

THE TIMES REPORTS, 1887

[Note: Match reports are given in full, except . . . denotes the omission of an unnecessary section, usually details of the score at the fall of each wicket, which can easily be found on the scorecard provided by Cricket Archive; bowling figures, increasingly included in the actual report but still not the scorecard; or else the inclusion of the scorecard itself. From the 1883 season the Times began to include full bowling figures in the scorecard more regularly, and by 1887 most scorecards contained them.]

Saturday 9 April, page 10: THE COMING SEASON

The season of 1887 will stand out prominently as that in which the Marylebone Club celebrated its centenary. A fitting match has been arranged to mark the occasion, and on June 13 and following days, the leading club will play All England at Lord's. None of the prominent counties are then engaged, so that with carefully chosen teams the match should be the event of the season.

Apart from this match the programme at headquarters promises to be as heavy as usual. From the date on which the programme opens, on the day following the anniversary meeting in May, until the end of August, nearly the whole of the dates are filled up. The Whit Monday match, North v South, at Lord's, and Gentlemen v Players are, of course, among the principal fixtures, while most of the first and second-class counties will also appear at Lord's. The two fashionable matches- Oxford v Cambridge and Eton v Harrow – will, as last year, be played in the same week, beginning on the Monday and Friday respectively.

Marylebone still adhere to their wise policy of encouraging cricket in the provinces by sending teams out to play local elevens in addition to public schools. The turf at Lord's is in excellent condition and reflects no small amount of credit on the labours of Pearse.

There will be a visit of Canadian cricketers late in the season, for whom an interesting programme against amateurs has been arranged. The team will be accompanied by Mr G G S Lindsay. It has been chosen as follows: - Messrs W Henry, jun., Halifax, Nova Scotia; G W Jones, St John's, New Brunswick; B T A Bell, Montreal; W S Little, Ottawa; M Boyd, W W Vickers, W W Saunders and E R Ogden, Toronto; F Sace, Toronto; F Harley, Guelph, Ontario; R Ferrie and A Gillespie, Hamilton.

As there will be no visit from the Australians, the county matches will form the backbone of the season's programme. Six of the Nottinghamshire Eleven – viz., Shrewsbury, Barnes, Gunn, Scotton, Flowers and Sherwin, who have been engaged with the English Eleven in Australia, are now on their voyage home, and consequently will not be able to appear in the opening colts' match on Monday next at Trent Bridge. The eleven, then, will probably include Mee, Lockwood, Burrows, Richardson and White, all with a trial. The committee have, in fact, engaged the three first-named for several matches in order to keep them available for the county.

Mr C W Wright, the well-known Cambridge batsman and wicket-keeper, having quite recovered from an accident he sustained in the hunting field, will probably figure in the eleven. It is not thought probable that either Shaw or Selby will be of much service to the county this season. Selby, it may be noted, receives a benefit at Trent-bridge on Thursday, June 16 and following days, the match chosen being Notts v Yorkshire. When the first county match is played against Surrey on Whit Monday, the eleven will be, as far as can be judged now, Mr H B Daft, Attewell, Barnes, Flowers, Gunn, Shaw, Shacklock, Shrewsbury, Scotton, Sherwin and Lockwood.

The engagement with Warwickshire will be regarded as a bona fide county match, its title, which was originally "Eleven of Notts," having been altered to Nottinghamshire. The gentlemen of Notts are playing their matches this year on the Trent-bridge Ground. Their programme includes some good fixtures, notably the Marylebone Club, Gentlemen of Cheshire, Harrow Wanderers &c.

The Yorkshire home matches will this season be extended over "the county of acres" more than has hitherto been the case. Thus, in addition to the matches arranged to be played at Bramall-lane, the county meet Warwickshire at Huddersfield, Leicestershire at Dewsbury, Sussex at Bradford,

Cheshire at Halifax, Gloucestershire at Dewsbury, Lancashire at Bradford and Middlesex at Huddersfield. There will then be four matches left to be played at Sheffield- viz., the Whitsuntide fixture against Kent, Surrey, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

In addition to these, the colts' match will be played at Bramall-lane on May 16 and 17, when the eleven will be the Hon M B Hawke, Hall, Emmett, Ulyett, Bates, Preston, Peel, Grimshaw, Wade, Harris and Oldfield. At the end of the season there will be the usual festival at Scarborough, commencing on August 29 and concluding on September 7.

Lancashire will this season play two colts' matches, in order to see if there is any latent talent in the county, the first at Bolton on May 13 and 14, and the other at the end of the month, May 30 and 31, at Manchester. The county meet Oxford University twice – at Oxford on May 26, 27 and 28, and at Liverpool on June 20, 21 and 22. The eleven will be pretty much the same as last year.

Every effort is being made in Leicestershire to advance the game. A portion of the centre of the county ground has been reurfed, and it is hoped that good wickets will be the result. There will be a colts' match on May 16 and 17, besides which trial matches are to be played at Harborough, Lutterworth, Hinckley and Melton. The new fixtures are – with Yorkshire home and return matches, Derbyshire one match, Essex home and return, while the match with Marylebone will this year be extended over three days. The eleven will consist most likely of Mr C Marriott, Mr H T Arnall-Thompson, Mr W H Hay, Mr C C Stone, Mr J A Turner, Wheeler, Rylott, Warren, Pougher, Turner and Colver, the latter of whom made such a successful start in county cricket at the end of last season.

Derbyshire do not meet Gloucestershire this year, but they play one match with Leicestershire on the August Bank Holiday at Derby. The *materiel* of the team will be much the same as before. The death of one of the most rising young cricketers in the country, Joseph Shacklock (brother of William), of typhoid fever at the end of last year causes a great loss to the county. Of the amateurs, Messrs E A J Maynard, L C Docker, G G Walker, A H J Cochrane, W S Eadie and S H Evershed will be available, with W Chatterton, Cropper, Davidson, Disney, F H Sugg, W Sugg and Coupe among the old players. Some very promising colts, notably Hulme and Briscoe, will be sure to have good trials.

Kent will in all probability have the same players ready to take part in county matches as they had last year – viz., Lord Harris, the Rev R T Thornton, Messrs C and L Wilson, W H Patterson, F Marchant, A J Thornton, M C Kemp, S Christopherson, J N Tonge, W Rashleigh, R S Jones, T R Hine-Haycock and A M Streatfeild, with the professionals, George, Frank and Alec Hearne, Wootton, Pentecost and F Martin.

The year 1887 will be marked as the first in which Kent and Gloucestershire try conclusions. The two counties have played together against All England in 1876 and in several previous years. The fixtures for the Canterbury Week are Kent v Yorkshire and Kent v Middlesex.

There has been a new pavilion erected on the Tonbridge ground. There will be a revival of the second eleven which appeared in 1884 and 1885. Mr P Hilton, Junior Carlton Club, will get up the eleven and act as captain. The Band of Brothers also play some good matches, and have a week at Linton-park, the fixtures being – August 8 and 9, v Weald of Kent; August 10 and 11, v Free Foresters; August 12 and 13, v Royal Engineers.

Middlesex, as usual, open their season with the annual colts' match against the Marylebone Club at

Lord's on May 5. Mr A J Webbe again captains the eleven, and will in all probability be supported by Messrs G F Vernon, A E Stoddart, T C O'Brien, J G Walker, J Robertson, S W Scott and E M Hadow. Burton and West, of last year's eleven, will also be ready to play, though another bowler is badly wanted. It is doubtful whether Spillman will be able to form one of the team.

The county hope to receive assistance from Mr G B Studd and Mr C F H Leslie; occasionally, perhaps, the Hon A Lyttelton might be able to take part in a match or two. Mr F T Welman, it is understood, is now qualified for the county, and, as Mr M J Daughlish, last year's Harrow captain, also belongs to Middlesex, there should be no difficulty with regard to a wicket-keeper. Mr E H Buckland, who will be playing for Oxford University, may probably be able to take part in some matches, as also Mr R de Paravicini. In addition to their county engagements Middlesex will meet Oxford University at Chiswick-park on June 23 and following days.

Supporters of Surrey cricket are very sanguine of the county's prospects. According to the latest Australian advices Lohmann seems to have lost none of his skill with the ball, while, with Beaumont, Abel and Bowley, the team should not lack bowling talent. The defence also is sure to be strong and, when everything is considered, the admirers of Surrey cricket have justifiable grounds for their confidence. It is understood that Diver will be an absentee, he having gone back to Cambridge. Though last season his form fluctuated, he played many fine innings, and his brilliant cutting and off-driving will be missed by the frequenters of the London ground. Again a very heavy programme has been arranged. In addition to the first-class fixtures, most of the minor counties will be met. Barratt receives a benefit, and has chosen the home match with Yorkshire.

Sussex will have all last year's men available for this season. It was feared at one time that Lord Sheffield would withdraw from Sussex cricket. Such, however, will not be the case, his lordship having decided to continue the liberal support he has hitherto afforded. In order to give any good cricketers an opportunity of coming to the front, three young players' matches will take place. In addition to the usual engagements of the county, whose home matches will all be played at Brighton, it has been decided to hold at cricket week at Hastings on much the same lines as those adopted at Canterbury, Cheltenham, Scarborough &c. The date will be in the early part of September, probably during the week commencing September 5.

Gloucestershire have been in negotiation for a new county ground at Eastville, the property of Sir Greville Smyth, but at present the matter is in abeyance. With regard to the eleven, all the old members are available, and the county will probably again have the services of Mr W W F Pullen. J Bloor will most likely be tried in the early matches. In the Cup ties last season his club won. He was the best average bowler and bat, his batting average being 44, but, of course, this was in quite second-rate matches.

Cheshire is at present rather weak; but, like other counties, is on the look-out for fresh talent. The elevens will be selected from Messrs S M Crosfield (captain), J Bretherton, A M Latham, H R Bromley-Davenport, C Holden and H Thorber, amateurs; and from G Davenport, S Brown, A Millward, T Pointon, W Wotherspoon, J Wright, E Woodward and J Martin. Many of those who would be useful to the county seem to show a preference for local club cricket.

In Warwickshire cricket seems to be making steady progress. The fixtures include matches with Surrey, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Somersetshire, Northamptonshire and Staffordshire, and the season will be important as marking the first step towards the attainment of first-class county honours. A portion of the ground at Birmingham has been relaid, 35 yards by 25 yards, in the centre. Mr H C Maul will be available again, and Messrs F M Lucas and M P Lucas

still reside at Leamington, but whether they will play for Warwickshire is not yet known. Mr J Cranston, it is expected, will play more frequently than before, and Shilton, Grundy, Collishaw, Pallett, Richards and Law are still available, and possibly a fast bowler, Leake, and a batsman, Devey, may have trials.

The difficulty of Hertfordshire, like that of most other counties, is to get their best team together, in addition to which they are sadly in want of a good county ground, as at present they are reduced to playing their matches in the various club grounds in the county. The eleven is fairly strong in batting, but one or two good bowlers are greatly needed. The chief players are Messrs T W Brand (the captain of Eton this year), H E Crawley, E Crawley, G M Jones (captain of Winchester in 1888), A Butcher, F B Debenham, H G Tylecote, C B L Tylecote, H Pigg, C Pigg, L Swift, E H Wales and the Rev C Sharp, with the professionals Hearn, Pearce, Titchmarsh, Lambert and Hutchins.

The fact of now possessing the Lyttelton county ground at Leyton should have caused county cricket in Essex to advance considerably. In addition to this there is a fairly good staff of ground bowlers engaged. The probable players for the season are Messrs C E Green, H G Owen, W Francis, A P Sewell, C D Buxton, F R Stevens, F E Rowe, F A Bishop and F H Ward, with Pickett, Bastow, Silcock and Almond.

Hampshire have arranged for a trial match to be played at Southampton on May 6 and 7. It is understood that Alfred Shaw is engaged at Ebury-house, Hants, by Mr H W Forster, who, with his brother, Mr S E Forster, plays for Hampshire. The other county players are Lieutenant-Colonel J Fellowes, R.E., Messrs A Andrews, C R Seymour, E O Powell, C E Currie, F E Lacey, F Meyrick Jones, W H Richards, with Young, Dible, Willoughby, Wright, Pink &c. [Note: full fixture list follows.]

COUNTY CRICKET

Wednesday 20 April, page 12

The following report of the committee appointed last December has been forwarded to the secretaries of the various county clubs: -

“Sir, - We beg you will inform your committee that in accordance with the following resolution passed at the meeting of the county secretaries at Lord’s on December 7, 1886 – viz., ‘That a provisional committee, consisting of representatives of Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, Kent and Gloucestershire, be appointed to consider the laws of county cricket, and the desirability of forming a council for the regulation of all matters concerning county cricket,’ we have met and agreed to the following report.

“We do not wish in any way to interfere with the prerogative of the Marylebone Club in its capacity as arbiter of the laws of cricket, and we are prepared to contemplate the institution of a County Cricket Council only if it be laid down as a fundamental rule that such body have no executive powers whatever as regards those laws. It would undoubtedly be as competent for the council at any time to raise a discussion on the laws as for any other body connected with cricket, and any representation made on the subject by the council would bear great weight with the Marylebone Cricket Club; but we are of opinion that to confer any further powers would be inimical to the best interests of the game and opposed to the views of cricketers generally.

”We also think it would be inconvenient to substitute the council for the committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club, in adjudicating on questions raised under the Rules of County Cricket Qualification as at present existing. The committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club sits weekly at Lord’s throughout the cricket season and deals summarily with all cases referred to it. It is also beyond suspicion impartial, whereas the County Council, however composed, could not be easily convened at a place equally accessible to all the members, and there would be a possibility of only those more immediately interested in the case attending, and of the impartiality of the decision coming into question.

“We therefore recommend that if a County Cricket Council be formed it shall have, as regards the Laws of Cricket or the Rules of County Cricket Qualification as at present existing, no executive powers.

“There are, however, other matters of great or growing interest connected with county cricket, but in no way affecting the Laws of Cricket or the Rules of County Cricket Qualification, over which the Marylebone Cricket Club has never exercised any control. The first of these – and one of great interest – is the question of county status. A justifiable anxiety has shown itself of late among those counties in which the formation of a county eleven has been of somewhat recent date, of having the opportunity of challenging the strongest county elevens. We think that it might be possible to make such arrangements as would eventually render this desire attainable, but a really satisfactory arrangement will only be arrived at after careful consideration by the representatives of the counties interested, and the settlement will, in our opinion, be greatly facilitated by the formation of a County Cricket Council.

“Those of growing interest are the nomination of reliable umpires and the unsatisfactory prevalence of drawn matches. As regards the first the Marylebone Cricket Club, with its usual public spirit, has undertaken the selection for each county match of such umpires as have no interest in the counties

engaged, but it has never interfered with the right of nomination enjoyed by the counties. As regards the second the number of drawn matches might be reduced, if by general consent among the counties play were to begin much earlier on the second and third days.

“We believe that these questions and others of a similar nature that may arise are more likely to be satisfactorily settled with than without the help of a council, and therefore we are satisfied that it would be desirable, subject to the limitations above mentioned, to form a County Cricket Council.

“The terms of reference do not admit of our making further recommendations, but we take the liberty of suggesting that at the meeting to be held at Lord’s on the second morning of Gentlemen v Players, the county representatives should be prepared to discuss and settle four points which are likely to be raised – viz.: -

- “1. Whether a County Cricket Council should be formed, and, in the event of that being agreed to,
- “2. Whether each affiliated county shall send one or more than one representative.
- “3. What subscription will be necessary from each affiliated county to defray the expenses of such postage and clerical work as will be unavoidable.
- “4. The appointment of a sub-committee to frame by-laws for the Council. (Signed) “HARRIS
“I D WALKER
“JOHN SHUTER
“MONTAGU TURNER
“W G GRACE.”

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3185.html)

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

Under the captaincy of Mr C I Thornton, and England Eleven visited Cambridge yesterday and began a match against the Light Blues on the University ground. Successful in the toss, the home side elected to bat, and at 12.25 Messrs Sutthery and Crawley faced the attacks of Mee and Humphreys.

The first-named batsman was dismissed at 15; but on Mr Greenstock joining Mr Crawley a determined stand was made; the new comer, however, should have been easily stumped when he had only scored 3. He then hit finely, and was well aided by Mr Crawley. Despite bowling changes the total reached 77 before the latter was clean bowled. Mr Marchant came, but at 92 he fell to a catch at mid-off, and Mr Greenstock was soon afterwards bowled; his chief items were five fours and three threes.

Messrs Meyrick-Jones and Bridgeman were soon associated, and again the batting triumphed. The former played a most superb innings, but was at length beaten by a ball from Crossland; his hits were eight fours, seven threes, five twos and only four singles. Mr Bridgeman's drives were very clean and Mr Hall batted carefully. The innings closed at 5 o'clock for 248. Crossland secured four wickets . . .

England started batting in a bad light . . .

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

Cold, cheerless weather again prevailed at Cambridge yesterday when play was continued on the University ground. On Thursday evening, it will be remembered, Cambridge had completed an innings for 248, while the visitors had scored 41 at the cost of a wicket. Messrs Wright and Studd, who were the not-outs, with ten and eight, resumed their batting at 11.45.

Six wickets were down with the score at 64. Mr Walker and Humphreys then offered determined resistance. The latter gave a chance to the wicket-keeper when he had made 24. No fewer than 61 runs were put on before the fall of the seventh wicket, but the last three only added 13 runs. Total, 138. Mr Stephen claimed five wickets . . .

After a delay on account of rain, England, who were 110 runs behind, followed on. Messrs Thornton and Studd were opposed by Messrs Stephen and Sutthery. A smart catch at the wicket disposed of Mr Studd. Mr Thornton gave a chance to the wicket-keeper which was not accepted. After this he hit vigorously, until he fell to a catch by Mr Meyrick-Jones. Mr Webbe batted with freedom, and Mr De Paravicini and Humphreys also played well. The innings closed at a quarter past 6 for 140. Mr Sutthery obtained five wickets . . .

Rain again stopped the game for a quarter of an hour, but it was decided to play until 7 o'clock. Cambridge wanted 31 for victory. These they easily secured, and won the match by ten wickets.

12 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3186.html)

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

In gloomy, threatening weather this match began at Lord's yesterday, on a slow wicket. The Marylebone Eleven, which included for the first time Rawlin and Pougher, started the batting soon after 12 o'clock, Mr Hornby and Wheeler being opposed by Cropper and Davidson.

Mr Hornby hit freely for a little while, until a smart catch at the wicket disposed of him. G G Hearne, who went in third wicket down, batted excellently, and saw the rest of his side dismissed; among his hits were a five (four from an overthrow), three fours, three threes and eight twos. Mr Robertson batted well, and during his stay with Hearne 43 runs were put on. The last wicket fell for 131 at 5 minutes past 3.

Mr Wright and Sugg opened the Derbyshire batting at 3.25; Wootton and Pougher had charge of the early bowling. Runs were obtained rather freely at the outset. When 13 had been scored Mr Wright gave a difficult return chance to Pougher, which was not accepted. Sugg also had two escapes – one at the hands of Wootton (the bowler) and the other from Mr Russel at mid-off. At 35 Mr Wright cut the ball into the hands of point, and without any addition Sugg was bowled and Coupe badly run out. Chatterton batted with judgment, but could not get any of his companions to stay with him long, and carried out his bat for 32. Total, 79. G G Hearne obtained three wickets . . .

With 52 runs in advance, Marylebone went in a second time, but at a quarter past 6 the light became so bad that stumps were drawn for the day.

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

This match was continued at Lord's yesterday. When stumps were drawn on Thursday each side had completed an innings, and Marylebone, in a majority of 52, had lost a wicket in their second innings for 50. Messrs Hornby and Hawke (the not-outs with 21 and 10) continued their batting at 25 minutes to 12. Cropper and Davidson were the bowlers.

Ten runs were added when Mr Hawke was bowled, and at 70 F Hearne, who had filled his place, was run out. Mr Hornby was eventually bowled, and the ninth wicket fell for 106. G Hearne and Pougher then batted freely for a little time, and 23 runs were added before the former fell to a catch by Davidson, and the innings closed for 129 . . .

With 182 to win, Derbyshire went to the wickets a second time. Their efforts were of the most feeble character. Six of them had the unenviable cipher attached to their names. The second wicket fell for 9 . . . and ninth and tenth for 36. Wootton took five wickets . . . From the subjoined score it will be seen that Marylebone won easily by 145 runs.

16 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3187.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Tuesday 17 May)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 May, page 13)

Both yesterday and Monday the cricket in this match at Lord's proved highly interesting. When play ceased on the opening day Kent had completed an innings for 173 and Marylebone had lost three wickets for 155, Mr Hornby being not out 96.

In fine weather play was resumed at half-past 11 o'clock. Messrs Hornby and Vernon faced the bowling of Wootton and W Hearn. The Lancashire captain completed his hundred at a quarter to 12; but the wickets soon afterwards began to fall rapidly. At 190 Mr Vernon fell to a catch in the long-field, and without alteration in the figures Mr Hornby was secured at cover-point. The last-named had played in quite his old form for 105, which included six fours, three threes and seventeen twos.

Rawlin was bowled at 194, and Attewell joined Mr Wright. The "200" was reached at 12.30, after which the innings was closed in about half an hour – total 225. During the morning Wootton had bowled with great success, and the analysis altogether reads thus: - Wootton, eight wickets, 51 overs and two balls (20 maidens), 76 runs . . .

F Hearne and Mr Tonge began the second innings of Kent against a majority of 52 runs. Rawlin and Dr Grace shared the bowling. Only seven runs had been scored when F Hearne was easily caught at extra mid-off. George Hearne and Mr Tonge raised the score to 26 before luncheon.

Afterwards the defence was again good. Mr Tonge was bowled at 53; but another determined stand was made by George Hearne and Mr Wilson. In spite of frequent changes in the bowling, the score reached 109 before the amateur was bowled. Eight runs later George Hearne fell to a catch at extra mid-off; his excellent innings included three fours, two threes and seven twos. Martin was the only other member of the side who did anything of note, and Marylebone were left with 116 to get for victory. Rawlin claimed five wickets . . .

Dr Grace and Mr Hornby opened the second venture of the Club, and before they were parted the score reached 72. Dr Grace was then bowled. Chatterton came in, and when 7 o'clock arrived 34 runs were necessary to win Marylebone the match. It was therefore decided to play on, and a long day's cricket closed at 20 minutes to 8, when Marylebone won by seven wickets.

16 May: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128272.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Tuesday 17 May)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 May, page 13)

The season at the Oval opened on Monday with the match between the home county and Hampshire. An excellent wicket had been prepared by Newton, and of this Surrey first took possession. They were not disposed of until 253 runs had been accumulated, Messrs Read and Shuter having played with great vigour. Hampshire started batting, and at the end of the day had lost two wickets for 92.

Yesterday the light was so bad as to delay play until a quarter to 1. Mr Wynyard, the not-out of the previous evening, with 55, continued to bat well, and was the ninth to leave, when he fell to a catch in the slips; among his hits were eight fours, two threes and four twos. After luncheon the last wicket did not add anything. Total, 132.

As Hampshire were 121 behind, they of course followed on, and at 3.15, Messrs Bonham-Carter and Lacey were opposed by Lohmann and Beaumont. Although the bowling was twice changed it was not until 37 had been reached that Mr Bonham-Carter was finely caught low down at long-slip. Mr Lacey continued to bat in first-rate style, and saw the downfall of Mr Powell at long-off, Mr Wynyard bowled off stump, Mr Meyrick-Jones run out and Mr Gerds and Mr Armstrong both bowled. At length, he was the seventh to leave, being dismissed by a very sharp catch at slip; his principal hits were nine fours, four threes and twelve twos. Roberts joined Dible, who at 169 was well caught at cover-point. Stumps were drawn for the day . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 May, page 12)

Although there were indications of rain, the third and concluding day's play in this match began at the Oval yesterday at 11.40. On Tuesday evening each side had concluded an innings, and Hampshire, who were then in a minority of 121 and followed on, had lost six wickets for 169. Roberts (the not-out with 11) was accompanied to the wickets by Young. Mr Lohmann and Roller were the early bowlers, and Mr Read kept wicket as Wood had injured his hand.

Young by a well-timed cut sent a ball of Lohmann's through the slops for four. He then added eight by two on-drives off Mr Roller. With the total at 188, however, he was clean bowled. Nine down. Mr Currie, the last man, drove Lohmann twice to the boundary, and at five minutes to 12 the 200 was completed. A twofold change was now tried, the attack being intrusted to Beaumont and Bowley. At 202 Mr Currie skied the ball and Mr Read ran from the wicket to catch it, but failed. Mr Currie did not long survive his escape, however, as he was clean bowled eight runs later. Total 210.

Rain delayed play until 3.25, when Surrey, who wanted 90 to win, sent in Brockwell and Abel. Mr Armstrong and Young started the bowling. Only a single had been scored by Brockwell when he fell to a catch at short-leg. Mr Roller came, and the third ball clean bowled him. Two wickets, one run. Mr W W Read joined Abel, who cut Young for three, but then skied the ball to leg. Three for

24.

Maurice Read joined his namesake, who made 11 by three drives (one of which caused the ball to fall on the roofing in front of the pavilion) off Young. Maurice Read had an escape at the hands of Roberts at cover-point when 87 had been reached. Immediately afterwards, however, this batsman drove Mr Currie to the on boundary and won the match for Surrey by seven wickets.

19 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3188.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 10)

Showery weather was experienced at Lord's yesterday when Sussex began their match against the leading club. Marylebone had first innings. Their early representatives were Dr Grace and Mr Lacey. The brothers Hide conducted the bowling.

Only 12 runs had been scored when Mr Lacey was bowled, while George Hearne was well taken at point three runs later. During the next hour the players were more than once obliged to retire on account of the rain. Mr Thornton hit with freedom, but at 36 he was bowled. Dr Grace continued to play in his well-known style, but his colleagues could make little headway against the attacks of the county. Neither Mr Wright nor Mr Ross gained anything, and, with five wickets down for 49, Attewell joined Dr Grace. The latter by a cut for two brought up 50, and 12 more runs were added before luncheon.

Play was resumed at a quarter to 3. At 76 Attewell fell to a fine catch at point, but Mr Russel stayed with Dr Grace while 25 runs were put on. The 100 went up at 3.25. Dr Grace afterwards received little assistance, and the last wicket fell at five minutes to 4. Total 121. Dr Grace carried his bat through the innings for a faultless score of 81. He was batting two hours and a quarter, and his hits included three fours, six threes and 14 twos. J Hide secured three wickets . . .

Sussex went in at a quarter past 4, Tester and Quaife opening the batting. The bowling was changed at both ends before Quaife was taken at long leg. Mr Cotterill came in, but at 5.15 rain stopped the game, and at 6 o'clock stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 May, page 9)

The excellence of Dr W G Grace's batting on Thursday at Lord's was quite equalled by his bowling and fielding yesterday, when the match was continued.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 6)

The match was brought to a close at Lord's on Saturday afternoon. Sussex won by four wickets.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3189.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 10)

Mr A J Webbe got together a powerful eleven to play against the Dark Blues at Oxford yesterday. The University team included five of last year's Eleven. Mr H W Forster did not play in consequence of a slight injury sustained in the early part of the week.

Successful in the toss, Oxford began batting on a good wicket. Their first representatives were Messrs Gresson and Nepean, who were confronted by Mr Frank and Rawlin. The game had lasted only 20 minutes when rain caused a delay of a quarter of an hour. On resuming runs were obtained very rapidly, 90 being recorded in the first hour. The score reached 110 before the first wicket fell. Mr Nepean was then caught at cover-slip for a well-played innings of 45; among his hits were seven fours, two threes and two twos.

After this brilliant opening it was thought that the University total would be heavy, and few were prepared for the collapse which followed. The bowling of Mr Webbe and Rawlin proved very effective, and so smart was the fielding that the last nine wickets were captured for an addition of 30 runs. Mr Gresson had the misfortune to be run out. He had played fine cricket, and his 64, which were obtained in rather more than two hours, included six fours, six threes and five twos. He gave one difficult chance to the wicket-keeper. The turf played well before luncheon, but subsequently it appeared to assist the bowlers a little – not enough, however, to account for the collapse of the University batsmen. Rawlin took four wickets . . .

Messrs Webbe and Studd opened the visitors' batting. Both were in good form . . .

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 21 May, page 9)

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 6)

This match, which began at Oxford on Thursday, ended on Saturday in a draw. Rain materially interfered with the play, and stumps were drawn at a quarter past 6.

19 May: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128273.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 10)

This match was begun at the Oval yesterday. The visitors won the toss, and at 12.25 Allen and Richards were confronted by Jones and Beaumont. From the third ball sent to him Allen was bowled off his pads.

Lawton came in and both batsmen played cautiously. Only six runs came from a dozen overs. At a quarter to 1 rain fell so persistently as to cause a retirement until half-past 2. On resuming Lawton made two fours by a cut and a leg hit off Beaumont. At 21 Richards was bowled, leg stump, and Collishaw took his place. Lawton continued to bat well, and saw the departure of Collishaw, caught very sharply at point, Mr Cranston played on, and Pallett. At length he fell to an easy catch at mid-on when within three of the "century." With the exception of a difficult chance to Lohmann at long-slip, he had played a capital innings, composed of eight fours, seven threes, 14 twos and singles. Six for 120.

The next three wickets added 13. Mr Breedon and Leake were now associated; but when only four runs had been added rain stopped play for the day. A start will be made at 11.30 this morning.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 21 May, page 9)

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 6)

An attempt was made at the Oval on Saturday to resume play in this match, which began on Thursday, but heavy rain caused the players to retreat to the pavilion, and the game was ultimately abandoned. Warwickshire had completed an innings for 139, and Surrey had lost two wickets for 178 – Abel not out 80 and Mr W W Read not out 59.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3190.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 May, page 11)

Mr A J Webbe captained a strong team against the University yesterday at Cambridge.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 May, page 10)

Brilliant batting by Mr Vernon and Rawlin and Messrs Marchant and Ford was the feature of yesterday's play in this match at Cambridge.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 May, page 10)

This match was finished at Cambridge yesterday. When stumps were drawn on Tuesday the home side had three wickets to fall and still required five runs to escape an innings defeat. Yesterday morning at 11.40 Messrs Ford and Martineau (the not outs, with 51 and 6) continued their batting to the attacks of Mr Webbe and Rawlin.

The five runs were soon obtained. Immediately afterwards Mr Ford was let off at slip by Mr Robertson; he had then scored 57. Mr Martineau was clean bowled, 87 runs having been put on between the fall of the seventh and eighth wickets. A fine ball of Rawlin's eventually disposed of Mr Ford; his rapidly compiled 79 consisted of 13 fours, three threes, five twos and eight singles. The last wicket fell for 223.

The Gentlemen of England now required 53 to win. Messrs Studd and G A Leatham were opposed by Messrs Hale and Sutthery. Mr Studd hit vigorously; his companion showed caution. Although the bowling was varied, 38 runs were obtained before they were separated. Three wickets then fell in nine overs. Mr Robertson and Mr de Paravicini became associated and gained the necessary number of runs, Cambridge being defeated by seven wickets.

23 May: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3191.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 24 May, page 11)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 May, page 10)

When stumps were drawn in this match at Manchester on Monday Sussex had completed an innings for 74 and Lancashire, with three wickets to fall, were 72 runs ahead. Yesterday Lancashire won the match by 10 wickets.

23 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3192.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 May, page 11)

The largest company of the present season visited Lord's yesterday, when the above match, limited to two days, began. Although cold towards evening the weather was fine, but the light at times proved very deceptive. Marylebone won the toss.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 May, page 10)

A full and interesting day's cricket was witnessed in the above match at Lord's yesterday. On Monday evening Marylebone had completed an innings for 248, and four of the county wickets were lost for 73. Hall, the not out with 21, went in at 11.30 with Preston. Pougher and Chatterton were the bowlers.

Hall returned the ball, and half the wickets were down for 92. The next four batsmen added 58, and great interest was taken in each ball when Peate and Hunter were together as to whether they would save the follow on. This they just failed to do, Hunter being bowled at 168. Time, 1.25. Pougher obtained four wickets . . .

Being exactly the prescribed number of runs behind which necessitate a follow on, Yorkshire went in a second time. They started badly, as Bates was caught at forward point in Chatterton's first over. Hall batted patiently and Ulyett showed some lively hitting, while Peel, who went in fourth wicket down, batted with great judgment and saw the rest of the side dismissed; among his items were a five (a well-timed hit to leg off Chatterton), five fours, three threes and three twos. The innings closed at 5.40 for 131. Pougher took four wickets . . .

Marylebone now required 52 to win. This cost them the dismissal of one batsman, and Yorkshire were beaten by nine wickets. It may be noted that sharp showers fell in the evening, and once stopped play; indeed, at one time it seemed probable that the match would be drawn on account of rain.

26 May: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3193.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 May, page 7)

For some years past the Rectory-field, Blackheath, has been known by its close association with Rugby Union football. It was here that the great contest took place between England and Scotland in 1884 and that most of the important matches have been played since the Blackheath Club first secured the field. Yesterday's was the first county match played at Blackheath, and it was also the first time that Kent and Gloucestershire have met.

Throughout the day the sun shone brilliantly, but a bitterly cold wind rendered matters anything but pleasant for the spectators. Kent won the toss, and at 12.10 Frank Hearne and A Hearne were opposed by Dr W G Grace and Mr Newnham. With the score at 3 A Hearne obstructed his wicket and George Hearne aided his brother. Runs were added steadily, until at 36 Frank Hearne was bowled, and at 63 George was cleverly taken at short-slip. Mr Thornton came in third wicket down, and before luncheon, when the score was 88, he saw both Mr Patisson and Mr Fulcher bowled.

Afterwards, Mr Christopherson stayed until the "100" was reached, at five minutes past 3, and then was bowled. The innings seemed likely to come to an early close. Eight wickets were down for 135 when Pentecost aided Mr Thornton, who had been batting steadily and well. Runs were scored with rapidity and the bowling was frequently changed before Pentecost was taken at mid-on at 194. Hickmott was last out at 202. Time, 4.55. Mr Thornton should have been easily caught by Mr Cole, third man, when he had made 60, but otherwise his defence was good. His chief hits were four fours, nine threes and seven twos.

Gloucestershire had an hour and ten minutes' batting . . .

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

In consequence of rain the match between these counties, which began on Thursday at Blackheath, could not be resumed. It was not until half-past 3 that all idea of playing was given up. The game will be continued this morning at 11.30. The state of the score on Thursday evening was thus: - Kent, first innings, 202; Gloucestershire, first innings, 89 for three wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 May, page 10)

In spite of the dull and cheerless weather the concluding day's cricket in this match at the Rectory-field, Blackheath, on Saturday, was watched with interest by a numerous company. It will be remembered that rain prevented any progress on Friday, and when the game was resumed on Saturday morning the score stood - Kent, 202; Gloucestershire, 89 for three wickets.

At a quarter to 12 Dr W G Grace accompanied Painter, not out 21, to the wickets. George Hearne and Wootton were the bowlers. Painter hit vigorously and caused several changes in the attack before he was caught at third man at 149. The determined manner in which he batted may be gathered from the composition of his 60 - viz., ten fours, a three, three twos and 11 singles. The bowling of A Hearne, who had been put on at 134, now proved very effective. Dr Grace batted

with great care, but the other batsmen were dismissed rapidly, and when the luncheon interval arrived the score was 180 for nine wickets.

On play being resumed, the innings speedily closed for an addition of a single. Dr Grace carried his bat out for 36, which included one fours, two threes and six twos. He was at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes. During his innings a somewhat curious incident happened, as a ball from Wootton struck his wicket without removing the bails.

Kent went in a second time, 21 runs to the good, but as only three hours remained for play there was scarcely any possibility of the game being brought to a definite issue. George Hearne played steadily and well, while some capital batting was also shown by Frank Hearne and Mr A J Thornton. Eventually, however, the game was left drawn . . .

26 May: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3194.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 May, page 7)

There was a wide difference in the batting of the metropolitan counties in their first match of the season yesterday at Lord's. The weather was bright and the company numerous. Play began at noon, when Middlesex, who had won the toss, sent in Messrs Stoddart and Webbe. Bowley and Lohmann opened the attack.

The resistance offered to it was of a very feeble nature. At 11 Mr Stoddart was bowled, and a run later Mr Webbe fell to a catch at third man. Messrs Scott and Walker batted steadily for a little while, but at 23 the former was bowled. Mr O'Brien joined Mr Walker, and these batsmen held out hopes of being able to stem the tide which seemed to have set in against the home county. Mr O'Brien batted freely; but at 47, Bowley having just previously handed the ball to Beaumont, he was clean bowled. Four wickets down. The remaining six only added 34 runs, and the innings closed after two hours' play for 81.

The luncheon interval having been taken, Mr Bowden and Abel proceeded to the wickets for Surrey, Burton and Birch were the early bowlers. Their start was even more unpromising than that of their opponents, as before a run had been scored Abel was clean bowled. Mr Roller came, and the batting was soon in the ascendant. The score rapidly reached 37, when Dunkley displaced Burton. Runs now came at the rate of one per minute, and at 56 Welch superseded Birch. These changes soon took effect. Before a run was added Mr Bowden was bowled, and at 57 both Mr W W Read and Maurice Read were served in the same manner.

Mr Shuter arrived to the aid of Mr Roller and some lively hitting was shown. At 91, however, Mr Shuter fell to a splendid catch at mid-off by Mr Webbe with one hand. Lohmann arrived, and three figures were signalled at 4.25. Although the bowling was changed and re-changed, both batsmen hit freely, and a few minutes after 5 o'clock Mr Roller completed his 100 amid hearty applause; he had taken 2 hours 20 minutes to obtain them. He was ultimately caught at long-off; among his hits were ten fours, seven threes and 16 twos.

Lohmann hit vigorously until he was unfortunately run out, his 76 comprising six fours, seven threes, seven twos and singles. Jones batted well for 30, not out, and the innings closed for 294. Stumps were now drawn for the day.

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

Rain fell during the early morning yesterday and at intervals throughout the day at Lord's. The representatives of these counties waiting until nearly 4 o'clock, when, as there seemed little prospect of the weather improving, it was decided to postpone further play until this morning at 11.30.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 May, page 10)

At Lord's, on Saturday, play between these two counties was continued at 11.35. It will be

remembered that on Thursday each side had completed an innings, and that on Friday rain prevented play altogether. Middlesex, in a depressing minority of 213, began their second innings with Messrs Webbe and Stoddart, Lohmann and Beaumont were the early bowlers.

Nothing came from the first five overs. Mr Stoddart then made eight by two cuts off Beaumont, and added three with a drive at the other end. He was now let off at wicket. Profiting by this escape he continued to hit well, and at 27 Jones superseded Lohmann. The alteration soon had the desired effect, Mr Stoddart being bowled. Messrs Webbe and Scott brought the total to 44, when both were dismissed. Three down.

Messrs Walker and O'Brien quickly advanced the score to 68. Beaumont then handed the ball to Lohmann, and Mr O'Brien fell to a catch at extra mid-off. Mr Vernon came, and the batting again triumphed for a little time. A cut for four by Mr Vernon off Beaumont shot the total up to precisely 100 at half-past 1. Four runs later, this batsman retire through a catch at mid-on. Half the wickets were now lost for 104.

The remaining five only averaged six runs each. West and Mr Walker were caught at cover-point, Birch played on, Burton was caught at mid-on and Mr Welman bowled. Total 134; time, 3 o'clock. It will be seen from the subjoined score that Surrey won by an innings and 79 runs.

26 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3195.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 May, page 7)

Rain interfered occasionally at the outset of the play in this match at Oxford yesterday. There were two changes in the University eleven – Messrs Buckland and Moss taking the places of Messrs Croome and Rawlinson. In spite of the absence of their captain, Mr A N Hornby, Lancashire placed a strong eleven in the field.

The home side won the toss and went in, Messrs Brain and Gresson being confronted by Barlow and Watson. Only eight runs had been made when Mr Brain was beaten by a ball from Watson. Mr Rashleigh filled the vacancy. Steady defence was shown by both batsmen. At 26 Watson crossed over and Briggs took his place. Mr Gresson gave a chance to point and Mr Rashleigh to mid-on, but neither was accepted. The former obstructed his wicket at 40, and eight runs later Mr Rashleigh was well caught by Pilling.

Neither Mr Nepean nor Mr Key batted up to expectation. Mr Buckland's reappearance in the eleven was marked by able cricket until he was dismissed at the hands of the wicket keeper; his principal items were nine fours, a three and three twos. Messrs Hildyard and Philipson batted carefully, and the innings realized 144.

Mr Eccles and Barlow opened the Lancashire batting at an unwonted rate, 82 runs being the result of an hour's play. Mr Eccles was then dismissed, having contributed 48. Barlow was soon afterwards clean bowled, and with the fall of his wicket play ceased for the day.

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

When play ceased in this match on Thursday the University had completed an innings for 144, and two Lancashire wickets were lost for 96. Yesterday rain prevented play being continued until a quarter to 1. Briggs (not out, 12) was then accompanied to the wickets by Mr Hornby. Messrs Buckland and Cochrane were the bowlers.

Only two runs were gained and Mr Hornby was clean bowled. Three for 98. Mr Steel arrived, and both batsmen hit freely. At a quarter past 1, however, rain stopped play for the rest of the day . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 May, page 10)

Little progress was made in this match on Thursday and Friday in the Parks at Oxford owing to adverse weather, and when stumps were drawn on the second day the University had finished an innings for 144 and two of the county wickets were down for 96. On Saturday Mr Steel and Briggs (not out with 16 and 30) resumed their batting to the attacks of Messrs Cochrane and Wreford-Brown.

A chance was soon given by Mr Steel at slip, which was not accepted. The score having been advantage to 137, Briggs cut the ball into the hands of point. Robinson only stayed while four runs were added, and was then caught at cover point. Half the wickets for 141. At 155 two more

batsmen were dismissed – Mr Haigh caught at point and Ward run out. Yates joined Mr Steel, and these batted so well that Mr Moss superseded Mr Wreford-Brown. This change brought Mr Steel's lucky innings to a close through a catch by Mr Buckland. Among his hits were five fours, two threes and three twos. Pilling and Watson put on 55 for the last wicket, and the innings closed for 247.

Oxford were now 103 runs behind, and although the wicket was very difficult they batted with great freedom, causing the match to be left drawn.

27 May: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128277.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Saturday 28 May, page 9)

Day 2 (report from Monday 30 May, page 10)

Had time permitted there can be little doubt that Yorkshire would have scored an easy victory over the Midland county on Saturday at Huddersfield. Only two days were devoted to the match, and on Friday rain so interfered with play that little headway was made.

When the game was resumed on Saturday Warwickshire, who had lost three wickets for 68, continued their batting with Richards and Collishaw (not outs, 27 and nine). The bowling of Emmett and Preston was very destructive, as the seven outstanding wickets did not average four runs each, and the last batsman was dismissed with the total at 95. Emmett claimed seven wickets . . .

Bates and Hall began batting for the home county against Shilton and Pallett. Both played steadily, and 35 runs were gained before Bates was dismissed – clean bowled. Hall showed characteristic caution and carried his bat through the innings, which occupied three hours and a half; his chief items were five fours, five threes and four twos. Wade hit with great freedom, and the last wicket did not fall until 166 had been registered. Shilton took five wickets . . .

Warwickshire, with an arrear of 71, went in a second time; but their batting needs no comment beyond that afforded by the score. Bates was very effective; he was credited with five wickets . . . When stumps were drawn the visitors required 36 runs to prevent a single innings defeat and had only three wickets to fall.

30 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3196.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 8)

The keen rivalry that exists between these counties always invests their matches with great interest. This is particularly the case now that Surrey is capable of placing a team in the field able, in some measure, to uphold its reputation of former days. Yesterday a strong eleven visited Nottingham and, although the weather was gloomy, there were about 5,000 spectators in the Trent-bridge Ground.

Surrey were successful in the toss, and sent in Mr Key and Abel. Attewell and Mee were intrusted with the bowling. The start proved most disastrous to the southern county, as in the opening over a capital catch at slip dismissed Abel, and when only 5 runs had been scored Mr Key obstructed his wicket. Mee, who was in excellent form, then successively bowled Mr Roller, Mr Read and Mr Shuter. Half the wickets were now lost for 22.

