming the number of spectators had largely increased and the play was watched with great enthusiasm. The Western Province eleven were all out by a quarter past 3 for 81.

Major Wynyard, who went in first for the M.C.C. team, was caught by Rowe off Whitehead's bowling with his score at two. Denton was dismissed for none by a brilliant one-handed catch made by Snooke off Rowe. The bowling was superb, maiden after maiden being sent down.

Warner's wicket fell in Short's first over for 29, and Short's next ball bowled Hayes, who had not scored. Whitehead missed Fane a minute later amid intense excitement. The tea interval was taken with the score standing at 55 for four wickets.

When play was resumed an improvement came over the game, 69 runs having been added to the score for the loss of two more wickets when stumps were drawn for the day. England's total then stood at 124 for six wickets.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 12 December, page 7)

The second match between the M.C.C. team and an eleven of the Western Province was resumed here to-day in bright, breezy weather and before a sparse attendance. The visitors went on with their first innings, Moon, one of Saturday's not outs, being run out after he had added 29 to his Saturday's score. His total of 57 was compiled in correct and pretty style, and included seven fours. The score at the luncheon interval was 213 for eight wickets.

The attendance was moderate when the game was resumed. Relf batted in all three hours and a quarter for his score of 60, an innings which included four fours, while Haigh hit up 61 in 40 minutes. He was favoured with some luck, and hit nine fours.

The home team, in going in a second time, gave a much better display than before. Horwood played an attractive innings, hitting well all round the wicket. His score of 74, which lasted an hour and 36 minutes, included six and nine fours. Snooke played a sound and stylish innings of 80, and the partnership between these two put on 137 runs.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 13 December, page 7)

The match between the M.C.C. and an eleven of the Western Province ended shortly after 2 o'clock this afternoon, the result being a victory for the Englishmen by ten wickets.

Monday 11 December, page 13: THE HISTORY OF KENT COUNTY CRICKET

Mr W Hugh Spottiswoode writes from his Majesty's printing office, 6, Middle New-street, Fetter-lane, E.C.: -

"Lord Harris has asked me to assist him in preparing material for an important volume dealing with the history of Kent county cricket, amongst the prominent contributors being Lord Harris himself, the Hon H Knatchbull-Hugessen, Mr Frank Marchant, Mr J R Mason, Mr W South Norton and Mr W H Patterson.

"As we are anxious to make this work complete in every respect, may I be allowed through your columns to express the hope that, should any of your readers possess any interesting records, either in the form of old scores, advertisements of matches, prints or original drawings of prominent cricketers identified with Kent, old engravings of various old cricket grounds in the county, &c., they would very kindly send me particulars to the above address, and also say whether they would be willing to lend them to us, with a view to their possible reproduction in the book?

"I need hardly say that the greatest care will be taken of whatever may be sent, and should we be able to use anything, an acknowledgment of the lender's courtesy will appear in the work."

Tuesday 12 December, page 7: THE KENT COUNTY CLUB

A meeting of the general committee of the Kent County Cricket Club was held at the Golden Cross Hotel, Strand, yesterday afternoon, Lord Harris presiding.

Among those present were Mr F W Furley, hon. treasurer, Mr A J Lancaster, secretary, Mr T Pawley, general manager, Mr F Marchant, Mr W H Patterson, the Rev R G Hodgson, Mr J Howard, M.P., Mr F A Mackinnon, Captain McCanlis, the Hon H A Milles-Lade, the Hon J S R Tufton, Mr K McAlpine, Major Spens, Mr G J V Weigall, Mr G Marsham, Mr J R Mason, Mr S Christopherson and Lord Camden.

In their report, the committee state that, although the balance at the credit of the general account at the end of the year was only £53 10s 7d more than at the beginning, this was not so much due to any decrease in revenue as to certain items of abnormal expenditure - £100 donation towards the purchase of the Tonbridge ground, £573 5s 6d Huish's benefit and £94 10s 6d permanent improvements, and £20 11s pictures and the Fuller Pilch silver snuffbox.

The county balls held during the Canterbury festival showed a profit of £12 5s 7d, as against a loss of £31 13s 4d in 1904.

During the season 476 new members had joined the club and 286 had died or resigned, making their present membership 2,845.

The committee express their best thanks as well as that of all the members to Mr C H B Marsham for continuing to captain the eleven, and draw special attention to the splendid wicket-keeping of Huish, who made 54 catches and stumped 23 batsmen.

In reviewing the results of last season's cricket, the committee point out that this is the second time Kent have played a tie match with Surrey, the former match being in July, 1847 - also at the Oval.

There was practically little or no difference in the batting averages for 1904 and 1905, seven members of the team having in both years an average of over 25; but, on the other hand, the bowling last season was not quite so good as in 1904.

It was decided to guarantee the West Indians £50 or the net gate, whichever is the higher sum.

A history of Kent cricket from 1700 to the present date is in course of preparation and it is hoped to publish it next season. A sum of £10 is being given to the Lilley Testimonial Fund.