Maurice Read, who had been batting steadily, received little assistance from Lohmann, who was caught by the wicket-keeper at 27. Wood came next, and he and Read played with caution. The score crept gradually on and, despite the fact that Shacklock and Flowers had superseded Attewell and Mee, the total had reached 71 at 2 o'clock. With only nine runs added Read was taken at mid-off; his chief hits were two fours, three threes and six twos. The partnership had yielded 53 runs.

Jones was caught at the wicket at 88, and Wood, who had been batting two hours and 20 minutes, was out in the same way at 114. A single later Bowley fell to a catch in the long field and the innings closed at a quarter past 4. Nottingham went in . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 7)

The interest in this match was well sustained throughout yesterday. On the opening day Surrey were disposed of for 115, while only two of the Notts batsmen were out for 46. Scotton and Gunn (not-outs 20 and 8) were confronted at 11.35 by Lohmann and Bowley.

The start was most unpromising, as before a single had been added Gunn fell to a catch at cover-point, and in the fifth over Scotton was clean bowled. Four for 46. Flowers and Mr Daft put on 10 runs, when the latter was bowled, and the first ball sent Butler struck his wicket. Six for 56. The innings terminated for 89, the last eight batsmen having been disposed of in an hour and a half for 43.

When Surrey went in the wicket was improving every minute. Abel and Mr Key were opposed by Mee and Attewell. Runs came so fast that the bowling underwent a double change. The batsmen were not separated at the luncheon interval, and afterwards the total was taken to 66, the result of an hour and 50 minutes' batting, before Mr Key, who had previously escaped at the hands of mid-off, was bowled. Mr Roller joined Abel and, amid hearty cheers, the 100 was signalled at five minutes to 5 o'clock.

Still runs came, and 130 were recorded before Abel fell a victim to venturesomeness; he had been batting for three hours and 40 minutes, having only given a chance when he had scored 36. Mr

Roller was at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes before he was bowled. Mr Read and his namesake remained in until stumps were drawn.

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

A more interesting match than that which terminated at the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, yesterday, has rarely been played between these counties. From the time the first ball was bowled on Monday until the close, the issue of the match remained in doubt. At the drawing of stumps on Tuesday evening each side had been in once, and Surrey, who were then 26 to the good, had obtained 157 at the cost of three wickets.

Yesterday Mr Read and Maurice Read (not-outs, 15 and 1) continued batting. Attewell and Flowers had charge of the attack. The amateur soon got busy. He drove Attewell to the off for four, and made six by two cuts from the other bowler. The score quickly reached 183, when rain interrupted the game for a quarter of an hour. The 200 was reached at 20 minutes past 12. Flowers now handed the ball to Barnes, while 15 runs later Shacklock relieved Attewell. When he had made 26 Maurice Read was let off in the long field, but was soon afterwards bowled. Four for 264. The remaining six wickets went down for 25, the innings closing at 20 minutes to 2. Mr Read's excellent 92 comprised nine fours, nine threes, six twos and singles.

Nottingham's only chance now was to play out time, as they were 315 behind. This they made a determined effort to do; but the Surrey bowling proved too good for them. Scotton and Shrewsbury, against Lohmann and Bowley, obtained a couple of runs in the five minutes' play before the interval. Afterwards the score was carried to 15, when Shrewsbury was tempted to return the ball. Barnes and Scotton batted steadily for a time, but at 33 the latter was beaten by Lohmann, who quickly afterwards found his way to Barnes's and Flowers's wickets. With four of the home team's best batsmen dismissed for 38, everything seemed in favour of Surrey.

Gunn and Mr Daft were now together, and the prospect for Nottinghamshire brightened. The bowling was played in so cool and effective a manner for some time that it was altered at 52, Beaumont superseding Bowley. Sixteen runs later Lohmann gave way to Jones. This latter change brought about the dismissal of Mr Daft, who was finely caught at short-slip by Abel with his right hand. Five wickets were now down for 76, and Butler came in. Runs were scored rapidly, and the 100 was completed at 4.55. The batsmen became very venturesome and quickly paid the penalty, Butler being run out at 5 o'clock. Six for 103.

An hour and a half's play still remained, and only four wickets with which to eke it out. Attewell joined Gunn, and so well did these bat that the hopes of Nottinghamshire revived. They kept up their wickets until 5.45, when Attewell was bowled. Only three-quarters of an hour to the time of drawing stumps was left, and the excitement became intense. Hope was almost dispelled when Gunn obstructed his wicket at 157. He had made a most determined effort to save his side, and while he was in 126 runs were recorded. His principal hits were four fours, ten threes and six twos.

The two remaining batsmen were quickly dismissed, and Surrey, with a quarter of an hour to spare, won the match by 157 runs. Nottinghamshire have held the position of champion county for the past three years. The last victory gained by Surrey over Nottinghamshire was in 1881 at the Oval.

30 May: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3197.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 8)

Although the fact that so many county were engaged yesterday caused the teams for both North and South to be of necessity weak, the old title, coupled with the Bank Holiday, attracted nearly 4,000 spectators to Lord's. The match was for the benefit of Walter Price, a deserving member of "the ground" staff, and who played 18 years since for Nottinghamshire. The weather was rather gloomy and the wicket all in favour of the bowlers. Few, however, were prepared for the rarity of a first-class match being completed in a day at headquarters.

The South won the toss, and within a few minutes of noon Messrs Russel and Hillyard were confronted by Rawlin and Richardson. The first ball sent him Mr Russel pushed to the off for two, but the third clean bowled him. Henderson cut Rawlin for three. When 11 runs only had been obtained Mr Hillyard was dismissed by a "bailer," and at the same total Mr O'Brien ran himself out. Henderson and Mr Francis were now together, and the first 20 runs averaged two minutes each to obtain.

Henderson now elicited applause by driving Richardson to the on for four. Mr Francis was bowled and Hearn caught at mid-on. Half the wickets were down for 35, and three more batsmen were dismissed at 40. West and Burton now became partners. The former gave a very difficult chance to slip before he had scored, after which runs were put on rapidly. This freedom was soon checked, however, as at 61 West was smartly stumped and Mycroft caught at point, the innings closing after an hour and a half's play.

Mr Hornby and Davenport opened the North batting at 1.50. Burton and Fothergill conducted the attack. The Lancashire captain obtained 10 in the first two overs (which included a cut for four off Fothergill). In Burton's 20 Davenport fell to a catch at wicket. The luncheon interval having been taken, Mr Wright went in with Mr Hornby, who was easily caught at the wicket, and Rawlin fell to a catch at cover point. Two and three for 22.

Mr Royle joined Mr Wright, and each batsman cut Fothergill for four. At 36 Mr Royle was bowled and Mr Leatham came in. He obtained nine by an off-drive, a cut and a leg-hit off Fothergill, and was then take at wicket. Five for 46. Hay assisted Mr Wright, until at 80 he fell to an easy catch at slip. Six down. Mr Kemble cut the first ball he received into the hands of point, while two runs later Mr Wright was out through a similar hit. Eight for 82.

Parnham arrived and was badly missed by Henderson at long-on. He then hit Burton over the covered terrace for four, but in the next over from that bowler he was very well caught by Hearn running in from long-off. Richardson was caught at point without having added a run, and the innings closed at 4.15 for 99.

The company had increased considerably when the South, who were in a minority of 38, started batting a second time. Messrs Russel and Hillyard faced the bowling of Rawlin and Richardson. The run-getting soon became brisk – 10 were made in two overs and 20 in 10 minutes. Twenty minutes' play produced 45 runs, and then Rawlin, who had given way to Parnham, resumed bowling. His first ball Mr Hillyard placed easily into point's hands, and in the next over Mr Russel was bowled.

Mr O'Brien sent Rawlin to square-leg for four and cut Richardson for three. At 57, however, he skied the ball to point. The three next batsmen were all disposed of for 60 – Mr Francis and Henderson both fell to the wicket-keeper and Mr Soppitt was kindly caught left-hand low down by mid-wicket. Six down. Burton and Hearne were now together, and the cricket for a little while was very slow. Burton was bowled at 71, and West, after playing indifferently, was caught from a skier at slip at 78. Without anything being added Fothergill fell to a catch at mid-on, and four runs later Mycroft was caught at point. Time, 6 o'clock.

The North now had only 45 to obtain for victory. Mr Hornby and Davenport started getting them to the bowling of Burton and West. From the second ball delivered Mr Hornby should have been secured by Mr O'Brien at extra mid-off. He did not turn his good fortune to much account, however, as when only eight had been made he was out through a well-judged catch at long-off. One down. Mr Wright, who followed, was badly missed by Mr O'Brien at extra mid-off, but an easy piece of stumping at 19 disposed of him.

More loose fielding was then shown. Mr Leatham was let off from the first ball sent him by West at slip, this being the third batsman missed from Burton's bowling. With the total at 23 Davenport was caught at wicket and Mr Leatham was served in the same way seven runs later. Four for 30. When Mr Royle and Rawlin became partners 15 were still required for victory. These were soon obtained, the winning hit (an on-drive for two) being made by Mr Royle at five minutes past 7. Thus the match was completed after six hours and a quarter's play, and ended in a victory for the North by six wickets.

30 May: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3198.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 8)

A capital day's cricket was witnessed in the opening of this match yesterday at the Hove, Brighton. There were nearly 5,000 people on the ground. The western county won the toss and Drs W G and E M Grace went in. The brothers Hide led off the bowling.

Dr W G Grace cut both bowlers for four, but at 18 his brother played a ball on to his wicket. Mr Radcliffe came next on the list and run-getting proved a matter of difficulty. Thirteen overs only produced a single, the fielding of Sussex being very smart. The bowling was twice changed until at length Mr Radcliffe was caught at point. Painter ably seconded Dr W G Grace's efforts, until, after various alterations in the attack, he fell to a catch in the slips. The Gloucestershire captain was the fourth out – caught at point with the total at 102; his principal items were seven fours and three twos.

Messrs Croome and Cole became partners after the fall of the sixth wicket at 117. They successfully defied all the efforts of the Sussex bowlers to separate them until 80 runs had been added. Mr Cole was then splendidly caught at point; among his hits were four fours and six twos. Mr Croome was bowled almost immediately after Mr Cole's retirement; his freely hit 50 comprised six fours, a three, six twos and singles. His only previous chance was when he had made 36. The light was very bad when Sussex went in.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 7)

On an excellent wickets and in the company of a large number of onlookers, play between these counties was continued yesterday at Hove, Brighton. When stumps were drawn on Monday evening Gloucestershire were all out for 240 and three of the home batsmen dismissed for 38. Messrs Newham and M'Cormick (not-outs, nine and one) were opposed by Mr Newham and Dr W G Grace and 11.40.

Eight runs only were added, and Mr M'Cormick was bowled. J Hide filled the vacancy and soon proved himself an able partner for Mr Newham. A most determined resistance was offered by them. The bowling underwent frequent changes, but no fewer than 112 runs had been put on for the fifth wicket before the professional had the misfortune to play on. He had given an easy chance to Mr Radcliffe at mid-on with his score at 12, but afterwards his hitting was clean and vigorous. Humphrey's stay was brief, as he had only made a couple when a fine running catch at long-on dismissed him.

With Mr Brann as Mr Newham's partner the Gloucestershire bowling was completely mastered, and 80 runs were added before the last comer was clean bowled. Mr Newham's innings was at length closed by the wicket-keeper. During the three hours and a half he was in he did not make a bad hit. His 18 comprised 12 fours, seven threes, 11 twos and singles. Total 253.

In a minority of 13 only, the western county sent in Drs W G and E M Grace. The latter soon obstructed his wicket, and Mr Radcliffe came in. The score advanced by rapid strides until it reached 104, despite many bowling changes. Both batsmen gave chances which Sussex neglected,

but they were at last caught at wicket. Dr W G Grace's hits included a drive out of the ground for six from Humphreys and six fours, and Mr Radcliffe's 10 fours, a three and five twos. Painter and Mr Francis played out time.

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

The first county match of the season at Hove, Brighton, must have been highly gratifying to supporters and admirers of Sussex cricket in every respect. The weather has been fine on each of the three days, the wicket almost perfect, and the result is a creditable victory for the home eleven. When play ceased on Tuesday evening Gloucestershire – 13 runs in arrear – had gone in a second time and lost three wickets for 144.

Yesterday Painter and Mr Francis (not outs 21 and 4) resumed batting. The bowling was again instructed to the bowlers Hide. The seven outstanding wickets only averaged a little more than six runs each.

Sussex now wanted 173 to win. Dr W G Grace's and Mr Newnham's bowling was supported by excellent fielding, and the average of the first four wickets was 15 runs only. Tester fell to the wicket-keeper at 16. Quaife and Mr Newham batted so steadily that a double change in the bowling was tried, Mr Croome and Painter being put on. Shortly before the interval, an excellent piece of fielding by Dr W G Grace caused Quaife to be run out.

Mr Cotterill aided Mr Newham, and the score was advanced to 50 before Mr Cotterill was caught at the wicket. A further misfortune befell the home county at 60, when Mr Newham, in hitting round a ball of Dr W G Grace, was dextrously secured at short leg. Mr M'Cormick and Jesse Hide now became partners. Despite the varied tactics brought to bear against them by the Western county the partnership yielded 87 runs when Mr M'Cormick was bowled. His 51 included 10 fours and three twos.

Half the wickets were now down for 147. Humphreys' stay was brief, and Mr Brann joined J Hide. These batsmen gained the 31 runs still required, the last-named making the winning hit. From the complete score appended it will be seen that Sussex won by four wickets.

30 May: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3199.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 8)

A powerful eleven was placed in opposition yesterday by Kent against Yorkshire at Sheffield. The weather was very unsettled, but the holiday folk mustered in great force at Bramall-lane, there being about 6,000 present. The wicket played easy at first, but afterwards helped the bowlers a great deal.

Kent were placed on their defence at 10 minutes past 12, A Hearne and F Hearne facing the attacks of Bates and Emmett. The score quickly reached 25, when Preston relieved Bates. With the addition of a single A Hearne fell to a catch at short leg. G G Hearne arrived, and soon the batting triumphed. Despite bowling changes, no fewer than 43 runs were put on before the last-comer was bowled. Two for 69. The wickets now fell quickly; the remaining seven only added 23 runs, and the innings closed at 3.55 for 92.

Yorkshire made a most indifferent commencement, as their first four wickets collapsed for 18. Peel and Preston then infused some vigour into the batting, 42 runs being added before Peel was bowled. The innings terminated at 6 o'clock for 77.

Kent, who had a balance of 15 in hand, went in a second time and lost a wicket for four runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 7)

Meagre scoring was the characteristic of the play in this match on Monday and yesterday at Bramall-lane, Sheffield. Indeed, on most grounds the wickets have hitherto decidedly helped the bowlers. When play ceased on the first day an innings each had been finished, and Kent, with 15 runs in hand, had been deprived of Mr Tonge's wicket for four only.

About 3,000 people were on the ground when Wootton and Pentecost (the not outs) went in. Wade and Emmett had charge of the early bowling. Only a dozen runs were reached when Wootton was bowled, and at 19 Pentecost was served in the same manner. F and G G Hearne did their side some service; but even this did not prevent eight wickets being captured for 58 runs. Mr Thornton, Martin and Walter Hearne caused 31 to be put on for the last two wickets, and the innings closed at 1.25 for 89.

When Yorkshire began batting a second time with 105 to obtain for victory, the keenest interest was taken in every ball bowled, and after the interval the company must have increased to nearly 5,000. Hall and Bates opened the venture to the attacks of A Hearne and Martin. When only nine runs had been obtained Bates was bowled; but Peel, who took his place, assisted Hall in taking the score to 31 before he also was dismissed. Two down.

Luncheon having intervened, the second ball proved fatal to Hall, and with only a single added Preston was also bowled. Four for 32. This average of only eight runs per wicket caused the Yorkshire partisans considerable anxiety, and matters were not much improved when, at 42, Harris was beaten by a ball from A Hearne. Ulyett and Mr Hawke, however, soon put a brighter complexion on affairs for the home side, and 35 were put on before the professional was run out. Six for 77.

When Wade joined Mr Hawke there were still 28 runs wanting for victory. The Yorkshire captain batted well, but gave a return chance when he had made 23. Wade hit with judgment, and at length, amid the greatest excitement, Mr Hawke drove the ball over the bowling-green for six and won the match for Yorkshire by four wickets.

30 May: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128282.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 8)

In ungenial weather the opening match of the season between these counties began yesterday at Derby. Essex, who won the toss, first took possession of the wickets. The bowling and fielding of the home team was exceptionally good, and beyond Bastow and Mr Owen the batsmen did little, the innings only realizing 88 runs.

Chatterton and Mr Maynard batted well for Derbyshire and added 45 between the fall of the fourth and fifth wickets. The professional, who was fortunate enough to have an escape at long-on when he had made only 18, put together a six, three fours, two threes, three twos and singles. The last wicket fell for 150.

Essex, with 62 runs in arrear, went in again . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 7)

There was again a moderate company at Derbyshire yesterday to witness the second and, as it proved, concluding day's play between these counties. On Monday evening the game was left decidedly against Essex, who, with a balance of 62 runs against them, had lost two wickets in their second innings for 21.

Messrs Owen and Freeman (not-outs, six and nine) opposed the bowling of Cropper and Davidson at noon. The last-named batsman did not add to his overnight score, and Mr Owen was dismissed when he had put on five only. Mr Buxton played an excellent and chanceless innings for 51, in which were five fours, four threes and three twos. The last wicket fell at 110.

Derbyshire now required 49 to win. Mr Wright batted well, and among his hits were five fours. The full score subjoined will show that Derbyshire won by seven wickets.

30 May: HAMPSHIRE v NORFOLK (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128294.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 8)

A most remarkable batting achievement by Mr Lacey was witnessed yesterday at Southampton, when Hampshire met Norfolk. The home team won the toss, and in fine weather sent in Messrs Bonham-Carter and Russell. The former was caught by Mr Jarvis at 12. Mr Lacey then joined Mr Russell and saw the downfall of the rest of the side, the total being 558. Among his hits were four sixes, two fives and 37 fours.

Norfolk went in and lost two wickets for 31.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 7)

The heavy scoring of the home county in this match at Southampton caused little doubt to exist as to its ultimate result. On Monday, it will be remembered, Hampshire had amassed 558 runs for an innings, and two of the visitors' wickets were down for 31. Yesterday Norfolk were beaten by an innings and 342 runs.

2 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3200.html)

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

The University Ground, Cambridge, was yesterday the scene of a fine batting display by Mr F Thomas. The occasion was the opening of the match between the University Eleven and Yorkshire. Choice of innings fell to the University, who decided to go in. Their first representatives were Messrs Crawley and Sutthery, while the early Yorkshire bowling was shared by Preston and Emmett.

The batsmen played steadily, but Mr Crawley soon had to retire owing to a smart piece of stumping by Hunter. Mr Ford aided Mr Sutthery. The defence was so good that at 33 Peel received the [ball] from Emmett; at 41 he crossed over and Wade went on. The last of the alterations brought about the dismissal of Mr Sutthery, who was bowled. Two for 45.

Mr Buxton came in, but after luncheon he and Mr Ford were both bowled. Mr Bridgeman was stumped at 115, and then Mr Thomas, who had gone in third wicket down at 77, was aided by Mr Meyrick-Jones. In spite of the many variations in the attack the batsmen played in fine style, their all-round cricket being much admired. Before the sixth wicket – that of Mr Meyrick-Jones – fell the score had been increased by 90 runs. Mr Meyrick-Jones had given a chance to Hall at point, when he had scored 17.

Mr Hale was next in; but the rain, which had caused a delay of 15 minutes at 4.50, again came on and prevented further play. Mr Thomas was then not out 95. His only mistake was when he had scored 70, Emmett then missing him at mid-off.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 9)

Play in this match at Cambridge yesterday was not begun until a quarter past 3. The home eleven, who it will be remembered had scored 244 for the loss of six wickets, then resumed their batting.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 7)

Time alone saved the Yorkshire eleven from a severe defeat at the hands of the Light Blues on Saturday at the University ground at Cambridge. Cambridge required 84 runs to win and had 50 minutes left in which to obtain them.

Mr Ford made a determined effort to gain the victory for his side, and when time was called and the game left drawn only 21 runs were wanted. A few minutes before the finish a proposition was made to Hall, the Yorkshire captain, to play the game out, but he thought himself justified in declining, considering the disadvantages under which his team had laboured in having the worst of the wicket.

2 June: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3201.html)

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

At Manchester yesterday a large company assembled at the Old Trafford ground to witness the opening day's play in this match. The home team won the toss and went in first. Mr Hornby and Barlow began the batting at a quarter past 12 to the bowling of Wootton and A Hearne.

The start was very unpromising, as at 11 the Lancashire captain was given out leg before and four runs later Barlow was bowled. Further misfortunes soon befell the home eleven; at 18 Mr Eccles was bowled and a catch at mid-on sent back Briggs at 24. Lancashire's prospects improved when Messrs Jowett and Durandu were partners. Runs were added steadily, and at 55 Martin superseded A Hearne. The change at once brought about the dismissal of Mr Durandu, who was bowled.

With six wickets down for 55 Robinson aided Mr Jowett. Both batsmen played well, and though the bowling underwent numerous changes, the partnership yielded 63 runs. Mr Jowett was dismissed ninth at 151. He had played an invaluable innings of 58, which included three fours, four threes and eight twos. The last wicket gave some trouble and was not captured until the score had reached 179.

When Kent went in the bowling of Watson and Barlow proved very effective. Mr W H Patterson was the only batsman who met with much success . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 9)

Rain fell heavily on Thursday night and yesterday morning in Manchester, in consequence of which there was no play in this match.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 7)

Kent suffered their second reverse in the north at Manchester on Saturday, when they were beaten by Lancashire at Old Trafford. The chief cause of the defeat was the bad wicket, which had been rendered so treacherous by the rain of Friday.

2 June: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3202.html)

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

Dr W G Grace treated the spectators at Lord's yesterday to a fine display of batting. The wicket was rather in favour of the bowlers, and at one time there seemed every probability of the western county making a very meagre score. The weather was dull, and a north-easterly wind rendered matters unpleasant for the company.

Drs W G and E M Grace started the Gloucestershire batting at five minutes past 12 to the bowling of Burton and Dunkley (pavilion end). With the score at 14, Dr E M Grace, in attempting to drive, was clean bowled and Mr Radcliffe aided his captain. The wicket now gave evidence of treacherousness. The ball at both ends got up repeatedly and the batsmen were several times greatly puzzled. Mr Radcliffe was out to a dextrous catch at slip at 37, and Painter was clean bowled five runs later. Matters still went badly with the visitors. Mr Francis was bowled at 44, and Mr Lewis [note: alias of A C M Croome], who had caused the 50 to be reached by a drive for four, tamely cut the ball into the hands of point at 59.

With Mr Griffiths and Dr Grace as partners runs were scored very rapidly. When he had made 26 Dr Grace, in hitting Dunkley to square-leg, gave a possible chance to Burton, who touched the ball with his left hand. The first change in the bowling was made at 77, Dunkley giving way to West. Runs, however, were added steadily and, though Mr Robertson displaced Burton at 90 and Dunkley resumed at 95, the batsmen were still together at luncheon. Total 96 for five wickets.

After the interval the Gloucestershire wickets for a time fell rapidly. Mr Griffiths was caught at the wicket at 100; Mr Bloor at point, at 104; and Mr Cole bowled at 108. Mr Newnham then joined Dr Grace and a remarkable change came over the game. The Gloucestershire captain hit in quite his old style and in spite of bowling changes he completed his hundred with the figures at 168. Mr Webbe took the ball at 181, and at length, at 192, he dismissed Dr Grace leg-before. The Gloucestershire captain had been batting three hours and 20 minutes. His chief hits were 15 fours, five threes and 11 twos. Mr Bush soon returned the ball and the innings closed at a quarter past 4 for 198.

Middlesex opened their innings at 4.35 with Messrs Stoddart and Webbe. Dr W G Grace and Mr Newnham were the bowlers. In the latter's second over Mr Stoddart had the misfortune to be run out, the first wicket falling at 11. Mr Scott came in, and with the score at 39 rain stopped the play for 40 minutes.

On resuming only a single was added when Mr Scott played on. Mr Walker joined Mr Webbe and the 50 was reached shortly after 6 o'clock. A few minutes later rain again drove the players to the pavilion. The game was not again resumed . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 9)

Yesterday at Lord's rain fell heavily, and at half-past 1 it was agreed to abandon any idea of proceeding further with the above match until this morning.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 7)

After the heavy rain of the previous day it was only to be expected that on Saturday the wicket at Lord's would be all in favour of the bowlers. This surmise was amply verified, and had there been an hour or so longer to play, the match would doubtless have furnished an exciting finish. The score when the game was resumed stood – Gloucestershire, first innings, 197; Middlesex, two wickets for 57.

The latter made a total of 172. Gloucestershire went in and made 84, and then, with 55 minutes left for play and 110 to obtain to win, the home eleven began their second venture. The game was drawn.

2 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3203.html)

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

The visits of the Marylebone Club to the Universities are always invested with great interest, and usually afford some idea of the relative merits of the elevens. Yesterday a team of average strength, which included six professionals, was sent down to Oxford to play the University in the Parks. The weather was dull and threatening, but a capital wicket had been provided.

Play began at 12.20, when the visitors, who had won the toss, sent in Lord George Scott and Captain Curteis. The bowlers were Messrs Cochrane and Moss. Only a dozen runs were obtained when Captain Curteis was clean bowled. Chatterton came, and 20 runs resulted from the first 35 minutes' play. The professional then drove Mr Cochrane well to the on for three, and the same batsman cut Mr Moss for three.

At 31 Mr Cochrane handed the ball to Mr Forster. The run-getting was very slow until Chatterton hit the last-named to the on boundary, but when he had made 18 he was rather easily missed at mid-on from the same bowler. An hour and ten minutes' play having provided 46 runs, Mr Cochrane resumed, and his second ball Chatterton sent to leg for four. Runs came very slowly, and Mr Moss sent down 13 maiden overs in succession, while only nine runs had been scored off him since the start of the game. At 53 Mr Nepean superseded Mr Cochrane, and in his first over Lord George Scott was stumped. Two for 55. Flowers joined Chatterton, and made a lucky three through the slips off Mr Moss. At luncheon the score was advanced to 66.

The interval over, Mr Cochrane bowled again in place of Mr Nepean. Runs came a little faster, and at 87 Mr Moss gave up the ball to Mr Forster. A separation was effected at 98, when Chatterton, who had batted well, was caught at point – three wickets down. The Rev R T Thornton soon made a leg hit for three from Mr Forster, and drove Mr Cochrane to the off for four, and the 100 was signalled at 25 minutes to 4. Fourteen runs later Flowers was completely beaten by a ball of Mr Forster's, which struck his off stump. Rawlin filled the vacancy, and drove Mr Cochrane to the on for three, but then Mr Thornton played on. Half the wickets were now down for 124.

Mr Ross aided Mr Rawlin, and began by driving Mr Forster to the off for four, a hit he soon afterwards repeated. With the total at 141 Mr Nepean again relieved Mr Cochrane, and his second ball Mr Ross got over the crease to hit and was stumped. Mr Mirehouse appeared, and Rawlin drove Mr Forster finely to the off for four and to the on for three. At 157 rain stopped play for about ten minutes. On resuming, Mr Cochrane and Mr Moss resumed bowling, and the former was soon driven to the off boundary by Mr Mirehouse. Rawlin then cut Mr Moss for four. Rain again interfered with the game for 25 minutes. The players once more entered the field, but only an over had been bowled when they were again forced to return to the pavilion, and rain stopped play for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 9)

Rain prevented any play in the above match at Oxford yesterday. At the close of Thursday the score stood thus: - Marylebone, 173 for six wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 7)

In consequence of the heavy rain no progress could be made on Friday with the first of the two matches between the Marylebone Club and Oxford University. At the drawing of stumps on Thursday night Marylebone had gone in and lost six wickets for 173. The innings closed on Saturday for 243.

Oxford then made 94 and had to follow on. Eventually the game was left drawn.

2 June: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128287.html)

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

Fresh from their victory over Nottinghamshire the Surrey eleven yesterday began their return match with Warwickshire on the latter's ground at Birmingham. Having won the toss, Surrey sent in Mr Shuter and Abel, who were opposed at 12.25 by Shilton and Harborne.

Mr Shuter made most of the runs, and at 20 Pallett relieved Harborne. The Surrey captain continued to score freely until at 37 he was bowled; he had obtained 30 out of 37. Mr Roller now joined Abel. The batsmen steadily increased the score and were still together at the luncheon interval when the figures had travelled to 81.

Subsequently Mr Roller was bowled, the second wicket falling at 99. Mr Read's stay was brief, but another stand was made by Abel and Maurice Read. At 124, however, Abel fell to a catch at the wicket for an excellent 44; his chief hits were two fours, three threes and six twos. The batsmen were now dismissed so rapidly that the ninth wicket fell at 154. An unexpected stand was made by Bowley and Beaumont. The former hit in fine style, and in spite of changes in the bowling the last wicket added 71. Bowley's not-out innings of 43 comprised two fours, four threes, four twos and singles.

Warwickshire went in for 20 minutes . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 9)

Heavy rain at Birmingham yesterday prevented the match between these counties being continued.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 7)

This match ended in a draw at Birmingham on Saturday.

6 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3204.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 June, page 7)

In fine weather and on a good wicket the Marylebone and Cambridge University teams began the first of their two matches on the University ground at Cambridge yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 June, page 9)

Yesterday's play in this match at Cambridge was productive of very good cricket. The weather was fine and the company large. Cambridge, who had scored 103 for the loss of three wickets against the MCC total of 213, resumed their innings yesterday morning at 11.45.

Mr Thomas played a very fine innings, and when the visitors went in a second time Cambridge were only ten runs behind. Mr Wright, Barnes and Hearne scored freely for Marylebone . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 June, page 7)

A large company assembled on the University ground, Cambridge, yesterday, to witness the third and concluding day's play in the match between the Marylebone and the University eleven. At the close of Tuesday each side had completed an innings, with the result that Marylebone had an advantage of ten runs, and the visitors had gone in a second time and scored 120 for the loss of two wickets. Hearne and Barnes were the not-outs with 32 and 30.

Play was continued at 11.35. After four runs had been added Barnes was bowled, the third wicket having put on 62 runs. Messrs Turner and Eaton did not give very much trouble, but when Hearne and Attewell became partners a determined stand was made. While they were together 74 runs were put on. Attewell was then caught at mid-off. Among his contributions were six fours, two threes and six twos. Hearne's fine innings was closed just before luncheon. He had played in excellent style and his chief hits were six fours, six threes and 11 twos. The last Marylebone wicket fell shortly after the interval for 289.

The Light Blues thus required 300 to win. Their start was by no means promising, as both Messrs Marchant and Buxton were caught at slip, the first two wickets falling for 32 runs. Messrs Thomas and Ford stayed together a little time; but afterwards the batsmen were rapidly dismissed, and the seventh wicket fell with the score at 71.

It now seemed likely that Marylebone would win easily, and few were prepared for the fine batting shown by Messrs Trouncer and Bridgeman. An hour and a half still remained for play when the pair got together. They played with great caution, and in spite of bowling changes kept up their wickets, and the call of time left the game drawn. During the partnership 65 runs were added.

6 June: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3205.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 June, page 7)

The visits of the Yorkshire Eleven to Lord's have always been anticipated with great interest. Yesterday the weather was very fine and a large company assembled to witness the opening day's cricket in the above match. The wicket had by no means recovered from last week's rain, and Mr Webbe having won the toss decided to put his opponents in.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 June, page 9)

The match between these counties was concluded yesterday at Lord's in fine weather. At the close of Monday's play, it will be remembered, Yorkshire, with one wicket to fall, were 87 runs on.

Yesterday the last wicket added 28 runs, and Middlesex were left with 116 to obtain to win. Messrs Webbe and Stoddart both hit brilliantly, and before they were separated the score had reached 55 in rather more than half an hour's play. Mr Stoddart was caught at point at 86, and two other batsmen were out at 107. Eventually Middlesex won by six wickets.

6 June: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128295.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 7 June, page 7)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 June, page 9)

As was only to be expected after the first day's play in this match at Southampton, Sussex had little difficulty yesterday in defeating the home eleven. It will be remembered that at the close of Monday Hampshire had followed on and were 90 runs behind, with nine wickets to fall. Yesterday Sussex were left the winners by nine wickets.

6 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128300.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 June, page 7)

Surrey began the third match of their tour at Leicester yesterday, when they met the home team on the Aylestone-road Ground. The weather was fine and there was a good attendance on onlookers.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 June, page 9)

Many spectators were present at the Aylestone-road ground, Leicester, yesterday, to witness the second day's play in the match between Surrey and Leicestershire. Fine weather was experienced and no fault could be found with the wicket. Yesterday Mr Stone and Colver batted well and put on 57 runs for the seventh wicket.

Surrey went in a second time with an advantage of 21 runs. Abel played very fine cricket and received great assistance from the two Reads.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 June, page 7)

At the Aylestone-road ground, Leicester, yesterday, the match between these counties terminated in a decisive victory for the metropolitan team. Fine weather again favoured the game, while the wicket played fairly well. It will be remembered that when stumps were drawn on Tuesday evening Surrey, with five wickets to fall in their second innings, were 227 runs to the good. Abel and Lohmann, the not-outs, with 85 and three, resumed the batting, to the attack of Rylott and Pougher.

Abel increased his overnight score to 118 before a ball from Colver found its way into his wicket, with the figures at 269. He had gone in first and was batting just under five hours; his chief hits were six fours, eight threes and 23 twos. The total reached was 349.

Leicestershire went in a second time against a majority of 370, and the score was advantage to 101 before the match ended. Surrey, therefore, won by 269 runs.

9 June: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3206.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 10)

Yesterday the first of the two matches between these counties began at Manchester. Successful in the toss, Derbyshire, within a few minutes of noon, sent in Cropper and Mr Wright to the attacks of Barlow and Watson.

The professional was soon bowled, and at 16, Mr Barrington, who had taken his place, was served in the same way. Both Mr Wright and Coupe were dismissed by the wicket-keeper, the former being stumped and the latter caught. Mr Maynard was clean bowled, and half the wickets collapsed for 41. Chatterton and Sugg batted with creditable steadiness, and the total was gradually advanced to 59 when the former had the ill-fortune to play on. Storer did nothing, and with seventh wicket down for 63 Davidson joined Sugg.

These two quickly put life into the game. Thrice the bowling was changed, but the score was taken to 111 before Davidson, who was left off in the long field when he had made 15, fell to a catch at slip. Hulme ably assisted Sugg for a little time, and batted so freely that he obtained 31 out of the 44 registered while he was in. Sugg carried out his bat; among his items were four fours, four threes and four twos. Total 158.

Mr Hornby soon had two escapes when Lancashire went in. Both Cropper and Davidson bowled very effectively and between them captured six wickets for 73. Mr Bigg and Robinson hit freely and played out time . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 15)

Although there was no very heavy scoring in the match between these counties at Manchester yesterday the play was even and interesting. On the first day the visitors scored 158 and the home side lost six wickets for 112.

Yesterday the last four batsmen were dismissed in 25 minutes for 19 runs. Derbyshire went in again and scored 156. At the call of time the home eleven required 89 to win with six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 June, page 12)

The close of Friday's play in this match at Manchester left the game most interesting. Lancashire, who had gone in to obtain 84 for victory, had six wickets to fall and still required 89. The not-outs, Mr Eccles and Yates (19 and 0), took up their positions at the wicket on Saturday shortly after 12 to the bowling of Davidson and Cropper.

The amateur hit brilliantly, while Yates batted with much steadiness. The 100 was quickly reached, and runs continued to be scored at a very rapid rate. At 142 Cropper handed the ball to Sugg, and 11 runs later Hulme and Chatterton were put on. The pace of run-getting did not slacken, however, and Cropper was again tried at 168; but the runs then necessary were quickly secured and Mr Eccles

made the winning hit at 1 o'clock. His 79 included 11 fours, three threes and one two. Only 55 minutes were occupied in scoring the 92 runs. It will be seen from the score appended that Lancashire won by six wickets.

9 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3207.html)

Thursday 9 June, page 7: All cricketers will be glad to see the reappearance of Mr A P Lucas in first-class cricket. He is included in the Middlesex eleven for the above match at Lord's to-day . . .

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 10)

Excellent all-round play and fine weather combined to make a most enjoyable day's cricket at Lord's yesterday. The turf at headquarters seems to have thoroughly recovered from the recent severe weather, and yesterday the wicket played very true.

Winning the toss, the visitors decided to go in, and at 10 minutes past 12 Shrewsbury and Scotton opened their batting. Dunkley and Burton were the bowlers. Shrewsbury made several fine drives to the boundary, but Scotton did not seem at home for some time. Indeed, when he had only scored two he gave a difficult chance to the wicket-keeper. Mr Robertson relieved Burton at 28, and three runs later West displaced Dunkley. This last change should have proved successful, for when Scotton had made 16 he was missed by Mr Robertson at slip. The 50 was signalled after 65 minutes' play.

Eight runs later Scotton fell to an easy catch at third man. Barnes came next. His stay was brief, however, as, after having been almost run out, he was well taken at mid-on. Two for 58. Gunn joined Shrewsbury, and so close was the fielding that only eight runs were added in half an hour. The score then rose rapidly, and though Dunkley and Mr Lucas went on to bowl, the record at the luncheon interval was 89.

On returning the 100 was telegraphed at five minutes to 3. Both batsmen continued to play in splendid style, and in spite of many variations in the attack the 150 went up at a quarter to 4. Fifteen minutes later Gunn completed his 50, but was then well caught at the wicket. During the partnership 107 runs had been added. Gunn's chief hits were six fours and eight twos.

Flowers, who joined Shrewsbury, played with great care, but his companion hit freely and increased the score to 100 at 4.25. Flowers was caught at the wicket at 202. Mr Daft, who followed in, ran Shrewsbury out at 208, calling him for a short run and then sending him back. During the four hours and a quarter that he was batting Shrewsbury had played perfectly. His 119 included 15 fours, 10 threes and nine twos.

The remaining batsmen gave much less trouble. Selby was caught at long-on at 229, Attewell was taken in the slips at 245, Mr Daft and Sherwin were bowled, and after a stand by Shacklock and Mee which lasted some time without yielding any runs, the innings closed at 10 minutes to 7. Stumps were then drawn.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 15)

About 3,000 people visited Lord's yesterday to witness the second day's play in the match between Middlesex and Nottinghamshire. The latter occupied the wickets the whole of Thursday and completed an innings for 268.

At 11.35 Messrs Stoddart and Webbe began the Middlesex batting and were opposed by Attewell and Barnes. After very careful play Mr Stoddart was taken at the wicket at three, and Mr Lucas aided Mr Webbe. At 30 Mr Webbe was bowled and Mr Scott joined Mr Lucas. The 50 went up at ten minutes past 1, but three runs later Mr Lucas was caught at the wicket. Matters now went very badly with the Middlesex batsmen, and at 3 o'clock the last wicket fell at 86.

A deficit of 182 made a follow-on necessary, and after a quarter of an hour's interval Messrs Webbe and Stoddart opened the home county's second innings. Mr Webbe quickly scored 18 out of 21. At this point two wickets fell – Mr Webbe was taken at the wicket and Mr Stoddart bowled. The outlook for Middlesex was by no means bright, but the prospect improved while Messrs Lucas and Scott were together. In an hour and a half 65 runs were added and the total reached 86 before Mr Scott was finely caught by Gunn at long-on.

Mr Walker was bowled at 94, and a very good ball from Attewell got rid of Mr Lucas at 113. He had played a splendid innings of 44, the result of 2 ¼ hours' batting. Afterwards Mr O'Brien hit freely for 40 (including six fours and six twos). At five minutes past 7 Notts won the match by an innings and six runs.

9 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3208.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 10)

Heavy scoring continues to characterize the Surrey team, and yesterday at Oxford, when they met the University Eleven, their captain (Mr J Shuter) and Mr W W Read both sustained their reputations for hard hitting. The weather was delightful and the wicket excellent. A late start was made, as Surrey, who had won the toss, did not begin batting until 12.45.

Mr Shuter and Abel were the first representatives. Runs were obtained at a rapid rate until 49 was reached, when Abel, who should have been previously taken at slip, was caught at short leg. Maurice Read assisted Mr Shuter. The latter did the principal part of the hitting, and 60 resulted from the partnership.

The professional was succeeded by Mr W W Read. Although the bowling underwent a great variety of changes, the batsmen were for a long time not at all disconcerted, and the company were enabled to witness such a fine display of all-round hitting as seldom occurs. Mr Shuter's completion of his 100 was greeted with the most enthusiastic cheers. His innings was eventually closed by a fine ball from Mr Cochrane; he was batting for an hour and 55 minutes, and his principal contributions were 21 fours, one three and four twos.

A magnificent catch in the slips quickly disposed of Mr Roller. Mr Cochrane was compelled to retire at 240 through cramp, which lost the University his bowling for the rest of the innings. Mr Read, who had previously only given a hard chance to short leg, was caught by Mr Forster at 292. He had been in an hour and three-quarters for his 118, in which were a six, 19 fours, four threes and eight twos. An idea of the freedom with which he hit may be gathered from the fact that he was creditable with 118 out of 183 while he was in.

The remaining half of the wickets added 98, Lohmann and Wood both having batted well, Total 390. The University went in for three-quarters of an hour . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 15)

Surrey showed batting and fielding yesterday at Oxford almost in keeping with the nature of their batting on the preceding day. It will be recollected that when stumps were then drawn the county had completed an innings for the heavy score of 390, while two of the Oxford wickets were lost for 39.

At 12.5, before a large company, Messrs Rashleigh and Forster (not out 15 and 4) continued their batting to the attacks of Lohmann and Beaumont. Both batsmen played remarkably well, Mr Rashleigh's hitting on the leg side being especially brilliant. They met the Surrey bowling, which underwent many changes, in the most confident manner. At length, when 125 had been made, Mr Forster retired, clean bowled. Since the fall of the second wicket 94 runs had been put on.

Up to this point there appeared some chance of the Dark Blues successfully emulating the batting achievement of their opponents. The aspect of the game, however, now completely altered. Mr Rashleigh continued to bat in the most vigorous style; but after Messrs Key, Nepean and Hildyard

had been got rid of for four runs between them, he was beaten by Beaumont, who had been bowling with great judgment. He was in two hours and 55 minutes, and beyond a hard chance at the wicket when he had made 83 his innings was faultless; it comprised a six, 13 fours, four threes, seven twos and 21 singles. Seven for 160. The next two wickets averaged 15 runs each and, as Mr Cochrane was unable to appear, the innings closed for 190. Time 3.40.

Requiring 200 to avert a single innings defeat, Oxford followed on. Messrs Rashleigh and Key batted well, and half the wickets realized 81. Mr Brain, who hit with great brilliancy, was well aided by Mr Hildyard, and these gentlemen played out time. Cricketers will regret to learn that Mr Cochrane has strained the leaders of his leg and will be unable to appear in the field for some days at least.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 June, page 12)

No doubt existed as to the eventual result of this match at the close of Friday's play at Oxford. When stumps were then drawn the University, in a minority of 200 runs on the first innings, had lost six wickets in their second venture for 149. On Saturday Messrs Brain and Hildyard (not outs 43 and 18) continued batting at five minutes past 12. Beaumont and Lohmann were the bowlers.

Without alteration in the total Mr Hildyard was caught by the wicket-keeper. Mr Philipson made seven by two hits – driving Beaumont to the on for four and sending Lohmann to leg for three; he then skied the ball to mid-on. Eight for 157.

Mr Moss and Mr Brain now became partners, and the most unexpected stand was made. The former drove Beaumont to the on and off, and cut Lohmann for four each. At 186 Bowley relieved Lohmann, and three runs later Beaumont handed the ball to Abel. From the last change Mr Brain was stumped. Among his hits were eight fours, two threes and six twos. As Mr Cochrane was still unable to play, the innings now closed. Total 197. From the full score attached, it will be seen that Surrey were the winners by an innings and three runs.

Friday 10 June: THE CENTENARY MATCH AT LORD'S

The following are the teams selected for this match, to be played on Monday next: - Marylebone Club and Ground. – Dr W G Grace, Mr A N Hornby, Mr A J Webbe and Mr J G Walker, with Barnes, Gunn, Flowers, G G Hearne, Rawlin, Sherwin and another. England. – Mr W W Read and Mr A E Stoddart, with Barlow, Bates, Briggs, Hall, Pilling, Maurice Read, Shrewsbury, Lohmann and Ulyett.

Saturday 11 June: THE CENTENARY MATCH AT LORD'S

The eleventh player has now been chosen to represent the Marylebone Club and Ground in the Centenary Match, which begins on Monday, against England, and the team will be as follows: - Hon M B Hawke . . .

9 June: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128298.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 10)

The match between these counties, limited to two days, began yesterday on the Savile Town Ground, Dewsbury. Yorkshire were successful in the toss, and Hall and Bates began batting on a good wicket. Rylott and Pougher were the bowlers. Hall batted well, while Denton, who went in sixth wicket, hit freely and saw the remainder of his side dismissed. Total 132.

Mr J A Turner and Wheeler opened promisingly for Leicestershire, but afterwards eight wickets collapsed for 11 runs. Bates hit capitally in the home side's second venture, and among his items were four fours and seven threes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 15)

The concluding day's play in the match between these counties, which began on Friday at Savile Town, Dewsbury, was productive of some excellent batting and bowling. The weather was fine and considerable interest was taken in the game. When play was resumed on Saturday Yorkshire, with seven wickets to fall in their second innings, were 136 runs ahead.

Several of the Yorkshire batsmen hit with great vigour, and the total reached 241 before the last wicket fell. Hill's 65 comprised one four, 11 threes, nine twos and singles. There was no time for Leicestershire to obtain the 295 necessary for victory, so their only alternative was to play for a draw. The Yorkshire bowling, however, proved too effective for the visitors, and despite some free hitting by Wheeler and Warren, the match ended in a win for the home team by 145 runs.

13 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3209.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 11)

Rarely has a club attained such longevity and then found itself in the zenith of its fame as that which the Marylebone Club are celebrating this week at Lord's. Its formation in 1787 arose, it would seem, through an almost chance meeting of the Earl of Winchelsea and the Hon Colonel Lennox. These gentlemen induced Thomas Lord – a cricketer himself of no small repute – to open a ground at St Mary-le-bone on the site where Dorset-square now stands. Subsequently Lord's removed to the North bank, and thence to the ground in the St John's-wood-road, where its headquarters now exist.

The first recorded match on Lord's original ground was on May 31, 1787, in which T Lord himself played. It was followed within just a week of a century ago by a match between England and the White Conduit Club (with six men given) at Lord's. This practice of a side having players allowed them was far more general then and for many years subsequently than at present. Indeed, during the latter end of the last century matches unusually depended on the individual prowess of a player, and sometimes the contests were made for heavy sums. These were either risked by the players themselves or else provided by some wealthy patron – much in the same manner as we now have professional oarsmen, runners, walkers and others, supported by some admirer. We find in 1794 on Lord's Ground a match being played between Eight gentlemen of the Marylebone Club (and four men given) against Eleven Gentlemen of London for 500 guineas a side. In this Thomas Lord took part, and in the double innings obtained 12 wickets.

Even 50 years before this it is stated that in 1735 a great match was played at Moulsey Hurst, in Surrey, between his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the Earl of Middlesex, eldest son of the Duke of Dorset, for £1,000 a side; eight of the London Club and three out of Middlesex played for the Prince and the Kentish men for the Earl. One glimpse of the altered state of the metropolis is caught from the fact of Marylebone playing London, thus implying that Mary-le-bone, as it was then spelt, was distinctly an outlying district.

The playing for heavy stakes naturally led to much betting and certain quarrels. This was particularly the case in single-wicket matches, which were then and until quite recent years very popular. Thus we find "the Lion of Kent, the bold and manly Alfred Mynn," so noted for his personal achievements. Gradually, however, the ability of the individual merged into the reputation of the club, which, when once firmly established, caused single-wicket matches to be of rarer occurrence. Even then for a time betting existed; but it gradually ceased.

Though, at its outset the records of the Marylebone Club are so bare as to leave its earliest doings almost in a cloud, it is certain that once well established, it has always held the indisputable position it now so deservedly occupies. It must be remembered that the laws which governed the game a hundred years ago were in a very crude state. If for nothing else, the early attention to and careful revision of these laws by the Marylebone Club would alone entitle them to the respect of all lovers of the game. It could have been by no means so easy a task as cricketers may be prone to imagine that the laws were gradually formulated into their present shape. Not only has cricket such a charm for the players themselves, but throughout the summer it affords healthy recreation to hundreds of thousands, and is watched with a keenness, a subdued feeling of enjoyment and withal an enthusiasm quite free from the artificial excitement and feverishness engendered by betting. Thus

the inherent vitality of cricket is proved beyond question.

To enumerate the long roll of exploits with which the name of the Marylebone Club is associated would be to give the history of cricket since it has become indisputably the national game. It is gratifying also to reflect that the freehold of the ground on which they play is now their absolute property – obtained after many vicissitudes. It is now without doubt the ambition of all cricketers, whether amateur or professional, to appear in a match at Lord's, and in the chronicles of the scores the appearance of a player at Lord's seems to be made almost the starting-point of his career.

We are, perhaps, apt to think that players of the past were much superior to those of the present. Yet it is probable that two teams never entered the field so skilful at all points as those celebrating the centenary at Lord's. In glancing at the names of the players engaged in the match, it is curious to note that neither in the Marylebone or in the England team is there a representative of a county which in bygone days has produced so many good cricketers. Sussex at one time could put a team into the field able to vie with any in England. In fact, it is not too much to say that the name of Lillywhite was a household word in connection with the game. On more than one occasion Sussex has met England single-handed and defeated them. Yet at the present time it does not, in the opinion of those intrusted with the selection of the teams, possess a single player able to take part in this centenary match.

Nor can the elevens chosen, with any show of reason, be found fault with. In the two teams, Gloucestershire furnishes Dr W G Grace (the greatest cricketer of his and, in the opinion of most people, any other day); Lancashire sends Mr A N Hornby, Pilling, Barlow and Briggs; Nottinghamshire, Barnes, Gunn, Flowers, Shrewsbury and Sherwin; Yorkshire, the Hon M B Hawke, Bates, Hall, Rawlin and Ulyett; Surrey, Mr W W Read, Lohmann and Maurice Read; Middlesex, Messrs A J Webbe, J G Walker and A E Stoddart; and Kent, G G Hearne.

The weather yesterday was charming, and if it is true that it can never be too hot for cricket the votaries of the game had nothing left to wish for. Long before the hour set for a beginning many took up their positions. The whole of the covered seats were crowded, as were also those along the tennis side of the ground. Members also fully availed themselves of their opportunities. The seats in front of the pavilion and members' enclosure were well filled, and the roof itself was crammed.

Within a few minutes of 12 o'clock the appearance of England in the field showed that Marylebone had won the toss. Mr Hornby and Dr Grace opened the innings, and Lohmann delivered the first over from the pavilion end. After a single by Mr Hornby Briggs bowled from the nursery end. In the fourth over Lohmann, fielding at slip, injured his hand and retired for a few minutes. Meanwhile Bates bowled in his place. The fielding and bowling were very close. Mr Hornby at last drove Briggs finely to the off for four, and soon afterwards he repeated the stroke. At 19, however, Mr Hornby returned the ball.

Barnes joined Dr Grace, but with only four added the latter was beaten by a ball from Lohmann. Two for 23. Mr Webbe's stay was brief and unproductive, as without alteration in the figures he was out to a brilliant catch by Briggs, who secured the ball high up with his left hand, running from cover-point. Three for 23. Gunn joined Barnes. Runs were still obtained with great difficulty, until at 36 Barnes was clean bowled.

George Hearne and Gunn improved matters. An off-drive for two by the Kent man brought 50 on the telegraph board after an hour and a quarter's play. Two runs later, however, Hearne was bowled, and half the wickets were down. Mr Walker started promisingly, making a fine cut for

two, but was then dismissed by a clever catch at slip. Six for 55. The Hon M B Hawke was next on the order. He made a hard off-drive for four from Lohmann, and in the following over from that bowler his companion secured four by a similar hit. Although the bowling was twice changed, the total was 85 for six wickets at luncheon.

Lohmann and Briggs conducted the bowling after the interval. Mr Hawke was at length clean bowled. Forty runs had been added since the fall of the sixth wicket. With seven batsmen out for 95 Flowers aided Gunn. The 100 was reached at 3 o'clock. Gunn completed his 50 at 3.20. Flowers was bowled at 125, and Gunn had Rawlin for a partner. The former soon had the misfortune to play on. He had been in two hours and 10 minutes, and his 61 was obtained in splendid style; his chief contributions were three fours, three threes and 12 twos. Sherwin, the last man, and Rawlin hit freely and put on 39. Bates now clean bowled Sherwin, and the innings was over at a quarter past 4. Pilling had kept wicket in quite his old style, and the total reached 140 before the first extra was recorded.

Shrewsbury and Mr Stoddart began the England batting at 4.35. Barnes and Rawlin were the bowlers. Now came some of the finest displays of batting that has been seen at headquarters for some time. The bowling underwent almost every conceivable change, while the field was frequently varied. With the exception of a hard return chance by Mr Stoddart (the ball also glancing to mid-off), the batting was perfect, and they played out time, runs having been obtained at the rate of 80 an hour.

The company on the ground numbered about 8,000, among whom were Prince Christian, Lord Charles Russell, Lord and Lady Londesborough, Lord Winterton, Lord Sondes, Lord Erskine, Lord Bessborough, Lord Bingham, Lord Anson &c.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 June 1887, page 9)

A finer and more enjoyable day's play could hardly be imagined than that of yesterday, when the England Eleven completed their innings. The wicket was excellent and the batting superb. At the outset the interest centred in the conjecture as to whether Shrewsbury and Mr Stoddart would be able to surpass the previous record for the fall of the first wicket. This was achieved in a match between Gentlemen and Players of the South at Kennington Oval in 1869 by Dr W G Grace and Mr B B Cooper, who scored 283 before a wicket fell.

Shrewsbury and Mr Stoddart came within 17 of this number, as 266 were recorded when they were separated, Mr Stoddart, who had never reached 100 previously on Lord's ground, then returning the ball. He had hit brilliantly and had scored faster than Shrewsbury. The latter's play, however, was a masterpiece. The bowling was severely taxed, but whether it could not have been more varied with advantage is quite open to question. Any change is better than none, and why so good a bowler as George Hearne was not tried yesterday was an enigma to a great many of the spectators. True, he had bowled a few overs the previous evening, but another trial might have been given him with advantage.

The weather was delightful and about 9,000 people, including Prince Christian, the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Coventry, Lord and Lady Londesborough, Lord Lyttelton, Lord Erskine, Lord Harris, Lord Anson, Earl Manvers, Lord Bingham, Lord Charles Russell, Lord Sandys, the Hon Chandos Leigh and Mr Spencer Lyttelton were on the ground.

Mr Stoddart and Shrewsbury, the not-outs with 111 and 70, resumed the England batting at 20 minutes to 12. Barnes (pavilion end) and Dr Grace conducted the bowling. At starting runs were obtained with difficulty, and only a single was recorded in the first eight overs. Mr Stoddart then hit Barnes to square leg for four, bringing up 200 at ten minutes to 12. The amateur followed this up by placing Barnes to the leg boundary, but from the last ball of the same over he was nearly caught and bowled. Half a dozen runs came from as many overs. After some slow play Shrewsbury enlivened matters by cutting Dr Grace late for three.

Mr Stoddart with his figures at 126 gave a very hard chance to the wicket-keeper, after which play again became very slow. The pace of run-getting subsequently quickened, Mr Stoddart securing four by a drive, while his companion hit two successive balls from Dr Grace to the leg boundary. These items sent the total to 233, when the bowling was changed at both ends – Flowers going on for Barnes and Rawlin for Dr Grace. Four maidens followed, after which Mr Stoddart cut Flowers for four. In the next over of Rawlin's Shrewsbury apparently gave a chance at wicket, when he had scored 87. Each batsman made a fine off-drive for four, and 250 runs were recorded at 20 minutes to 1. Ten minutes later loud cheering announced the fact that Shrewsbury had completed his 100. In the second over from this point the partnership came to an end, a good left-handed return catch getting rid of Mr Stoddart. He had been batting three hours and three-quarters, and his hits included 19 fours, five threes and ten twos.

Barlow joined Shrewsbury, who should have been easily caught at point by Dr Grace. The score had not been increased since the departure of Mr Stoddart when Barlow was out to an appeal for leg-before. Two for 266. Maurice Read came in. Shrewsbury sent Rawlin to leg for four, and a similar stroke by Read caused 300 to appear at half-past 1. Read was caught at the wicket shortly afterwards, and Mr W Read aided Shrewsbury. At luncheon the score had reached 333.

Play was resumed at ten minutes to 3. Rawlin and Flowers had charge of the attack. From the last ball of the former's over Mr Read was nearly caught and bowled. He quickly afterwards made a brilliant on-drive for 5. The bowling of Flowers kept down the runs, but Rawlin was hit freely. In the following over the famous Notts batsman was at length well caught at slip. He had been batting five hours and a quarter, and his chief contributions were 15 fours, 11 threes and 11 twos. Four for 369.

Bates came next. Each player made a fine off drive for four each. The new comer gained four by a lofty drive, which George Hearne tried hard to secure running from long-off. Bates next drove a ball straight back to Flowers, who was unable to hold it. At 396 the first change in the bowling was made since 233, Mr Webbe superseding Rawlin. An on-drive for four by Mr Read caused 400 to appear at a quarter to 4. Eight runs later Barnes displaced Flowers, but Mr Read scored two fours by drives from him, and completed his 50 at 4 o'clock. Among other hits Bates made an on-drive for four, but at 4.30 he played under a ball and was well caught at slip.

Ulyett followed in, and the free hitting was continued. Ulyett scored four and three by leg hits and four by a cut, while Mr Read obtained four through a square-leg hit and three by a drive. Rawlin resumed bowling in lieu of Mr Webbe at 460. The separation, however, was effected from the other end, and without alteration in the figures Mr Read was easily caught at mid-on. He had played a fine innings of 74.

Hall's arrival was the signal for the field to close in. These tactics proved a success, as only a single had been added when he was well caught by Mr Webbe at short mid-on. Seven down. The largest hits during some quiet play were drives for three by each batsman. A few minutes later a single by

Lohmann caused 500 to be announced at half-past 5. The last two wickets were soon captured, the innings closing for 514 at ten minutes to 6.

After an interval of 20 minutes Dr Grace and Mr Webbe began Marylebone's second innings against a majority of 339. Briggs and Lohmann were the bowlers. In Briggs's first over Mr Webbe made a leg hit for four and a cut for three. Dr Grace subsequently sent the same bowler to leg for four and drove Lohmann to the on boundary. Nine overs produced 13 runs, and at 38 Bates relieved Lohmann. Forty were signalled after half an hour's play, but then Mr Webbe was well taken at wicket. One down. Gunn joined Dr Grace . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 June, page 6)

Not a few of the spectators who journeyed to Lord's yesterday did so with the idea of seeing the Marylebone team make a determined effort to save the match against England. These were, however, doomed to disappointment. Certainly Barnes and Flowers added 74 for the seventh wicket, but apart from their defence the batting fell far below what had been expected. It will be remembered that at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday evening the Marylebone Club had gone in a second time to obtain 359 to avert a single innings defeat and had lost one wicket for 58.

At 20 minutes to 12 Dr Grace and Gunn, with 34 and 6 respectively, continued the batting. Briggs and Lohmann had charge of the bowling. Gunn cut the latter for four, but at 65 he was well caught at point. Two for 65. George Hearne followed in and quickly secured a couple of twos by drives. The score was then slowly advanced to 76, when George Hearne, in trying to drive, was easily taken at cover-slip, the third wicket falling at 76. Mr Walker came in only to see the dismissal of Dr Grace, who, after increasing the score to 80, was out to a return catch.

Mr Hawke aided Mr Walker, who secured a four in the slips and twice cut Lohmann finely to the boundary in one over, and the 100 was announced at 12.20. Fifteen more runs, increasing two off-drives for four by Mr Hawke and Mr Walker, were added, when a ball from Briggs completely beat the last-named. Half the wickets were now down for 115, while a single later the sixth fell, Mr Hawke being clean bowled.

Barnes and Flowers now became partners. In Lohmann's next over each batsman scored a three, and when an hour had elapsed since the start the score stood at 130. For a time nothing beyond singles were recorded. The batsmen, however, again grew busy. Flowers secured three by an off-drive from Briggs, while a similar stroke by Barnes realized four. The last-named quickly afterwards made a cut for four and the 150 appeared on the board. The batsmen were now playing so well that at 155 the bowling was changed, Bates superseding Lohmann. Seven runs later Ulyett displaced Briggs. These changes at once stopped the fast rate of scoring. Flowers especially showed great caution, but after a time Barnes hit Ulyett to square-leg for four and cut the other bowler with alike result. A few singles were added, and then again Barnes gained four by a square-leg hit, after which, however, he immediately gave Bates a hard return chance. At that time he had scored 47. He next drove Bates for a single, but Mr Read, after fielding the ball finely, increased the item to five for an overthrow. Barnes did not profit much by his escape, for at 190 he gave Bates another opportunity of a return catch, of which the Yorkshireman availed himself. Barnes had played a capital innings of 53, which comprised one five, six fours, two threes, two twos and singles.

Rawlin filled the vacancy. After a couple from Flowers, he nicked Ulyett for four, while an on-

drive to the boundary by the Notts man brought 200 up at a quarter to 2. A few minutes later Flowers drove Barnes for two fours and a two, but from the last ball of the same over he was well caught at long-off. His 43 included three fours, three threes and six twos. He had been in while 99 runs were scored.

With eighth wicket down for 215, Mr Hornby, who was walking very lame, came in. The Lancashire captain snicked Ulyett for four, and then lost the company of Rawlin, who was cleverly caught at deep mid-off. Nine for 219. Sherwin, the last man, appeared, but only three runs were added when Mr Hornby was clean bowled and the innings closed for 222. Thus England were left the winners by an innings and 117 runs.

16 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3210.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 June, page 10)

Lancashire was represented by a very strong eleven yesterday at the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, when they began the first of their annual matches with Surrey. With the exception that Mr Key was absent, the latter county also had their full strength. The home side won the toss, and at 10 minutes past 12 began batting with Mr Hornby and Barlow. Bowley and Lohmann had charge of the early bowling.

Mr Hornby hit so freely that at 33 a change in the attack was tried, Beaumont displaced Bowley. The former's first ball proved fatal to Mr Hornby, who retired clean bowled. Mr A G Steel was loudly cheered on his way to the wicket. He played in quite his old style and the score rose steadily. In spite of further bowling changes it was taken to 85 before Mr Steel was secured at slip. During the partnership 52 runs had been added. Mr Jowett followed in, and at luncheon the score was 108.

After the interval matters went very badly for the home side. Barlow was caught at slip for a well-played 43, Mr Eccles was secured at point, while, after Mr Jowett and Briggs had scored 27 runs for the fifth wicket, three more batsmen were dismissed by the time that the total had reached 158. The innings closed for 205.

Surrey was first represented by Abel and Mr Shuter. The former was dismissed at 42, but with Mr Roller for a partner the Surrey captain hit brilliantly and scored very rapidly. He was out at 104 for 70, which included 11 fours, four threes and three twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 9)

Mr Walter Read has accomplished many brilliant batting performances for Surrey during his career, but he fairly eclipsed all of them on the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, yesterday. The occasion was the second day of the Lancashire v Surrey match. The close of Thursday found the score in the following position: - Lancashire, first innings, 205; Surrey, 104 for two wickets.

Yesterday Mr Roller, the not out with 15, and Mr Read went on with the visitors' innings at ten minutes past 12. From the outset runs were put on at a great pace. The bowling and fielding were changed to no purpose until 305 runs had been added to the score in four hours. Mr Roller was the first to leave for 120. Though he scored slower than his companion, his hitting was very fine and his only mistake – a chance in the slips – was when he had made 100. His hits included ten fours, five threes and a dozen twos. Maurice Read's stay was brief and fruitless, but Lohmann and Mr Read again completely mastered the Lancashire bowling.

Shortly after 6 o'clock, with the score at 490, Mr Read was at length dismissed. His batting was remarkably brilliant, his off-driving being especially hard. He gave a chance in the long field when he had made 82, and that was his only fault. Among his contributions were one five (four from an overthrow), 35 fours, nine threes and 20 twos. Like Mr Roller, Mr Read was batting just upon five hours, so that he scored about twice as fast as the former. Towards the close of the day Lohmann also hit with great freedom . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 June, page 12)

At Manchester on Saturday Lancashire suffered a severe defeat at the hands of Surrey.

16 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3211.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 June, page 10)

John Selby, who first played for Nottinghamshire in 1870, since which date he has appeared, except for one season, regularly for the eleven, receives the proceeds of this match at the Trent Bridge Ground as his benefit. In his best day he was a brilliant hitter and was several times in the Players' Eleven. Between three and four thousand people assembled yesterday to witness the opening day's play of this popular fixture.

The weather was fine and the wicket in good order. Alfred Shaw again took his place in the home team, but Yorkshire lacked the services of Preston owing to a slight injury he received at Dewsbury last week. The visitors won the toss and shortly after 12 o'clock Bates and Hall opened their batting to the attacks of Attewell and Flowers.

The figures soon travelled to 16, when Bates fell to a catch at mid-on. With Ulyett in, however, a determined stand was made and the 50 went up at a quarter past 1. Though the bowling was changed at both ends, Barnes and Shaw going on, the batsmen were still together at the interval – total, 82.

On resuming, the 100 was reached in 20, but three runs later a catch at point dismissed Ulyett. He had played a good innings of 65 which had taken him nearly two hours to accumulate; his principal hits were four fours, seven threes and eight twos. Hall was in altogether three hours and five minutes before he was bowled at 126. Peel was taken at cover-point at 131, and shortly afterwards a fine catch at cover-slip sent back Wardall.

Subsequently Mr Hawke, Grimshaw and Wade were all seen to advantage and the last wicket did not fall until too late for Notts to go in. During the afternoon Flowers threw out Denton from cover-point, and Attewell served Hunter in a similar way from mid-on. The home bowling and fielding were very good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 9)

Between three and four thousand persons visited the Trent Bridge Ground, Nottingham, yesterday, to witness the second day's play in the match between the above counties. Yorkshire's first innings occupied the whole of Thursday and produced 222. Yesterday at 25 minutes to 12 the home innings was begun by Shrewsbury and Scotton, Bates and Emmett being the bowlers.

Runs were scored so very slowly that at the end of an hour's play only 22 were recorded, and at luncheon time no wicket had fallen although changes had been made in the bowling, and the score stood at 81. Afterwards 16 runs were added and then a separation was effected, Scotton being bowled. He had played in his usual style for 32, the result of three hours' play. One for 97.

Without addition Barnes was taken at the wicket, and with the figures at 109 Gunn was clean bowled. Shrewsbury raised his score to 81 before he left. He was in four hours and 20 minutes. Flowers and Butler subsequently played well, but neither Attewell nor Shacklock scored.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 June, page 12)

This match was brought to a close on the Trent Bridge Ground, Nottingham, on Saturday. It will be seen from the subjoined score that the match ended in an even draw.

16 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3212.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 June, page 10)

The Cambridge Eleven of 1887 will have occasion to remember their visit to Brighton. Yesterday they were in the field the whole day, and runs were scored against them at the rate of between 70 and 80 an hour. Sussex won the toss and went in first, Tester and Quaife opening the batting at five minutes past 12. Messrs Hale and Toppin had charge of the bowling.

Though the attack was varied – Mr Martineau relieving Mr Hale at 48 – the score reached 62 before Tester was bowled. Mr Cotterill joined Quaife, who was batting in fine style. Mr Ford superseded Mr Toppin, and the change had the desired effect, as at 76 the amateur was taken at slip. Mr F M Lucas was bowled at 102, and 14 runs later Quaife's superb innings was closed by a ball from Mr Ford. Four down.

Mr M P Lucas and Jesse Hide, despite bowling changes, put on 63 runs for the fifth wicket, before the former was taken at point. Now followed the feat of the day. Both Jesse Hide and Humphreys, who became partners at 179, hit with the greatest freedom. They added 136 runs before Hide was bowled for 115 – obtained out of 199 scored in the two hours that he was at the wicket. He made 20 fours, four threes, six twos and 11 singles. His only chance was to Mr Hale at mid-off, when he had made 63.

Bean and Humphreys were next together, and their partnership yielded 65 runs. Humphreys was eventually caught at extra cover-point. He was in three hours and a half and his only mistake – a chance to mid-off - was when he had made 42. His principal items were 10 fours, four threes and ten twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 9)

The wicket played very true at Brighton yesterday. When the game ceased on Tuesday evening the Sussex eleven had scored 439 runs for the loss of nine wickets. Yesterday morning Phillips and A Hide, the not outs, added 12 runs in ten minutes; then the latter was bowled and the innings closed for 451.

Messrs Crawley and Burton began the Cambridge batting to the attacks of Jesse and Arthur Hide. Mr Buxton was dismissed at eight and Mr Thomas filled the vacancy. The new comer scored quickly, while the patient defence of Mr Crawley proved of great value. The figures travelled to 77, when Mr Crawley, who had been in a long while for only eight, was bowled. Just before the interval Mr Thomas was also bowled for a brilliantly hit innings of 74, including seven fours. Ninety-three runs were scored while he was in.

After luncheon Mr Ford hit with great freedom, but neither Mr Meyrick-Jones nor Mr Marchant gave much trouble, and the sixth wicket fell for 147. Now followed the feature of the day's cricket. Messrs Martineau and Bridgeman became partners and, in spite of good fielding and many variations in the bowling, added no fewer than 193 runs. Mr Martineau was then caught and bowled for a fine innings of 109, the result of 2 ³/₄ hours' play. He did not give a distinct chance, though at first he made several bad strokes. Among his hits were eight fours, six threes and 15

twos. Six for 340. Mr Bridgeman continued to play well, and saw the downfall of Mr Hale before stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 June, page 12)

The score 534 after losing six wickets for 147 is a marvellous performance. Yet this feat was accomplished by the Light Blues in the match against Sussex, which terminated at the Hove Ground, Brighton, on Saturday. The match was left drawn. During the three days 1,197 runs were scored and four individual innings of over 100 were made.

16 June: THE CENTENARY AT LORD'S

(Potted scores) The Veterans 306 (J F Leese 62, A W Anstruther 40; W G Grace 5/87, J Robertson 7/78) and 175/4 (C E Green 51, N W Wallace 33*). Gentlemen of MCC 278 (A J Webbe 104, T C O'Brien 45, P J de Paravicini 32; A Appleby 5/100).

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 June, page 10)

The second of the matches at Lord's in connexion with the Centenary is particularly appropriate to the occasion. There is probably no game over which more is talked about after the event than cricket, and that the Veterans should reappear at the ground on which many of them had achieved brilliant feats is quite in keeping with the celebration.

Years ago it would seem that cricketers figured in big matches much later in life than during the present day. W Lillywhite, for instance, played at Lord's in the Gentlemen v Players match of 1849, when he was 57 years of age. John Bailey, of Mitcham, played for Marylebone at Lord's in 1850, his first match on that ground having been in 1820. He was then 56 years of age, while Lillywhite who took part in the same match was 58.

Glancing at contests played between teams chosen according to their ages we find that on July 29, 30 and 31, 1850, The Young (under 36) played The Old (over 36). The sides included many well-known names, and were as follows: - The Young. - J Wisden, J Dean, W Nicholson, George Parr, H Vernon, Robert Thoms, J Grundy, for the first time, T Sherman, Lord Guernsey, Mr H W Fellows and H Royston. The Old. - W Hillyer, Lord Charles Russell, Alfred Mynn, Fuller Pilch, Tom Box, N Felix, J Guy, G Rogers, S Dakin, W Clarke and W Lillywhite.

At Kennington Oval, in 1858, England played Eighteen Veterans. The former consisted of Julius Caesar, Mr F P Miller, Mr A Haygarth, W Caffyn, George Parr, H H Stephenson, Mr V E Walker, J Wisden, John Lillywhite, T Lockyer and J Jackson. England won by nine wickets. The Veterans included, among others, W Martingell, Joseph Guy, Tom Box, Alfred Mynn and E G Wenham. This match was remarkable from the fact that many of the players never took part in another contest of importance. It is said that "in the second innings of the Veterans Mynn and Wenman were in together. On Wenman being got out Mynn at the other end shook hands with him as he was retiring and said words something to the following effect, 'Good bye, my fellow cricketer, we have played many a happy match together, and our career is now over.'"

The teams engaged yesterday were composed entirely of members of the MCC. Most of the names of the Veterans are very well known, and yesterday they rendered a good account of themselves. The weather was very fine and there was a numerous company present, the members of the club mustering in strong force.

At ten minutes past 12 Dr W G Grace and Mr Robertson confronted Messrs I D Walker and Green, the early representatives of the Veterans. Mr Walker made a couple of cuts for three and two, and the first five overs produced ten runs. Mr Green now hit two fours to leg, which advanced the total to 18. Without addition, however, Mr Walker was clean bowled. Mr Turner followed in, and at the end of a quarter of an hour's play 20 runs were recorded. Mr Green made a leg-hit off each bowler for four, after which, chiefly by singles, the figures reached 41. Mr Webbe now superseded Mr Robertson. Mr Green gained four by a fine drive, and a single by the same gentleman brought up 50 after 35 minutes' play. Mr Turner was then bowled and at 51 Mr Green cut the ball tamely into the hands of point. Three wickets down.

Mr Hume and Mr Lane were now partners. Both showed steady defence and the largest item for a considerable time was an off-drive for four. Runs were added slowly and at 78 further changes in the bowling were tried. Mr Robertson relieved Dr Grace and Mr de Paravicini displaced Mr Webbe. Forty runs had been added since the fall of the third wicket when Mr Lane was bowled. Mr Voules, who came next, soon began to hit freely; he made three drives (two fours and a two) and caused the 100 to be signalled at ten minutes to 2.

The game was resumed after luncheon at ten minutes to 3, the bowlers being Mr Webbe and Dr Grace. Mr Voules made a clean drive for four, but at 119 he lost the company of Mr Hume, who was clean bowled. He had played patiently for 28. Mr Leese aided Mr Voules. He at once began to hit with great freedom, driving Dr Grace to the on and hitting him to leg for four each. Mr Voules gained two fours by drives, and was then easily caught at third man. Six for 143. Mr Round was next on the list. At 3.25 the 150 appeared. Mr Leese continued to play in good style, and at 164 Mr Webbe handed the ball to Mr Robertson. The change quickly had the effect desired, for Mr Round was taken at the wicket at 168. Major Griffiths's stay was brief, as, having hit Mr Robertson in front of square-leg for four, he was clean bowled. Eight wickets for 172.

Mr Appleby who filled the vacancy quickly drove Mr Robertson for four. Dr Grace handed the ball to Mr de Paravicini at 186, but in spite of this alteration the 200 was announced at ten minutes past 4. Mr Webbe again bowled in lieu of Mr Robertson, but the change was effected from the other end, as at 209 Mr de Paravicini dismissed Mr Appleby with a "yorker." Major Anstruther joined Mr Leese and another stand was made. Mr R T Thornton was tried at 224. In his first over there were two wides and a single, and in his second another wide and a square-leg hit for four. Runs were again still scored rapidly until at 250 Mr Leese's fine innings was closed by a good catch at extra mid-off. His chief hits were seven fours, two threes and six twos.

Mr Booth was quickly bowled, and 11 wickets were down at 250. Dr Grace now resumed bowling. Mr Rowley was caught at the wicket eight runs later, and at 259 Colonel Wallace was out in a similar way. Mr Hilton was caught at mid-off at 266. While Major Anstruther and Colonel Fellowes were together 25 runs were speedily added when the latter was run out. Mr Rutter hit his wicket and 16 were down for 293. The appearance of Mr V E Walker was greeted with loud cheers. An on-drive for four by Major Anstruther brought 300 on the board at ten minutes to 6, but soon after he was bowled and the innings closed for 306. Major Anstruther's chief items were five fours and five twos.

Messrs C I Thornton and Studd began the Eleven's batting at ten minutes past 6 . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 9)

With the finish of the match between the Gentlemen of MCC and Eighteen Veterans over Forty, The Marylebone Club's centenary celebration closed. Though the majority of the Veterans have practically given up first-class cricket, many of them still possess much of their old skill with the bat and the ball, and also in the field. To those who have retired from active play, but still take a deep interest in cricket, the second match of the festival must have been a source of great pleasure, particularly as the form shown by those "over forty" was excellent.

The hearty cheers which greeted Mr V E Walker on his way to the wicket in the first innings proved that there were many present who remembered some of his achievements. It was apparent, too, that

the play of the Rev C G Lane, Mr J Round, Mr J F Leese and the Rev S C Voules is yet fresh in the memory of many. Mr J Round is still very dextrous behind the wicket. A proof of this was given by the fact that the only extras while the Eleven were batting were three leg-byes.

When stumps were drawn on the opening day it will be remembered that the Veterans had completed an innings for 306 and the Eleven had lost two wickets for 44. At a quarter to 12 yesterday Mr Thornton and Dr Grace continued the Eleven's batting. Messrs I D Walker (nursery end) and Appleby were the bowlers. Six runs were obtained in the first four overs, and the 50 was recorded at 10 minutes to 12. Mr Thornton made a leg-hit for four, but at 60 he was out to a left-handed return catch by Mr Walker. Three wickets down. Mr Webbe aided Dr Grace, who hit Mr Appleby to square-leg for four. Colonel Fellows relieved Mr Walker at 75, while at 94 Mr Rutter displaced Mr Appleby. The latter changed proved beneficial, for only a single to each batsman had been added when Mr Rutter with the first ball of his second over clean bowled Dr Grace, who attempted to play it forward. The downfall of this great batsman at the hands of Mr Rutter caused some amusement. Four for 96.

Mr J G Walker came next, and at 10 minutes to 1 a single by Mr Webbe caused the 100 to be announced. Without alteration in the figures Mr Walker was taken at mid-off, and with five wickets down for 100 Mr O'Brien joined Mr Webbe. The new batsman soon began to hit with freedom. He drove Mr Rutter twice for four, causing the 150 to be telegraphed at 1.25. Six runs later Mr I D Walker resumed bowling in lieu of Colonel Fellows. Mr Webbe drove him to the off boundary, while smaller items advanced the score to 169. Mr O'Brien then ran out to drive Mr Walker, and missing the ball was easily stumped. He had hit vigorously, scoring 40 out of 69 during his stay. Mr Russel followed in. Luncheon was announced a few minutes later, when the score then stood at 176.

Play was resumed at five minutes to 3, the bowlers being Messrs Appleby and I D Walker. Three singles were the product of as many overs. Mr Russel made a couple of on-drives for four from Mr Walker, while a single, also by him, brought up 200 at a quarter past 3. Colonel Fellows relieved Mr Walker at 206. This alteration speedily had the desired effect, as in the new bowler's second over Mr Russel was dismissed. Mr de Paravicini aided Mr Webbe, who drove Mr Appleby straight for four. Mr Rutter relieved the last-named at 223; but a square-leg hit by Mr Webbe was soon obtained from him. The score continued to rise rapidly, and the follow on was prevented at a quarter to 4. Both gentlemen still hit freely, and the 250 was reached at 4 o'clock.

Mr Appleby received the ball at 252 from Mr Rutter. Mr de Paravicini gained four by a square-leg hit, while Mr Webbe completed his hundred by a sharp run at 10 minutes past 4. Mr Webbe was subsequently missed in the long field, but the next ball bowled him. He had made several bad strokes towards the close of his innings, but on the whole his 104 were obtained in capital style. He was batting three hours and a quarter, and his chief hits were five fours, five threes and 12 twos. Eight for 273. Four runs later Mr Robertson was caught at slip, while a catch at cover-point got rid of Mr de Paravicini at 278, the last wicket falling at 20 minutes past 4. Mr Round had kept wicket in splendid style and the only extras were three leg-byes.

In a majority of 28 the Veterans went in a second time. Their first representatives were Mr I D Walker and Major Booth. Dr Grace and Mr Webbe were the bowlers. The first half an hour's play produced 25 runs, increasing two square-leg hits by Mr Walker from Dr Grace for four each. Mr Walker gained four by a drive, and at 37 Mr Robertson received the ball from Dr Grace. A further change in the bowling was tried at 45, Mr J G Walker superseded Mr Webbe. At 57 he clean bowled Major Booth, whose place was taken by Mr Hume. Mr de Paravicini went on at 75 for Mr

Walker, but the separation was effected from the other end, Mr Hume being clean bowled at 86. Mr Walker by an on-drive for four completed his 50 at 10 minutes past 6. At 94, however, he was bowled for a good innings of 51, which included eight fours, five threes and five twos.

Messrs Turner and Lane were partners when the 100 went up at a quarter past 6. The former was caught at long-off at 117, and four runs later Mr Lane fell to a catch at point. Mr Voules and Colonel Wallace hit vigorously. Though the bowling was changed, they played out time and the match was left drawn. Colonel Wallace made seven fours.

20 June: LANCASHIRE v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3213.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 21 June, page 7)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 11)

In fine weather and before several thousand people the match between Lancashire and Oxford was resumed yesterday at Liverpool.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 June, page 10)

The match between these teams was concluded yesterday on the Aigburth Ground, Liverpool. When play ceased on Tuesday evening Lancashire, who had followed on in a minority of 109, had scored 71 for through loss of eight wickets. The remaining two batsmen were dismissed for an addition of 13 runs.

The visitors went in a second time at 20 minutes to 1, requiring 176 runs to win. Messrs Key and Rashleigh opened the innings, and the score quickly reached 20, and then Mr Key was dismissed. A single later Mr Rashleigh and Mr Forster were bowled with successive balls. Matters continued to go badly for the visitors, and Lancashire won by 117 runs.

20 June: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3214.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 June, page 7)

Middlesex were represented by a very powerful eleven at Lord's yesterday, when they began the first of their matches with Kent.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 11)

Yesterday at Lord's Middlesex again got the better of the play in their match with Kent, and, as the score now stands, there is every prospect of the visitors suffering a severe defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 June, page 10)

Kent suffered a decisive defeat at the hands of Middlesex at Lord's yesterday. At the close of Tuesday the visitors, with three wickets to fall, required 34 to avert an innings defeat. At 20 minutes past 11 Mr Ireland (not out, 56) and Wootton (not out, five) were confronted by West and Mr Webbe.

Wootton was clean bowled at 202, and at the same total Pentecost was out leg before. W Hearne now joined Mr Ireland, and Mr Robertson relieved West at 218, but the innings defeat was prevented at 12 o'clock. Burton superseded Mr Webbe, and at 236 Mr Ireland was secured at extra mid-off for a fine innings of 87.

Middlesex required only eight to win, which cost them West's wicket. The following score will show that Middlesex won by nine wickets.

20 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3215.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 June, page 7)

The Surrey eleven received an enthusiastic welcome at Kennington Oval yesterday, when the above match was begun.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 11)

About 16,000 people visited the Oval yesterday to witness the second day's play in the match between Surrey and Cambridge University. On Monday Surrey were batting all day and scored 454 for six wickets. Mr Read carried off the palm and was not out at the call of time with 200.

Yesterday he continued the Surrey innings with Wood. At half-past 12 the innings closed for 543. Mr Read carried out his bat for a superb innings of 244. He was batting five hours and 20 minutes, and his hits included 30 fours, ten threes and 23 twos. His only mistake was a hard chance to third man when he had made 157.

Cambridge went in and made 251. They then went in again and played out time.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 June, page 10)

The close of Tuesday's play left little doubt as to the ultimate result of the match between Surrey and the Light Blues at the Oval. Cambridge then wanted 187 to prevent the innings defeat and had nine wickets to fall.

The game was resumed yesterday in fine weather at a quarter past 11. Messrs Marchant and Thomas, the not outs, with 67 and 14, were opposed by Mr Roller and Lohmann. Mr Marchant hit the former to leg for two and drove him to the off for three. At 115, however, he was out to a brilliant return catch by Lohmann, who secured the ball with his right hand. The Cambridge captain's brilliant innings of 72 comprised ten fours, four threes, four twos and singles. Two down.

Mr Sutthery came in, but with four added he was run out. Mr Kemp aided Mr Thomas. Three singles and four byes were recorded, and then a catch at the wicket disposed of the last-named gentleman. Mr Ford arrived only to see the dismissal of Mr Kemp – clean bowled. Mr Bridgeman stayed with Mr Ford some time. The latter, among other items, made a cut for four, and shortly before 12 the 150 was signalled. Jones now relieved Mr Roller. The score had not been increased when in his second over he clean bowled Mr Bridgeman. Six for 151.

Mr Martineau joined Mr Ford, who at 164 was also bowled by Jones. Mr Martineau, after giving a chance to Bowley at mid-on, was clean bowled at 166, and Messrs Hale and Orford became partners. The latter hit with great freedom. Thrice he drove Lohmann for four, the ball on one occasion pitching on the roof of the covered stand, causing that bowler to give way to Bowley at 192. Mr Hale made a cut for three and a drive for four and sent up the second hundred. Mr Roller relieved Jones at 204, and after 25 had been quickly added he bowled Mr Hale off his pads. During the partnership 59 runs were added. Nine down. Mr Toppin was taken at the wicket in the same

over, and the innings closed for 225. Thus Surrey won by an innings and 67 runs.

20 June: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 June, page 7)

This match began yesterday at Bradford in fine weather and before about 4,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 11)

The match between these counties was continued yesterday at Bradford before a large company of onlookers. Yorkshire, who were 112 behind with half their wickets to fall, resumed their innings at 11.35.

Denton and Peel were confronted by the brothers Hide. Both hit vigorously, and in spite of frequent changes in the bowling, the score reached 228 before Denton was cleverly caught at point. As the result, Yorkshire now require 139 runs to win with an innings in which to obtain them.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 June, page 10)

Ulyett and Hall accomplished a fine performance at Bradford yesterday in the match between the above counties. At the drawing of stumps on Tuesday Yorkshire were left with 139 runs to get to win and an innings to play.

Ulyett and Hall obtained these runs yesterday in two hours and 20 minutes. The former scored 111. His chief hits were one five (four from an overthrow), 17 fours, a three and six twos. The score appended will show that Yorkshire won by ten wickets.

Thursday 23 June: THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ELEVEN

Mr Marchant has not yet finally selected the eleven to play Oxford. The team to appear against the MCC on Monday will probably be the same as that which opposed Surrey.

23 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3217.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 8)

Surrey occupied the wickets the whole of yesterday at Moreton-in-the-Marsh, when they began the first of their matches with Gloucestershire. The cricket ground had been placed at the disposal of the home county by Mr A B Freeman Mitford, C.B., and an excellent wicket had been prepared. Surrey were represented by the same team as defeated Cambridge, but Gloucestershire had not their strongest eleven.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 14)

In spite of a fine innings by Dr W G Grace at Moreton-in-the-Marsh yesterday, the home eleven fared very badly at the hands of the Surrey bowlers.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 10)

This match ended at Moreton-in-the-Marsh on Saturday.

23 June: LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3218.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 8)

At the Aigburth ground, Liverpool, yesterday, the Yorkshire eleven began a match with a strong team representing Liverpool and district, under the captaincy of Mr A G Steel.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 25 June, page 14)

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 10)

The Liverpool and District Eleven defeated Yorkshire on Saturday at the Aigburth-road ground, Liverpool.

23 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3219.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 8)

Nottinghamshire had several of the regular members of their eleven absent yesterday at Lord's when they began their match with the leading club. Shrewsbury and Barnes both required a rest, while Scotton, Shaw and Mr H B Daft were the other absentees. Marylebone had a fairly strong side.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 14)

Marylebone yesterday altogether failed to maintain the advantage which they gained on the opening day at Lord's. Each side then completed an innings and the MCC were left with an advantage of 96 runs. The game was resumed at 11.35, when Gunn and Mr Dixon were confronted by Pougher and Wootton.

The professional, having scored 15 out of 16, lost his wicket in attempting a short run, and Flowers came in. A determined stand was made. Though the bowling was frequent varied the 100 went up at ten minutes to 1, and 31 more were added before Flowers succumbed to a catch at the wicket. His vigorous 62 included three fours, five threes and eleven twos. Attewell and Mr Dixon put on 101 runs for the next wicket. Each batsman gave a chance before Mr Dixon was taken at point. His chief hits were 12 fours, four threes and five twos. Three for 232.