Monday 18 December, page 7: SOMERSET COUNTY CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

The Right Hon. Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane presided at the annual general meeting of the Somerset County Cricket Club at Taunton on Saturday, and expressed regret that the past season had been so disastrous for the club, both financially and from a cricket point of view. No doubt the men had

worked gallantly, but, to use an Irish expression, there was a slippery "hould" in the field on some occasions.

Referring to the unpleasantness with Surrey in consequence of the transfer of Montgomery from that county to Somerset, Sir Spencer said the M.C.C. committee thought there had been the slightest possible breach of the county cricket regulations, but it was also unanimously agreed that there was not the faintest symptom of unfair play or any intention of evading the regulations.

Mr Gerald Fowler, the hon. treasurer, presented the balance-sheet, which showed a total expenditure of over £4,000 and a deficit of £454. Had it not been for the visit of the Australians the deficit would have been nearly £900 larger. This was chiefly the result of an increase in the professionals' expenses and a large falling off in the gates at the ordinary county matches. Robson's benefit realized, with subscriptions, nearly £400. The financial statement was adopted, and it was decided to make a call of £3 each on the guarantors.

Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, who was re-elected president, said that Mr Woods, the captain, had in a somewhat informal manner stated that he would not continue in that position after next season. Mr Woods was re-elected for the coming year.

Colonel Trevor proposed, on behalf of the committee, a vote of thanks to Mr Woods for his services, and that a testimonial should be given him in recognition of those services. This was carried, and a special committee of a representative character was appointed to carry out the proposal.

Mr Gerald Fowler was re-elected hon. treasurer; and Mr Murray-Anderdon and Mr Woods were again appointed hon. secretary and secretary respectively.

Mr Fowler hoped that more success would attend the club next season. They would have a better team, as Bailey, who bowled so finely last summer, would be available for every match, and Mr Daniell and Mr Phillips would have returned from abroad.

Wednesday 20 December, page 11: THE M.C.C. TEAM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Kimberley, Dec. 19.

The second match between an M.C.C. team and a fifteen of Griqualand began here to-day. The home team went in first and were dismissed for 233. Relf was the most successful bowler, taking four wickets for 29.

The M.C.C. had scored 52 for one wicket when stumps were drawn for the day. The weather was windy all day and the dust caused the players a good deal of trouble. The attendance was small. - Reuter.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

It has been decided by the committee of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club to extend the Cheltenham cricket festival this season to nine days, the teams to be met being Kent, Sussex and Worcestershire. The festival will begin on August 13.

26 December: M.C.C. TEAM v THE TRANSVAAL

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6918.html)

Day 1 (report from Wednesday 27 December, page 5)

Johannesburg, Dec. 26

The match between the M.C.C. team and the Transvaal began here to-day in pleasant weather and on a fast wicket. Crawford, Hartley and Leveson Gower stood down from the English side, while the Transvaal made one change, H Smith replacing Shepstone.

Winning the toss, the Transvaalers batted first and at lunch had scored 102 for the loss of six wickets. They were all out for 135. The English fielding and bowling were excellent. Lees and Blythe were the most successful bowlers.

The visitors on going in fared badly at the start. Fane was early dismissed and Warner only made 22, but a prolonged resistance was offered by Denton, who was not out 104 at the close of play, and gave a brilliant display of batting. His cutting and hooking were delightful, and he only gave one chance, with his score at 69. Wynyard, Hayes and Moon were easily disposed of, but Relf gave Denton some assistance, hitting up a dashing 33. Hayes contributed 26.

When stumps were drawn the visitors had scored 214 for seven wickets. The fielding and bowling of the Transvaal were very good. There were 8,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Thursday 28 December, page 9)

Johannesburg, Dec. 27.

Pleasant weather favoured the second day of the match between the M.C.C. team and the Transvaal. The Englishmen continued their first innings and were all out for 265, Denton carrying out his bat for 132. His fine innings included 18 fours, and was marked by faultless cutting and grand leg hitting.

At lunch the Transvaal had scored 75 for the loss of one wicket (Tancred's) in their second innings, Shalders and Hathorn then being 34 and 25 not out respectively.

After the interval the home team continued to play with great care. Shalders played a fine innings for his 66, being two hours 50 minutes at the wickets. His off-driving was splendid.

Rain fell late in the afternoon, and when stumps were drawn the Transvaal had lost seven wickets for 243 runs. The whole innings was characterized by great steadiness.

The game amounted to over £400.

Day 3 (report from Friday 29 December, page 9)

With seven wickets down for 243 the Transvaal continued their second innings in glorious weather on a fast wicket. They were all out for 305. Faulkner carried out his bat for 63, made by grand cricket. He hit freely all round the wicket and only gave one chance with his score at 48.

Wanting 176 to win, the visitors made a bad start, three wickets, Warner's, Denton's and Wynyard's, falling for 18 runs. At lunch the score was 50 for four wickets.

On the resumption Hayes and Moon alone offered any resistance to the bowling, and the innings closed for 115, the Transvaal winning by 60 runs. The victory of the home team, whose fielding and bowling had been magnificent, aroused the utmost enthusiasm among the spectators.