This excellent start was not followed up, for the rest of the side were dismissed for an addition of 38. Attewell was out sixth at 256; among his hits were nine fours, five threes and five twos.

Requiring 175 to win, Marylebone went in a second time. The Hon M B Hawke and George Hearne both played well and between them scored 80. In spite of this fact Marylebone at the close of the day had only two moderate wickets to fall, and were still 57 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 10)

Scarcely half an hour's play was required to bring this match to a close at Lord's on Saturday.

23 June: MIDDLESEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3220.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 8)

After a lapse of several seasons the Middlesex v Oxford match has been resuscitated, and the match began at Chiswick yesterday. The metropolitan county was well represented. A further trial was given to the colt Birch, while Mr A S Johnston, who played last year in the north, was also included in the eleven. In the Oxford team Mr Brain, the University captain, who was injured at Liverpool in the early part of the week, gave way to Mr Hildyard.

The game began at 10 minutes past 12, when Oxford opened their innings with Messrs Gresson and Nepean. Burton and Mr Soppitt were the bowlers. Twelve were scored in six overs, and then Mr Gresson was run out. Mr Rashleigh joined Mr Nepean, but the latter, after being badly missed by the wicket-keeper, was well caught at point. Two for 18. Three runs later Mr Forster's off stump was bowled down, while at 37 Mr Rashleigh was well caught low down at slip. Mr Buckland made cuts for four and three, and was then neatly caught at mid-on. Five for 46.

Messrs Ricketts and Key hit with freedom, so that West relieved Mr Soppitt at 69. Five more runs were added before luncheon. After nearly an hour's interval the batting was resumed to the bowling of Burton and Mr Soppitt, and a cut for four by Mr Key brought up the 100 at 25 minutes to 3. At 104, however, Mr Ricketts was caught at wicket, and Mr Philipson joined Mr Key.

They soon got the upper hand of the Middlesex bowling, notwithstanding several changes, and runs were added at a quick rate. At five minutes to 4 Mr Key cut Mr Webbe, who had gone on at 197, to the boundary and completed his hundred, the 200 at the same time going up. The score continued to rise rapidly, and shortly after 5 o'clock 300 appeared on the telegraph board. In spite of frequent changes in the bowling, Mr Philipson completed his hundred at 5.25, and by 6 o'clock the total had been advanced to 400. It should be mentioned that Mr Philipson, when he had made 104, was missed by Mr Welman at the wicket.

During the last half-hour 35 runs were added, so that since the sixth wicket fell 331 runs had been put on. This is the longest stand on record in a first-class match, the previous best having been made in 1885 at Lord's, in the match between the Marylebone Club and Yorkshire. On that occasion Barnes and Gunn put together 330. Yesterday the hitting of both Messrs Philipson and Key was very fine.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 14)

Mr K J Key has surpassed the recent performances of Shrewsbury and Mr Walter Read by his brilliant innings against Middlesex at Chiswick-park, which closed yesterday morning. He went in third wicket down for 21 on Thursday and was batting altogether six hours. With the exception of one sharp chance when he had made 13 his play was faultless until his figures were over 200. Even then he only gave two difficult chances – one to the bowler and the other in the slips – and a better display of all-round hitting could scarcely be imagined. His 281 is not the largest individual total in a first-class match in this country. Dr Grace made two innings of over 300 eleven years ago.

Play was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock. The 500 went up at 10 minutes to 1, and several

changes were made in the attack before Mr Wreford-Brown was taken at slip at 533. Twenty-two runs were put on for the last wicket, and then Mr Key was caught at third man. Time 1.30; total 555, of which Mr Key had scored more than half. His chief hits were 38 fours, 11 threes and 24 twos.

Middlesex began their innings after the luncheon interval. Messrs Webbe and Stoddart were the first representatives. The innings soon closed, and Middlesex followed on against a majority of 436. Eventually stumps were drawn for the day . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 10)

At Chiswick Park on Saturday the Middlesex Eleven suffered a severe defeat at the hands of the Dark Blues.

27 June: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3221.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 June, page 10)

At Derby yesterday these counties began the first of their two usual matches.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 29 June, page 10)

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 June, page 7)

The match between these counties at Derby was brought to a close yesterday. The subjoined score will show that Yorkshire won by an innings and 30 runs.

27 June: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3222.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 June, page 10)

Yesterday at Gravesend these counties began their return match in fine weather.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 10)

The wicket at Gravesend yesterday assisted the Lancashire bowlers to such an extent that Kent in their two innings failed to equal the visitors' total, and thus suffered defeat.

27 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3223.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 June, page 10)

Marylebone were represented by a very powerful team at Lord's yesterday in their match with the Light Blues. There were 12 players a side, but only 11 fielded.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 10)

In all xx of the game Cambridge were seen to great advantage at Lord's yesterday. They had the worst of Monday's play, as when stumps were drawn Marylebone, with seven wickets to fall, had already an advantage of 26. Yesterday the match was continued, and the subjoined score will show that the home side, with an innings to play, require 178 for victory.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 June, page 7)

This match ended yesterday with a victory for the MCC.

27 June: SURREY v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3224.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 28 June, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 10)

The fine batting of Messrs Buckland and Rashleigh at the Oval on Monday was followed yesterday by an almost equally good performance on the part of Mr Roller and Lohmann for Surrey. At one time there seemed some probability of the home side having to follow on, but in the end they just managed to avoid it.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 June, page 7)

The victorious career of the Surrey eleven received a severe check from Oxford University at the Oval yesterday. On Tuesday night the game was left in a very even condition; the Dark Blues with one wicket down in their second innings were 104 runs ahead. Yesterday they won the match by 82 runs.

Tuesday 28 June: THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR THE COLONIES

The Melbourne Club have definitely arranged with Bates, Peel and Bowley to go out with their team at the end of the season.

30 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3225.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 July, page 10)

Dr W G Grace followed up his fine innings of Wednesday at Lord's by an almost equally good performance against Yorkshire at Gloucester yesterday. When stumps were drawn for the day the home side had not completed their innings.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 2 July, page 12)

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 July, page 7)

Dr W G Grace gave a brilliant display of all-round batting on Saturday at Gloucester, when the match between the home side and Yorkshire was brought to a close. With the close of the Gloucestershire innings, stumps were drawn and the match was left unfinished.

30 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3226.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 July, page 10)

Yesterday at Lord's the Dark Blues began their annual two days' match with the Marylebone Club. The latter had by no means so strong a team as played against Cambridge. There were two alterations in the Oxford side; in consequence of the injury to his hand at the Oval Mr Wreford-Brown could not play, while Mr Philipson, who is taking a rest, has a substitute – Mr Lyon. Lord George Scott took Mr Wreford-Brown's place.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 July, page 12)

This match was concluded yesterday at Lord's. From the following score it will be seen that the match, which was only of two days' duration, was left drawn.

30 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3227.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 July, page 10)

This match was begun yesterday on the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham. Fine weather favoured the game and several thousand people were present.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 July, page 12)

The match between these counties was continued yesterday at the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham. On the first day Lancashire scored 153 and Notts made 103 for the loss of one wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 July, page 7)

Notts were left the winners by an innings and 86 runs.

30 June: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3228.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 July, page 10)

At Kennington Oval yesterday Surrey were fielding nearly the whole day, the occasion being the opening of their return match with Middlesex.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 July, page 12)

Middlesex followed up their successful batting of Thursday with some very effective bowling, which enabled them to get much the better of yesterday's play in this match at the Oval. Indeed, as the game at present stands, there is little probability of the Surrey team averting a severe defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 July, page 7)

Middlesex won this match by nine wickets.

30 June: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3229.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 July, page 10)

Sussex had much the better of yesterday's play in this match at Brighton.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 July, page 12)

The second day's play in this match at Brighton was productive of remarkably good batting. The drawing of stumps on Thursday left the score in the following position – Kent, first innings, 90; Sussex, 186 for four wickets. Yesterday the remaining batsmen of the home side were dismissed in just under two hours for an addition of 107. J Hide and Bean played well, while Mr Smith also hit with great vigour.

Kent went in a second time against a majority of 203. They started badly, losing G and A Hearne for nine runs. Then followed a remarkable stand by Frank Hearne and Mr A J Thornton. They completely mastered the bowling, and in three hours added 181 runs to the score. Frank Hearne was then dismissed for a fine innings of 74.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 July, page 7)

The match between these counties ended on Saturday, at Hove, Brighton, Sussex winning by seven wickets.

Monday 4 July, page 9

Lovers of cricket are looking forward with exceptional interest to the University match which begins to-day at Lord's. So difficult of comparison or so contradictory have been the performances of the two elevens that the result is a matter of delightful uncertainty.

The surprises of the game are a proverb. But here there is, strictly speaking, no room for surprise. The history of each team would be consistent with collapse, even fight, or easy victory. It may go for something, however, that the dark blues have been victorious in two matches during the last fortnight, while the same period has produced reverses for the Cantabs. The latter were defeated by the then unbeaten Surrey eleven by an innings and 67 runs. The very next week the Oxonians did what the Cambridge eleven had failed to do, and tamed the pride of the Surrey men, beating them by 82 runs. If we were to take a line through Surrey, therefore, the Oxford team ought to be considerably the stronger. But it must be borne in mind that LOHMANN, Surrey's best bowler, bowled little and late in the match with Oxford, owing to an injury to his hand, and that earlier in the season Oxford suffered defeat from almost the same Surrey team by an innings and three runs.

Generally speaking, some indication of the respective strength of the University elevens is to be gathered from the manner in which they acquit themselves against the Marylebone Club in the week preceding the all-important match. But the MCC pitted an eleven very powerful at all points

against Cambridge, who were accordingly beaten by nine wickets; while in the match against Oxford the MCC representatives were fairly strong in bowling but weak in batting, so that the University made a drawn game of it.

Although neither University eleven includes a giant in batting renown, there are few of the players on either side who have not scored heavily in one or more first-class matches. For Oxford, MR RASHLEIGH, MR BUCKLAND and MR PHILIPSON have made their centuries, while MR KEY made the sensational score of 281 against Middlesex. For the Cantabs, MR THOMAS scored 114, “not out,” against Yorkshire, and MR BRIDGEMAN 162, “not out,” and MR MARTINEAU 109, in the memorable match against Sussex, in which Cambridge went in against 451 runs and succeeded in capping that score with 534.

To many cricketers it may seem that in a comparison of the bowlers of the two elevens a significant omen is to be found. Neither University can justly be called strong with the ball, but Oxford, although deprived of the services of MR COCHRANE through a sprain, has five effective bowlers remaining in MR BUCKLAND, MR GRESSON, MR FORSTER, MR WHITBY and MR NEPEAN. The light blues, on the other hand, have only two bowlers, MR FORD and MR TOPPIN, who are expected to be at all dangerous.

With the barometer threatening a break-up of the dry weather, much may depend upon whether MR BRAIN or MR MARCHANT wins the toss. To be able to go in or to put your opponents in according as the ground plays true or treacherously neutralizes much disparity in batting or bowling. The extraordinary scoring which has prevailed during the last month is, of course, to be attributed chiefly to the hardness of the turf, but also in part to the non-appearance of any brilliant new bowlers.

In bowling it is the unknown which is terrible. Even the best bowler, after a season or two, begins to be “found out,” and his deliveries, although as true of as full of “break” as ever, lose their magic. Among the rare triumphs of the ball this season were the performances of the Lancashire men WATSON and BRIGGS, who disposed of the Oxford team for the total of 58; and of MR BUCKLAND and MR NEPEAN, each of whom took five Surrey wickets for 25 and 18 runs respectively. The best brace of bowlers in any one eleven are probably LOHMANN and BEAUMONT, who, and especially the former, have served Surrey in such good stead.

But the batsmen have for the most part had it all their own way. In the three county matches which finished on Saturday, out of nine completed innings no fewer than five resulted in totals of 300 and upwards. But if we put aside the numerous scores ranging between 300 and 400, there have been six scores exceeding the latter figure, and five of these have amounted to upwards of 500. In the Lord’s Centenary Match England made 514 in one innings, thanks to the batting of MR STODDARD and SHREWSBURY. Cambridge made 534 against Sussex, and Surrey 557 and 543 in two matches running against Lancashire and Cambridge respectively. It was in this couple of matches that MR WALTER READ compiled two consecutive scores of 274 and 244, “not out” – a record, we believe, unparalleled in cricketing annals. But the highest score of the season in a first-rate match was MR KEY’s of 281, contributed towards a total of 555 made by Oxford against Middlesex, MR PHILIPSON scoring 150 in the same match.

“Centuries” made by individual players have been so common as hardly to deserve recapitulation. But DR W G GRACE, MR WALTER READ and SHREWSBURY have each passed the magic number three times, the most brilliant achievement of the first-named being his most recent scores of 92 and 183, “not out,” for his county against Yorkshire. MR J SHUTER, the Surrey captain, MR

ROLLER and ULYETT have attained three figures on two occasions.

If the superiority of the batting over the bowling tempts one to call for a diminution in the width of the bat or an increase in the width of the wicket, let us remember that a change in the weather will probably see a reversal of such conditions. Moreover, the rules of cricket are framed to suit not merely highly trained players, but also the rank and file of cricketers, among whom bowling is at least on a par with batting.

Among the counties a perplexing event has just happened in the defeat of Surrey by Middlesex by nine wickets. Until this reverse Surrey, in spite of their defeat by Oxford University, were, both on strict principles and by prestige, entitled to the place of honour. Their meteoric ascent to supremacy has been watched with the greatest interest, and even sympathy, perhaps because it is recollected that only a few years have elapsed since this county seemed hopelessly sunk in the depths of seedy professionalism. Now they number in their eleven the best bat and the best bowler of the day. During this season they have successively beaten, with more or less ease, Hampshire, Middlesex, Notts, Oxford, Lancashire, Cambridge and Gloucestershire. Then came their defeat by Oxford, which has been quickly followed by another at the hands of Middlesex, the more unexpected because the last-named county, playing almost the same eleven, had in May been beaten by Surrey by an innings and 79 runs.

The result is that on paper Surrey is reduced to the same level as Notts and Yorkshire, each of these counties having lost one county match. If, however, Surrey's comparatively numerous and hollow victories be taken into consideration, as well as the fact that Surrey has already beaten Notts, the southern county's claim to supremacy still seems valid, though less unchallengeable than it was at the beginning of last week.

At present, it only lies in the mouths of the Yorkshiremen, who are to-day beginning a match with Surrey at Sheffield, to question Surrey's superiority, Yorkshire being the only first-class county, leaving Kent out of the reckoning, which has not suffered a reverse at the hands of the Surrey eleven. The Yorkshire eleven, whose many failures last year put their supporters out of heart, are doing considerably better this season, although they have just failed to do more than draw their match against Gloucestershire. They have been once beaten, by Middlesex, but they are credited with several large scores, and what is the greatest feather in their cap, they made a very even draw of their match with Notts.

Middlesex have been beaten twice, by Surrey and Notts, but MR WEBBE has now got together a team which takes a good deal of beating. Gloucestershire, not so long ago the champion county, have drawn three matches, increasing that with Yorkshire, which terminated on Saturday, and have lost two, so that at present not a single victory has been placed to their credit. But, like other counties, they have been scoring heavily, as this morning's cricket reports will show.

The absence of the Australians this year has, perhaps, served to accentuate interest in inter-county cricket. To which county are to belong the championship laurels is far from settled yet. But metropolitan cricketers will be not sorry if fortune, before the season ends, leans decisively to the side of Surrey, and interrupts the long supremacy of the North.

4 July: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3230.html)

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

There would seem to be no diminution in the interest taken in the matches between the Universities, if one may judge from the large company which visited Lord's Ground yesterday. At one time it was estimated that there were quite 15,000 spectators.

The play itself, in a notable respect – viz., that of fielding – was hardly in keeping with what is usually associated with the match. This remark is, of course, made apart from individual exceptions. The batting of Messrs Marchant and Sutthery for the Light Blues and the destructive bowling of Mr Gresson, who took three wickets after luncheon without having a run scored from him, were probably the most important features of the day. The attendance comprised the Maharajah Rao of Kutsch Behar . . . and the Hon E Chandos Leigh, the president of the club.

Shortly before 12 o'clock it became known that the Light Blues had won the toss – an immense advantage on the splendid wicket – and punctually at noon their opponents issued from the pavilion. Messrs Marchant and Buxton opened the Cambridge batting at five minutes past 12. Mr Whitby started the bowling from the pavilion end, Mr Forster having charge of it at the nursery end.

From the last ball in the over an appeal against the Cambridge captain for leg-before was answered in the negative. Soon a fine cut to the boundary by Mr Marchant was loudly applauded. Runs continued to come freely from Mr Whitby's bowling, and his next over produced 10 – two drives for four and two, and a snick for four (all by Mr Marchant). Mr Buxton was now beaten by a ball from Mr Forster, which he played on to his wicket.

With Messrs Thomas and Marchant together runs were put on very rapidly. The latter made two cuts for four each, while a cut by the former produced a three. No fewer than 30 runs had been made from Mr Whitby, who at 34 gave way to Mr Buckland. In his first over the latter nearly bowled Mr Thomas, who afterwards made cuts for three and four from each end. A bad hit in the slips for four by the same gentleman brought 50 on the board after 35 minutes' play. Four runs later a good ball from Mr Buckland clean bowled Mr Thomas's off stump. Two for 54.

Mr Crawley came in. He soon hit Mr Buckland to leg for three, and at 60 a further change in the bowling was tried, Mr Nepean relieving Mr Forster. This alteration by no means stopped the run-getting, and the next four overs produced 25, increasing three off-drives for four each by Mr Marchant. Mr Nepean only bowled a couple of overs and then Mr Forster resumed at 85. Mr Marchant was shortly afterwards caught at deep mid-off for a brilliant innings of 49, in which were eight fours.

When Mr Sutthery joined Mr Crawley the rate of run-getting slackened considerably. Mr Sutthery drove Mr Forster for four and two, and the 100 was signalled at 1.20. These had taken only an hour and a quarter to obtain. Two leg hits for four each were the principal contributions for some time, but as the batsmen appeared well set Mr Nepean was again tried for Mr Forster at 113. Mr Sutthery quickly made a fine square-leg hit for four. At 126 Mr Whitby replaced Mr Buckland, but 21 runs, increasing three fours by Mr Sutthery, were added in four overs, and at 147 the bowling was changed at both ends. Mr Forster was tried at the pavilion wicket and Mr Gresson relieved Mr Nepean. The total had reached 152 before the adjournment for luncheon.

Three-quarters of an hour elapsed before the game was resumed, when Messrs Buckland and Forster had charge of the bowling. Mr Sutthery scored three singles, but then Mr Crawley, who had not increased his total, was taken at cover-point from a very bad hit. Sixty-six had been added since the fall of the third wicket. Four for 155. Mr Ford, a left-handed batsman, came in, and the field was at once deepened. A fine drive by Mr Sutthery for four (all run out) was made, after which Mr Ford was clean bowled in trying to hit a straight ball to leg. Half the wickets were now down for 165.

Mr Bridgeman aided Mr Sutthery, who completed his 50 at 3 o'clock. The cricket was very quiet for some time afterwards. Mr Bridgeman enlivened matters by hitting a ball from Mr Buckland to the square-leg boundary. However, the bowling and fielding proved excellent, and an hour after luncheon the score had only been increased by 36. Mr Nepean was again tried in lieu of Mr Forster at 188, and 10 runs later Mr Buckland handed the ball to Mr Gresson. A single later the separation was effected, as Mr Sutthery drove the ball into the hands of mid-on. He had been batting two hours and a quarter, and his excellent innings of 73 comprised seven fours, seven twos and singles. Six for 199.

Mr Martineau came in, and the 200 was reached at a quarter past 4. Mr Bridgeman obstructed his wicket at 201, while, after Mr Martineau had gained two by a drive, Mr Orford was bowled without scoring. Eight for 203. Mr Hale was clean bowled at the same total, and Mr Toppin skied the ball back to the bowler at 207, the innings closing at 25 minutes to 5.

Shortly before 5 o'clock Messrs Nepean and Gresson opened the Oxford batting. Mr Hale started the bowling from the pavilion end. Mr Ford bowled from the nursery end. Four byes having been recorded, a ball from Mr Hale clean bowled Mr Nepean. One wicket for 5 was by no means a promising start. Mr Rashleigh, who came in, soon drove Mr Hale to the on for four. After an unsuccessful appeal for a catch at the wicket against Mr Rashleigh, Mr Gresson hit Mr Ford to square leg for four and drove him to the off for two. Mr Rashleigh gained four by a square-leg hit, but at 33 he was caught at square-leg. The downfall of such a dangerous batsman as Mr Rashleigh was naturally received with loud cheers by the Cambridge supporters.

Lord George Scott, who followed in, after some quiet play, hit Mr Hale to square-leg for four, and the 50 was reached at 10 minutes to 6. Nine overs later Mr Sutthery superseded Mr Ford. This alteration soon had the effect desired; in his first over each batsman scored three, but in the second he caught and bowled Mr Gresson. The latter's 33 had been obtained by excellent all-round play. Three for 67.

Mr Key came to the assistance of Lord George Scott. After several small hits the former drove a ball from Mr Hale among the people for four. Mr Ford went on at the nursery wicket at 86, but Mr Key cut him finely for four, so at 99 he gave up the ball to Mr Toppin. The 100 appeared at a quarter to 7, and 13 more runs were added before the drawing of stumps . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 July, page 6)

To cricketers the second day's play in a match like that between the Universities possesses many charms which are not afforded by the first day. For instance, there is the absence of the excitement as to who will win the toss. The spectators seem more composed, and even among the players themselves there is an absence of that nervousness which has cost so many good batsmen their

wickets in this particular match.

Not unfrequently the game on the second day hangs in the balance, and to some extent this was the case yesterday. Had the Cambridge fielding been up to the average of that usually shown by University elevens the game would doubtless have been left in a more even state. As it was Lord George Scott was thrice let off, and for these mistakes the Cambridge side paid dearly.

It was curious that the Oxford innings ended in much the same way as that of their opponents. On the first day Mr Gresson was put on a second time and took three wickets without a run, and yesterday Mr Hale did precisely the same thing against Oxford. In spite of this the Dark Blues at the end of an innings each had a substantial advantage of over 100 runs. Lord George Scott's "century" was the feature of the day. Allowing for the chances, his innings was on the whole a very good performance.

In so interesting a state had the game been left on Monday evening that it was not surprising to find the company at Lord's even larger than on the previous day; it numbered about 17,000. The weather at the outset was threatening, but it soon became very fine, and the scene during the intervals and the promenade after luncheon was more animated than ever. It will be remembered that on Monday Cambridge had scored 207 and Oxford lost three wickets for 113.

Lord George Scott (24) and Mr Key (35), the not outs, continued the Oxford innings at 11.35. Messrs Ford and Toppin were the bowlers. The first hit of note was an on-drive for four by Lord George Scott in the tenth over. He also drove Mr Toppin for four and two, and at 143 the last-named handed the ball to Mr Hale. Lord G Scott snicked his first ball for three, while in the same over a fine square-leg hit by Mr Key caused the 150 to appear. Lord George Scott then gave Mr Hale a return chance, but the latter after several attempts dropped the ball, the wicket being rather in his way. He soon afterwards had a very easy return from Lord George Scott, but again failed to hold the ball. Mr Key then hit a ball to leg for three and by an off-drive secured four. He was then well caught at the wicket on the leg side – a catch rarely witnessed. Mr Key had played a very good innings of 64, which included five fours and seven twos. Since the third wicket fell 140 runs had been added.

Mr Brain followed in. Chiefly by sharp runs, the figures reached 187, when Mr Sutthery went on in lieu of Mr Ford. Mr Brain cut him finely for four, and at 196 a further change was tried, Mr Toppin relieving Mr Sutthery. In his first over he disposed of Messrs Brain and Buckland with successive balls; both batsmen were caught at wicket.

Mr Forster aided Lord George Scott, who for a third time was missed – on this occasion by Mr Sutthery off his own bowling. An on drive for two by Mr Forster caused the 200 to be signalled. Each batsmen made a drive for four, and at 221 Mr Ford resumed in place of Mr Sutthery. Mr Martineau was tried for the first time 11 runs later. Lord George Scott, however, scored with freedom, and obtained a cut for two and a leg hit for four from the new bowler. At ten minutes to 2 an on-drive by Mr Forster brought 250 on the telegraph board. Mr Forster next drove each bowler to the boundary, and at 264 the attack was changed at both ends; Mr Buxton went on for the first time, while Mr Hale was given a further trial at the pavilion end. However, no further wicket had fallen up to luncheon, the figures then standing at 268.

The interval over, Messrs Ford and Toppin conducted the bowling. Lord George Scott increased his figures to 100 at five minutes to 3. Directly afterwards, however, he was easily caught at point. He had been batting about four hours and, in spite of the chances mentioned, his innings of 100 was

a very creditable performance. Among his hits were seven fours, seven threes and 11 twos. The partnership had realized 80 runs.

Mr Ricketts, who came next, at once cut Mr Toppin finely for four, and subsequently the score rose steadily, chiefly by singles and twos. A half-past 3 an on-drive by Mr Forster sent up the 300. Just previously Mr Sutthery had gone on for Mr Ford. Mr Forster hit the former to the square-leg boundary, and at 309 Mr Hale displaced Mr Toppin. In his first over Mr Ricketts was clean bowled, the eighth wicket falling at 309.

Another good ball from Mr Hale dismissed Mr Philipson at 313, while a dextrous catch by Mr Ford deep on the leg side got rid of Mr Whitby from the next ball, and the innings closed at ten minutes to 4. Mr Hale since he went on at 309 had bowled two overs and two balls (two maidens) for three wickets. Mr Forster took out his bat for an excellent 60, which comprised four fours, four threes, ten twos and singles.

With a deficit of 106, the Light Blues went in a second time at a quarter past 4. Mr Martineau accompanied his captain to the wicket. The bowlers were Messrs Buckland and Whitby. Eleven runs had only been scored when Mr Martineau was clean bowled. Mr Thomas joined Mr Marchant and runs were added very quickly. Thirty-four had been obtained in half an hour, when Mr Forster relieved Mr Buckland. This change at once proved effective, for without alteration in the figures Mr Thomas was clean bowled. Two for 34.

Mr Crawley came to the aid of Mr Marchant, who scored two fours, a three and a two, and the 50 was reached at five minutes to 5. Six runs later Mr Nepean went on for Mr Whitby, and in his first over Mr Marchant was cleverly stumped. The Cambridge captain had batted brilliantly for 32.

Mr Sutthery joined Mr Crawley. The former drove Mr Nepean for four and cut the other bowler for three. A twofold change was resorted to at 72, Messrs Gresson and Whitby going on, while at 86 the former gave way to Mr Buckland. Nine runs (including a four by Mr Crawley to leg) were added, and then Mr Gresson bowled in lieu of Mr Whitby. Despite these variations, a cut for two by Mr Crawley brought up the 100 at five minutes to 6. A quarter of an hour later the arrears were rubbed off. At 102, however, a good catch low down at mid-off disposed of Mr Sutthery. Fifty-three runs had been added during the partnership, but Mr Sutthery had not played so well as in the first innings.

Mr Ford came in, and at 121 Mr Nepean was again tried for Mr Gresson. Mr Ford drove him to the off for four, but in his next over he was clean bowled. Five for 130. Mr Buxton's stay was brief. After giving a difficult chance to Mr Whitby at mid-on he was clean bowled for a single, the sixth wicket falling at 131. Mr Bridgeman then joined Mr Crawley and the pair played out time. It will be seen from the subjoined score that with four wickets to fall Cambridge are only 23 ahead.

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

Another Oxford v Cambridge match has been decided with the result, for the fifth time since 1882, of a victory by seven wickets. The Dark Blues followed up the advantage they obtained on the first innings by winning rather easily. It has been a most eventful contest and produced a much better finish than at one time seemed at all probable.

If not better, yesterday's cricket was certainly equal to the high character of that on the second day.

Mr Crawley's splendid innings was succeeded after luncheon by as fine a display of batting as one could wish to see – viz., that by Lord George Scott. When he went in the aspect appeared somewhat gloomy for the Dark Blues. But he soon altered the state of affairs and, once set, he punished all bowlers alike.

The uneven state of the score on Tuesday night did not prevent about 7,000 people assembling to see the finish. And well they were rewarded. Cambridge, who had only a majority of 28 with six good batsmen out, set their opponents a by no means easy task – a fact attributable to the excellent innings by Mr Crawley. Two years ago he made a “century” for Harrow v Eton at Lord's, and in his first year at the University he has repeated the performance. From the time he went in until the last wicket fell he played in excellent style, and though puzzled once or twice by the bowlers, he gave no chance.

It is peculiar that Lord George Scott and Mr Crawley, who carried off the honours of the match, should have only secured their “blues” at the last moment; both, too, by their performances in the final trial matches of the Universities on Lord's ground. Lord George Scott's 166 is the highest individual aggregate in an Oxford v Cambridge match, while Mr Key had scored more runs in these matches than any other gentleman; the previous best was by Mr C W Wright.

It is also worthy of note that 313 is the largest total made by Oxford in the inter-University contests. Almost without exception the Cambridge fielding was very loose. Seldom was the ball fielded clean, while many of the returns were ill-judged. The wicket-keeping of Mr Philipson for Oxford could scarcely have been improved; Mr Orford also figured prominently in the same capacity for Cambridge. The weather became rather dull towards the close of the game.

Messrs Crawley (44) and Bridgeman (2), the not-outs, continued the Cambridge batting at 11.35. Messrs Forster (nursery end) and Buckland had charge of the bowling. The Oxford team fielded up close, while the bowling was also very true. The largest item in 18 overs was a leg hit for three by Mr Crawley. Mr Nepean at 147 was tried in lieu of Mr Forster; the last 13 runs had taken half an hour to obtain. Without alteration in the figures Mr Bridgeman was bowled for a very patient innings of three. Seven down.

With Mr Orford in, the cricket became very lively. Mr Crawley made an off-drive for four and a cut from Mr Buckland for two. Mr Orford secured three by a cut, while each batsman subsequently made an on-drive for four. Mr Gresson relieved Mr Buckland at 171, and the change speedily brought about the dismissal of Mr Orford, who was easily caught at point. Eight for 171.

Mr Hale joined Mr Crawley, who continued to play in excellent form. Mr Whitby at once resumed bowling in place of Mr Nepean. Mr Crawley contributed an on-drive for three, and at 178 the bowling was altered at both ends – Mr Nepean was tried for Mr Whitby and Mr Forster superseded Mr Buckland. Mr Hale hit Mr Nepean to leg for four and drove the same bowler to the on for three, causing Mr Whitby to resume at 189. Mr Hale cut Mr Forster for three and drove him to the off for four. Then for a time the play proved very quiet and nine maiden overs were sent down in succession. Mr Crawley had a narrow escape of being run out, after which Mr Hale by a square-leg hit for four brought the second hundred on the board amid great cheering at five minutes past 1. Three runs later Mr Hale was dismissed by a very fine piece of stumping. Thirty-two runs had been added during the partnership. Nine for 203.

Mr Toppin, who came in, soon began to hit with freedom. He made among other items a straight drive for four, while Mr Crawley gained a couple of fours by a leg hit and an off-drive. Mr

Buckland displaced Mr Forster at 219, and five runs later Mr Nepean received the ball from Mr Whitby. Mr Crawley obtained two threes and a four by drives, and at 237 the attack was again altered – Mr Gresson relieving Mr Buckland. Mr Toppin drove the new bowler to the off for four and then by a leg hit for two Mr Crawley completed his hundred amid deafening cheers. Though Mr Ricketts was put on at 243 the batsmen were still together at the interval, when the score stood at 249, Mr Crawley not out 103.

After luncheon the bowlers were Messrs Buckland and Nepean. Mr Toppin gained three by a snick, but the first ball from Mr Nepean he hit into the hands of Mr Whitby at mid-on. Time, 2.43; total, 252. Mr Crawley took out his bat for a splendid innings of 105, the result of four and three-quarter hours' play. He did not give a chance and his hits included eight fours, eight threes and 14 twos. Forty-nine runs had been added for the last wicket.

Oxford went in at 10 minutes past 3 to obtain 147 for victory. Messrs Gresson and Nepean again started the batting. The bowling was intrusted to Messrs Toppin and Ford. Six overs produced 12 runs, several of which were obtained through bad fielding. Mr Gresson was clean bowled with the figures at 12 and Mr Rashleigh, who came next, was taken at cover-slip 11 runs later. The only hit of note during his stay was an off-drive for two by himself. Two for 23.

Lord George Scott joined Mr Nepean, who secured three through a piece of misfielding by Mr Thomas at cover-point. When he had made 14 the last-named should have been caught by Mr Bridgeman at point. Profiting by his escape, he cut Mr Ford finely for four, and obtained another couple through loose fielding. Mr Hale superseded Mr Toppin at 38. However, in the new bowler's first two overs Lord George Scott obtained a couple of on-drives and a square-leg hit for four each. By these items the 50 was completed at 4 o'clock.

Ten runs later Mr Suthery was put on in lieu of Mr Hale, but the indifferent Cambridge fielding continued. A cut by Mr Nepean and a leg hit and an off-drive by Lord George Scott each produced four runs, and the total reached 78. Mr Toppin now went on for Mr Ford. Lord George Scott drove each bowler for four, and at 96 Messrs Martineau and Buxton were tried. At 20 minutes to 5, however, an on-drive for four by Lord George Scott caused the 100 to appear. The same batsman quickly afterwards gained four by a leg hit, by which he reached his 50 at a quarter to 5. Mr Toppin who had been put on at the nursery wicket crossed back to his old end at 112. Lord George Scott drove him twice for four and his companion made four and two from the other bowler. Mr Marchant went on himself at 133, and in his first innings he got Lord George Scott caught at short leg for a brilliant innings of 66. His hits included 11 fours, one three and two twos. During the partnership 112 had been put on in about an hour and a quarter.

Only 12 runs were required when Mr Key arrived, and at a quarter past 5 an on-drive by the last-named for five (including two overthrows) won the match for Oxford by seven wickets. Mr Nepean's excellent 58 included three fours, three threes and eight twos.

4 July: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3231.html)

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

Upwards of 12,00 people visited the Bramwell-lane [sic] ground, Sheffield, to witness yesterday's play between these counties. The proceeds of the match are to be devoted to the benefit of G Ulyett, who for years past has rendered his county great service. As will be seen from the score attached, the visitors monopolized the wickets the whole of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 July, page 6)

This match was continued at the Bramall Grounds, Sheffield, yesterday in the presence of about 8,000 people. The score subjoined will show that Yorkshire, with three wickets to fall, require 32 to avert the innings defeat.

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

At the Bramall-lane Ground, Sheffield, yesterday, Yorkshire suffered a severe defeat at the hands of Surrey, who won by an innings and 15 runs.

7 July: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3232.html)

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

The return match between these counties was begun yesterday at the Recreation Ground, Long Eaton. Neither Mr Hornby nor Mr A G Steel were able to assist their county.

Lancashire went in first. The fielding of the home side was very poor, and it was owing to this in a great measure that the score reached 145. Derbyshire started badly, losing seven wickets for 58 runs. Davidson and Disney then made a stand . . .

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

These counties concluded their return match yesterday at Long Eaton, when Lancashire were victorious for a second time this season.

7 July: PLAYERS OF THE SOUTH v PLAYERS OF THE NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3233.html)

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

This match began at Beckenham yesterday.

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

The match between these teams was brought to a close yesterday at Beckenham. The South obtained the necessary 112 for victory at the cost of five wickets.

8 July: CHESHIRE v YORKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128278.html)

Day 1 (no report from Saturday 9 July, page 14)

Day 2 (report from Monday 11 July, page 10)

F Lee's brilliant innings of 206 was the feature of this match, which ended on Saturday at Halifax in a victory for Yorkshire by an innings and 235 runs.

11 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3234.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 July, page 10)

Yesterday the Gentlemen's side comprised five of the players in the recent University match – Messrs Key, Buckland, Forster, Philipson and Marchant – Dr W G Grace (Gloucestershire), the Hon M B Hawke (Yorkshire), Messrs Read, Roller (Surrey), Stoddart (Middlesex) and Appleby (Lancashire). On the professional side there were five players from Nottinghamshire, three from Yorkshire, two from Surrey and one from Lancashire. The attendance numbered about 7,000.

The weakness of the amateurs' bowling became very apparent after the interval, and even at the close of play the Players had not completed their innings. At no time did the wicket play particularly well; indeed, during the last few hours it proved very treacherous. Shrewsbury's innings of 111 was the feature of the day's cricket. He has only been seen thrice at Lord's this season, and in each instance he has obtained more than 100.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 July, page 12)

Between 9,000 and 10,000 people visited Lord's yesterday to witness what proved to be the concluding day's play in this match. The wicket never recovered from the showers of Monday, and yesterday throughout both innings of the Gentlemen it proved very treacherous.

Barnes, when he was put on to bowl, made the most of his opportunities, and before the interval he took six wickets for seven runs. Owing to his injured hand, Mr Roller was unable to bat, and thus the Gentlemen were one short in each innings.

It will be remembered that on Monday the Players scored 337 for seven wickets. The innings closed yesterday at a quarter past 12 for 396. Briggs took out his bat for a vigorously-hit 66, in which were nine fours, three threes and three twos. In their first innings the Gentlemen made only 120, of which Mr W G Grace made 24. They did a little better in the second innings but, as will be seen from the following score, were beaten by an innings and 123 runs.

11 July: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3235.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 July, page 10)

The opening day's play in the return match between these counties at Tonbridge yesterday was produced of excellent cricket.

Day 2 (no report from Wednesday 13 July, page 12)

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 July, page 10)

Yesterday at Tonbridge, Kent gained a substantial victory over Sussex by six wickets. It will be remembered that on Tuesday night Kent, with eight wickets to fall, required 61 to win. Yesterday Frank Hearne hit brilliantly, and the necessary runs were obtained for the loss of two more wickets. Frank Hearne's chief test matches were seven fours and ten twos.

Wednesday 13 July, page 12

A meeting of county secretaries was held in the dining hall at Lord's yesterday to consider the advisability of carrying out the suggestions of the provisional committee appointed last December to report on the proposed County Cricket Council. Among those present were – Lord Harris and Mr George Marsham (Kent), Captain Holden and Mr W C Oates (Nottinghamshire), Messrs M J Ellison and J B Wostinholm (Yorkshire), J Horner (Cheshire), Russell Bencraft (Hampshire), C W Alcock (Surrey), A J Webbe (Middlesex), M Turner (Sussex), W Ansell (Warwickshire), T Burdett (Leicestershire), S H Swire and J M'Laren (Lancashire), H Murray Anderton (Somersetshire) and T H Vialls (Northamptonshire).

The report of the committee having been adopted, Mr Ellison moved that a cricket council should be formed. This was seconded by Mr Alcock and carried, as was also the following: - "That as regards the laws of cricket the council shall have no executive power."

It was then proposed by Mr W C Oates: - "That upon all questions raised under the rules of county cricket qualification, the committee of the MCC shall adjudicate." Mr Swire seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. After some discussion the following resolutions were also passed:

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Proposed by Mr Alcock, seconded by Mr Horner, "That it shall be competent for the council to alter or amend the rules of county cricket qualification."

Proposed by Mr G Marsham, seconded by Mr Ellison, "That the council consist of one representative each from these counties at the meeting held at Lord's in December, 1886."

Proposed by Mr Oates: - "That a committee of five representatives from the counties of Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Gloucestershire be appointed to frame by-laws and to report to the council

before the end of the year.”

14 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3236.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 July, page 10)

The alterations in the Gentlemen's side at the Oval from that which appeared at Lord's materially strengthened their bowling department. In place of Messrs Marchant, Roller and Appleby, the Surrey executive chose Messrs Nepean, Newnham and Sutthery. There were no changes in the Players' eleven, which so decisively beat the Gentlemen earlier in the week. About 5,000 people witnessed yesterday's play, which was productive of good all-round cricket. The weather was fine and an excellent wicket had been prepared by Newton.

At 10 minutes past 12 the Players, who had won the toss, sent in Ulyett and Shrewsbury to the bowling of Messrs Nepean and Newnham (Pavilion end). Six overs were sent down for three runs and then Shrewsbury, who had not played at all well, was clean bowled by Mr Nepean. Gunn joined Ulyett, who cut Mr Newnham for four. The figures having reached 23, Gunn was cleverly stumped.

Maurice Read came in. Dr Grace relieved Mr Nepean at 48, but Ulyett cut him for two, bringing up 50 at five minutes past 1. Rain then stopped play for a quarter of an hour. Mr Forster displaced Dr Grace at 65; but runs were still added quickly and at 81 Messrs Nepean and Sutthery were again put on. Read drove the former for four, and in Mr Sutthery's next over he made three fours. By these items he completed his 50, and sent up the 100 at five minutes to 2. Eleven more runs were added before the interval.

The game was continued at 10 minutes to 3. At 137 Ulyett was well caught at third man. He had played with more care than usually characterizes his cricket, and his hits included three fours, two threes and ten twos. During the partnership 114 had been added. Barnes came in, and the runs were again put on rapidly. Dr Grace got Read caught at long-off at 151. Read had played very well for 71, in which were nine fours, a three and seven twos. Four down.

Bates aided Barnes, and Mr Nepean was once more put on at 164. Though Mr Sutthery was tried in lieu of Mr Buckland at 188, the 200 went up at five minutes past four. A dozen runs later Barnes was caught at slip, the fifth wicket falling at 212. Bates when he had made 26 was again missed, this time by Mr Buckland at mid-on. Flowers was disposed of at 237 but, with Briggs for a partner, Bates scored at a great pace, and the figures quickly reached 268. Briggs, who had made a leg hit and a cut for four each, was then finely caught at cover-slip. Seven down.

Peel joined Bates, who continued to play very finely. Three hundred went up at a quarter past 5. At 304 Bates was finely stumped for 81. Despite the chances his hitting had been very fine; 12 fours, two threes, eight twos and singles made up his total. He was in rather less than two hours. Peel played on at 339, and a catch at square leg disposed of Lohmann, the innings closing at a quarter to 6 for 339.

Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart began the Gentlemen's batting at five minutes past 6 to the bowling of Lohmann and Briggs. Runs were scored rapidly. Bates relieved Lohmann at 26. Mr Stoddart made the majority of the runs, and at the end of half an hour the record stood at 46. Fifty was signalled at 20 minutes to 7, but five runs later Mr Stoddart was easily caught at extra mid-off. He had scored 40 out of 55.

The Hon M B Hawke joined Dr Grace, who was clean bowled by a good ball from Bates at 60. Two down. Briggs again went on when Mr Read came in, but no further wicket had fallen at the drawing of stumps.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 12)

Between 4,000 and 5,000 people witnessed yesterday's lay in this match, at Kennington Oval.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 July, page 6)

The Gentlemen were again beaten on Saturday at Kennington Oval in a most decisive manner. On Friday night little doubt existed as to the ultimate result, but it was generally thought that the amateurs would make a much better score than they did in their second innings.

14 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128303.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 July, page 10)

This match began at Lord's yesterday. The visitors went in first and made 183. For Marylebone, who scored 66[?], the best cricket was shown by Chatterton, whose 56 included five fours, four threes and six twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 12)

When stumps were drawn in this match at Lord's on Thursday evening each side had completed an innings, and the visitors had an advantage of 22. Yesterday Leicestershire went in a second time and scored 263, and Marylebone last evening had lost two wickets for 33 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 July, page 6)

At Lord's, on Saturday, the Marylebone batsmen offered very feeble resistance to the bowling of Pougher and Rylott. At the close of Friday the home team, with eight wickets to fall, required 253 to win. This task they proved altogether unable to accomplish, and Leicestershire won by 194 runs.

14 July: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128279.html)

Day 1 (no report from Friday 15 July, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 12)

The match between these counties, which began on Thursday at Brighton, was continued yesterday. On the first day Sussex completed an innings for 244, and Hampshire lost five wickets for 94.

Yesterday the visitors just managed to avert the follow-on, making 170. Sussex went in a second time and scored 307. At the close of the day Hampshire had made 40 without losing a wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 July, page 6)

Some interesting cricket was witnessed at the Hove Ground, Brighton, on Saturday, when the match between these counties was brought to a close. When play ceased on Friday Hampshire had gone in to obtain 382 for victory, and had scored 40 without loss of wicket.

On Saturday Messrs Lacey and Steele showed very good batting, but eventually Hampshire were beaten by 185 runs.

15 July: CHESHIRE v YORKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128253.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 12)

These counties began their return match at Stockport yesterday. At the end of an innings each, Yorkshire had an advantage of 29 runs – 140 to 111. They went in a second time and lost three wickets for 12 runs.

Day 2 (report from Monday 18 July, page 6)

F Lee, on Saturday, at Stockport, played a vigorous innings of 144 for Yorkshire against Cheshire. He was missed several times' his chief hits were one six, 15 fours and five twos. Messrs Hill and Wilson also batted with great success, and Cheshire when they went in a second time required 375 to win. Eventually the game was drawn . . .

15 July: LANCASHIRE v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128275.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 12)

At the Old Trafford ground, Manchester, yesterday, these counties began a match. The visitors went in first and scored 151. Lancashire made 150 for six wickets.

Day 2 (report from Monday 18 July, page 6)

When stumps were drawn in this match between these counties at Manchester on Friday, the visitors had completed an innings for 151, and Lancashire had lost six wickets for 150. On Saturday the remaining batsmen put on 63 runs.

Northamptonshire only set their opponents 51 to obtain for victory. These Mr Hornby and Barlow obtained without mishap, and Lancashire were left the winners by ten wickets.

Saturday 16 July: GENTLEMEN OF CANADA v GENTLEMEN OF IRELAND

In the presence of a large company, the Canadians concluded the first match of their tour at the Leinster Club Grounds, Dublin, yesterday. In their first innings the home eleven made 319 runs; in their first and second innings the Canadians made 88 and 129 respectively – total 217. The Gentlemen of Ireland therefore won by an innings and 102 runs. The return match was then begun, the score of the home eleven at the close of the day being 123.

18 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3237.html)

Day 1 (no report or scorecard from Tuesday 19 July, page 11)

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 20 July, page 8)

18 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3238.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 July, page 11)

Between 2,000 and 3,000 people witnessed yesterday's cricket in this match at the Trent Bridge Ground, Nottingham. Kent went in first, and after a long innings, the last wicket fell for 241. Shrewsbury and Mr Dixon began the Notts batting. The former was missed by Mr Tonge at square-leg when he had made only five. Present score – 43.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 20 July, page 8)

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 July, page 10)

At the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, yesterday, this match was concluded, Nottinghamshire winning by nine wickets. Shrewsbury, who did not give a chance, made seven fours, four threes, eight twos and singles, while in Gunn's 45 there were three fours, six threes and two twos.

18 July: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3239.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 July, page 11)

In fine weather and before a numerous company these counties began their return match at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday. Derbyshire had first innings, scoring 129 runs. When Yorkshire went in Ulyett played very fine cricket. At the close of the day the Yorkshire score stood at 188 for five wickets.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 20 July, page 8)

18 July: SURREY v ESSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128274.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 July, page 11)

With the exception that C Mills took Mr Roller's place, Surrey put their strongest eleven into the field against Essex at Kennington Oval yesterday. Winning the toss, the home team went in first on a good wicket and made 288. Essex went in, and when stumps were drawn had scored 62 with one wicket down.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 20 July, page 8)

21 July: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3240.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 July, page 5)

Several thousand people visited the Beckenham cricket ground yesterday to witness the opening day's play in the match between these counties. Surrey went in first and at one time it seemed very probable that they would make a large score. A most noteworthy feature was the wicket-keeping of Pentecost.

Kent went in and before the drawing of stumps lost Mr Tonge, who after being badly hit by the ball several times was bowled.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 July, page 8)

So broken up was the wicket at Beckenham yesterday that at the start an inspection of it gave one the idea that Kent would make very moderate scores against the Surrey bowlers. And so it proved, for, though several of the home batsmen were seen to advantage, Kent were unable to avert the innings defeat.

21 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3241.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 July, page 5)

Drs E M and W G Grace and Mr Townsend batted very brilliantly for their county against Lancashire at the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 July, page 8)

The Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, yesterday, was the scene of some very fast scoring by the Lancashire eleven. When play ceased on Thursday Gloucestershire had scored 248 and Lancashire had made 44 for one wicket. Yesterday the visitors were kept in the field the whole day and the home innings did not close until shortly before the time fixed for the drawing of stumps.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 July, page 10)

Lancashire followed up the advantage they secured in this match on Friday at Manchester by gaining a very easy victory on Saturday, winning by an innings and 98 runs.

21 July: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3242.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 July, page 5)

On the Cricket Ground at Brighton, yesterday, the match between these counties was begun, in fine weather. Sussex went in first. The last five wickets were captured for five runs. Barnes took four of these without having a run scored from him. Shrewsbury and Scotton began the Notts innings at 4.20, and were still in when stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 July, page 8)

Heavy scoring was witnessed at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, when the match between these counties was continued. When stumps were drawn on Thursday evening Sussex had completed an innings for 139 and Notts had scored 144 without loss of wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 July, page 10)

The position of the score on Friday night left little doubt as to the ultimate result of the match between these counties at the Hove Ground, Brighton. The home batsmen played very feebly, and Notts were left victorious by an innings and 289 runs.

25 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3243.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 July, page 11)

In this match at Dewsbury yesterday, Hall and Ulyett, of the Yorkshire eleven, batted with great success. About 5,000 people witnessed the play, the weather being very fine. The two batsmen mentioned went in and scored 127 for the first wicket in an hour and a half. Ulyett's chief hits were 17 fours, a three and seven twos. Hall carried his bat through the innings, his hits comprising eight fours, two threes, 16 twos and singles.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 July, page 8)

Dr W G Grace's excellent innings at Dewsbury yesterday furnished a further illustration of the great batting form he is in this season. When stumps were drawn on Monday evening in the match between these counties, Yorkshire had completed an innings for 334 and Gloucestershire had scored 55 for one wicket.

Yesterday Dr W G Grace and Mr Brain increased the figures to 165, 149 having been added during the partnership. Mr Brain's chief hits were nine fours, three threes and four twos. Dr Grace was caught at the wicket shortly before luncheon. He had not given a chance; his innings included 12 fours, three threes and six twos. Subsequently Mr Pullen played finely; his principal items were 13 fours, three threes and three twos.

Yorkshire went in a second time in a minority of 29 . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 July, page 6)

Rain fell heavily at Dewsbury on Tuesday night, and with a sharp shower yesterday rendered the wicket very treacherous after luncheon. When stumps were drawn on Tuesday each side had completed an innings, and Yorkshire having gone in a second time were 36 ahead with one wicket down.

Yesterday Hall and Mr Hawke hit with freedom on the wicket while it remained wet. After the interval, however, Roberts and Dr Grace got rid of the Yorkshire batsmen rapidly, and in spite of a vigorous innings by Denton the last wicket fell at 4 o'clock.

Gloucestershire were left with 156 to obtain for victory in two hours and ten minutes. On a bad wicket they proved unequal to the task. Bates, who opened the bowling, was severely punished. Dr Grace hit a ball from him out of the ground for six. When Wade was put on at 36 for Bates, the game underwent a change. The former took full advantage of the treacherous turf, and so effective was his bowling that he secured six wickets (five bowled) for 18 runs, Yorkshire eventually winning by 70 runs.

A feature of the game was the admirable bowling of Roberts for Gloucestershire. He had not previously played for his county, and to capture 14 wickets for 171 runs was indeed a fine performance.

25 July: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128297.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 July, page 11)

There was a good attendance of spectators at Kennington Oval yesterday when these counties began their return match. Though at times the light was bad, the weather on the whole proved fine. The wicket, however, was rendered treacherous by the rain and throughout the day the bowlers had the advantage.

Considerable headway was made with the game. Leicestershire, who went in first, were all dismissed by luncheon time, the bowling of Lohmann and Bowley proving far too good for them. Mr Shuter, who opened the Surrey innings with Abel, hit vigorously and made 47 out of 79, being fourth out. His items included six fours, two threes and six twos. Towards the close Henderson played very well, and Leicestershire went in a second time against a majority of 70.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 July, page 8)

The play at Kennington-oval yesterday proved of a much more interesting character than was anticipated on Monday evening, when the visitors, having gone in a second time, had lost four wickets and were only two runs ahead. Yesterday three more batsmen were dismissed for an advantage of 15, but then free hitting was shown by Mr Arnall-Thompson, Atkins and Turner, and Surrey were left with 89 to obtain for victory.

Abel was bowled at 10. Messrs Key and Shuter, however, both hit finely until at 66 the latter was caught at slip. Messrs Key and Read then obtained the required number, and Surrey won the match by eight wickets.

28 July: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3244.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 July, page 11)

The Surrey eleven yesterday accomplished another fine batting performance at Derby in their match with the home county team. The visitors went in first. Mr Bowden was bowled at 35, but then followed a determined stand by Abel and Mr Key. He latter has played consistently well for his county this season, and yesterday his batting was again brilliant. While he and Abel were together 142 runs were added. Mr Key's chief hits were one six, ten fours, two threes and ten twos.

Abel was next joined by Mr W Read, who hit with great freedom, and before the third wicket fell 187 runs were added. Abel was then bowled. Included in his 92 were eight fours, five threes and eleven twos. He should have been caught at slip when he had made only five runs. Mr Read was ultimately caught in the long field for 145, the result of two and a half hours' cricket. He never gave a chance, and his hits included 21 fours, three threes and 17 twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 July, page 7)

Surrey had much the best of yesterday's cricket in their match with Derbyshire at Derby. On the opening day the metropolitan team were batting the whole time, and scored 443 for the loss of six wickets.

Yesterday Henderson played very well, but the remaining batsmen did little, and the innings closed for an addition of 48. Derbyshire went in, scored 121, the followed on, and at the close of the day had lost eight wickets for 121.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 August, page 8)

At Derby on Saturday Marshall had the misfortune to be run out, and eventually Surrey won by an innings and 237 runs.

28 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3245.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 July, page 11)

In fine weather and before several thousand people the first match of the season between these counties began yesterday at the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham. Gloucestershire were well represented, but the home county were without Scotton, who stood out of the team in consequence of an attack of rheumatism.

On a good wicket Notts, who won the toss, went in first. Shrewsbury and Gunn opened the batting. With the figures at 46 the latter was clean bowled, and Barnes joined Shrewsbury. It was not until after luncheon that the second wicket fell, Barnes being dismissed by a fine catch at cover-point at 94. With Mr Daft in the 100 was signalled at 3 o'clock, and 46 more were added before Shrewsbury was taken at forward short-leg for a fine innings of 86. He had been in three hours and a quarter and had not given a chance. His hits included nine fours, two threes and 12 twos. Afterwards Mr Daft continued to play well, while Flowers hit vigorously . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 July, page 7)

The match between these counties was continued yesterday at the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham. It will be remembered that on Thursday the home side were batting the whole day and scored 258 for six wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 August, page 8)

When stumps were drawn in the match between these counties at the Trent Bridge Ground, Nottingham, on Friday, each side had completed an innings, and Gloucestershire, having followed on against a majority of 122, had lost four wickets for 46.

On Saturday the wicket crumbled and the bowling of Richardson proved very effective. The batsmen played feebly and Notts were able to claim the victory by an innings and 38 runs.

28 July: WARWICKSHIRE v SOMERSET (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128289.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Friday 29 July, page 11)

Day 2 (no report found from Saturday 30 July, page 7)

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 August, page 8)

A match between these counties, which began on Thursday at Birmingham, was concluded on Saturday. The second innings of Somerset was noteworthy from the fact that Pallett took six wickets for eight runs. The full score appended will show that Warwickshire won by 395 runs.

Monday 1 August, page 8: THE CANTERBURY WEEK

This annual festival begins to-day and extends over the whole week. The cricket matches arranged are – Kent v Yorkshire and Kent v Middlesex. So many of the Kent amateurs have been batting with remarkable success this season that no little difficulty has been experience in selecting the elevens. The team will not be the same for both matches . . .

The Yorkshire match is played on the first three days . . . On Thursday and following days the Middlesex team . . .

Play begins to-day at 12 o'clock, and half an hour sooner on the following days. There will be the usual attractions in the evenings, a feature of which will be the amateur theatricals by the "Old Stagers."

1 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3246.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 6)

The excellent ground of the College at Clifton yesterday was the scene of a capital day's play in the return match between these counties. Both teams were thoroughly representative.

Gloucestershire had 1, and though the brothers Grace were dismissed for ten between them, it was 4.40 before the last wicket fell. Mr Radcliffe's excellent innings included eight fours, a three and seven twos. The Sussex batsmen offered a very feeble resistance to the home team's bowling.

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

In fine weather and before a numerous company this match was continued at Clifton yesterday. On the previous day Sussex, having gone in against a total of 207, had lost eight wickets for 73. Yesterday the remaining batsmen were dismissed for an addition of 36, and the visitors had to follow on.

They played much better in the second innings, and in spite of many alterations in the Gloucestershire attack the last wicket did not fall until the figures had reached 258 at 5.10. Bean hit eight fours and seven twos, and Quaife two fours, four threes and five twos. Requiring 161 to win, Gloucestershire went in a second time . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 6)

Gloucestershire gained their first victory this season at Clifton yesterday when they defeated Sussex. On Tuesday evening the home side had gone in to obtain 161 to win and had scored 70 for the loss of two wickets. Messrs Pullen and Radcliffe, the not-outs, with 24 and 17, continued the batting in fine weather. Bean and Mr Smith had charge of the bowling.

Mr Pullen hit with great freedom, and at 12 o'clock the 100 was telegraphed. Seven runs later, however, Mr Radcliffe was bowled for a well-played innings. During the partnership 79 runs had been added. Mr Pullen returned the ball at 138; he had hit brilliantly and his 62 included seven fours, a three and nine twos. Only 23 were required for victory when Dr W G Grace and Mr Townsend became partners. The runs were obtained without further loss and Gloucestershire won by six wickets.

1 August: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3247.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 6)

The attendance at the St Lawrence Ground yesterday was exceedingly large, and showed that the Kent sympathies still remain strongly in favour of the week – this, too, in spite of the various other attractions which have come into existence of late years for Bank Holiday folk. The early morning trains were crowded and the streets presented quite their usual holiday aspect. The inhabitants had prepared their customary welcome in the shape of decorations.

The ground itself was, as might have been expected, rather parched, but great care had been taken to prepare a good wicket. After the fine weather recently experienced it was feared that there might not be a continuance of it, but although rain threatened at times during the afternoon, it fortunately held fine. Two matches of sterling merit have been provided – Kent for the first three days figuring against the strong and, with one solitary exception, professional Yorkshire eleven, while on Thursday they meet a powerful amateur eleven in Middlesex. The Yorkshire team yesterday was the same as announced, but for Kent Mr Christopherson played in place of George Hearne, who had sprained his ankle.

The Yorkshiremen were in all day for 305 runs at the cost of a wicket, a feat which is probably unprecedented. Kent, who had lost the toss, entered the field at five minutes past 12. Ulyett and Hall were the first Yorkshire batsmen. Wootton and A Hearne opened the bowling. Two singles were obtained in the latter's first over, and in Wootton's second Hall sent a ball cleanly round to leg for four, while in the fourth Ulyett gained six by a leg hit and straight drive. Thirteen runs were the result of four overs. A single was the only item from four overs by A Hearne. Then Ulyett cut Wootton and drove A Hearne to the on, the ball going to the boundary on each occasion, after which Hall sent the first-named bowler to square leg for four.

At 38 Mr Christopherson relieved Wootton. The 50 was signalled after as many minutes' play. Ulyett then cut Mr Christopherson for four. At 65 a further change was tried, Martin superseding A Hearne, play having now lasted an hour. Mr Christopherson gave way to F Hearne at 70. The run-getting was now checked. A single only resulted from 11 overs and three from 15. Ulyett then snicked a ball for three and cut Martin and sent him to square leg, both hits realizing four. Another cut for four by the same batsman was next made off Wootton. With the total at 90 a twofold change in the attack was adopted, A Hearne and Wootton being put on again. No separation, however, had been effected when the luncheon interval was announced, with the total at 99, Ulyett having scored twice as quickly as his companion.

Afterwards a fast ball, bowled by A Hearne, Ulyett drove for a single, which caused the 100 to be completed. Wootton was the other bowler, and his third ball Ulyett cut for four and soon served A Hearne in the same manner. The last-named batsman hit with extraordinary vigour, scoring 12 in a couple of overs by two drives and a leg hit. This caused Martin to supersede A Hearne at 133. Ulyett reached his century at a quarter past 3. The bowlers crossed over at 143. A very hard return chance was given to Martin by Ulyett when he had made 113. Wootton handed the ball to Mr Christopherson at 156, and the change soon had the desired effect, as at 169 Ulyett was caught at slip. He had played a magnificent innings and was heartily cheered. He had been in two hours and 40 minutes, and among his hits were 14 fours, three threes and ten twos.

Lee joined Hall. Runs came very steadily until at 196 A Hearne relieved Mr Christopherson, while six runs later Martin gave up the ball to F Hearne. In the latter's first over Lee made a drive to the boundary, and an off drive by Hall very soon afterwards shot the total up to 200. At 4.20 further changes in the attack were resorted to. Still runs came, and the 230 was speedily reached. At length Lord Harris went on in place of Wootton with the total at 241. The 250 was completed at 4.15. Each batsman, among other contributions, made leg hits for four. Mr C Wilson was now tried for Mr Marchant at 259. A Hearne relieved the Kent captain at 262. Other changes were tried without making any impression on the batsmen. Both continued to hit with freedom. The 300 was obtained at ten minutes past 6 . . .

In the evening the Old Stagers played The Glass of Fashion in the theatre in High-street, this being their 46th season.

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

A large company again visited the St Lawrence Ground yesterday to witness the second day's play between Yorkshire and Kent. The wickets wore well and the weather proved very fine. The total by the North countrymen is the highest by two runs made this season in a match of importance, and occupied 10 hours and 10 minutes. The previous best score was obtained by Surrey – namely, 557 – at Manchester against Lancashire.

Kent took up their positions at 10 minutes past 11, it having been arranged to make an early start and draw stumps at 6.15 each day. Hall and Lee (not outs, 89 and 82) continued their batting. Martin and A Hearne were the early bowlers. The latter sent down two overs for three runs, when he was displaced by Mr Christopherson. Hall cut the second ball of the change for four, and at 35 minutes past 11 the 220 was signalled. Six runs were made by Lee through a leg-hit and drive in an over of Mr Christopherson's, who then handed the ball to Wootton. A single by Lee at 11.50 completed that batsman's 100. The bowling of Martin up to this point had been exceptionally good, only five runs having been obtained off him in 10 overs.

At length, after more cautious play, Hall, with an on-drive for a single, also brought his total up to the century, and thus the first three Yorkshire batsmen were credited with a three-figure score. With the total at 343 Mr L Wilson went on instead of Martin. In the fourth over of the change Hall was very finely caught rather low down at mid-on by Lord Harris. He had been batting six hours and 35 minutes, and 186 runs had been put on since the fall of Ulyett's wicket. His chief hits were 12 fours, three threes and 12 twos.

The Hon M B Hawke arrived, and A Hearne relieved Mr Wilson. Lee drove Wootton to the off for four, and Mr Hawke served A Hearne in the same manner with alike result. The former, having hit Wootton well to the on, should have been run out. He was more than half-way across the wicket for the third run, but Mr Hawke had not started. Martin returned the ball to A Hearne; it was muddled, however, and he escaped, having at this stage of the game obtained 118. Quickly afterwards he was bowled. He had played a capital innings, which comprised 15 fours, two threes and nine twos. Three for 380.

Bates came to the aid of Mr Hawke. The latter in the third over of the partnership was dismissed by playing on a ball from Mr Christopherson, who had displaced Wootton at 376. Four for 384. Peel filled the vacancy, and hearty applause went round the ground when 400 was signalled at 20

minutes past 1. Seventeen runs later Martin relieved Mr Christopherson, but, although Wootton was tried for A Hearne for an over, the batsmen remained together at the luncheon interval, when the total stood at 450.

On resuming, Mr W H Patterson and Wood conducted the bowling. The first item of note was a drive for four by Peel, to which Bates responded with a very fine drive on to one of the stands. These and other hits were made off Mr Patterson, who at 478 gave way to Mr Christopherson. Bates was at last caught by the wicket-keeper, after having batted in his usually crisp style. Among his hits were eight fours and three threes. Half the wickets were now lost for 483.

Preston filled the vacancy. After a few overs three batsmen were rapidly dismissed. Preston and Peel were both caught at wicket with the total at 496, and for the addition of a single only Denton was clean bowled. Wade and Emmett became partners, and an on-drive for two by the latter brought the score up to 500 at 4 o'clock. Both batsmen showed lively cricket, and during their partnership 54 were added, when Emmett was run out. Wade was soon caught at extra mid-off, and the innings terminated for 559 at 4.50.

Against the heavy score of their rivals Kent began batting at 10 minutes past 5. Messrs Marchant and Patterson were placed in opposition to Emmett and Ulyett. Both batsmen played steadily for a little while, but when 15 only had been obtained Mr Marchant fell to a catch in the slips. One down. F Hearne came next in the list, but a catch at the wicket dismissed him at 30, and without alteration in the total Mr Patterson was caught in the slips. Three wickets for an average of ten runs each was a most disheartening start for the home county. A further misfortune awaited them, however, as at 45 a splendid ball from Wade took the Rev C Wilson's wicket. Lord Harris arrived, and with Mr L Wilson played out time.

In the evening the Old Stagers played Daisy Farm, by Mr H J Byron, in the theatre in High-street.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 6)

The interest in the match between Yorkshire and Kent yesterday of course centred in the question whether the home county would be able to make a draw of it or not. There was a marked falling off in the attendance at the St Lawrence Ground. The weather was again delightful and the wicket played very easily.

Batting was continued at 11.10 by Mr L Wilson and Lord Harris (not-outs, 16 and four). Wade and Emmett had charge of the early bowling. The Kent captain hit Wade to leg and cut him, both for four, in successive overs. He then drove Emmett to the off boundary. At 73, however, he obstructed his wicket. Five batsmen were now dismissed for 73. A Hearne joined Mr L Wilson. Beyond a square-leg hit for three and an off drive for four by the latter, nothing but singles were obtained in 11 overs. A Hearne was then clean bowled, and the first ball sent him dismissed Mr Kemp in the same way, Wade taking two wickets with successive balls. Six and seven for 87.

A single was Mr Christopherson's solitary contribution before Emmett took his wicket. Eight for 90. Mr L Wilson and Wootton were now companions. A cut for four by Wootton off Wade caused the 100 to be registered within a few minutes of 12 o'clock. Ulyett now relieved Emmett, and his third ball Mr L Wilson played into the hands of slip. He had batted carefully for his 39. None for 101. Martin, the last man, assisted Wootton. The latter by a snick and cut obtained four from each

bowler, while Martin drove Ulyett to the on boundary. Another lucky four fell to Wootton, who then hit Wade to the ropes, after which Martin drove Ulyett to the on for another four. Bates superseded Wade at 129, and his second ball clean bowled Wootton. Time 12.25.

With a deficit of 430 Mr Patterson and F Hearne followed on for Kent. Bates and Peel opened the attack. F Hearne secured two fours by a square-leg hit and a cut, both off Bates's bowling. Mr Patterson then cut Peel to the boundary, and the first 20 runs were obtained at the rate of one per minute. A single after this Peel gave way to Preston. In the second over of the change F Hearne hit two successive balls to leg for four, and in his next over the same batsman twice sent him to the ropes by a leg hit and an on drive. Wade had superseded Bates at 31, and Emmett now received the ball from Preston. Mr Patterson should have been stumped in the former's first over. F Hearne made a square-leg hit off Wade into one of the tents, and soon afterwards he cut him for four. Hall displaced Wade. Still the batsmen played steadily until the total reached 68, when Bates went on in lieu of Emmett, and at 70 Ulyett relieved Hall. The third ball of the latter F Hearne drove to the on for four. Mr Patterson made eight by a cut and an off drive in an over of Bates's, and at luncheon the total stood at 88.

Ulyett and Peel had charge of the bowling after the interval. F Hearne was struck on the leg, which caused a delay of a few minutes, and Mr Kemp came out to run for him. With the score at 96 Mr Patterson skied a ball into the hands of backward point. One wicket for 96 runs. Lord Harris came, but was soon dismissed through a smart catch at wicket. Mr L Wilson played one ball, but the second he hit into the wicket-keeper's hands. Three for 99. The Rev C Wilson, who came next on the list, caused the 100 to be passed by an off drive from Ulyett. He was run out, however, at 102. Four down.

Mr Marchant assisted F Hearne, who cut Peel well to the boundary, and the last comer sent Ulyett to leg and drove him to the off for four each. At 131 Wade superseded Ulyett, and from his third ball F Hearne should have been caught at forward square-leg by Preston. Emmett went on for Peel at 154. F Hearne continued to bat well, despite his having been lamed. He sent Emmett to leg for four, and drove Wade twice to the boundary in an over and cut him also for four. He then had another escape. At 177 Lee missed him badly at long-on. Profiting by this indulgence he played Peel, who had resumed, to leg for four. This completed F Hearne's 100. Ulyett displaced Wade at 187, and from his second ball Mr Marchant was taken at wicket. Five for 187.

A Hearne made two drives to the ropes in an over of Ulyett's. The 200 was now completed at 4.55. Only an hour and 20 minutes now remained of time, and five Kent wickets were yet to fall. Bates had just previously been put on for Ulyett, but the latter soon resumed, and Wade was bowling at the other end. Still runs came freely, and the attacking side continued to vary their tactics. It was not until 253 had been reached that F Hearne's superb innings was closed through a catch at point. He had been batting four hours and 20 minutes for his 144, which comprised 23 fours, two threes and ten twos. Six wickets were now down.

Mr Kemp joined A Hearne and these batsmen played out time. Thus Kent, after an interesting day's cricket, managed to make a drawn match of it, although, of course, greatly in favour of Yorkshire.

1 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3248.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 6)

It is questionable whether a larger crowd ever assembled to watch a cricket match than that present at Kennington Oval yesterday. No fewer than 24,450 paid for admission, which, with the members, would bring the number of spectators up to about 27,000. This season Surrey has made a bold bid for the county championship, and many have been led to believe that they will be able to wrest the much coveted title from Notts, in whose hands it has been for three consecutive years. They have, however, had the misfortune to lose the services of Mr Roller and Jones, both of whom are too unwell to play.

It may be mentioned that each side has suffered one county defeat this summer – Surrey beat Notts at Whitsuntide at the Trent Bridge, Nottingham, and Middlesex beat Surrey at the Oval in the last week in June. Scotton, in consequence of rheumatism, stood out of the visitors' team, in which there were two bowlers new to Surrey – Richardson and Sulley. Newton had prepared a splendid wicket for the match.

Successful in the toss, Nottinghamshire sent in Shrewsbury and Mr Dixon at 12 o'clock to the bowling of Bowley and Lohmann. Both batsmen started carefully and the only item of note in the first dozen overs was a clean cut by the amateur for four. The score had only reached 10 when Mr Dixon was let off by Lohmann at extra slip. Afterwards the score rose steadily. At 18 the first bowling change was made, Bowley giving way to Beaumont. Mr Dixon made the majority of the runs; he cut Lohmann finely for four and gained two by a similar hit from the other end. Abel was tried in lieu of Lohmann at 29. In the new bowler's first over Mr Dixon secured four by a snick, but Shrewsbury then gave a possible chance to Bowley at mid-on. His figures at that time were 11. Mr Dixon again obtained four by a cut, which increased the score to 46, after an hour's play. A single later he was easily taken by Mr Read at backward point. He had made 30 out of 47, and had played very good cricket since his escape at the hands of Lohmann.

With Gunn in, the 50 went up at 10 minutes past 1. Shrewsbury got a ball from Beaumont to square leg for four, causing that bowler to give way to Bowley at 59. The alteration soon had the desired effect, for at 64 Gunn was well taken at the wicket. This dismissal of this dangerous batsman naturally caused loud cheering from the Surrey partisans. Barnes joined Shrewsbury and runs were scored much quicker. The latter made a cut and a square leg hit for four each, so that at 78 Lohmann resumed bowling in lieu of Abel. This change proved very effective, for at 80 Shrewsbury was well caught at the wicket. He had been in an hour and three-quarters, and his 41 included three fours, a three and nine twos.

Mr Daft aided Barnes, who cut Bowley twice in one over for four each. Mr Daft also obtained four by a bad hit in the slips. Twelve in three hits caused the Surrey captain again to change his bowling. Beaumont was given a further trial at the pavilion end at 92, but a single later the adjournment took place.

In consequence of the crowd encroaching on the field of play, the game was not resumed until 3 o'clock. Lohmann and Bowley were the bowlers. The 100 was reached at a quarter past 3, but five runs later Mr Daft was very finely caught low down at extra slip. Four for 105. Only five singles were added when Flowers was out to a beautiful right-handed catch at point. Five for 110. Barnes

and Attewell looked like making a stand, so at 123 Beaumont relieved Bowley. In his first over Wood effected another good catch at the wicket, getting rid of Attewell. When Shacklock came in 20 runs were quickly added, and then Barnes was taken at cover point. He had been at the wicket an hour and 50 minutes and, so far, had played the best innings of the day. His hits included five fours, three threes and two twos. Seven for 143.

Without alteration in the figures Shacklock was caught at extra slip, and at 169 Sulley was bowled. Richardson, who had been missed at extra mid-off by Brockwell when he had scored four, and Sherwin gave great trouble for the last wicket. Lohmann, Bowley, Mr Read, Abel, Henderson, Beaumont, Brockwell and M Read were all tried, in spite of which runs were added rapidly. Within a few minutes of 6 o'clock the separation was effected by Mr Walter Read, who caught and bowled Sherwin. During the partnership no fewer than 79 runs had been added by sterling cricket. The play was Richardson was especially fine, some of his cuts being worthy of any of our leading batsmen. His chief hits were seven fours, two threes and four twos.

Surrey had less than 10 minutes' batting. Mr Shuter and Abel started to the bowling of Barnes and Attewell. The former at once began to hit brilliantly, but in Barnes's second over Abel was secured at extra slip.

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

The play at the Oval yesterday was of a very fluctuating character. Each side at one time held the advantage, but at the drawing of stumps the match was left in a most even condition. There were about 20,000 people at the Oval, and they were rewarded for their visit by witnessing some most exciting cricket.

The Notts fielding was very bad and no fewer than five catches were missed. The absence of Sherwin, who had injured his hands, of course made an immense difference to the team, for besides losing his services at the wicket, they had to put Gunn, probably the best out field in England, in his place. It is probable that Wood, the Surrey wicket-keeper, would not have gone in had his side averted the "follow-on" before the ninth wicket fell. When the visitors began their second innings the Surrey eleven fielded in fine style.

The drawing of stumps on Monday evening left the game in the following position: - Notts, first innings, 248; Surrey, one wicket for 14, Mr Shuter not out 12. Yesterday morning, at 11.35, Mr Key joined his captain; the bowlers were Attewell and Barnes. Only two had been added when Mr Key was neatly caught at extra mid-off, the second wicket thus falling at 16.

Mr W W Read aided Mr Shuter, who, without alteration in the figures, was badly missed by Sulley at cover-slip. The Surrey captain had then only scored 13. Profiting by his escape, he at once began to hit freely, cutting and hitting Attewell to square-leg for four each. Mr Read also scored steadily, and by a couple to leg caused the 50 to appear. Sulley, who bowls left-handed – fast – and delivers the ball without taking a run, was put on for Barnes, and Richardson relieved Attewell, both changes taking place at 56. Mr Shuter made four by a cut, after which his partner gained a couple through the slips – a very bad hit, the ball going very close to Gunn and Richardson. A very clean cut to the boundary by Mr Read was loudly applauded. With the figures at 76 Mr Shuter was easily caught at slip. The partnership had produced 60 runs.

Immediately on M Read's arrival Mr Walter Read had his off stump bowled down by Sulley. Four

for 76. Henderson came in. In Richardson's next over Maurice Read was twice missed; the first time by Richardson – an easy return catch – and the second by Gunn at the wicket standing back. These chances were given before he had scored. By several lucky hits the figures travelled to 93, and then Read was let off a third time – Richardson at slip missing a catch. Subsequently Barnes was put at slip, and in the next over he smartly caught Henderson in that position.

Five wickets were now down for 96, and the prospects of Surrey were not bright. Lohmann and M Read, however, improved matters considerably. The 100 was signalled at 1.15, and 18 runs later the bowling was changed at both ends, Attewell and Barnes going on. Runs, however, were added steadily, and among other items Read secured four by a cut. Fifty runs had been put on for the sixth wicket when Lohmann was smartly stumped.

When Beaumont came in Sulley at once superseded Barnes. The new batsman drove him for four, bringing up 150 at a quarter to 2. In the following over Beaumont was thrown out from long-off by Lockwood fielding as substitute for Sherwin. Seven for 152. Brockwell joined Read, who by hitting Attewell to leg for four brought on Richardson in lieu of that bowler at 156. The separation, however, was effected from the other end, as only a single had been added when Read was easily caught at third man from a very bad hit. Since he had been let off he played very well. With the fall of Read's wicket the adjournment took place.

The game was resumed at a quarter to 3, Richardson and Sulley bowling. From the first ball of the latter Bowley was missed by Gunn at the wicket before he had scored. Afterwards there were a good many overthrows, and when Brockwell was at length caught at slip only a single was necessary to avert the follow-on. Wood, whose hand was too bad to allow him to take his post at the wickets, came in and quickly cut Sulley for four and the follow on was prevented amid hearty applause.

Wood made several other fine cuts, and though the bowling was changed at both ends the 200 went up at 3.20. Flowers was tried for the first time at 207. Five runs later a good ball from Attewell clean bowled Bowley and the innings closed at half-past 3 for 212. Bowley and Wood had made an invaluable stand, putting on 44 for the last wicket. Thus Surrey were only 36 behind. The visitors had thrown away their chances of an easy victory by their bad fielding.

Shrewsbury and Mr Dixon began Notts' second innings at 3.50 to the bowling of Lohmann and Beaumont. Runs were scored rapidly. Mr Dixon made four cuts and one drive for four each, and at 23 Abel relieved Lohmann. Three runs were added and then Shrewsbury, in trying to place a ball, was easily taken at short leg. One for 31. Gunn followed in, but his stay was brief. After Mr Dixon had been missed at third man by Maurice Read, Gunn was caught in the same position with the total at 35.

Barnes who came in hit Beaumont to leg for four, and in that bowler's next over made 13 (two fours, a three and a two), bringing up 50 at 20 minutes to 5. Bowley displaced Beaumont at 54 and a couple of runs later Barnes was bowled. Three for 56. Messrs Daft and Dixon then hit freely, and at 83 Lohmann again went on; Beaumont also resumed at 87. Ten runs later Lohmann bowled down Mr Dixon's off stump. He had played very well for 46, in which were seven fours, a three and five twos.

With Flowers in the 100 was signalled at 5.35, and then Mr Daft made three fours in different overs. Mr Walter Read went on with "lobs" at 120 and subsequently he bowled with success. Mr Daft played on at 130; his 40 comprised four fours, four threes, three twos and singles. Five down. Mr

Walter Read made a fine return catch which dismissed Flowers at 132, and four runs later he disposed of Richardson in a similar way. These misfortunes were quickly followed by two others – Attewell being caught at the wicket at 138 and Sulley run out at 143. Sherwin and Shacklock then played out time, Notts at the finish being 184 on with one wicket to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 6)

The scene at the Oval yesterday when Surrey beat Nottinghamshire in probably the greatest county match ever played will not be easily forgotten. There have been three days' exciting cricket and the result was in doubt until nearly the finish.

Though Surrey won, Notts may be said to have thrown away the match by their inability to make catches. In spite of their mistakes the visitors played with the greatest determination, and Surrey had very little to spare at the finish. During the day each side in turn held the advantage.

Surrey was left with 205 to obtain for victory. Messrs Shuter and Key became partners after an indifferent start, and by the aid of a couple of chances put together 70 runs. At the interval both sides were very sanguine of victory. When the game was resumed Messrs Shuter and Read played very well, and Surrey with only two wickets down entered upon the last century. What looked like the turning-point of the match came when Barnes was put on at the gasometer end, for in less than ten minutes he dismissed Mr Shuter and Read and Henderson at a cost of 14 runs. But then followed a determined stand by Lohmann and Read, and again the aspect of the game altered. The latter was let off when 45 runs were still wanted.

Apart from this mistake the Notts fielding was brilliant and their bowling proved very true. The visitors time after time changed their bowling, but the match was practically won before Read left. Lohmann played with excellent judgment and coolness, and to him Surrey are largely indebted for their victory. It may be argued that there were several others to come in, but they were not batsmen who could be depended upon for a run, though they not unfrequently obtain their twenties and thirties.

Surrey are to be congratulated on their excellent victory, while to defeat the Notts team twice in one season is indeed a fine performance. They have still several important engagements, but on the whole their chances for the championship are very promising.

Yesterday fully 12,000 people were present, the weather was beautifully fine and the wicket played as well as at any time during the match. It is an extraordinary fact that during the three days no fewer than 51,607 paid for admission to the Oval. On Tuesday evening it may be remembered that each side had completed an innings and Notts at their second attempt had lost nine wickets for 148.

It was half-past 11 when the Surrey team, with Mills fielding as substitute for Wood, appeared in the field. Abel kept wicket. Mr Walter Read led off the attack with lobs. In his first over Shacklock was missed by Mills at mid-off. Lohmann bowled at the other end. The escape of Shacklock cost the Surrey players 20 runs, as both batsmen hit freely. When Bowley went on for Mr Read at 168, however, the last wicket was soon captured, for, without addition to the figures, Abel caught Shacklock from the last ball of the over. The innings ended at five minutes to 12 for 168.

Surrey required 205 for victory. Abel and Mr Shuter began the innings at a quarter past 12 to the

bowling of Sulley (pavilion end) and Richardson. The professional gained three, while a cut by Mr Shuter realized four. These were the only two items recorded when Richardson, who had sent down four maidens, got Abel caught at mid-on. With one wicket down for seven the prospect for Surrey was gloomy.

Mr Key joined his captain. Both gentlemen were very cautious in their batting. At length Mr Shuter cut Sulley finely for four. He, however, set his side a bad example in making many foolish runs. Mr Key then cut Sulley for four, causing that bowler at 27 to hand the ball to Barnes. In the following over Mr Daft at extra mid-off missed running out the Surrey captain. In Barnes's fifth over Mr Shuter should have been caught by Richardson at slip; at that time he had scored 19. A cut for four by the Surrey captain raised the score to 35 after an hour's play.

Sherwin soon afterwards altered his attack again, Attewell being given a trial at the gasometer end in place of Richardson. Mr Key sent the fourth ball to the square-leg boundary, after which the run-making slackened. Four runs in six overs were followed by a crisp cut for three by Mr Shuter, and this item increased the score to 50 at 1.25. Barnes now gave way to Flowers, and five runs later Shacklock superseded Attewell. In the fast bowler's opening over Mr Key made drives for four and two and subsequently he gained four by a late cut from the other end. His companion also cut Shacklock for four, and the attack then underwent a two-fold change: Richardson and Sulley were put on at the opposite ends to which they had bowled from previously. Mr Key drove Richardson for four, but from Sulley's second ball Mr Shuter gave a sharp chance to Sherwin at wicket. He had then made 34. Quickly afterwards, however, Sherwin had another opportunity of a catch from Mr Key, and this time he held the ball. Mr Key had played a fine innings of 38, while the partnership had realized 70 runs. Mr Walter Read came in, but no addition to the figures had been made at the adjournment.

Richardson and Sulley were again the bowlers after the interval, which had lasted three-quarters of an hour. Mr Read at once began to hit with freedom. He played Sulley to leg for four and after a couple of twos his partner cut the same bowler for four. Fine fielding by Gunn was now loudly cheered. Attewell received the ball from Richardson at 99; but a single by Mr Shuter brought the 100 up precisely at 3 o'clock. Each batsman soon obtained a four, and Barnes was put on at the gasometer wicket. Mr Shuter by a three completed his 50, but the last change now altogether altered the complexion of affairs.

By a splendid ball Barnes clean bowled Mr Shuter at 118, at 123 another fine delivery took Mr Read's leg stump, and at 127 he got Henderson caught at the wicket. Mr Shuter's chief hits were six fours, two threes and four twos. Barnes had taken three wickets for 14 runs since he had gone on again, and altogether five wickets were down for 127.

Maurice Read, who had started by making a square-leg hit for four, was now joined by Lohmann. As runs were scored steadily a change in the bowling was soon made, Sulley relieving Attewell. Lohmann was completely beaten by a ball from Barnes, which he snicked to leg for four, but afterwards he showed sound defence. Richardson went on in lieu of Sulley at 149 and Read was nearly caught at mid-off from his first ball. However, the 150 went up at five minutes to 4. Read drove Barnes for four, and at 160 Mr Dixon was tried. His very first ball Read, with his score at 23, hit into the hands of Sulley at mid-on, who, however, failed to make the catch. Lohmann hit Mr Dixon to leg for four and the latter, after bowling a couple of overs, gave way to Flowers at 172.

Notts left no stone unturned to save the game, and at 176 Shacklock was put on for Richardson, while ten runs later Barnes resumed at the other end. Lohmann drive each bowler for four, so at

199 Sulley relieved Shacklock. The alteration proved effective, as the second ball Read placed in the hands of extra slip. Seventy-two runs had been put on for the sixth wicket, and when Wood appeared only six were necessary for victory. Wood gained five of these, and by a single he won the match for Surrey by four wickets.

1 August: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128299.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 6)

On the county ground at Derby yesterday these teams began their match. The cricket proved of an interesting character, but the visitors had much the better of it. Wheeler hit with great vigour, and the Leicestershire innings occupied four hours. Derbyshire fared very badly towards the close of the day, the bowling of Messrs Arnall-Thompson and Turner proving very effective.

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

At Derby yesterday the home team played an uphill game with great determination, and at the close of the day there was some probability of their winning. It will be remembered that on Monday Leicestershire scored 216 and their opponents lost five wickets for 38.

Chatterton hit very finely, but in spite of his efforts Derbyshire had to follow on. Chatterton's hits included a five, four fours, three threes and five twos. In their second innings the home side for a time again fared badly, but subsequently there was some free hitting by Slater, who made eight fours, while Walton and Storer also showed good defence.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 6)

Yesterday, at Derby, the match between these counties was brought to a close, the home team winning after a capital game by 74 runs. When stumps were drawn the previous evening Derbyshire, having followed on, had scored 271 for nine wickets. Yesterday the remaining wicket was captured for an addition of eight runs. Leicestershire went in to obtain 191 for victory, but the bowling of Davidson proved very effective.

1 August: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v GENTLEMEN OF CANADA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/97/97918.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 6)

The Canadians made the first appearance in the metropolis at Lord's yesterday, when they opened their match with the Marylebone Club. The latter were represented by a very powerful team, which fact will be seen by a glance at the score. The game was started in fine weather, the Club going in first at 11.35.

Only two of their batsmen failed to gain double figures. Mr Webbe's 43 included four fours and seven twos, while Mr Welman among other items contributed five fours, two threes and six twos. When the Canadians went in Mr Saunders showed excellent form.

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

When play ceased in this match at Lord's on Monday the Marylebone team, having scored 309, had dismissed seven of their opponents for 161. Yesterday Mr Allan, the not out with 29, hit in fine form, and it was chiefly owing to his efforts that the "follow-on" was prevented. His 78 included one five, six fours, six threes and eight twos. Mr Saunders's chief hits were one six, four fours, two threes and eight twos.

The home team went in a second time in a majority of 55. Messrs Walker and Thornton hit 112 for the first wicket in a little over an hour. Mr Thornton made eight fours, two threes, seven twos and six singles. Mr Walker hit three fours, two threes and four twos. Afterwards Mr Ogden bowled with great success, and the innings closed for 192. The Canadians went in a second time, and eventually the game was drawn. Mr G Jones's chief items were five fours and six threes.

4 August: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3249.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 August, page 8)

Thursday, as is very generally known, is the ladies' day of the Canterbury week, and the attendance yesterday quite bore out this, as the gentlemen were in a decided minority. The weather was delightful. Over 8,000 persons were present, this being one of the largest gatherings known on the St Lawrence Ground. The Mayor of Canterbury, Mr S Prentice, held a garden party in the Corporation tent.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 August, page 10)

The weather was again fine at the St Lawrence Ground yesterday and the wicket played well.

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

Probably there has never been a more successful week at Canterbury since its institution than that which concluded on Saturday. On each day the weather was fine, and the attendances, taken in the aggregate, have, it is believed, never been exceeded. The cricket, too, was exceptionally fine, and the characteristic of the season, that of heavy scoring, was quite kept up on the Kentish ground, as no fewer than 1,980 runs were registered during the six days.

The play, so far as the probable results of the matches were concerned, was of a most fluctuating character. Twice Kent had defeat almost staring them in the face and twice they played an uphill game with such determination that both matches were drawn. The wickets were excellent and wore well throughout. Only a moderate company was present on the St Lawrence Ground on Saturday, most people, in all likelihood, thinking there would be very little play. When stumps were drawn on the previous evening, Kent had gone in a second time with a deficit of 171 runs and had lost Wootton's wicket for 18.

Mr Marchant, the not out, was caught at mid-off for the moderate addition of 15 runs. Frank Hearne, however, again rendered his county valuable service and, in conjunction with Mr Rashleigh, successfully defied all the varied efforts of Middlesex to separate them until the 100 was signalled. When only two had been added to this number F Hearne fell to a catch at wicket and five runs later Mr Rashleigh returned the ball, both batsmen having played well. Messrs Patterson and L Wilson offered a most stubborn resistance to the bowling, and at 1.35 Kent's deficiency on the first innings was cleared. The batsmen, in spite of bowling changes, were together at luncheon when Kent were 42 runs on.

Afterwards the run-getting was brisk, but at length Mr L Wilson obstructed his wicket; he had hit freely for 79 in which were eight fours, six threes and nine twos. Mr Patterson was unfortunate in not being able to get the single necessary to complete his hundred; he had batted in excellent style and with great vigour, his 99 being composed of ten fours, six threes, 11 twos and 19 singles. A Hearne carried out his bat for a well-played 24, and the innings realized 364. Kent thus made a fairly even draw of the match.

4 August: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3250.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 August, page 8)

The Surrey v Gloucestershire match is among the most popular fixtures at the Oval. Of course, the game did not arouse that interest which was taken in the Notts contest. Still, between 3,000 and 4,000 people were present to witness what proved to be a capital day's play. It is almost needless to state that each of the Surrey team who played in the early part of the week was loudly applauded as he went to and from the wickets.

With the exception that the Oxford captain, Mr Brain, was absent, Gloucestershire had their strongest team. From the Surrey Eleven which opposed Notts, Brockwell and Wood, the latter in consequence of the injury to his hand, were both away, and their places were taken by Messrs A P Douglas and M P Bowden. The weather yesterday was very fine, while the wicket was as true as one could wish.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 August, page 10)

The prospect of seeing Dr W G Grace hit doubtless accounted for the large increase in the attendance at Kennington Oval yesterday.

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

Gloucestershire played an uphill game with such vigour at the Oval on Saturday that Surrey did not win so easily as at one time seemed probable. When play ceased on Friday evening the visitors had gone in a second time and lost five wickets for 100, and were then still in a minority of 55.

Messrs Page and Troup, the not outs, resumed the batting on Saturday to the bowling of Beaumont and Bowley. Only two runs were added when Mr Troup was run out, and Painter aided Mr Page. The professional made 16 in four hits (two cuts and two drives), and at 131 the attack was changed at both ends, Lohmann and Abel going on. The former at 141 clean bowled Mr Page – middle stump.

Mr Griffiths joined Painter, who continued to hit freely. By drives for four and three he averted the innings defeat at half-past 12. Runs still came quickly, though Henderson, Bowley, Maurice Read and Mr Walter Read each in turn went on to bowl. In the last-named's first two overs Mr Painter made three drives to the boundary and hit Maurice Read to square-leg for four, but was then bowled off his leg. He had only been in an hour and a half, and during that time had scored 79 out of 111. His brilliant innings comprised 11 fours, a three, nine twos and singles. After Painter left the innings was brought to a close very quickly; Woof returned the ball and Roberts was taken at slip.

At 1.30 Surrey were left with 67 to obtain for victory. Maurice Read and Mr Douglas went in at a quarter to 2, and before luncheon they obtained 20 runs. Dr Grace and Woof had charge of the bowling after the interval. Read hit the former to leg thrice in one over for four each, but from the last he should have been caught by Painter. At 44, however, he was finely taken at long-on.

In the course of a few more overs Dr Grace secured three wickets – Mr Douglas caught and bowled, Mr Bowden caught at slip and Henderson leg before. Thus four wickets were down and 13 runs required when Messrs Key and Walter Read became partners. The runs were obtained without further mishap, the winning hit – a drive by Mr Read for four – being made at half-past 3. The following score will show that Surrey won by six wickets.

5 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128305.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Saturday 6 August, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Monday 8 August, page 12)

When play ceased on Friday in this match at Leicester, the game was left in an even condition; Leicestershire had begun their second innings in a minority of 25, and had lost two wickets for 88. On Saturday, however, Preston bowled with great success, and Yorkshire were left with 108 to obtain for victory. Hall, Lee and Ulyett all hit freely, and the task was accomplished for the loss of a wicket.

5 August: NORFOLK v HAMPSHIRE (not first-class)

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

Day 1 (no report found from Saturday 6 August, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Monday 8 August, page 12)

The match between these counties, which was concluded on Saturday at Norwich, was productive of very heavy scoring. At the end of an innings each the visitors were in a minority of 125, but at their second attempt on Saturday they fared much better. Mr Mordaunt and Dible both hit in fine style, and it was owing chiefly to their efforts that Hampshire were able to save the game. The score adjoined will show that the match was drawn.

5 August: COMBINED SERVICES v GENTLEMEN OF CANADA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/97/97919.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Saturday 6 August, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Monday 8 August, page 12)

Friday and Saturday were devoted to this match at Portsmouth. The feature of the opening day's play was Major Bethune's excellent contribution of 103, in which were 13 fours and three threes. At the end of an innings each the Englishmen held an advantage of 192.

The Canadians, however, did much better at their second attempt and were able to avert defeat. Messrs Allan and W A Henry both showed very fine form. Mr Allan's chief hits were seven fours and three threes, while Mr Henry made seven fours and two threes. Eventually the game was drawn
...

8 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3251.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

More heavy scoring has to be recorded. Yesterday on the College Ground at Clifton the Nottinghamshire team were at the wickets the whole day and had not completed their innings at the drawing of stumps. With one exception, Scotton taking Sulley's place, the visitors' team was the same that suffered defeat at the Oval last week. Mr Brain was still too unwell to assist Gloucestershire.

Gunn and Scotton began the Notts innings. With the score at 26 Scotton was taken in the slips, and at 48 Barnes was bowled. Gunn and Flowers then became partners and the score rose rapidly. It was not until after luncheon that they were separated. They put on 87 while they were together. Gunn was out third, caught at slip, for 66, in which were nine fours and five twos. Three for 135.

Shrewsbury, who came in next, played in his well-known masterly style. Eventually Flowers was out for an excellent innings of 76. His hits included seven fours, four threes and eight twos. Neither of the amateurs gave much trouble, while at 224 Attewell was bowled and seven wickets were down. Both Richardson and Shacklock, however, hit vigorously, and only eight wickets were down at the call of "time."

Shrewsbury batted very finely, but when he had made 94 he gave Dr W G Grace a hard return chance. It is the sixth "century" he has made this season in first-class matches. Towards the close of the day Shacklock hit Dr Grace three times to square leg for six each.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 10)

In very hot weather these counties resumed their match yesterday on the College Ground, Clifton.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 August, page 8)

Dr W G Grace's batting was the feature of yesterday's play in this match, which was brought to a close in the College ground at Clifton. When stumps were drawn on Tuesday evening each side had completed an innings, and Gloucestershire, having followed on, had lost two wickets for 43.

Play was resumed yesterday morning at 11.40 in fine weather. Dr Grace, who had gone in first, carried out his bat for 113. He had given a chance in the slips when he had made 30, and early yesterday he might have been caught at wicket by Sherwin. He was in four hours and his hits included one five (a cut), 11 fours, four threes and ten twos. It is his fourth century for the county this season, while altogether he has obtained 1,061 for Gloucestershire during the summer.

The subjoined score will show that Nottinghamshire won by an innings and 65 runs.

8 August: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3252.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

The wickets on the county ground at Brighton are famous for their excellence. Yesterday the turf was again very true when the first match of the season between these counties opened in fine weather and before a good attendance of spectators. Both teams were thoroughly representative.

Sussex went in first. The great feature of their innings was the splendid hitting of Quaife, who this season has come rapidly to the front as a batsman. He went in first, and was out fifth [sixth?] at 192. He was batting three hours and his hits included 12 fours, five threes and 14 twos. With his figures at 46 he should have been caught at wicket by Adams, a new player whom Surrey are trying for the first time. This, however, was Quaife's only mistake. A collection was got up on the ground for the young professional by the Rev F J Greenfield, who obtained upwards of £22 for him.

Mr Newham had aided Quaife in adding 79 for the second wicket. The former's chief items were four fours, four threes and four twos. Bean also hit freely, making six fours, and it was 5 o'clock before the last wicket fell.

Surrey did not start promisingly, losing Abel at 28. Messrs Key and Shuter, however, improved the aspect of affairs, and before the latter was stumped the figures had reached 79. Mr Shuter hit 10 fours and five twos. After the Surrey captain's dismissal Messrs Key and W W Read played out time.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 10)

Interesting cricket was shown at Brighton yesterday in the second day's play of the match between these counties. The heat was extreme, yet the company was again large.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 August, page 8)

The interest in the first match of the season between these counties, begun on Monday at Brighton, was well sustained to the finish. Yesterday the weather was again delightful and the spectators were numerous. When stumps were drawn on Tuesday evening, Sussex, who were 30 runs in arrear at the close of an innings each, had lost half the wickets in their several for 107.

Mr Thomas (not out 2) went in with Humphreys at 25 minutes to 12. Bowley and Lohmann led the attack. The ninth wicket fell at 146; but A Hide and H Phillips offered a most stubborn resistance, and no fewer than 32 runs were put on before the fall of the tenth wicket.

Surrey now required 149 to win, a task which, considering the heavy scoring which has been prevalent of late, should have been easy enough. It proved, however, far more difficult than had been anticipated. Nine wickets were secured for 142, and thus when Adams, the last man, joined Henderson seven runs were still wanted for victory. The excitement was intense and each ball was keenly watched. Both batsmen played very steadily, and at 10 minutes to 5 Surrey won the match by a wicket.

8 August: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3253.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

Further remarkable scoring was shown yesterday at Bradford by Yorkshire, who displayed such great batting powers on the previous Monday at Canterbury. There was a large number of spectators on the ground and a splendid wicket had been prepared.

Yorkshire won the toss, and sent in Ulyett and Hall to the bowling of Watson and Briggs. Ulyett scored at a wonderfully rapid rate, and among other hard hits he sent a ball of Watson's out of the ground for six. Many bowling changes were tried. Ulyett compiled 50 runs in 40 minutes out of a total of 75. When 89 was reached he was unfortunate enough to play a ball on to his wicket. He had been in 56 minutes, and his hits were a six, 12 fours, five twos and only three singles.

Lee followed in, and 93 runs were recorded as the result of an hour's play. The last comer, when he had made 19, gave a chance to Yates in the long field. At luncheon the score stood at 127. Afterwards Lee hit in fine style. The 200 was signalled at 3.35, and at a quarter past 4 Lee completed his century. The batsmen continued to defy their opponents' efforts to separate them, and the 300 was reached at 4.45. At 369 Lee was caught straight behind the bowler, no fewer than 280 runs having been scored between the fall of the first and second wickets. The retiring batsman's innings comprised 26 fours, three threes, ten twos and singles.

The Hon Mr Hawke joined Hall. The former hit vigorously, and the pair played out time. During the day the rate of the run-getting was nearly 80 an hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 10)

Play in this remarkable match was continued yesterday at Bradford in fine but windy weather. The first day will long be remembered for the fact that Yorkshire had accumulated 434 runs at the cost of two wickets only. Hall and the Hon M B Hawke (137 and 49) resumed batting at 11.40. The latter played on for an addition of nine runs only; his chief hits were nine fours, three threes and five twos. Three for 443.

Bates came to the assistance of Hall, and the batting for a time was again in the ascendant. There was a marked contrast between the styles of the two batsmen – Hall showing his characteristic patience and Bates hitting with great dash. The latter made 38 out of 51 and then skied the ball to cover point. Peel came in, and the 500 was signalled at 20 minutes to 1. At length, with the total at 529, Hall's splendid innings was closed by a catch at mid-on. He had been batting six hours and 40 minutes, and his hits comprised 15 fours, six threes and 15 twos. Five down.

Preston was run out at 536; and 19 runs later Peel was taken at mid-off, while for an addition of three only Denton retired – bowled. At luncheon the total stood at 574 for eight wickets. After the interval Wade soon saw the dismissal of Emmett (caught at point) and Hunter (secured in the long-field). Total 590. This number, which took seven hours 55 minutes to compile, is the highest score made in a match between first-class counties.

Against this formidable total Mr Hornby and Barlow began batting for the visitors at 3.25. Wade

and Emmett had charge of the early bowling. The Lancashire captain soon hit with great vigour, and although the attack was varied the score was taken to 84 before he returned the ball; among his hits were nine fours, four threes and eight twos.

The next four wickets fell rather rapidly. Without the addition of a run Sugg was bowled, and Mr Eccles, Briggs and Jowett were quickly served in the same manner. Half the wickets were now down for 106. Robinson and Barlow made a determined stand, until at last the latter hit the ball into the hands of mid-off; he had been batting two hours and 55 minutes for 37 runs. Mr Robinson and Lancashire were next partners, and remained together until stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 August, page 8)

The match between these counties which ended at Bradford yesterday will long be remembered for the extraordinary scoring it produced. When play ceased on Tuesday evening Yorkshire had completed an innings for 590, and Lancashire had lost six wickets for 176. Yesterday Robinson hit with freedom, and eventually carried out his bat for 111. He was in rather more than three hours and never gave a chance. Among his hits were 17 fours, two threes and seven twos.

In a minority of 287, Lancashire followed on. Mr Hornby hit very brilliantly and scored 92 in less than an hour and a half. His chief hits were 14 fours and six twos. A most remarkable match was left unfinished. During the three days no fewer than 1,210 runs were scored – an aggregate that has only once been surpassed in a first-class match – viz., in the game between Middlesex and Oxford University at Prince's in 1876, when the total runs were 1,217.

8 August: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128554.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 10)

Two days were devoted to the match at Lord's between the Marylebone Club and Somerset. The game began on Monday, when Marylebone scored 173 and 29 without the loss of a wicket, and the visitors completed their first innings for 126.

Yesterday Mr O'Brien played very finely for 80, in which were 11 fours, two threes and seven twos. Somersetshire went in to obtain 337 for victory. As only two and a quarter hours remained for play, however, there was no possibility of this number being secured. They managed, however, to avert defeat . . .

8 August: GENTLEMEN OF SURREY v GENTLEMEN OF CANADA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/97/97920.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 10)

The promise of a heavy score given by the Gentlemen of Surrey on Monday evening at Kennington Oval was amply fulfilled yesterday. The game was left drawn.

10 August: GENTLEMEN OF HAMPSHIRE v GENTLEMEN OF CANADA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/97/97921.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 11 August, page 8)

An excellent day's cricket was witnessed in this match at Southampton yesterday. Dr E R Ogden played a vigorous innings of 133 for the visitors; his chief hits were 17 fours and five threes. When Hampshire went in Mr Wynyard played very finely, while Messrs Lacey, Steele and Cave were also seen to advantage.

Day 2 (report from Friday 12 August, page 8)

This match was concluded yesterday at Southampton. The Canadians went in a second time in a minority of six, and set their opponents 206 to obtain for victory. Eventually the game was drawn, the Hants Eleven obtaining 145 with two wickets to fall.

10 August: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v CHESHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128563.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 11 August, page 8)

Considerable headway was made with the match between Marylebone and Cheshire at Lord's yesterday. The weather was very fine when the county, having won the toss, went in. The bowling of Rawlin and Wootton proved very effective and the batsmen offered a very feeble resistance. Five wickets fell for 37, and the last half only added 31.

Mr Turner and Rawlin both hit finely for Marylebone. The former's 81 included six fours, five threes and three twos, and the latter's 50 five fours. At the end of an innings each Cheshire were 186 behind. The visitors went in a second time . . .

Day 2 (report from Friday 12 August, page 8)

Little doubt existed as to the ultimate result of this match at the close of Wednesday's play at Lord's, and Marylebone ultimately won by an innings and 80 runs.

11 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3254.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 August, page 8)

The opening day's play in the return match between these counties at the Oval yesterday was productive of some extraordinary bowling, and the weather being fine the game was witnessed by several thousand spectators . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 August, page 10)

There was a great improvement in the batting at the Oval yesterday compared with that of the previous day. The wicket played much better than on Thursday, when each side completed an innings, and Lancashire, having gone in a second time with an advantage of 42, had scored 37 for two wickets.

Yesterday Sugg and Mr Eccles increased the total to 172 before another batsman was out. Sugg played a finely hit innings of 98, in which were 12 fours, six threes and nine twos. While he and Mr Eccles were together 152 runs were scored. Wickets then fell rapidly, and the eighth was captured at 201. Mr Lancashire and Watson put on 60 for the ninth wicket, and eventually Surrey were left with 313 to obtain for victory.

Lancashire fielded and bowled remarkably well, and four wickets fell for 37. Read and Lohmann both showed good hitting powers. The former's 36 included five fours, and the latter's 60 nine fours.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 August, page 8)

The state of the score at the Oval on Friday evening caused Surrey's supporters to give up all hope of their county saving the return match with Lancashire. At the drawing of stumps Surrey, with only four wickets to fall, required 168 to avert defeat.

The remaining wickets fell by 12.25 and the innings closed for 165. Thus Lancashire were left the winners by 147 runs. Surrey have now lost two county matches, their previous defeat being at the hands of Middlesex.

11 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3255.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Friday 12 August, page 8)

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 August, page 10)

Mr A J Webbe, the Middlesex captain, has supplemented his fine innings at Canterbury last week by an even more brilliant achievement at Huddersfield yesterday. On Thursday Yorkshire had the better of the play, and when stumps were drawn, Middlesex had lost two wickets in their second innings and were still five runs behind.

Yesterday Mr Webbe carried out his bat for 243. He was at the wickets six hours and ten minutes. He was missed by Wade in the slips when he had made 63, and afterwards he gave several possible chances. His chief hits were 41 fours, nine threes and 11 twos. Mr O'Brien made 12 fours. Yorkshire went in to obtain 477 for victory . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 August, page 8)

In consequence of the rain the return match between these counties at Huddersfield had to be left unfinished on Saturday. When stumps were drawn on Friday evening Yorkshire had begun their second innings, requiring 477 for victory, and had lost two wickets for 13 runs. No play at all was possible on Saturday, which fact probably saved Yorkshire from a second reverse this season at the hands of the metropolitan county.

11 August: WARWICKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128290.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Friday 12 August, page 8)

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 13 August, page 10)

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 August, page 8)

Mr L C Docker played a brilliant innings of 56, which was the chief feature of the cricket in this match at Birmingham on Saturday. His hits included one five, ten fours, a three and a two.

The start was delayed in consequence of rain, and it was 12.30 when the game was continued. Subsequently rain again fell heavily, and at 5 o'clock the umpires declared the ground unfit for further play. The subjoined score will show that the game was drawn.

11 August: ESSEX v SOMERSETSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128552.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Friday 12 August, page 8)

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 August, page 10)

The county ground at Leyton was the scene yesterday of some excellent batting by the home team.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 August, page 8)

Capital batting was shown by Somerset on Saturday in this match at Leyton. The visitors had 164 set them to win and an innings in which to obtain them. Messrs Roe and Newton hit freely and, as will be seen from the score, Essex were defeated by three wickets.

12 August: GENTLEMEN OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE v GENTLEMEN OF CANADA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/97/97922.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Saturday 13 August, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Monday 15 August, page 8)

Although the Canadians were in a minority of 100 runs at the close of the first innings in this match played on Mr Tankerville Chamberlayne's ground, at Yatton, on Friday and Saturday, they batted in such a determined manner in the second innings that the game was left drawn.

15 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3256.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 8)

The annual week at Cheltenham began yesterday on the College Ground, in fine weather, with a match between these counties. Lancashire, who were represented by the same eleven as that which appeared at the Oval last week, won the toss and went in. The innings closed at 5.10 for 252, of which Mr Eccles made 113. Gloucestershire went in for half an hour's batting . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 10)

The College ground at Cheltenham was visited by a large number of spectators yesterday, when the match between the home eleven and Lancashire was resumed. On the previous day the visitors had completed an innings for 252, and Gloucestershire had lost two wickets for 16 runs.

Yesterday Dr W G Grace and Mr Pullen both played well, but the rest of the side did little. The 49 of the last-named included eight fours, two threes and two twos. It was nearly 1.30 when the innings closed, and Gloucestershire had to follow on in a minority of 120. Mr Page played a freely-hit innings of 53, in which were seven fours, three threes and four twos.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 August, page 5)

Rain fell heavily on Tuesday night in the Cheltenham district, and coming on again yesterday morning it prevented the match between Gloucestershire and Lancashire from being continued until after luncheon. It was 3 o'clock when the home side, who overnight had followed on and lost eight wickets for 213, resumed their innings.

Mr Griffiths, the not-out with 14, was accompanied to the wickets by Woof. Briggs and Watson had charge of the bowling. The remaining batsmen were dismissed for an addition of six in 20 minutes, and Lancashire were left with 100 runs to obtain for victory.

Barlow and Mr Hornby began the visitors' task at 3.35 to the bowling of Woof and Roberts. The Lancashire captain was caught at point before a run had been scored. Afterwards, however, Sugg and Briggs hit vigorously, and though the bowling was changed the runs were obtained at a quarter-past 5. As will be seen from the score given below Lancashire won by six wickets.

15 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3257.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 8)

There was heavy scoring at the Trent Bridge Ground, Nottingham, yesterday when the return match between these counties was begun. Notts won the toss and Shrewsbury and Scotton began the innings.

The first wicket did not fall till the score had reached 177, Scotton being taken at slip for a well-played 51. Two fell for 189. Barnes came in, and with Shrewsbury played out time. Shrewsbury has now played seven innings of over 10 in first-class matches this season; yesterday's was the fifth for the county, the other two being made for the Players and for England – both at Lord's.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 10)

Shrewsbury's masterly batting in this match at Nottingham during the past two days will long be remembered by visitors to the Trent-bridge Ground. On Monday Nottingham, having won the toss, went in, and at the end of the day had registered 312 for two wickets; Shrewsbury obtained 171 of this number and was not out.

Yesterday the weather held fine and many spectators were present. Shrewsbury was accompanied to the wickets by Barnes (the other not out with 66). Runs were obtained at a rapid rate, and at 12.40 Barnes completed his "100." Just prior to this the Notts captain had attained his "200." These batsmen remained together until Barnes was clean bowled. His freely-hit innings contained 15 fours, eight threes and 10 twos. The partnership had lasted two hours and a half, during which 214 runs had been put on. Three wickets only were now down for 403, a feat probably without parallel in a match of equal importance.

Mr Daft joined Shrewsbury and, despite the varied tactics of Middlesex, the batting again triumphed. In two hours and a quarter the total was advanced to 495, when Mr Daft was bowled. Four down. Shrewsbury continued to bat freely; but at length his magnificent innings was closed by a ball from Mr Robertson. He was the eighth to leave, and during the two days had been at the wickets ten hours and a quarter. He had given no distinct chance, although on each day he had made a bad stroke in the slips.

His innings of 267 is the best score he has ever made, and is the highest obtained in a county match this season, Mr Read's 247 for Surrey against Lancashire and Mr Webbe's 243 for Middlesex against Yorkshire being the nearest approaches to this number. Shrewsbury's principal hits were 26 fours, 22 threes and 16 twos. The Notts venture, which had extended over two days, occupied 11 hours and a half for a total of 596, which is another "best on record" for the present season.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 August, page 5)

The extraordinary cricket of the first two days of the week at the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, was followed yesterday by play of an entirely different character. Hitherto the weather had been very fine, but yesterday it was dull and cold, while the rain on Tuesday night caused the wicket to

favour the bowlers. There was a numerous company present to witness the close of the game. It will be remembered that Monday and Tuesday were occupied with the home county's first innings of 596.

Yesterday morning at 11.40 Messrs Webbe and Stoddart began the Middlesex innings to the bowling of Barnes and Richardson. Though Mr O'Brien was twice let off in the slips, four wickets were down for 64 when rain stopped play at 20 minutes to 2. The weather cleared during the interval and Messrs Vernon and O'Brien continued the batting at a quarter to 3. Both batsmen hit freely and altogether added 77 before they were separated. Middlesex followed on in a minority of 417, and eventually the game was left drawn . . .

15 August: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3258.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 8)

In their first-class engagements this season, Derbyshire have been unfortunate. Yesterday they began the last of the six matches arranged by them. The other five games have all been lost. A heavy mist hung over the Oval yesterday morning and caused the light to be very deceptive. As the day wore on, however, the weather became very fine, and during the afternoon several thousand people watched the game. Surrey won the toss and went in first.

Abel was quickly taken at wicket, and Mr Key joined Mr Shuter. The former hit very brilliantly, but with the exception of his captain he received little assistance from the rest of the side. Five wickets had fallen at the adjournment for 137. Afterwards the remaining batsmen were dismissed in 18 minutes for an addition of 15 runs, and the innings ended at ten minutes past 3. Mr Key was out last for 95, in which were ten fours, nine threes and five twos.

For Derbyshire Ratcliffe hit in a most free style, and it seemed at one time that the visitors would have a substantial advantage at the end of an innings each. The 100 went up with only three wickets down, but subsequently the batsmen were dismissed rapidly. Ratcliffe's chief hits were eight fours, four threes and six twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 10)

The play in this match at the Oval on Monday was very even, and when stumps were drawn for the day each side had completed an innings, Derbyshire having a lead of 22 runs. Yesterday Surrey were batting nearly the whole of the day and secured an immense advantage.

Mr Shuter and Maurice Read began their second innings shortly after 12 o'clock. The arrears were soon rubbed off, and principally through the fine hitting of the Surrey captain 50 were obtained in half an hour. Altogether 70 were scored in 40 minutes, and then Mr Shuter was bowled. Four runs later Maurice Read was caught at cover-point; but Mr Walter Read and Mr Key made a stand, putting on 48 before the latter was caught at wicket. Mr Read was bowled directly afterwards, and the fifth wicket (Lohmann's) fell at 149.

After luncheon Henderson and Abel became partners, and remained so for two hours and three-quarters. During this time 177 runs were added. Henderson gave a chance to the wicket-keeper when he had made a single. Both professionals played in excellent form. Abel was out first, playing "on," for 84, in which were eight fours, five threes and ten twos. Henderson did not long survive him – taken at wicket at 336, His chief hits were 15 fours, give threes and five twos. The rest of the side did little, and the innings was over at 5 minutes past 6.

Derbyshire went in a second time, wanting 342 to win . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 August, page 5)

Any hopes which Derbyshire had of saving the game with Surrey were quickly dispelled on a visit

to the Oval yesterday morning. Rain had fallen heavily during the night, and so saturated was the turf that the start was postponed for an hour and 20 minutes. Even then the wicket played very treacherously; but few were prepared for the rapidity with which the visitors' batsmen were dismissed. Derbyshire at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday evening required 340 runs to avert defeat, and had nine wickets to fall.

Disney, the overnight not-out, and Ratcliffe continued the batting. They were faced by Lohmann and Bowley. The latter, however, quickly gave way to Abel, who at 10 bowled down Disney's leg stump. This was the first of a series of misfortunes which befell the visiting county. Cropper was caught at mid-off before a run had been added; Davidson and Ratcliffe were both out at 12; at 17 Chatterton was sixth to leave; at 18 Mr Walker was bowled; Marshall was taken at cover point at 29; Storer was caught in the slips at 31; and at 42 the dismissal of Hulme brought the innings to a close. The subjoined score will show that Surrey won by 299 runs.

15 August: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3259.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 8)

Fine weather was experienced at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday. Yorkshire are trying two new men, Dyson and Pride, the latter of whom is keeping wicket in place of Hunter, who takes a rest for the important engagement at the Oval at the end of the week. Messrs F M Lucas and Thomas are absent from Sussex, who are otherwise strongly represented.

Sussex won the toss and went in first. The innings closed at 5 o'clock for 172 runs. Yorkshire had rather more than an hour's batting . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 10)

During the early morning of yesterday slight rain fell at Brighton, but it cleared about an hour before the time set for the continuance of the match between these counties. At the close of Monday's play the home side had completed an innings for 172, and two Yorkshire wickets were down for 55.

Yesterday, Hall (the not out with 17) saw the dismissal of the whole of his side. He had batted with his customary patience and occasion hit vigorously; he had been at the wickets four hours, and his principal hits were nine fours, four threes and nine twos. Hall was ably assisted first by Wade and subsequently by Peel, both of whom were dismissed by the wicket-keeper. The innings closed at 3.30 for 215.

Sussex, who were 46 runs behind, went in a second time. Mr Newham batted freely for 58 prior to being stumped; among his hits were four fours, three threes and five twos. Quaife, who did so well on the previous day, was again in fine form . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 August, page 5)

The Yorkshire team narrowly escaped defeat at Brighton last evening. On Tuesday when stumps were drawn each side had completed an innings, and Sussex, having gone in against a majority of 46, had scored 140 for two wickets.

Yesterday the turf was rendered treacherous by heavy rain during the night. Quaife, the not out with 45, was soon bowled, and Bean was dismissed at 162. Jesse Hide was the fifth to leave at 185. Afterwards Humphreys played very well and received considerable assistance from Mr Smith and Phillips.

Yorkshire went in a second time, requiring 207 for victory and having two hours and three-quarters in which to get them. Sussex bowled and fielded with such success that six wickets were captured for 53 in two hours. Hall and Peel, however, then became partners, and were not separated until just before time, when the former was caught in the slips. He had played with his usual care, and it was his steady batting that probably saved Yorkshire the match. Early in the innings he had been appealed against for "hit wicket," but Thoms, the umpire, ruled that he had completed his stroke

and only broke the wicket with his foot in the act of running.

15 August: ESSEX v KENT (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128283.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 8)

The first match engaged in between these counties began yesterday on the Essex county ground at Leyton. Kent won the toss and were in all day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 10)

Although the home county had little chance against Kent, after the latter had occupied the wickets during the whole of Monday for 310, few people were prepared for the collapse of Essex at Leyton yesterday.

Messrs Boyton and Owen opened the first innings for them at 11.45. Martin and Wootton bowled throughout. Eighteen runs were steadily made and then Mr Boyton was bowled. Mr Buxton came, and saw the dismissal of the next eight batsmen for an addition of 44 runs. As Mr Francis was absent, the innings closed after an hour and a quarter's play for 62. It should be noted that the wicket assisted the bowlers materially.

Essex were now 248 runs in arrear, and of course followed on. The batting showed great improvement. Mr Owen hit freely for 45 prior to being caught at mid-off. His chief items were five fours, four threes and two twos. Mr Buxton and Barlow also played for a little while with determination; but the innings closed at 4.55 for a total of 143. From the full score appended it will be seen that Kent won by an innings and 105 runs.

15 August: GENTLEMEN OF STAFFORDSHIRE v GENTLEMEN OF CANADA (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/97/97923.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Tuesday 16 August, page 8)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 10)

Monday and yesterday were devoted to this, the 12th, match of the Canadian tour on the Staffordshire county ground at Stoke. Mr A H Heath batted well for the county in both innings. The Canadians batted so well in the opening venture that Staffordshire went in a second time in a minority of 84. They were all disposed of for 145.

Canada had now the easy task of getting 62 for victory. Their batting, however, afforded a disappointing contrast to that in their previous innings. Six wickets were lost for the ridiculously small sum of "5." Instead of gaining the victory they narrowly escaped defeat . . .

15 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128307.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Tuesday 16 August, page 8)

Day 2 (no report found from Wednesday 17 August, page 10)

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 August, page 5)

Yesterday at Leicester the home county gained a decisive victory over Warwickshire by 173 runs. The success of Leicestershire was in no small degree due to the free hitting of Warren, who made 137. The match extended over three days. Leicestershire, who made 115 in their first innings, followed on and scored 336. Warwickshire scored 227 and 46.

18 August: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3260.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 August, page 8)

About 8,000 people visited the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, yesterday to witness the opening day's play in the return match between the home county and Nottinghamshire. Notts, who won the toss, decided to go in, and were all out for 92. Scotton, who went in first, carried out his bat for 35. When rain stopped the game at ten minutes past 6 the score stood thus . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 August, page 10)

On Thursday Notts were disposed of for 92 and Lancashire scored 93 for six wickets. About 8,000 persons watched yesterday's play at the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 August, page 12)

The close of Friday's play left little doubt as to the result of the match between Lancashire and Nottinghamshire at the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, for the visitors with only three wickets to fall then required 26 to avert a single-innings defeat. On Saturday morning Shacklock, not out 2, and Butler, not out 15, continued the Notts second innings to the bowling of Briggs and Barlow.

Only two runs were added when a ball from the former clean bowled Butler. Eight for 85. Attewell joined Shacklock. Ten runs were speedily scored and then the new batsman was well caught by Sugg at long-on. Nine for 95. Thus 14 runs were still required to save the innings defeat when Sherwin the last man appeared. Shacklock hit freely and 19 runs were added before a well judged catch at long-on got rid of him and brought the Notts innings to a close for 114 at 20 minutes to 1.

Lancashire, who wanted only six runs for victory, sent in Barlow and Sugg to the bowling of Attewell and Barnes. The runs were made in two hits, and Lancashire were hailed the winners by ten wickets.

In all departments of the game the home county were seen to advantage. Pilling and Sherwin at the wicket both showed fine form. In the Notts double innings the former caught three batsmen and stumped one, while Sherwin made four catches at wicket in Lancashire's first innings. Another proof of the famous wicket-keeper's ability is furnished by the fact that in the match there were only seven "extras."

18 August: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3261.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 August, page 8)

Apart from the Nottingham fixture, there is no more attractive match during the season at the Oval than that between Surrey and Yorkshire. This year, too, the return between the counties has aroused exceptional interest owing to the open state of the county championship. So far as the losses are concerned, Surrey and Yorkshire are on level terms, each side having been beaten twice.

Thus Barratt was particularly fortunate in having chosen this for his benefit match. During many seasons the famous slow bowler achieved great successes for his county when they were anything but strongly represented. However, the last four years have seen a remarkable change in the team, and with such bowlers as Lohmann, Beaumont, Bowley, Jones and Abel, Barratt's services are not required.

The heavy storm which visited the metropolis on Wednesday night completely saturated the turf at the Oval, and yesterday in the first few hours the wicket enabled the bowlers to have matters much their own way. Though still treacherous, the ground had improved somewhat when Surrey went in. It will be gleaned from the details given below that the home team had much the better of the day's play, which fact was chiefly due to the effective bowling of Lohmann and Mills and the brilliant batting of Mr Shuter and Maurice Read. With the exception of a shower late in the day the weather proved fine, and between 7,000 and 8,000 persons followed the game with keen interest.

Successful with the toss, Yorkshire went in at five minutes past 12. As usual, their first representatives were Ulyett and Hall, while Surrey trusted the early bowling to Lohmann and Abel. Neither batsman could get the ball away for anything beyond a two, and the score slowly reached 13. Ulyett then gave a difficult chance to Mr Read at point, but the mistake proved of little consequence, for the score was only 14 when Ulyett was well caught and bowled.

F Lee's arrival was followed by very quiet play, and in spite of two changes in the bowling 50 went up at half-past 1. Lee, who had hit with freedom, was clean bowled at 60, while Hall was dismissed by a good catch at wicket at 69. The latter had been in an hour and 40 minutes for 22. Bates followed on, but Lohmann, who at 60 had gone on again at the Gasometer end for Henderson, clean bowled the Hon M B Hawke at 71. Eight runs later Bates was bowled by Mills, who had then taken three wickets for 11 runs. Luncheon intervened with the total at 83. Wade and Peel were then together.

The game was resumed at a quarter to 3. By small items the score travelled to 95, and then Wade was taken at cover-point. Dyson was out a single later, well caught at cover-point, and seven wickets were down for 96. With Preston and Peel together the 100 was reached at a quarter past 3. Peel had his leg stump bowled down at 115, while Preston, after giving a chance of stumping, was well taken by Mr Key at long-on. Hunter was caught at wicket, and the innings closed at a quarter to 4 for 123.

Surrey went in at five minutes past 4, Mr Shuter and Maurice Read opening the innings to the bowling of Wade and Peel. After three maiden overs Read drove Wade twice to the on for four each. Mr Shuter cut the same bowler twice for three, and as Read again drove him for four Emmett went on at 21. Read hit each bowler to leg for four, and the 50 was signalled after 40 minutes' play.

Ulyett was tried at the Pavilion end at 51, and Emmett crossed over to the other wicket at 56. Mr Shuter made cuts for two fours and a three. Bates superseded Ulyett at 69, while after Ulyett had been given a trial at the Gasometer end Peel resumed at 81. Read made a fine on-drive over the covered stand from Bates, but at 92 he lost the company of his captain, who was well taken at slip. The total had been carried to 92 in an hour and a half.

When Mr Key came in Wade relieved Bates. Read completed his 50 at 5.35, while 10 minutes later the 100 was announced amid loud cheers. Rain stopped play for 10 minutes at 6 o'clock. Subsequently Preston was put on to bowl, and with his 3 b he dismissed Maurice Read, who had shown excellent batting for 70. His chief hits were nine fours, two threes and four twos. He was at the wicket two hours. Messrs Key and Walter Read became partners, and shortly before the drawing of stumps the Yorkshire total was passed.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 August, page 10)

Another victory has to be recorded for Surrey, who yesterday defeated Yorkshire for a second time this season in a single innings. The weather was very fine and about 7,000 people were present at Kennington Oval to see the finish. Recently the southern county has had to contend with much ill-fortune, and several of the members of the team are still too unwell to play cricket.

Considering the large number of county engagements the record of the side is truly remarkable. It at present includes two victories over Notts, Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and Derbyshire, and one each over Lancashire, Kent, Sussex and Middlesex. They have only been beaten by Middlesex and Lancashire, and thus out of 14 county matches they have won 12 and lost two. These results prove the strength of the team.

The wicket yesterday showed no improvement; indeed, if anything, it played worse than on the opening day. At the close of Thursday's play the home county had passed their opponents' total with only two wickets down and were nine runs to the good at the drawing of stumps, the figures then being – Yorkshire, 123; Surrey, 132 for two wickets (Mr Shuter's and Maurice Read's). At the close of the match Yorkshire were beaten by an innings and ten runs.

17 August: GENTLEMEN OF WARWICKSHIRE v GENTLEMEN OF CANADA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/97/97924.html)

Day 2 (report from Friday 19 August, page 8)

The Gentlemen of Canada gain a decisive victory over the Gentlemen of Warwickshire at Birmingham yesterday. The match began on Wednesday, when the Warwickshire team lost nine wickets for 86. They completed their innings yesterday for an addition of 20. The visitors won by an innings and 25 runs. Mr Ogden's analysis was most remarkable. He bowled eight batsmen in 36 overs (27 maidens) at a cost of 27 runs.

19 August: GENTLEMEN OF LEICESTERSHIRE v GENTLEMEN OF CANADA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/97/97925.html)

Day 2 (report from Monday 22 August, page 12)

Two days were devoted to this match, which ended on Saturday at the county ground, Leicester. On Friday the Canadians completed an innings for 228 and Leicestershire lost four wickets for 68. On Saturday Messrs Wright, Wood and Arnall all batted with success, and at the end of an innings each the Canadians had a much smaller majority than at one time seemed probable.

The visitors eventually set their opponents 161 to get for victory, but the game had to be left drawn .

..

Monday 22 August, page 12: THE COUNTY MATCHES

The following are the results up to Saturday last of the matches of nine leading counties: -

| | Played | Won | Lost | Drawn |
|-----------------|--------|-----|------|-------|
| Surrey | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| Lancashire | 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| Middlesex | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Nottinghamshire | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| Yorkshire | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Sussex | 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| Kent | 11 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| Gloucestershire | 12 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| Derbyshire | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 |

22 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3262.html)

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

The Middlesex Eleven began their last match of the season at Clifton yesterday, when they opposed the Gloucestershire team on the College ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 10)

The return match between these counties was continued yesterday on the College-ground, at Clifton. Fine weather again favoured the game and there was a large attendance of spectators. On the opening day Gloucestershire scored 257 and the visitors obtained 55 without the loss of a wicket. Messrs Nepean and Stoddart were the not outs.

The latter was taken at short leg at 63. Mr Walker stayed while 39 were added and was then caught at mid-off. Mr Nepean was out third at 152 for an excellent 71. He was batting two hours and 20 minutes, and his hits included four fours, six threes and nine twos. Messrs O'Brien and Ford were afterwards the only batsmen who played with much success, and the innings was over at 20 minutes past 3 for 212.

Gloucestershire, who were 45 to the good, went in a second time. The brothers Grace scored 69 for the first wicket, and it was 92 when the second batsman left. Dr E M Grace was dismissed third at 106. He had hit brilliantly, and his items included one six (a hit out of the ground) and six fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 August, page 8)

The Clifton College Ground was the scene of a most exciting finish yesterday in the match between these counties. When stumps were drawn on Tuesday evening each side had completed an innings, and Gloucestershire, who then had an advantage of 45, had lost seven wickets for 143. Mr Hale (not out 10) was accompanied to the wickets by Mr Peake at 11.35. Runs were obtained rapidly, and 34 were added before Mr Hale was bowled. Eight for 177. The last two wickets added 17 runs and the innings closed at half-past 12.

Middlesex, who had the formidable task set them of getting 240 for victory, began in a disheartening manner. Mr Stoddart played the first ball he received on to his wicket, while at seven Mr Webbe was bowled. Mr Walker and Mr Nepean stayed together for a while, but at 37 the former was also bowled. Mr O'Brien filled the vacancy, and when 28 runs were put on he saw the dismissal of Mr Nepean, caught at short leg, and Mr Vernon, clean bowled. Half the wickets were now lost, and only a little more than a fourth of the runs wanted registered.

A different aspect was put on the game by Messrs O'Brien and Ford. The bowling for a considerable time was mastered, and the figures reached 124 before Mr Ford was disposed of. West now became Mr O'Brien's partner, and again the batting triumphed. The many alterations in the Gloucestershire attack were futile for a considerable time, but at length at 196 Mr O'Brien's excellent innings was closed by his obstructing the wicket. He had been batting two hours for 83 runs, in which were 12 fours, four threes and four twos. West was caught at mid-off at 208, and 11

runs later Mr Robertson retired.

When Mr Welman and Burton, the last two batsmen, became partners 21 runs were still required for victory. Unfortunately for the Western county the amateur was missed at wicket at 229. Profiting by this indulgence the runs were soon obtained, and Middlesex, within ten minutes of "Time," won the match by a wicket.

22 August: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3263.html)

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

Since the great improvement in Surrey cricket during the last few years the attendances at Kennington Oval have been much larger. The fixture between Kent and Surrey, however, has always been most popular, and it was not surprising to find 6,000 or 7,000 people on the ground yesterday afternoon. Kent had a very strong eleven, with Lord Harris as captain. Surrey played the same team that defeated Yorkshire at the end of last week.

Successful in the toss, the home eleven began batting at five minutes past 12 with Mr Shuter and Maurice Read. In rather more than 20 minutes the figures travelled to 36, and then Mr Shuter was bowled. Mr Key shared the same fate a couple of runs later, while at 42 Maurice Read was easily caught at short leg. Three wickets for 42 was not a promising start for the home eleven.

Matters improved somewhat while Mr Walter Read and Abel were together. The former was clean bowled at 70, and at 78 Lohmann was also dismissed by Wootton. Mr Wyld next joined Abel, and the pair stayed together until the score had reached 97, when Mr Wyld was well caught at the wicket. Henderson came in, and the 100 was telegraphed at ten minutes past 3. Abel, who had played a very patient game, was dismissed at 108, but Henderson and Wood hit freely for a time. A very fine piece of fielding by A Hearne at mid-off caused Wood to be run out at 123. Bowley was leg before at 135, and a well judged catch at long off by Mr Patterson sent back Mills. The innings closed at ten minutes past 4 for 136. Henderson took out his bat for a careful 24.

Mr Rashleigh and Frank Hearne opened the Kent batting at 4.30 to the bowling of Lohmann and Mills. Both batsmen displayed the greatest care, and in nearly an hour 38 runs were recorded. Frank Hearne was caught at point at 38, and Mr Patterson came in. He soon had a narrow escape of being run out, and it was only Mr Key's bad return that saved him his wicket. Though the bowling was several times changed, 50 appeared at ten minutes to 6. The fielding and bowling were very good, but in spite of all their efforts the Surrey team were unable to separate Messrs Rashleigh and Patterson, who played out time.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 10)

This match was resumed on Kennington Oval yesterday. The weather was fine and the company numbered about 8,000. On the opening day, it may be remembered, Surrey completed their first innings for 130, and Kent scored 87 for the loss of one wicket (Frank Hearne's). Play was continued at 11.35, the not outs – Messrs Patterson (26) and Rashleigh (31) – being opposed by Lohmann and Mills.

Mr Patterson made a drive for four and his companion gained alike number by a stroke in the slips. The 100 appeared at a quarter to 12. Mr Rashleigh was bowled at 109. During the partnership 70 runs were put on. Mr Patterson did not long survive his late companion, for at 120 he was out leg-before for 46. Lord Harris came in, but without alteration in the figures Mr Thornton was taken at mid-off. A further misfortune soon befell the visitors, as, having gained a four through the slips, A Hearne was taken at the wicket. Five for 124.

Mr Marchant aided his captain and a determined stand was made. Lord Harris hit with great vigour, making, among other items, two drives for four each. The 150 went up at 10 minutes to 1. Abel and Bowley were now put on, but the rate of run-getting did not slacken, so at 191 Lohmann resumed. Lord Harris drove him into the pavilion for four, but in the same over his lordship was easily taken at slip. His chief hits were five fours, three threes and four twos. The partnership had lasted 50 minutes, and during this time no fewer than 71 had been added.

When Messrs Marchant and Kemp became partners the free hitting continued. Mr Marchant made a couple of fine drives for four each, but at 225 he was caught at mid-off. Mr Kemp was taken at mid-on for a vigorous 21. Included in his hits was a drive for five (all run out). Martin was taken at extra slip at 244, and after luncheon Mr Christopherson was well caught at cover-point, the innings closing at a quarter to 3 for 256.

With the heavy deficit of 120 Surrey went in a second time at 3 o'clock. Messrs Walter Read and Shuter began the task of hitting off the arrears to the bowling of Wootton and Mr Christopherson. Twelve runs were quickly scored and then the Surrey captain was taken at point. Messrs Read and Key now became partners, and they accomplished a most brilliant performance. Though the bowling was changed 40 went up after as many minutes' play, and the end of an hour found the figures at 70. The 100 was reached at half-past 4, and soon afterwards, amid tremendous applause, Mr Key hit a full-pitched ball from F Hearne out of the ground to square-leg for six. In the next over from Mr Christopherson Mr Read received a blow on the head and the game was stopped for a few minutes. Subsequently runs came faster than ever, and Mr Key completed his 100 at 5.50.

Mr Read increased his figures to 100 half an hour later, but was directly afterwards caught and bowled. Both batsmen had shown most brilliant form, and while they were together runs were scored at the rate of 80 an hour. Altogether 241 were added with scarcely a mistake. Mr Read hit with all his well-known vigour, and his 100 included nine fours, seven threes and 16 twos. Mr Key has never played better for his county. The state of the score when they became partners makes the achievement even greater than it otherwise would have been. It is almost needless to state that both batsmen were loudly cheered at the close of the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 August, page 8)

There was another full and exceptionally interesting day's play at Kennington Oval yesterday, when the match between Surrey and Kent was brought to a close. Tuesday night found the game rather in favour of Surrey, who had begun their second innings and had scored 253 for two wickets. This left them 133 to the good. Yesterday Mr Key again played finely, and when Kent went in Lord Harris and Frank Hearne were also seen to great advantage. The weather was again fine, and the company numbered between seven and eight thousand.

Mr Key (not out 139) and Maurice Read went on with the Surrey batting at 20 minutes to 12. Mr Patterson, who finished his over, was driven by Read for four and two. Martin and Wootton were then put on. Mr Key made a lofty drive for four, but at 271 he lost the company of Read, who was clean bowled. Abel followed. Runs were added steadily, and at a quarter to 1 a cut for four by Mr Key brought up 300. Abel gave a possible chance to mid-off when he had made 14, but the mistake mattered little, for in Martin's next over he was neatly caught at third man.

Lohmann aided Mr Key. Soon afterwards the last-named was at length disposed of. From a fine drive he was well caught close to the long-on boundary by Mr Patterson. He had not given a chance

during the four hours and a half that he was batting, and his hits included a six (square leg out of the ground), 19 fours, five threes and 22 twos.

Kent had been bowling and fielding all the morning remarkably well, and the dismissal of Mr Key was followed by a rapid downfall of wickets. Lohmann was leg-before at 326, Henderson caught and bowled five runs later, and Wood and Bowley were both cleverly stumped, the innings closing at 1.45 for 343. During the morning the last eight Surrey wickets had fallen for the addition of 90 runs, while the last five had been captured for 19.

Kent went in at a quarter to 3, Mr Rashleigh and Frank Hearne beginning the task of getting 224 to win. The start was bad, Mr Rashleigh being bowled before even a single had been scored. With Mr Patterson in runs came freely. Each batsman made a four to leg and several smaller items raised the figures to 20. Mr Patterson then played a ball towards point, who fielded it. The batsman, thinking the ball was dead, walked out of his ground to look at the wicket and Wood ran him out. Mr Thornton was bowled before a run had been added, and with three wickets down for 20, Surrey seemed to have the game well in hand.

Lord Harris and Frank Hearne now became partners and a determined stand was made. The end of an hour found the score at 47, and directly afterwards 50 went up. Lord Harris made some very fine drives, and though Abel and Mills were put on the score rose rapidly. A square-leg hit for four by Lord Harris brought up 100 at 20 minutes to 5. Eleven runs later the Kent captain was cleverly caught at point. Ninety-four runs had been put on during the partnership, of which number Lord Harris had made 51 by excellent cricket. His chief hits were four fours, a three and ten twos.

Another stand was made by A and F Hearne, who carried the score to 162 before the latter was bowled. He had played a splendid innings of 56 and his hits included four fours, three threes and ten twos. Mr Marchant came in, and as 63 were then wanted and only ten minutes to play the game could only end in a draw. Seven runs were added, and then Hearne was thrown out by Mr Key from third man. Stumps were now drawn and the match left unfinished.

22 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3264.html)

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

Both counties were well represented in this, the return match which opened yesterday at Hove, Brighton. The weather was fine and there was a large company present . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 10)

Sussex played a good game against the Lancastrians at the Hove ground, Brighton, yesterday. Overnight Lancashire had gone in against a total of 147 and had lost seven wickets for 116. Sugg, who was not out 53, added 16 runs to his score and was then bowled. His brilliant innings included 12 fours, three threes and three twos. Yates was out at 196, but Pilling and Watson put on 40 runs for the last wicket, the innings closing at 20 minutes to 1.

Sussex, who were 49 behind, started their second innings badly. They lost Quaife, Mr Newham, Tester and J Hide for 58 runs. Humphreys and Mr Thomas, however, played very finely and added 127 in two hours for the fifth wicket. Mr Thomas's excellent 56 included six fours, a three and seven twos. When he had made 19 he gave a difficult chance to third man – Mr Jowett. Humphreys, who went in with the score at 40 for three wickets, was out at 193 for 82, in which were one six (four by an overthrow), eight fours, two threes and seven twos.

It was nearly time before the Sussex innings closed for 252, and Lancashire were left with 204 to obtain for victory. The weather was fine and a large company watched the play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 August, page 8)

At the close of Tuesday's play at Brighton, the match between these counties was left in a very even state. Lancashire then had 204 to get for victory and an innings in which to obtain them. Yesterday the weather was again fine. Mr Hornby and Barlow were first at the wickets, opposed by A Hide and Bean.

The play was tedious and the score slowly reached 22, when the professional was clean bowled. Sugg came and soon hit brilliantly. Several changes in the bowling were resorted to, but it was not until 84 runs had been recorded that the Lancashire captain was caught at extra mid-off. Mr Eccles stayed while 21 were added, but then retired – clean bowled.

Briggs now joined Sugg. Both batsmen hit freely for some little time, and further bowling changes were adopted before Sugg was dismissed for 69 – the same number as he had obtained in the previous innings. Among his hits were 14 fours, two twos and nine singles. Mr Jowett returned the ball and Briggs fell to a catch at third man. Baker and Robinson were now together, and an off-drive for four by the latter won the match for Lancashire by four wickets.

22 August: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3265.html)

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

The Bramall-lane Ground, Sheffield, was visited by between 8,000 and 9,000 people yesterday, when the return match between these famous elevens was begun. Notts, who won the toss, went in.

The toss was bad for the visitors, who with only a single recorded lost Scotton and Gunn, neither of whom scored. Barnes aided Shrewsbury and matters improved considerably. The 50 was reached after an hour and ten minutes' play, but five runs later Barnes was bowled. Mr H B Daft, who followed in, stayed with Shrewsbury while 71 were added. This proved the longest stand of the day. The amateur was finely caught at third man. Shrewsbury was fifth out at 165, caught at wicket. He had been in three hours and a quarter, and had played with his well-known ability, not giving a chance during the long time that he was at the wicket. His hits included nine fours, four threes and three twos. Flowers and Attewell both showed good form, and it was nearly time when the last Notts wicket fell.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 10)

About 6,000 persons visited the Bramall-lane ground, Sheffield, yesterday, to witness the second day's play in the return match between these counties. The weather was fine and the wicket played well. The opening day was entirely occupied by the Notts first innings of 241.

Yesterday morning, at 11.35, Ulyett and Hall began the home batting. In an hour 40 runs were obtained, and the score had reached 56 before Ulyett was taken at wicket. Five runs later Lee was caught at slip. After some steady play by Mr Hawke and Hall, the former, Bates and Mr Wilson were dismissed rapidly, and the score was only 90 when the fifth wicket fell. Thus it seemed likely that Yorkshire would have to follow on.

Peel and Hall, however, made a stand and put on 47 before the former was dismissed. Since luncheon Hall had been an hour and 40 minutes scoring eight runs. He was eventually out seventh at 160, having been in four hours and a half for his 40. The Yorkshire innings had not closed when time was called.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 August, page 8)

On Monday and Tuesday the play in this match was somewhat tedious, and at the close of the second day Notts had completed an innings for 241 and their opponents had made 214 for nine wickets. Yesterday's play proved of an entirely different character, and few of those who visited the Bramall-lane Ground, Sheffield, were prepared for the sensational finish to the match.

Wade and Hunter put on 66 altogether for the last Yorkshire wicket, which left the home side with a majority of 17. Wade's 68 included six fours, three threes and eight twos.

At 10 minutes to 1 Notts began their second innings. The score had only reached 10 when Shrewsbury was bowled by Ulyett. Barnes joined Scotton and runs were added steadily. Ulyett and

Peel, who had opened the attack, gave way to Wade and Emmett, while Mr Wilson was also tried. After luncheon Emmett and Wade again took up the bowling, and Scotton was soon caught at point. Barnes played on at 107 for a brilliant innings of 66, in which were nine fours, five threes and five twos. Mr Daft was bowled at 115 and Gunn stumped 13 runs later, so that five wickets were down for 128. The innings then collapsed, the last five batsmen being dismissed for an addition of seven runs. Preston's analysis is notable, as he took five wickets for 10 runs.

Yorkshire wanted 119 for victory with only an hour and a half left for play. They made a determined attempt to accomplish the task and only failed in their attainment by three runs. Bates and Ulyett began the innings, but though the former hit with great brilliancy two wickets were down for 31. Bates continued his free hitting, but several other batsmen were dismissed, and eight wickets were down and three runs still wanted to win the match when "Time" was called. Bates's chief hits were ten fours, two threes and 11 twos.

22 August: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128546.html)

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

At Leyton yesterday these counties began their return match. Derbyshire won the toss and had first innings. Cropper, Sugg and Ratcliffe were all out for 65, but when Davidson and Chatterton became partners a determined stand was made. No fewer than 110 runs were obtained during the partnership. After their dismissal the wickets fell rapidly to the bowling of Mr Bishop. When Essex went in the bowling of Davidson and Cropper proved very effective . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 10)

Yesterday at Leyton, despite some capital batting by Mr Buxton and Bastow, Essex were beaten by Derbyshire by eight wickets. On the first day Derbyshire completed an innings for 203, and their opponents lost six wickets for 84.

The home team followed on yesterday in a minority of 88. They set the visitors 61 to obtain for victory. Sugg and Cropper both played well, and the task was accomplished for the loss of two wickets.

22 August: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128562.html)

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

The match between these teams was begun at Lord's yesterday. Going in first the visitors scored 268, West 88 and G Bull 75 being the chief contributions to this total. Marylebone had lost four wickets for 96 when stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 10)

At Lord's, yesterday, Marylebone suffered defeat at the hands of Northamptonshire, who won by eight wickets. Marylebone had to follow on in a minority of 123 and their opponents went in a second time to get only 64 to win. Mr J P Kingston hit freely and the runs were scored for the loss of two wickets.

22 August: GENTLEMEN OF LIVERPOOL v GENTLEMEN OF CANADA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/97/97926.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Tuesday 23 August, page 8)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 10)

Two days were devoted to this match, which ended at Liverpool yesterday in a victory for the Englishmen by six wickets. On the first day the home side went in first and scored 233, while their opponents made 61 for seven wickets.

Yesterday the Canadians had to follow on. They did much better at the second attempt, and Lancashire were left with 75 to obtain for victory. This number they secured for the loss of four wickets.

Tuesday 23 August, page 10: CRICKET REPORTING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I will preface this letter by saying that I have nothing to do with the management now of any club in England and am a unit in the army of Englishmen who take a delight in cricket as a grand English game. I use the word "game" advisedly, for cricket is a game and not a business.

The cricket reporters who provide us every morning with the result and account of matches all over England are worthy of our respect and thanks, but many of them are making a great mistake in using the titles of "first-class" and "second-class" counties, "according to the taste and fancy of the writer," as Sam Weller remarked when asked whether his name was spelt with a "V" or a "W."

In the first place, as the Marylebone Club have refused to define any order of precedence and declare that a county is a county and nothing more, we may be sure that all heart and soul English cricketers accept the verdict of the MCC, the managers of which for a century past have been and are noblemen and gentlemen who have won their spurs from the days of their school matches, until the time when they lay aside their bats after many years of hard fighting on the bloodless battlefield against the best gentlemen and professionals in England.

The objection to the words "first" and "second" class as they appear in print is twofold. First, unless there is a recognized authority who has power to classify counties, they are as valueless in the eyes of real cricketers as the title of "captain" conferred by the ring on a betting man who for a short time held a subaltern's commission in the Army is in the eyes of real sportsmen. Secondly, in the eyes of the [Greek writing], whose money is as valuable as that of real cricketers who follow the game, the printed title of "second-class" cheapens a match and keeps very many from attending matches in which there is much first-rate cricket; and now it is an admitted fact that the expenses of county cricket are so great that it could not go on but for gate money. Rising counties have a hard struggle for funds and the expenses are often a heavy tax on the private purses of liberal patrons, and empty titles and idle words constantly repeated in print are like arrows shot over a house, and we do not know whom they may kill on the other side. Just so "second class" as a title hurts a rising county.

The remarks which I have made in respect of first and second class equally apply to a new "fad" about "champion counties" used by the same self-constituted authorities, who take on themselves against the dictum of the MCC to classify counties. Their theory is that any one of their own "ear-marked" first-class counties – provided they play not less than eight matches among each other without defeat, shall take precedence and be champion over an other which suffers a defeat – ex grat., this award last year was the championship to county A, which played 14 matches and two extra matches against Australia. County A's record being as follows: - seven wins and nine matches drawn, more than one of such draws being admitted much against county A. County B played 16 matches and two against Australia, and their record was 12 county matches won, three lost and one drawn, and a double victory over Australia.

The moral of this is that provided a competitor never loses he may sin out matches for a draw as much as he pleases instead of taking an honest licking like a good cricketer and sportsman.

If the MCC should ever unfortunately consent to classify counties and award championships, it will possibly be a case of exit old English cricket, enter the betting ring. Quis custodiet ipsos custodiet?

Yours truly, F.G.

Wednesday 24 August, page 7: CRICKET REPORTING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - In his letter on the subject of Cricket Reporting, published in your issue of to-day, "F.G." objects to the division on counties into first and second class, but he does not suggest any alternative. When county clubs and county matches were few there was no occasion to make any distinction; but to-day there are quite 20 such clubs, and I am unable to say how many such matches.

To say that all counties are now equal is to make a statement entirely at variance with the facts. With the exception of three games that were drawn in consequence of rain, all the matches this year between "second-class" and "first-class" counties have, I believe, resulted in favour of the latter. The classification is made with the concurrence of cricket players and writers generally, and it, or something like it, is inevitable, unless county cricket is to be thrown into a state of chaos. The emulative spirit would disappear if there were no competition among counties, and few batsmen or bowlers would care to persevere if averages and records were swept away, or if we were to pretend that a performance accomplished against, say, Cumberland were ranked as highly as one against Surrey or Lancashire.

"F.G." need not fear the influence of betting. Cricket is played for honour, and will so continue; but honour implies renown, and how is renown to be gained except in a defined and eager competition among rivals of approximately equal skill and ability?

The cricket public recognize the difference between great counties and small ones, and the immensely increased interest in Surrey cricket is due to the fact that the powerful northern elevens can now be met with a good chance of success. There is no desire among cricket reporters to injure the prospects of the younger and less important county clubs. We wish to do justice not only to them, but to the great counties that have for many years fostered and encouraged the game, and we are only doing – in default of any authoritative classification by the Marylebone Club or the new County Cricket Council – what, after careful consideration, we think is fair to all concerned and in the best interests of the game. We have not, nor can we have, any other desire.

Yours truly,
A CRICKET REPORTER
August 23.

Thursday 25 August, page 10: CRICKET REPORTING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - May I venture to ask you the great favour of allowing me very briefly to reply in your columns to the letter of "F.G.," published in The Times of to-day? Will "F.G." kindly say when the Marylebone Club refused "to define any order of precedence" and when "they declared that a

county is a county, and nothing more”?

I, in common with many more, am under the impression that the question whether there ought to be a distinction drawn between counties will be discussed at the next meeting of the new Cricket Council and that the MCC has never given any opinion on the matter. Whether there ought to be a distinction between the counties may perhaps be an open question, but undoubtedly the fact that the newspaper reporters have created a distinction between the leading counties and the less prominent ones has, in my opinion, had a most beneficial effect upon the game. To become the champion county is now the desire of all the leading county teams, and a generous and keen rivalry is evinced between them. Moreover, if the reporters are as wrong as “F.G.” suggests, how come is it by his own admission in *The Times* to-day the [Greek writing] have so readily accepted their (the reporters’) dictum?

Surely among the [Greek writing] there are many of those “real heart and soul English cricketers” of whom “F.G.” speaks in his letter, and I would, in conclusion, ask “F.G.” whether such vast crowds as recently attended the Oval in the return Surrey v Notts match would have been present unless they had felt that the championship of the county secretaries depended upon the result.

Your obedient servant,
HERBERT TROUGHTON
40, Grange-park, Ealing, Aug. 23.

25 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3266.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 August, page 9)

There was a continuation of fine weather at Clifton yesterday, and the opening day's play in the match between these counties was productive of a fine batting performance by Drs W G and E M Grace, who went in first for the home team and scored 127 for the first wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 August, page 10)

Rain interfered several times with play in this return match at Clifton yesterday, but in spite of this drawback Kent were able to make an excellent opening to their innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 August, page 12)

For a batsman to score over 100 runs in each innings of a match is a very rare occurrence. It was, however, accomplished by Dr W G Grace on Saturday, at Clifton, for the western county against Kent. This is the second time he has achieved the performance, the previous occasion being in the 1868 Canterbury Week, when for South v North of the Thames he made 130 and 102 (not out). The other instances recorded are in 1817, by W Lambert, at Lord's; at Rossall School, in Past v Present match, by Mr Townsend; and last year at Lord's, by Mr F W Maude, playing as "Captain Cook."

It will be remembered that rain considerably interfered with Friday's play. On Saturday, however, the weather was fine and the wicket seemed little affected by the bad weather. The score when the game was resumed was – Gloucestershire, first innings, 277; Kent, 144 for one wicket. Messrs Rashleigh and Patterson were the not outs with 47 and 49.

From the first ball bowled the latter was caught at point, and a dozen runs later Lord Harris was taken at wicket. Mr Thornton was bowled at 180 and Mr Wilson out in the same manner at 188. While A Hearne and Mr Rashleigh were together 24 runs were added, and after the former had been caught at wicket the figures were advanced to 256 by Messrs Tonge and Rashleigh. The latter was then taken at cover-point for an excellent innings of 108. He should have been caught at wicket when he had made 41, but this was his only mistake. He was batting four and a half hours, and his hits included one five, nine fours, seven threes and ten twos. Afterwards Mr M C Kemp hit freely and the innings realized 317.

With a deficit of 40 Gloucestershire went in a second time, two hours and 20 minutes being still left for play. Drs W G and E M Grace scored 57 for the first wicket, after which Mr Pullen stayed with his captain while 102 runs were added. When Mr Pullen was caught in the long-field only a quarter of an hour remained for play, and Dr Grace still wanted 18 runs to complete his three figures. This number be obtained by hitting the last ball but one of the match to square-leg for four. He gave no chance, and his hits included 11 fours, six threes and 11 twos. The full score appended will show that the match was drawn.

25 August: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3267.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 August, page 9)

The excellent manner in which Lancashire have been playing this season invested their return match against the powerful Yorkshire eleven, which began yesterday at the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, with unusual interest.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 August, page 10)

At the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, yesterday, the Yorkshire eleven gave a further illustration of their wonderful batting powers, as will be seen from the subjoined score.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 August, page 12)

Yorkshire followed up the advantage they gained on the first two days in this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, by securing an easy victory over Lancashire. At the drawing of stumps on Friday night the home side had completed an innings for 129, and Yorkshire had scored 412 for the loss of nine wickets.

On Saturday morning the outstanding wicket fell for an addition of two runs, which let Lancashire with the task of obtaining 285 to avert an innings defeat. Mr Hornby and Barlow opened the Lancashire batting to the attacks of Emmett and Peel. The amateur was taken at slip with only six runs recorded, while, after some free hitting by Sugg, Barlow was caught at point. Several other batsmen were quickly dismissed, and six wickets were down for 64.

The remaining members of the team batted remarkably well. Robinson hit very finely and was in two hours and a half for his 92. Among his hits were 13 fours, a three and 11 twos. The last four wickets added altogether 182 and the innings closed for 246. Lancashire were thus beaten by an innings and 30 runs. The weather on Saturday was very fine and several thousand people were present.

25 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3268.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 August, page 9)

Yesterday at the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, a large company was present to witness the opening of the return match between these counties.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 August, page 10)

The promise of a long innings given by Nottinghamshire at the close of Thursday's play in this match on the Trent-bridge Ground was amply fulfilled yesterday, when remarkable batting performances were achieved by Shrewsbury and Gunn.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 August, page 12)

More remarkable scoring was witnessed in this return match at the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, on Saturday. The close of Friday's play left the score in the following position: - Sussex, 140; Nottinghamshire, 424 for three wickets. Gunn, not out 152, and Barnes, not out 53, continued the batting on Saturday.

The fifth century was completed at a quarter to 1, but 19 runs later the batsmen were at length separated. Since they had become partners 205 runs had been added. Barnes was in nearly three hours, and his 120 included one five, eight fours, 11 threes and 12 twos. Gunn saw the rest of the side, who hit recklessly, dismissed for an addition of 51, and carried out his bat for 205. He had shown splendid form, and during the seven hours and a half that he was in gave only two chances. His hits included 19 fours, 13 threes and 17 twos. It was nearly 2 o'clock when the home innings closed for 570, the third highest score of the season.

Sussex required 430 to save the innings defeat with rather less than four hours left for play. Quaife and Mr Dudney both batted well for the visitors, but in spite of their efforts they were beaten shortly before 6 o'clock by an innings and 294 runs. The weather was fine and there was a large attendance of spectators.

25 August: SOMERSET v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128286.html)

Days 1 and 2 – no reports found

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 August, page 12)

The return match between these counties formed the second part of the cricket week at Taunton. It began on Tuesday and concluded on Saturday. Somersetshire showed excellent batting powers, and after causing their opponents to follow on ultimately won by an innings and 144 runs.

29 August: GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND v I ZINGARI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3269.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 August, page 8)

During the early morning yesterday the prospect for the opening day of the annual festival at Scarborough was far from hopeful, but the weather improved and some high scoring was witnessed, the first two batsmen scoring 175 in an hour and 10 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 August, page 10)

With the exception of a shower later in the day the weather at Scarborough yesterday proved very fine. Monday was entirely occupied by the Gentlemen's first innings of 381.

Within a few minutes of 12 o'clock the Hon Alfred Lyttelton and Mr Webbe began the Zingari batting. Runs were obtained at a quick rate and several bowling changes were adopted before Mr Lyttelton was caught at cover-point at 42. Two other wickets (those of Messrs Hawke and Walker) fell for an addition of 18. Messrs Lacey and Webbe obtained 33 while they were partners, and Messrs Webbe and Forster put on 75 for the fifth wicket. Mr Webbe was then disposed of for a very fine innings of 73. He had been in two hours and a half and his chief hits were 10 fours, three threes and six twos. Eight wickets were down for 191 when Prince Christian Victor and Mr H F de Paravicini got together and increased the score by 73.

Eventually the Zingari had to follow on. Messrs Webbe and Lyttelton hit with great freedom . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 September, page 8)

The first match of the annual festival at Scarborough was brought to a close yesterday, when the game between the Gentlemen of England and the Zingari was left drawn. When play ceased on Tuesday the score stood as follows: - Gentlemen of England 381, I Zingari 264 and 56 for no wicket.

Messrs Webbe and Lyttelton, the not-outs, with 29 and 23, increased the score to 110 before the latter was caught at mid-on. Afterwards Mr Webbe received some assistance from Mr Hawke who, among other hits, drove a ball out of the ground for six. Eventually Mr Webbe was stumped for a fine innings of 126. He was in three hours and his hits included 18 fours, five threes and eight twos.

The innings closed at a quarter past 5. The Gentlemen went in a second time, and eventually the game was drawn . . .

29 August: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3270.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 August, page 8)

At the Mote-park, Maidstone, yesterday, the return and concluding match of both these counties began in rather unsettled weather.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 August, page 10)

Yesterday at the Mote Park, Maidstone, these counties resumed their return match at 10 minutes past 11, the weather then being fine. On the previous day Nottinghamshire had completed an innings for 128, and three Kent batsmen were dismissed for 62. Less than an hour sufficed for the capture of the seven outstanding wickets for the meagre addition of 47 runs.

The visitors, with a balance of 19 in hand, started their second innings with Shrewsbury and Mr Dixon. Both batsmen played with great care and put on 57 in two hours before the amateur was taken at extra mid-off. Rain had previously stopped the game for three-quarters of an hour. Shrewsbury continued to play very finely. He received some assistance from Gunn, but was out fifth at 121. Attewell and Mr Daft then played out time.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 September, page 8)

The rain of Tuesday night rendered the wicket very heavy at the Mote-park ground, Maidstone, yesterday. The wicket at first played easy, but a strong drying wind made it treacherous after luncheon. At the drawing of stumps of Tuesday evening Notts had begun their second-innings in a majority of 18, and had scored 153 for five wickets.

Yesterday the remaining batsmen were dismissed for an addition of 48 in less than an hour. Kent required 221 to win. Messrs Patterson and Atkins were the only batsmen who played with much success, and eventually Notts won by 123 runs.

29 August: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3271.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 August, page 8)

The return match between these southern counties was begun yesterday at the Oval in the presence of several thousand people. The weather at times was dull and the wicket, owing to the heavy showers in the early morning, was slow.

Having won the toss, the home eleven took possession of the wickets shortly after 12. Maurice Read and Mr Shuter began the innings, but the start was feeble. Mr Smith, who started the bowling with Arthur Hide, claimed the first four wickets. Read was caught and bowled when two only had been made, and at 18 a catch at wicket disposed of Mr Key. Mr Walter Read's stay was also very brief, for with the total at 28 he was well caught at mid-on. Mr Shuter was taken at wicket and, after Jesse Hide had displaced his brother, Abel was taken at third man. Five for 40.

Lohmann and Mr Bowden added runs steadily and Bean went on at 52, while at 71 Humphreys relieved J Hide. This last change had the desired effect, for in his first over Lohmann, in attempting to drive, was clean bowled. Mr Bowden, who had been in nearly three-quarters of an hour for his seven runs, was taken at mid-off at 74. After luncheon Wood was taken at wicket at 83[?], and Bowley and Mills were both disposed of from Humphreys. Shortly after 3 o'clock the innings was over for 118.

Sussex went in at 3.25. Their start was no better than that of their rivals, for both Tester and Mr Newham played on, and two wickets were down for 12. Quaife was then joined by Mr Gresson, who it may be remembered was in this year's Oxford eleven. The pair made a determined stand, and though several bowling changes were adopted they added 51 before Mr Gresson was caught at mid-off.

For a time things went very badly for the visitors. Quaife was stumped at 70, J Hide bowled at 78, Bean caught at cover point at 94 and Humphreys stumped at 96. With Mr Dudney and Mr Smith together the 100 was signalled at 5.20. Two runs later Mr Smith was bowled. The remaining batsmen, Mr Brann and A Hide, however, hit with freedom, and in spite of numerous bowling changes the Surrey total was headed by 45 runs before the last wicket fell at half-past 6.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 August, page 10)

Rain considerably interfered with yesterday's play at the Oval in the return match between these counties. When the game was resumed at 11.35 the weather was fine and there were several thousand people present. The rain which had fallen during the night again rendered the wicket slow. On Monday each side completed an innings, and Sussex had secured a lead of 45 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 September, page 8)

In spite of the weather there was a numerous company at the Oval yesterday to witness the finish of the last county match at Kennington. The close of Tuesday's play left Surrey with a distinct advantage, for with six wickets to fall in their second innings they were 129 to the good. Messrs

Read and Key were the not outs with 24 and 16.

Rain fell heavily on Tuesday night, and yesterday morning, at the hour fixed for the start, a very heavy shower put all idea of play out of the question for at least half an hour. At a quarter to 1 the game was resumed, but with ten runs added rain stopped the game, which was not continued until 2.20. The bowlers were Mr Smith and Bean.

The 200 was reached at half-past 2 and, though Tester and Jesse Hide were put on, both batsmen soon completed their 50. Mr Read was bowled at 248. During the partnership 105 runs had been added. Lohmann's stay was brief, for only eight had been added when he was clean bowled. Mr Bowden assisted Mr Key in putting on 52, and was then caught at slip. With his figures at 99 Mr Key was out leg before. He had played very finely, and his hits included ten fours, five threes and 11 twos. Wood was caught at long-on at 342 and Bowley was out at 362. The play during the last quarter of an hour had been of rather a loose character and almost verged on the ridiculous. The attacking party appeared unwilling to get the batsmen out, while the latter did their best to be dismissed.

Sussex had nearly an hour and a half's cricket, but as they required 318 to win, their only chance of course was to keep up their wickets and thus draw the match. This they only just managed to do. Lohmann bowled very finely and took the whole of the seven wickets. Five of these at one time had been secured for four runs. From the score subjoined it will be seen that the game was drawn.

29 August: LANCASHIRE v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128291.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 August, page 8)

The powerful Lancashire Eleven journeyed to Northampton yesterday and began their return match with the home county on the new ground in Abington-lane in fine weather and before a large company.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 August, page 10)

The bowling of Barlow and Briggs was so effective when play in this match was continued yesterday at Northampton that Lancashire secured the victory by an innings and 68 runs.

29 August: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 August, page 8)

Rain caused more than an hour's delay at Leyton yesterday at the beginning of this return match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 August, page 10)

The match between these counties was continued yesterday at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton. Essex on Monday were all out for 160 and the visitors had obtained 91 for seven wickets. The three remaining batsmen added 33 runs. With 34 runs to the good Essex went in a second time . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 September, page 8)

In showery weather the return match between these counties was concluded yesterday on the Lyttelton ground, Leyton. As will be seen from the full score appended, Leicestershire won by four wickets.

1 September: YORKSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3272.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 September, page 6)

The second match of the Scarborough Festival was begun yesterday. Both sides were powerfully represented, and during the day some capital cricket was witnessed. The weather was fine and the company numerous. Having won the toss Yorkshire decided to go in, and the innings closed shortly before 6 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 September, page 7)

It was 20 minutes past 3 before the match between Marylebone and Yorkshire could be resumed yesterday. This delay was in consequence of the heavy rain, which so saturated the turf that it was unfit for play until after the interval. Thursday was entirely occupied by Yorkshire's first innings of 291.

Dr Grace and Mr Thornton began the visitors' batting. They were confronted by Peel and Wade. Eight overs produced 23 runs. A single later the first wicket fell, Mr Thornton being taken at long-on. Mr Stoddart aided Dr Grace, who, after giving a chance in the out-field, was secured at third man at 39. Further misfortunes soon befell the Marylebone team, for at 49 and 50 Wade dismissed Mr Stoddart and Barnes. Four for 50.

Messrs Webbe and Walker now became partners. Both showed good form, and though Bates relieved Wade the score reached 98 before Mr Webbe was caught at wicket. Mr Nepean filled the vacancy, and the 100 was signalled at 5.15. Runs were added steadily, until at 143 Mr Walker was taken at point. He had been missed in the same position by Ulyett early in the innings, but apart from this mistake his batting was excellent. Among his hits were eight fours, a three and nine twos. Messrs Nepean and Paravicini played out time . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 September, page 7)

With the exception of a shower late in the afternoon the weather at Scarborough proved very fine on Saturday, when the second match of the festival was brought to a close. The wicket played well. At the close of Friday Yorkshire had completed an innings for 291, and Marylebone had made 159 for the loss of six wickets. Thus there seemed every probability of Marylebone having to follow on.

Messrs Nepean and Paravicini, the not-outs, with 16 and 7, were opposed at 11.45 by Emmett and Wade. The score rose steadily, so at 175 the latter was superseded by Preston, while at 187 Emmett handed the ball to Peel. Mr Paravicini, when he had made 22, gave a return chance to Preston, which the latter, however, failed to take. The rate of run-getting did not slacken and the 200 was telegraphed at 12.20. Further bowling changes were resorted to, and Hall was subsequently put on with "lobs." At length, with the total at 233, Wade bowled Mr Nepean. The latter had shown excellent form, and altogether 90 were added while he and Mr Paravicini were partners.

Mr Vernon, who came in, at once began to hit with freedom, and Emmett was tried in lieu of Hall. This alteration had the desired effect, but not until 48 runs had been added, 32 of which were

contributed by Mr Vernon, who was bowling, while without further scoring Mr Paravicini was also dismissed. The last-named had played a very good innings of 70, in which were nine fours, four threes and four twos. Pougher and Sherwin added eight for the last wicket, and the innings closed at a quarter past 1 for 286.

Yorkshire started their second innings badly. Hall and Ulyett, who went in first, were both dismissed for 11. Afterwards the bowling of Messrs Stoddart and Nepean proved remarkably effective. The state of the wicket assisted them materially, and Mr Hawke, Lee and Mr Leadbeater were the only batsmen who met with much success. No variation was made in the bowling, and by a quarter past 4 Yorkshire were all out a second time for the meagre total of 94.

This left Marylebone with 100 to obtain for victory and an hour and 25 minutes in which to accomplish the task. A heavy shower delayed the Marylebone innings until a quarter past 5, and eventually the game had to be left drawn. Mr Thornton, who went in with Dr Grace, sprained his thigh in running and had to retire.

1 September: ESSEX v SURREY (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128284.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 September, page 6)

In consequence of heavy rain yesterday a start could not be made with the return match between these counties, fixed for Leyton. It was nearly 4 o'clock before the captains agreed to postpone the commencement until 11 this morning.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 September, page 7)

The return match between these counties should have commenced at Leyton on Thursday but the rain prevented a start being made, and yesterday there was no play from the same cause. Should the weather prove fine to-day play will begin at 11 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 September, page 7)

The inclement weather on Thursday and Friday prevented any play in the return match between these counties at Leyton. From the following details of Saturday's play, it will be seen that the game was left drawn very much in favour of Surrey.

Monday 5 September: COUNTY CRICKET IN 1887

The cricket season, so far as matches between the leading counties are concerned, has now been brought to a close. The weather throughout the summer has been all in favour of our national pastime, and the wickets have played so true and fast that heavy scoring has preponderated.

Surrey came second in order of merit last year, when Nottinghamshire for the fourth time in succession occupied the foremost position. The contests between these counties were consequently invested with more than ordinary interest in 1887, and the matches at Trent-bridge and the Oval will be fresh in the memories of most admirers of cricket. The latter encounter was watched by crowds which, it is believed, have not been equalled on this ground, except perhaps on the occasion of the England and Australia match in 1882.

The success of Surrey this season is a welcome earnest of the real improvement in their cricket, and the fact of the once famous county being able to wrest the laurels from their powerful northern rivals will give an impetus to the game not only in the south of England but also in the north. A feature in their 12 victories out of 16 engagements is the decisiveness with which they have been obtained. We find that on no fewer than seven occasions they inflicted single innings defeats on their opponents.

One phase of their play has called forth a great deal of adverse criticism. We refer, of course, to the matches with Nottinghamshire at Trent-bridge and Lancashire at Manchester. However loyal a cricketer may be to his county there is no doubt that both batsmen and bowlers generally keep steadily in view the average that will be placed to their credit at the end of the season. In the two contests alluded to this was openly departed from, and notably at Nottingham the individual was sunk in the interest of the county. Whether this flagrant sacrifice of wickets batsmen is in keeping with the true spirit of the game is a matter open to serious question; and to many, especially the old school of cricketers, there is something jarring in the idea of a player going to the wickets with the understood, if now avowed, purpose of getting out as speedily as possible.

Although Nottinghamshire have lost the pride of place at the head of the leading counties, one of their eleven has attained the highest batting average. Shrewsbury is the finest professional batsman we now possess, both for the correctness of his style and the vigour without recklessness of his hitting. His average after the Middlesex match at Nottingham, on August 15, 16 and 17, was 95. It was gradually lessened in the four subsequent games, but he still heads the list with 77.2.

Second in order of merit comes Dr W G Grace with 63.19, the Gloucestershire captain showing little if any diminution in his old skill with the bat. Mr Webbe, who captained Middlesex in the whole of their matches, comes third with 52.4, and Mr Key fourth with 51.15. Mr Walter Read's form has been somewhat erratic. In Surrey's earlier matches he did exceedingly well, and there have been few better innings than his 247 at Manchester; his average was 43. Yorkshire have at times displayed wonderful batting powers. Ulyett celebrated his benefit year in a most appropriate manner by accumulating 1,122 runs for an average of 48.18.

Some approximate idea of the free hitting that has prevailed during the season may be formed from the fact that seven county innings have realized more than 500 runs – viz., Nottinghamshire, 596, 570 and 515; Yorkshire, 590 and 559; Surrey 557; and Middlesex 527. Four batsmen have also scored over a thousand runs: - Dr W G Grace heads the list with 1,405; Shrewsbury is second, 1,388; Ulyett is third, 1,122; and Mr W W Read fourth, 1,032.

In bowling, Lohmann amply fulfilled the promise given by his Australian performances, and his 108 wickets obtained at an average cost of 13.94 is a remarkable feature of the season. Attewell, for Nottinghamshire; Watson and Briggs, for Lancashire; Dr W G Grace, for Gloucestershire; Wootton, for Kent; Mr Robertson and Burton, for Middlesex; Mr Smith and A Hide, for Sussex; and Peel, Emmett and Preston, for Yorkshire, are the most prominent of the other county bowlers. Appended are the averages of the nine leading counties: -

[Note: these can be found on the Cricket Archive website section for 1887.]

SURREY

An excellent eleven was got together on most occasions by Surrey. They engaged in 16 matches with the prominent counties, and three-fourths of these they won. Their victories were: - Twice against Yorkshire (at Sheffield by an innings and 15 runs and at the Oval by an innings and 10 runs); twice against Nottinghamshire (at Nottingham by 159 runs and at the Oval by four wickets); twice at Gloucestershire (at Moreton-in-the-Marsh by an innings and 104 runs and at the Oval by six wickets); twice against Derbyshire (at Derby by an innings and 237 runs and at the Oval by 299 runs); once against Middlesex (at Lord's by an innings and 29 runs); once against Lancashire (at Manchester by an innings and 134 runs); against Kent once (at Beckenham by an innings and 2 runs); and against Sussex once (at Brighton by a wicket). They were twice defeated – by Middlesex (at the Oval by nine wickets) and by Lancashire (at the Oval by 147 runs). The drawn matches were with Kent and Sussex.

LANCASHIRE

Lancashire have shown a marked improvement on last year's record, when they were credited with only five wins out of 14 matches. This year, in the same number of engagements, they have doubled their victories by twice defeating Sussex, Kent, Derbyshire and Gloucestershire, and once defeating Nottinghamshire and Surrey. They were beaten by Surrey, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. Only one match was drawn – viz., that with Yorkshire, at Bradford.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The programme of Nottinghamshire was curtailed this season by the absence of their contests with Derbyshire, so that they had only 14 matches. Of this number they won eight, their victories being twice against Kent (at Nottingham by nine wickets and at Maidstone by 123 runs); twice against Sussex (at Brighton by an innings and 289 runs and at Nottingham by an innings and 294 runs); twice against Gloucestershire (at Nottingham by an innings and 38 runs and at Clifton by an innings and 65 runs); once against Middlesex (at Lord's by an innings and six runs); and once against Lancashire (at Nottingham by an innings and 86 runs). They suffered three defeats – viz., twice by Surrey (at Nottingham by 157 runs and at the Oval by four wickets); and once by Lancashire (at Manchester by ten wickets). They played two drawn matches with Yorkshire and one with Middlesex.

MIDDLESEX

The lack of fresh bowling talent is still felt by Middlesex, but in spite of this fact they only lost two out of their 10 matches. Both of their defeats were at Lord's. Their engagements were out and home matches with Surrey, Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Kent. They won four matches – viz., against Yorkshire by six wickets, at Lord's; against Kent, by nine wickets, at Lord's; against Surrey, by nine wickets, at the Oval; and against Gloucestershire, by one wicket, at Clifton. They were defeated by Surrey and Nottinghamshire; and their four drawn games were with Gloucestershire, Nottinghamshire, Kent and Yorkshire.

YORKSHIRE

The Yorkshire victories have not been commensurate with the excellence of their batting, especially towards the close of the season. They twice obtained over 500 runs in an innings, but on each occasion the matches were drawn. Of their 16 engagements they won six – against Derbyshire twice, and against Kent, Sussex, Gloucestershire and Lancashire once. They were thrice defeated – viz., by Surrey twice and Middlesex once. The remaining seven matches were drawn.

SUSSEX

Sussex have only been able to secure two victories out of their twelve engagements. These were against Gloucestershire (at Brighton by four wickets) and against Kent (at Brighton by seven wickets). They lost eight matches, being defeated twice by Lancashire, twice by Nottinghamshire and once by Surrey, Kent, Yorkshire and Gloucestershire. The two drawn matches were with Yorkshire and Surrey.

KENT

Kent have been singularly unfortunate this season, which, in a great measure, is attributable to the fact that in the early matches they were unable to get together a representative eleven. Out of 14 engagements they only obtained one victory – viz., over Sussex, at Tonbridge, by six wickets. They were defeated eight times, twice by Lancashire and Nottinghamshire, and once by Yorkshire, Middlesex, Sussex and Surrey. They drew twice with Gloucestershire and once with Yorkshire, Middlesex and Surrey.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

“The County of the Graces,” as Gloucestershire is often not inaptly called, has fared rather badly this season. Out of 14 matches they can only claim one solitary victory, and that against Sussex, at Clifton, in the early part of August, when they won by six wickets. On no fewer than nine occasions they were defeated – viz., twice by Surrey, Lancashire and Nottinghamshire, and once by Sussex, Middlesex and Yorkshire. The four remaining matches were drawn.

DERBYSHIRE

Derbyshire issued a most scanty programme this season, consisting of out and home matches with Lancashire, Yorkshire, Surrey and Kent. This was further diminished by the engagements with the

hop county being afterwards cancelled owing to financial difficulties. The six remaining contests all ended in defeats, the most crushing of which was received at the hands of Surrey at Derby on July 28, 29 and 30, when they were beaten by an innings and 237 runs.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The following table gives the relative positions of the above-mentioned counties, reckoning by the number of victories and counting a third for a drawn game: -

| | Total No. of Matches | Won | Lost | Drawn | Average |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----|------|-------|---------|
| Surrey | 16 | 12 | 2 | 2 | .79 |
| Lancashire | 14 | 10 | 3 | 1 | .73 |
| Nottinghamshire | 14 | 8 | 3 | 3 | .64 |
| Middlesex | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | .53 |
| Yorkshire | 16 | 6 | 3 | 7 | .52 |
| Sussex | 12 | 2 | 8 | 2 | .22 |
| Kent | 14 | 1 | 8 | 5 | .19 |
| Gloucestershire | 14 | 1 | 9 | 4 | .16 |
| Derbyshire | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | -- |

Monday 5 September, page 4: CRICKET REPORTING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I noted the two letters, one signed "A Cricket Reporter," the other "Herbert Troughton," and I let them lie quietly on my table for a few days for two reasons – first, because the difference of opinions about cricket is not the subject on angry controversy, and, secondly, I wanted to test the value of some of the assertions of either correspondent by inquiries. On the main question of "first and second class counties being accepted titles by cricket players and writers generally" and as to the value of "premierships and championships" I can speak.

As regards titles, I can state, from information derived in each case at the fountain head, that the Marylebone Club receives every county against which the MCC plays as a county without any distinction, and ignores all titles of "first and second," and also that at the Cricket Council the resolution - which was most cordially adopted, especially by the counties which have had along career and which can boast of a long roll of cricketers, amateur and professional – stands on the books "That it is inexpedient (or whatever the words may be) that counties should be classified."

Mr Troughton thinks there ought to be a distinction and speculates on what the Cricket Council may do at their next meeting. He also asks me whether the vast crowds which assembled at the Oval would have been there but for the championship. As regards what the Cricket Council may do, it is a matter in the womb of time, and on which Mr Troughton may prophesy and speculate; I know not. As to the enormous crowds being due to the championship, I cannot give him an opinion beyond saying that a contest between two of the strongest elevens in England has always attracted an enormous crowd; and, it being a fine Bank Holiday, it appeared to me that some considerable portion of that crowd were idlers carrying on a contest – possibly a championship contest – in bad language and turf throwing.

As regards championships and averages, it would be a great boon for old cricketers who go to a match as a grand English sport in which an attentive observer can always find some brilliant piece of play, whether in a contest of Gentlemen v Players or England and Australia, or in a village green match, if they could be entirely shut away from those who bore them with "averages" and "championships," just as people in railway carriages or in any public places bore one with the "Varsity Boat Race" at Easter, or later on din into your ears the names of racehorses and the Derby. These blatant gentlemen are those who carry about the world every bit of slang they pick up, and I generally find that these self-appointed critics on sports know least about them. When Jones or Brown or Robinson of every-day life finds himself – as the Joneses, Browns and Robinsons sometimes do – a guest at the table or a visitors in the house of a man of high rank and position, he has the sense to know that there are many guests with whom he talks and laughs and associates who are, according to acknowledged though undefined rules, of superior rank to himself; but if any one was to hint to the host that he ought to have a defined list of "first and second class guests" what a row there would be – just as if we, the unbelievers in championships, were to insist that there should be a list of first and second class cricket reporters, and if they would not arrange it we must. The captains of counties and the Marylebone Club approve the principle of "Tros Tyriusque mihi nullo discrimine agetur."

As regards championships, I produce from the printed authority last year's award without comment beyond the italics being mine: - "Nottinghamshire in 1886. – Taken as a whole, Nottinghamshire's record for the season of 1886 was perhaps less brilliant than that of Surrey, but inasmuch as Notts went through the summer without suffering a single defeat, while Surrey in strictly first-class

county matches alone was three times beaten, it is no more than fair to accord to Nottinghamshire the position of champion for the year. The one unsatisfactory point about the season's doings was the large proportion of unfinished games. Of the 14 first-class county matches in which Notts engaged seven were won and seven left drawn, while in *neither of the two contests against the Australians was a definite result arrived at.* There seems to be something about the wickets of the Trent Bridge grounds and, moreover, the Nottingham men, in their *laudable desire" to on all occasions *escape defeat,* play a slower and safer game than any other English team.

"Having regard to these two facts, it would, in our opinion, be advisable for the Notts committee to use every means to economize time. *Nothing can be worse for the popularity of the game than a large number of unfinished matches.* Of the 14 county matches engaged in, Nottinghamshire beat Sussex twice, won one and drew one each with Yorkshire, Lancashire, Surrey, Kent and Middlesex, and played two draws with Gloucestershire. Of the seven unfinished games the first match with Surrey and the return with Lancashire were left in unfavourable positions. Arthur Shrewsbury, in the strictly county matches, comes out with the splendid average of 46.1. Though his advantage over Gunn is largely due to his great score of 227 not out against Gloucestershire at Moreton-in-the-Marsh, he played wonderfully good cricket for the county all through the season, and fairly earned his place at the head of the list.

"Surrey in 1886. – Although they missed the county championship, the Surrey men had a magnificent season in 1886. In all they played no fewer than 26 matches, and of this number 20 were won, five lost and only one remained unfinished. The fact that out of such a heavy programme of games only one was left drawn is one of the most gratifying points in connexion with an altogether exceptional record. Though it cannot be said of the present team, as of the old, that every member was born within the borders of the county, the feeling of comradeship has been to a large extent restored, and there was no county side last season which worked better together. *Before everything else*, the fact will be remembered that a double victory was *obtained over the Australians*, and that the second match produced the highest individual score ever hit against Australian bowling in England – Maurice Read's 186 – and up to that time the best total – 501 – ever obtained in this country against the Australians, this latter record being subsequently beaten by Lord Londesborough's team at Scarborough. Manifestly inferior to Nottingham on a slow ground, the Surrey team last season, in fine weather and on fast wickets, could have gone into the field with reasonable hopes of success against almost any opponents."

It is fair to say that the self-appointed arbitrators profess to give their judgment only on some eight or nine counties whom they select as first-class.

As to cricket declining in default of averages, and championships, emulation, &c., "A Cricket Reporter" need not fret; for so long as there is a dry railway arch and a friendly policeman who will not interfere with the young gentlemen who, ex necessitate, are dressed a la kilt, owing to the scantiness of the legs of their trousers and the shortness of their nether garments, and who play their matches with a home-made bat and a wooden ball, and so long as there are the village greens, where children begin the game at six years old and men of all ages play or look on, and where the little hero of his side to-day becomes the world-known cricketer of a few years hence, cricket wants no adventitious excitement; and if all the Press were to disappear to-morrow – yourselves, Sir, included – and cricketers went back to notching on a stick, the cricket flame would be as bright as ever. Average and championship mongers are flies on the wheel who do no actual harm, unless their writings incite players to "rope" for a draw or for their own average, or bring about bookmakers in cricket.

Again I say we are under deep obligations to the Press, who supply us every morning with an account of all yesterday's cricket in England, and who supply us throughout the day and in the evening with the cricket of to-day; but, when members of their body vote themselves "title-makers and kingmakers," captains of counties do not care about wearing the crown.

Having been 52 years in the game, the two first years being spent as a fag at Winchester, where you not only had to go long-stop or watch out for several hours without touching a bat, and during the whole of the balance (as the Yankees say), from 1837 till to-day, having had frequent communication and formed many lifelong friendships in London and the country with the best cricketers, amateur and professional, of all counties; and, moreover, having played in the village greens of Surrey, in every district, and worked with those who have promoted the game till my face is as well known as the postman's or the parish beadle's, perhaps, I speak with some authority when I say that I have not heard on London grounds or country grounds any one of the bona fide cricketers say one word of praise in favour of championships or premierships, and that most of them, as far as I can judge, think and believe, as I do, that it is "somebody's (perhaps Tommy Dod's) fad," and is a ship which has been built and launched for which a crew cannot be found.

Yours, *c., F.G.

Monday 5 September, page 9: EDITORIAL: CRICKET REPORTERS ARE UPON THEIR TRIAL

Cricket reporters are upon their trial. Their offence is that they have introduced a classification of counties into major and minor, or first-class and second-class. They also talk learnedly of championships and premierships, against the peach of mind of old-fashioned cricketers, and against the statute in that behalf by the MCC provided, according to which every county is as good as another county.

And the public prosecutor is of great reputation, "F.G.," whose rejoinder to the defence of the reporters we publish this morning, is easily recognizable, through the thin disguise of initials, as a NESTOR of the cricket-field. Perhaps no living man is so well-versed as he in the cricket-lore of other days. His recent book on the game is a storehouse of memories and maxims. No one is so well qualified to moderate the pride of modern cricketers by recounting the exploits of the old, of BELDHAM, of FULLER PILCH, of ALFRED MYNN, of FELIX and the Old Hambledonians.

And yet "F.G." does not belong to the past alone. He follows the cricket of the present day with unflagging enthusiasm. He discovers heroes in 1887 as willingly as in 1837. Those who report cricket matches in the Press may well feel nervous at the sudden assault of such an authority, who certainly cannot be told with truth that he is "played out." "F.G." objects to counties being referred to in the Press as "first-class" and "second-class," because such a distinction ought to depend upon something better than the ipse dixit of a journalist. He urges further that, as both the MCC and the new Cricket Council have declined to classify counties according to merit, cricket reporters ought not to aspire to do what such authorities have deliberately left undone.

"F.G.'s" second opinion is that it is pecuniary ruin to a county to be branded as "second-class." If the description is unmerited, an injustice is done; if it is correct, the unfortunate county is plunged still deeper into the mire. Then there is his argument against "championships" and "premierships." "The theory of these self-constituted authorities is that any one of their ear-marked first-class counties – provided that they play not less than eight matches among each other without defeat –

shall take precedence and be champion over any other which suffers a defeat.”

He illustrates the vicious operation of this rule by the performances of Surrey and Notts last year. Notts played 14 county matches – won seven, drew seven and were not defeated once. Surrey played 16 county matches – won 12, lost three and drew one. Besides this, Surrey twice defeated the Australians. Yet, upon the system of reckoning which “F.G.” denounces, Notts was the champion county of 1886. Thus a county has every motive for playing as few county matches as possible and spinning out as many as it can for a draw, “instead of taking an honest licking like a good cricketer and sportsman.”

We deplore as much as “F.G.” the formation of a close aristocracy among the cricketing counties. But is he not blaming cricket reporters for what is not their fault? These poor people are pitched upon as somebody to hang, because they are nearest to hand. They are treated by “F.G.” as a sort of “ring” which pretends to confer sham degrees of merit. While professing entire gratitude towards the Press for its services to cricket, he reminds its unfortunate representatives that they are only flies on the chariot-wheel. But it was not reporters who created the gulf which separates, let us say, Surrey from Suffolk. If cricket chroniclers ignore the wide difference between two such counties, they would be shutting their eyes to plain facts.

It is very well that the MCC, in the democratic spirit which becomes cricketers, should regard all counties as equal; nor should be like to see this nominal equality disturbed. But to say that all counties are equal is no more true in point of fact than to say that all men are equal. “F.G.” must blame mightier forces for requiring that this disparity should be recognized. Cricket reporters “but echo back the public voice.” The classification of counties and the minute comparison of the performances of those counties which are placed in the front rank are the natural result of the extraordinary interest which is felt now-a-days in cricket and, indeed, in all forms of athletics.

Always popular, cricket has become vastly more popularized during the last twenty years. This impetus to the game has made competition keener, and has produced something of a mania for canvassing “results” of county cricket during each season. It is not a movement which can be arrested by refusing to notice it. Nothing will satisfy enthusiasts but by measuring the prowess of the various counties. “F.G.” complains in effect that they use a tape measure. But it seems to us that, although the method is rough and ready, the correctness of the result, so far as a division into first and second class counties goes, is beyond challenge.

Who can name a single county, out of the twenty or so which possess elevens, regarding which there is any doubt in which category it ought to be placed at the present time? Nor is it credible, with all deference to “F.G.,” that any county’s pecuniary prospects can suffer through being ranked in the right division. If it is only second-rate, larger “gates” will not be drawn by describing it as first-rate. People know a great deal too much about the merits of county elevens to be deceived by adjectives.

As for “F.G.’s” criticism upon the rule itself, that it favours “stonewall tactics,” there would be much truth in what he says if the rule were applied in a hard and fast manner. It may have been applied too rigidly in the matter of Notts and Surrey last year, although that is a matter of opinion. But everybody, cricket reporters included, now recognizes that it is only a rough and ready rule of thumb. It only creates a presumption which may be rebutted by other circumstances. For instance, the analysis we publish this morning shows that Middlesex, during the season, out of ten matches lost only two and won four. Yet public opinion, to which reporters have deferred, unites in ranking Middlesex below both Lancashire and Notts, the former of which counties has lost three and won

ten matches out of 14, while the latter, with the same number of engagements, has been defeated in three contests and victorious in eight. And the best answer to "F.G." is that no one has yet invented a better test of merit, capable of being out in the form of a definition.

It would be more healthy if there were more love for cricket itself and less excitement about "results." Cricket, as "F.G." is never tired of preaching, is only a game, the intrinsic beauties of which deserve admiration far more than a long roll of successes. In an ideal state of thing scoresheets would be torn up after the match was over. Away with tabulated returns and averages and all the rest of the paraphernalia, and let us enjoy our cricket match in a quiet contemplative atmosphere, without the fear of the end of the season before our eyes, applauding to the echo the smart fielding of cover-point or the stopping of a deadly shooter, but treating with cold silence the unscientific hit out of the ground for six!

Fain would we journey back to the rare days of which "F.G." delights to tell, and dwell in oblivion of that irrepressible arithmetical calculation which takes place at the beginning of September. But the emulative spirit of our countrymen will not have it so. The modern cricket-lover is too often a mere statistician. He has at his fingers' ends records, and batting and bowling averages, and county championship returns; and yet he sometimes has a hazy idea of what is meant by "playing with a straight bat." For these people "F.G." is right in entertaining scorn.

But even among genuine cricketers the intense spirit of competition which is the chief feature of modern cricket precipitates itself in a worship of success. To attempt to stem the tide of invidious comparison would be idle. The best thing under the circumstances is to insure that, if the restless spirits insist upon knowing the truth, it shall be the whole truth. In any case "F.G." is needlessly apprehensive of the advent of the betting ring in cricket. Surely the moderns, who have long ago banished the matches for money, which "F.G." remembers so well, have given no ground for anticipating so doleful a relapse.

5 September: NORTH v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3273.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Tuesday 6 September)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 September, page 9)

Yesterday the concluding match of the festival at Scarborough was begun between thoroughly representative elevens of the North and South. It will be remembered that rain prevented any play on Monday. Yesterday, however, the weather proved fine, and a large company witnessed the game during the afternoon.

Day 2 (report from Thursday 8 September, page 3)

Rain, which altogether prevented play in this match on Monday, fell during the greater portion of Tuesday night, and it was not until 25 minutes to 2 that the game was resumed yesterday. From the subjoined score it will be seen that the match was drawn.

Friday 9 September, page 13: CRICKET REPORTING

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - You have thrown so much good-humoured bated into this question that I would suggest to the gentlemen who report matches and keep annals of cricket, most of whom I have the pleasure of knowing personally, that if they would adopt a middle course and style the counties of their selection "the leading counties of England" – as I believe you do – all difficulty would be at an end.

I am, &c., F.G.

8 September: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3274.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 September, page 10)

The North v South fixtures have always been very popular, and judging from the large attendance on the cricket ground at Hastings yesterday the match seems to have lost none of its attractiveness. With the exception of the absence of Dr W G Grace and Shrewsbury, two better sides could hardly have been chosen, and the cricket proved of a very high-class character.

During the past fortnight the weather in the south of England has been of a most miserable nature, and even on Wednesday rain fell in torrents at Hastings. Yesterday, however, came a welcome change, for throughout the day the sun shone brilliantly. An excellent wicket had been prepared by Manwaring, the groundkeeper, and in spite of the recent wet it played very well.

Mr Walter Read, the southern captain, won the toss and decided to go in. Maurice Read and Frank Hearne opened the innings at 20 minutes to 1 to the bowling of Peel and Wade. The start was not promising, for in the sixth over Maurice Read was clean bowled middle stump. Mr Key and Hearne now became partners, and while they were together the South prospects became bright. Each batsman made a drive for four, and Hearne also hit Wade to leg for four. Barnes superseded Peel at 27, but the scoring only became faster. Hearne drove each bowler for four and Mr Key cut Barnes twice to the boundary. Fifty went up after 40 minutes' play. The free hitting continued, until at 83 Hearne hit his wicket in playing back to Emmett; he had made five fours &c. The luncheon interval was now taken.

Afterwards Mr Walter Read joined Mr Key. Flowers and Emmett were entrusted with the bowling. The "100" went up at five minutes past 3, but Mr Read was bowled at 112. Three down. With Abel in, Mr Key increased his figures to 50, and then gave a difficult chance to Grimshaw at cover-point. Abel was caught at mid-on at 126, and Mr Pigg came in. More free hitting was witnessed until at 142 Mr Key was easily taken at slip for a superb innings of 70. He had been in rather less than two hours and his hits comprised 12 fours, eight twos and only six singles. Five for 142.

Messrs Sutthery and Pigg were now together. The former was stumped at 178, Lohmann was bowled first ball, and a brilliant return catch by Bates got rid of Hide. Eight wickets down. Bowley was stumped at 194, and Mr Pigg was bowled, the innings closing at 4.50 for 210.

The North, at ten minutes past 5, sent in Hall and Flowers. Lohmann led off the attack, and from his second delivery Hall was taken at short leg, one wicket being lost without a run having been scored. Mr Daft joined Flowers. Runs came rapidly, contributed chiefly by Flowers. Mr Daft should have been caught at square leg by Mr Pigg, but this mistake proved of little consequence, for at 28 he played on. The light had become very bad when Wade came in. Flowers was dismissed at 34. Three down. Without alteration in the figures Wade was bowled, and Peel lost his wicket in attempting a fourth run for a hit of his own. Stumps were then drawn.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 September, page 10)

The second day's play in the first match of the festival at Hastings was productive of excellent all-round cricket. Fine weather too was again experienced, and the company, which numbered

between 4,000 and 5,000, thoroughly appreciated the play. When stumps were drawn on Thursday evening the score was left greatly in favour of the South, for the visitors, having gone in against a total of 210, had lost five good batsmen for 39. Thus with half their wickets to fall they had 92 to obtain to avert the follow on.

Bates, the overnight not out, was joined by Barnes, and precisely at noon, Lohmann opened the attack. Mr Pigg bowled from the other end. Twenty-three runs were speedily added, Bates among other items making a fine drive for four. Bowley displaced Mr Pigg at 63. Bates speedily hit him to square leg for four, and in his next over he drove him to the boundary. At 86 Lohmann in fielding a cut by Barnes received a severe blow on the leg, and was relieved by Hide. From the new bowler's third delivery Bates, in hitting round to leg, skied the ball to cover point. Six for 86. A further misfortune speedily befell the visitors, for Ulyett, who came in, was clean bowled first ball.

Grimshaw came in and Barnes made a crisp cut for four, and at 96 Lohmann relieved Bowley at the lower end and Grimshaw was easily taken at point. Eight wickets were down and 33 runs still wanted to prevent the North from following their innings. Emmett drove Hide finely for four, and the 100 was signalled at five minutes to 1. Both batsmen continued to play well until at 113 Emmett was smartly caught at slip, Sherwin was bowled off his body and the innings closed for 119.

The North, who required 91 to save the innings defeat, went in a second time at 1.50. Hall and Barnes were opposed by Lohmann and Hide. Each batsman made a couple of singles in four overs, and the adjournment was made for luncheon. The interval over, Lohmann and Jesse Hide conducted the attack. At starting the cricket was lively, Barnes cutting each bowler finely for four. Only 13 runs were recorded, however, when he had his middle stump bowled.

With Ulyett and Hall together the play for a time was very quiet; the bowling was very true and the fielding faultless. Hall enlivened matters by cutting Hide for four. He next played the same bowler to leg with a like result, while Ulyett made drives from both ends for four each. Abel superseded Hide at 44. Ulyett drove Abel for four, but in Lohmann's next over Hall returned the ball. Two for 48. Bates joined Ulyett. The 50 appeared at 20 minutes to 4, but three runs later Ulyett played on. Three wickets were down for 53, and the Northern outlook was certainly gloomy.

Mr Daft and Bates, however, made an invaluable stand. The first item of note during the partnership was a grand drive out of the ground for six by Bates off Lohmann. He followed this up by playing Abel twice to leg for four each and driving him with the same result. Abel handed the ball to Bowley at 83, but the fast rate of run-getting continued. Bates drove each bowler to the on for four and thus averted the possibility of an innings defeat. Mr Daft, who had been playing very cautiously, hit Bowley to leg for four. Mr Pigg relieved Lohmann at 98, but his first over Bates drove for four and a leg hit for three brought up the 100 at half-past 4. Mr Walter Read was tried with lobs at 116, and the alteration proved effective, as his first ball clean bowled Mr Daft. During the partnership 63 runs had been put on. Four for 116.

Bates did not long survive his recent partner, as having made two other fours he was clean bowled. He had played a brilliant innings of 61, which had taken only an hour and a quarter to compile. His chief hits were one six, nine fours, two threes and two twos. Five for 130.

Flowers and Peel were now together. As runs came quickly Lohmann received the ball from Mr Walter Read, and at 146 he clean bowled Flowers. Five runs later a well-judged catch almost on the boundary at long-off by Maurice Read dismissed Peel, while, without alteration to the figures,

Grimshaw was clean bowled. Sherwin came in eighth wicket down, and after making a couple of fours he played on at 168. Emmett and Wade kept up their wickets till the close of the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 September, page 10)

Heavy rain fell during the early hours of Saturday, but the weather cleared up before noon. A large company witnessed the end of the match. When play ceased on Friday evening each side had completed an innings, and the North, having followed on against a majority of 91, had scored 174 for nine wickets.

Wade and Emmett (the not outs with ten and three) resumed the batting at ten minutes past 1 to the bowling of Mr Pigg and Lohmann (marine end). The late start was necessitated by the condition of the wicket. Emmett soon hit Lohmann to leg for three, while his companion made three twos by cuts. The fielding was very smart, and Emmett had a narrow escape of being run out. The cricket continued lively. Wade secured four by an off-drive, and Emmett three from a similar hit, both from Lohmann. Directly afterwards a single by Wade caused the 200 to appear, amid loud cheers, at 20 minutes to 2. Abel now relieved Mr Pigg, and with three runs added he got Emmett caught at wicket, the innings closing at 1.45 for 203. The South thus had to get 113 to win, and the game was much more even than at one time seemed probable.

At 3 o'clock the South began their second innings with F Hearne and Maurice Read. Peel and Barnes had charge of the bowling. Read played Barnes to square-leg for three, but a single later F Hearne skied the ball and was easily taken at point. One wicket down for four was by no means a promising start. Mr Key came in. Read drove Peel finely for four, but from the following ball he was splendidly caught close to the boundary at long-on by Grimshaw.

Messrs Read and Key now became partners. The latter drove Barnes for three, and in the next over made a couple of twos and a single. He followed up these items by driving Barnes to the off for four. In the next over, however, Sherwin cleverly stumped him, and three wickets were down for 26. Only three had been added when Abel for the second time was dismissed without scoring, a catch at cover-point bringing about his downfall. Mr Pigg aided Mr Read. He drove Barnes for three and hit the other bowler to leg for two, 40 going up after three-quarters of an hour's play. He was then let off by Sherwin at the wicket. Directly afterwards Mr Read was almost caught by Grimshaw at short mid-on, after which he made 10 in one over from Peel. At 53 Emmett took the ball from Barnes. The alteration proved very effective, for without addition and with his second delivery he got Mr Pigg finely caught at slip by Bates, who made the catch very low down with his right hand.

Mr Suthery came in with the figures at 53 for five wickets. Mr Read hit Peel to square-leg for four, but Mr Suthery, having scored a couple, was easily caught at mid-off. Six for 59. Lohmann arrived. Mr Read again hit Peel to square-leg for four, but at 63 was taken by Hall, who was standing back at point. Seven down. The game was all in favour of the North when J Hide joined Lohmann. The latter was taken at mid-on at 66, and nothing further had been scored when Bowley was out leg before. Nine down. Phillips and Hide stayed together a long time, and runs were added steadily amid much excitement. Emmett, however, eventually bowled down Phillips's off stump, and the North won after a capital finish by 27 runs. The bowling and fielding were very good, but the wicket was all against the batsmen.

The festival will be continued to-day with a match between the Gentlemen of Surrey and the Gentlemen of Sussex.

On Wednesday and Thursday the concluding match will be played between the Gentlemen of Sussex and Players of Sussex.

12 September: GENTLEMEN OF SUSSEX v GENTLEMEN OF SURREY

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

(Potted scores) Gentlemen of Surrey 118 (J Shuter 28, K J Key 31; A M Sutthery 5/28) and 137/8 (M P Bowden 70, F Hill 23*; C E Horner 3/60, D L A Jephson 4/68). Gentlemen of Sussex 334 (F H Gresson 73, H Pigg 44, E J M'Cormick 43, F B Whitfeld 39, R King-Sampson 40, E Matheson 27*).

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 September, page 11)

The second match of the festival at Hastings began yesterday between the Gentlemen of Surrey and Sussex. Two powerful elevens were opposed to each other and the fixture proved very attractive. When the game was begun the weather was dull, but it improved and the afternoon was fine.

On a good wicket Surrey, who won the toss, went in first at 20 minutes past 12. Mr Bowden was soon disposed of, but Messrs Shuter and Key stayed together until the figures reached 46. Both the last-named gentlemen played well. Mr Sutthery's bowling, however, was very effective, and by 3.40 the visitors were all out.

Messrs Pigg and Gresson began the Sussex innings at 4 o'clock. They made a most successful start, and in a little more than an hour scored 91 runs. Mr Pigg was then caught at wicket for 44, in which were seven fours, a three and two twos. Mr Sutthery was got rid of at 110, and then Messrs Gresson and M'Cormick played out time. A large company witnessed the play.

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

The interest in this, the second match of the Hastings Festival, was well sustained throughout yesterday. The weather was again fine. On Monday evening Surrey had completed an innings for 118, while only two of the Sussex wickets were down for 165.

Messrs Gresson and M'Cormick (not out 68 and 20) continued the batting at 11.25. The former only added five to his score. Mr M'Cormick hit steadily, and Mr F B Whitfeld batted freely for his 39. Nine wickets were down for 281, when Messrs King-Sampson and Matheson became partners. They successfully defied the weak Surrey bowling, and it was not until 53 runs had been added that Mr King-Sampson was driven on to his wicket. Total 334.

The Gentlemen of Surrey, with a deficit of 216, had nearly three hours left for play. They began badly, quickly losing four wickets, among them being those of Messrs Key and J Shuter, both bowled by Matheson. Mr Bowden batted in fine style, but was eventually bowled. His principal items were 13 fours, a three and three twos. As eight wickets were down at 5.20 and Mr L A Shuter had been injured on the previous day, the match resolved itself into a question of time. Messrs Hill and Horner rendered their side great service by patient and excellent play. The varied efforts of Sussex to separate them were fruitless, and the match was left drawn.

14 September: GENTLEMEN OF SUSSEX v PLAYERS OF SUSSEX

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

(Potted scores) Gentlemen of Sussex 130 (A M Suthery 22, E J M'Cormick 49, C J M Godfrey 30*; Bean 3/27, J B Hide 4/37) and 123 (F H Gresson 20, E J M'Cormick 37; Bean 3/43, A Hide 3/18, Tester 3/8). Players of Sussex 165 (Tester 22, G Bean 36, A Hide 29; C J M Godfrey 4/24) and 62/6 (J B Hide 32; H Pigg 4/30).

Day 1 (report from Thursday 15 September, page 5)

The third and concluding match of the Hastings Festival between the above teams began yesterday. The weather was rather cold but the company was numerous, while a good wicket had been provided. The Gentlemen's eleven had three variations from that which played against the Gentlemen of Surrey, Messrs A C Coles, W H Stanton and F G Chichester taking the places of Messrs H Whitfeld, F B Whitfeld and King-Sampson.

The amateurs were successful in the toss, and sent in Messrs Pigg and Gresson. The start was very disheartening as both these gentlemen lost their wickets without scoring. Messrs M'Cormick, Suthery and Godfrey batted well; among the first-named batsman's hits were seven fours, two threes and four twos. The innings closed for a total of 130. The players began batting at 3.35, and when stumps were drawn at a quarter to 6 . . .

Day 2 (report from Friday 26 September, page 5)

At Hastings yesterday rain caused play to be delayed for some little time in the morning, and in all likelihood prevented this match being brought to a definite issue. At the close of Wednesday's play the Gentlemen were all out for 130 and half the Players' wickets were down for 92.

Bean, the not out with 24, added a dozen runs to his score prior to being caught by Mr Wilkinson. A Hide hit freely for [29], and the total was advanced to 165 before the last wicket fell. With a deficit of 35 the Gentlemen went in a second time. Mr M'Cormick again batted well, as did Messrs Gresson and Pigg. The innings closed at 25 minutes to 5 for 123.

The Players, who required 89 to win, had an hour and five minutes' batting. They started badly, as Quaife and Bean were both out before a run had been scored. J Phillips and J Hide improved matters, however, and at the end of the day the Players had only 27 to get for victory and five wickets to fall. The match was thus left drawn.

Tuesday 13 September, page 11: Yesterday at the Oval the annual match for the benefit of the ground bowlers was begun. It was between 21 Gentlemen of Surrey and 12 Professionals. The amateurs went in first and scored 125; Mr E Southey made 16, the only double figures innings on the side. When stumps were drawn the professionals had lost five wickets for 57 runs. For the Players Harris took nine wickets for 30 runs and Smith six for 22.

Wednesday 14 September, page 6: The match for the ground bowlers' benefit was continued

yesterday at Kennington Oval and left drawn. The Gentlemen scored 125 and 231 (Mr C Ratcliffe 57 and Mr H Bryant 53) for 16 wickets; and the players 84.

The following is the draft of the by-laws which have been drawn up by the sub-committee appointed by the newly-formed council last July at Lord's. They will be submitted to a meeting of the council in December: -

1. This association shall be styled "The County Cricket Council," and shall consist of delegates from each affiliated county cricket club.
2. The original county cricket clubs affiliated are as follows – viz. (Names). Any county cricket club other than the above-mentioned desirous of affiliation subsequent to (date) must be elected at the annual meeting held in December, and must be duly proposed and elected at the annual meeting held in December, and must be duly proposed and seconded after notice given in accordance with rule 10.
3. The officers of the council shall be a chairman, a treasurer and a secretary.
4. The chairman shall be elected at the meeting in December, and shall hold his office for one year, or until his successor is appointed, and shall be eligible for re-election.
5. The treasurer and secretary shall be appointed for such time and the secretary at such salary as the council see fit to determine, and shall be removable by the council at any time.
6. Meetings of the council shall be held twice in every year at least.
7. The annual meeting at which the election of officers and the affiliation of county cricket clubs shall take place shall be held as nearly as possible on the first Wednesday in December in London.
8. Special meetings of the council shall be summoned by the secretary on the written request of the chairman, or of not less than (five?) members of the council; but not less than 14 days' notice shall be given to the delegates or secretaries of such special meeting, and no business shall be transacted at such meeting except that for which the council has been specially summoned.
9. The secretary shall send to all the secretaries of affiliated county clubs a notice – with agenda paper – of the date of the council meetings not less than 28 days before such meetings.
10. No less than 30 days' notice shall be given of all motions, and such notice shall be sent to the secretary of the council in writing and signed by the mover.
11. The order of business at each meeting shall be: - (1) Minutes to be read; (2) reports of any sub-committees to be considered; (3) letters; (4) motions; and at each annual meeting the following additions: (5) election of officers; (6) election of delegates.
12. No decision shall be come to on any subject not on the agenda paper unless by the unanimous consent of all present, but other matters may be discussed by the permission of the chair.
13. In the absence of the chairman a chairman for the meeting shall be appointed by those present.
14. At all meetings of the council five shall form a quorum, and the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his own in the event of the voting being equal.

15. Each affiliated county club shall contribute annually out of its funds such a sum as the council may from time to time fix.

16. The treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the council, and shall keep its accounts in proper books, to be provided for the purpose, and at the annual meeting in December he shall present an audited account up to the (date?) of all the pecuniary transactions during the year past.

17. All orders for the payment of money shall be signed by the chairman or his deputy, and counter-signed by the secretary.

18. There shall be two auditors, who shall be appointed at the annual meeting in December, and they shall hold office for one year only, but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

Saturday 3 December, page 9:

The annual general meeting of the Middlesex County Club, held at the Charing-cross Hotel, was presided over by Mr V E Walker. Among those present were Messrs A J Webbe, I D Walker, P M Thornton and J G Walker.

The balance-sheet, which was passed, showed the financial position of the club to be in every way satisfactory. In addition to £500 invested in Consols, there is nearly £150 in hand.

The following officers were elected for next season: - President, Earl of Strafford; vice-presidents, Lord George Hamilton, M.P., and Mr V E Walker; honorary treasurer, Mr W Nicholson; honorary secretary, Mr P M Thornton; committee, Hon A Lyttelton, Messrs A R Daly, R Henderson, J Robertson, E Rutter, G B Studd, H Turner, C Tebbutt, G F Vernon, I D Walker, J G Walker and A J Webbe. Messrs A J Webbe and P M Thornton were asked to represent the county at the meeting of secretaries next Tuesday and also on Monday at the cricket council.

It was also agreed to oppose any alterations in the laws that Lord Harris might bring forward next week to prevent the heavy scoring and so many drawn games. The leg-before-wicket question was also mentioned, and the meeting seemed to think that some alteration should be made to prevent batsmen using their legs so much in the defence of the wicket.

Next season it was decided to play home and home matches with Kent, Lancashire, Surrey, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire and Gloucestershire. Matches will also be arranged, in all probability, with the Australians and Oxford University. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

Tuesday 6 December 1887, page 10: THE COUNTY CRICKET COUNCIL

The first meeting of this council was held in the pavilion at Lord's yesterday. There were present: - Lord Harris and Mr George Marsham, Kent; Messrs W H C Oates and E E Browne, Nottinghamshire; Messrs M J Ellison and J B Wostinholm, Yorkshire; Messrs A Appleby and S H Swire, Lancashire; Messrs P M Thornton and A J Webbe, Middlesex; Messrs C W Alcock and J

Shuter, Surrey; Messrs M Turner and C H Smith, Sussex; Mr W M Jervis, Derbyshire; Dr W G Grace, Gloucestershire; Messrs M P Betts and H Fowler, Essex; Mr G Ansell, Warwickshire; Mr J Horner, Cheshire; Messrs T Burdett and Bonner, Leicestershire; Mr A H Heath, Staffordshire; Dr Bencraft, Hampshire; Mr C Pigg, Hertfordshire; Mr Anderton, Somersetshire; and Mr Mallett, Durham. Mr H Perkins, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, at the request of Lord Harris, was also present.

Lord Harris, who was unanimously voted to the chair, said that as there were no minutes before the meeting, he would at once proceed to submit the by-laws which had been drawn up by the sub-committee. These he put **seriatim** and they were amended and approved. They included the following: -

1. This association shall be styled "The County Cricket Council," and shall consist of delegates from each affiliated county cricket club.
2. The original county cricket clubs affiliated are as follow: – Notts, Yorkshire, Surrey, Kent, Lancashire, Sussex, Gloucestershire, Middlesex, Derbyshire, Essex, Warwickshire, Norfolk, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Somersetshire, Northamptonshire, Hampshire, Durham, Hertfordshire and Cheshire. Any county cricket club other than the above-mentioned desirous of affiliation subsequent to (date) must be elected at the annual meeting held in December, and must be duly proposed and elected at the annual meeting held in December, and must be duly proposed and seconded after notice given in accordance with rule 10.
3. The officers of the council shall be a chairman, a treasurer and a secretary.
4. The chairman shall be elected at the meeting in December, and shall hold his office for one year, or until his successor is appointed, and shall be eligible for re-election.
5. The treasurer and secretary shall be appointed for such time and the secretary at such salary as the council see fit to determine, and shall be removable by the council at any time.
6. Meetings of the council shall be held twice in every year at least.
7. The annual meeting at which the election of officers and the affiliation of county cricket clubs shall take place shall be held as nearly as possible on the first Wednesday in December in London.
15. Each affiliated county club shall contribute annually out of its funds such a sum as the council may from time to time fix.

Lord Harris was unanimously elected chairman for the coming year, and Mr A J Webbe honorary treasurer and secretary.

It was proposed by Mr P M Thornton and carried that the annual subscription be £1, payable on the 1st of May.

Lord Harris then said that it seemed to be the general opinion that he intended moving a resolution with reference to altering the laws in such a manner as to prevent so many games being drawn, and also to place the bowler on a more equal footing with the batsman. This was altogether a false impression, as all he intended to do was to bring the matter before the meeting. In its present embryo state the council was not in a position to vote aye or no on any question. Yet a discussion,

he thought, would be very useful in obtaining the feeling of the meeting on the subject, and then a member of the council, having previously obtained the opinion of his county, could give notice of motion. He had scarcely any occasion to remind the meeting of the long scores that had been made last season. In his recollection of cricket he did not remember such abnormal scoring as had been recorded.

During the last few years the style of many well-known players had become very noticeable for the manner in which they defended their wicket. Gentlemen of the older cricket world were of opinion that some alteration of the leg before wicket rule was desirable. Men were rather prone to undervalue the opinion of older cricketers, but there was always some advantage to be gained from them. The opinion he heard last year was almost unanimous that there should be some alteration. Then he had an idea that a change might be made in the height or width of the wicket, but there were so many difficulties to deal with that he had relinquished the idea in favour of an alteration of the leg before wicket rule, which, he thought, would be a more practicable way of settling the matter.

The question was, "Is it necessary to give the bowler a better chance or not?" The scores of last season alone made it necessary for some alteration. The style of play had become, if not notorious, at least noticeable. He had received a letter from Mr R A H Mitchell, whose opinion they all respected, in which he suggested that the leg before wicket law should certainly be altered. He had not heard such a valuable suggestion made as Mr Mitchell's – "That a batsman should be out whose leg is between wicket and wicket if struck by the ball whichever way it may break." Of course there were peculiar difficulties in the way, but he had no wish to deprive batsmen of every chance. Mr V E Walker had also written to him suggesting that if a batsman wilfully got in the way of his wicket he should be given out. The question, however, would be to know when the batsman did it wilfully. It threw too much responsibility on the umpires.

Lord Bessborough, in a letter to Mr P M Thornton, said, "I have always thought that the natural and real remedy is to return to the law of leg-before as altered 50 years ago. It was altered without any previous notice to cricketers generally or even to members of the MCC or the committee. The change would have the effect of shortening innings at first a good deal by men getting out leg before wicket from the habit of play, but they would soon learn to play with the bat instead of their legs at straight pitched balls, and umpires would soon find it easier to see whether a ball pitched straight for the wicket than, as now, to decide by a rule of defining lines (only visible to the mind's eye). The objections made are that batsmen would be given out by twisting balls and that umpires would cheat men out. Neither objection would hold good any more than it does now under the present law."

He wanted some other members to take the question up and bring it before a special meeting. But they must not lose any time if they wished to get anything done before next season, as the Marylebone Club met in May, and it was only at that meeting that any recommendations for alterations could be considered. His lordship concluded by again saying that he was convinced something must be done in the matter.

Mr Ellison mentioned that Yorkshire cricketers generally had been sounded on the subject, and were strongly in favour of an alteration. Their opinion was that the striker should be out leg before wicket in various ways. If any part of his person stopped a ball which in the opinion of the umpire at the bowler's end would have hit the wicket, such part of the person being at the time between wicket and wicket, was one of the suggestions.

Mr A J Webbe thought that the law might be made so as to prevent batsmen crossing their wicket to play off-break balls with their legs.

After some further discussion, Mr Ellison, on behalf of the Yorkshire county, said that at a special meeting of the council to be held in February he would move to call the attention of the Marylebone Cricket Club to the unsatisfactory effect of law 24, and to recommend that it should be altered as to secure that a batsman should be out if with any part of his person being in a straight line from wicket to wicket he stops the ball, which, in the opinion of the umpire, would have hit his wicket. This was endorsed by the representatives of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Surrey and Middlesex.

Mr Webbe will also move at the same meeting that "any batsman who wilfully crosses the wicket to defend it with his person shall be given out."

Mr A H Heath mentioned to the meeting that some means might be devised to do away with so many boundary hits by running a lot of them out. Lord Harris thought this was an important matter and one the council might well take in hand.

Mr Ellison called attention to the time for drawing of stumps on the third day of a match. He asked whether umpires could not have the discretion to prolong the play when, say, 20 runs were wanted or there were two wickets to fall.

Lord Harris said that to define anything like that would lead to no end of disputes, and he was sorry to differ from Mr Ellison.

Dr Grace thought that it would be as well to draw at an arranged hour, but play should begin at 11 sharp each morning. It would be unwise to leave to umpires the question of playing on; and again, the light at various grounds was very different, especially in August.

Mr Perkins said that it was the waste of time that caused so many matches to be drawn. Last year there was no match left drawn at Lord's after three days' play, and the season before only one instance occurred, and that was entirely through heavy scoring. They should start earlier, for it would never do to leave the umpires power to prolong the game.

The proceedings then closed.

Wednesday 7 December, page 10: MEETING OF COUNTY SECRETARIES

Yesterday, in the pavilion at Lord's, the annual meeting of county secretaries was held for the arrangement of next season's programme. Mr H Perkins, secretary of the Marylebone Club, presided.

Among those present were Mr I D Walker, Mr A J Webbe and Mr C I Thornton (Middlesex), Mr George Marsham, Mr A J Lancaster and Mr S Christopherson (Kent), Dr W G Grace (Gloucestershire), Mr M J Ellison and Mr J B Wostinholm (Yorkshire), Mr W H C Oates and Mr E Brown (Nottinghamshire), Mr S H Swire and Mr A Appleby (Lancashire), Mr C H Smith and Mr F Goldsmith (Sussex), Mr F Burbidge, Mr John Shuter, Dr Jones and Mr C W Alcock (Surrey), Mr C E Green and Mr M P Betts (Essex), Mr A H Heath (Staffordshire), Mr W N Roe and Mr H Murray-Anderton (Somersetshire), Mr W Jervis and Mr H Richardson (Derbyshire), Mr J Bonner

(Leicestershire), Mr H Thornber and Mr J Horner (Cheshire), Mr C Pigg (Hertfordshire), Mr T H Vials (Northamptonshire), Mr L B Dykes (Cumberland), Mr R H Marriott (Durham), Dr R Bencraft and Mr H J Grierson (Hampshire), Mr W Ansell (Warwickshire) and Mr A Worsley (North and East Riding of Yorkshire).

The business was begun within a few minutes of noon, and it was not until past 4 that the whole of the fixtures were recorded. The programme is one of the heaviest ever arranged. Three dates have been set apart for representative matches between England and Australia. In the course of the afternoon Mr Alcock, who has the management of the Australian fixtures, said that he wished to make it clear to the meeting that if these contests were to be made representative the counties must give way in some measure, so as not to clash with the matches.

Mr Ellison, of Yorkshire, thought that county cricket should take precedence of everything, and they in the north could not give way too much to the Australians. He thought the south must relinquish some of their matches. The subject then dropped. Appended is a complete list of the fixtures . . . [Full fixture list follows.]