

Tuesday 3 March, page 10: KENT COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The general meeting of this club was held yesterday at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing-cross. There were present . . . Sir Charles Oakley presided.

The report congratulated the members on the success of the Eleven last year. It stated that there remained a profit of £179 12s, after all expenses had been paid. The club received steadily increasing support from subscriptions. At the end of 1889 the members numbered 590; 132 names had been added to the list of subscribers during the year, and the total number had been brought up to 689. The amount subscribed was £755 10s 6d, which is a higher sum than had been reached before. The report was adopted and the accounts passed.

The chairman announced that Lord Throwley had been elected president of the club for 1891. The following elections to the committee were confirmed: - Major-General Deane, Mr Akers-Douglas, Mr F Mackinnon, Mr M C Kemp, Mr T P Hilder and Mr George Marsham (re-elected), and Mr Cornwallis and Mr Leslie Wilson. The two last-named gentlemen take the places of Colonel Fellowes (resigned) and Lord Throwley (elected president).

Wednesday 18 March: LORD HARRIS AND THE COUNTY CRICKET COUNCIL

Lord Harris, who resigned the presidency of the Cricket Council on his appointment to the Governor-Generalship of Bombay, has written the following letter to the Hon Ivo Bligh, the honorary secretary of the council: -

“My dear Ivo, - Many thanks for your letter giving an account of the meeting of the County Cricket Council. I had already heard from several friends about it and had read various Press paragraphs and articles on the subject. As to the wisdom, or the reverse, of dissolving the council, I am out of both county cricket and England, and perhaps scarcely a competent judge of what is required. It might be suggested also, perhaps, that I am not an impartial judge, the foundation of the council having been due to my efforts.

“Cricketers at home can qualify my opinion to the extent they think necessary, but my opinion remains the same, that the council was and is necessary. The meeting of secretaries to fix the dates of matches is an unmanageable body, governed by no rules; discussion on it can be confined to no recognized channel; the gentlemen attending are delegated to it by their counties for no purpose other than the fixing of match dates; and it is not infrequently presided over by the secretary of the MCC, who represents no county.

“With the county council behind it the MCC was justified in approving the alterations in the rules of county cricket if recommended by the council, but without the council the MCC will be placed in a less secure position. In short, from my point of view the council was an organized result of the previously unorganized meetings of representatives of the counties to fix dates, and was intended by me to strengthen the position of the MCC.

“Reverting to the subject of the Press opinions on the effect of the resolution to adjourn **sine die**, I observe that the general opinion is that this resolution actually or practically dissolved the council. I am not a lawyer, but I cannot help thinking that this view is not correct. What Webbe’s intention was it is impossible to hazard a guess on, but if it was to dissolve the council I think it failed, and only effected a dissolution of that particular meeting. The council has agreed to certain rules which are to regulate its proceedings, and one of those rules is that the council is to meet once or twice a year, I forget which, and, without a motion, of the terms of which due notice has been given, to the effect that the council shall be dissolved, the council is bound to meet again according to the terms of its won rule.

“That is my view of the present position, and I believe you will find it is the legal one.

“If you think any one at home cares for my opinion, pray make what use of this letter you please.

“Sincerely yours,

“HARRIS.”

Friday 27 March, page 10: THE COMING CRICKET SEASON

Although at one time there seemed to be every likelihood of a visit from American cricketers, this has eventually fallen to the ground. Thus, in the absence of the Australians, the coming season will be of a purely English character.

By a great many of the cricketing public this prospect will be welcomed. It is to be regretted, however, that the Americans did not definitely make up their minds before they deputed their representative to secure fixtures. Arrangements were entered into for two matches at Lord's and one each at Oxford and Cambridge, and with all the leading counties; consequently dates were given them at the sacrifice of many interesting engagements. It may be remarkable in passing that the programme was certainly most ambitious, judging from the form shown by the Philadelphians who were last over here. County cricket will, therefore, claim special attention.

During the winter the County Cricket Council, from which so much was expected, suddenly collapsed, leaving the question of county classification in the same state as it was before. A fact that may be gathered from the brief outlines of county cricket which follow is that fact that Somerset do not play any county in the second rank. Last season not only were they unbeaten, but all their matches were won, save the tie with Middlesex. In consequence, they have to all practical purposes been admitted into the charmed circle of first-class cricket. Whether they will be able to cope successfully with leading counties of course remains to be seen.

The MCC programme is of the usual comprehensive character. No fewer than 16 counties appear at Lord's, while the good service rendered by the Club and Ground in sending out teams to the public schools and elsewhere will of course be continued. North v South on May 11 will be devoted to Rylott's benefit, and an interesting fixture is that between I Zingari and Gentlemen of England for May 25. Oxford v Cambridge is arranged for the last Monday in June, and Eton v Harrow on July 10. The latter match will be preceded by Gentlemen v Players.

The "ground" staff is very large – viz., T Hearne, Farrands, Clayton, Rylott, Wild, W Mycroft, G G Hearne, Sherwin, T Mycroft, W Hearn, Flowers, W Price, Barnes, Gunn, Scotton, Hay, Fothergill, Attewell, Parnham, Burton, Pickett, Wootton, Davenport, Pentecost, Titchmarsh, Chatterton, J E West, Martin, Pougher, Rawlin, A Hearne, Davidson, W A J West, Carlin, Phillips, Shacklock, Richardson, Burns, Whiteside, Whitehead, Moorhouse, Bean, J T Hearne and Needham. At hour and a quarter the turf is in good order.

It is not probable that the Hon F J N Thesiger will be able to take part in many matches, and the captaincy of Oxford University has devolved on Mr M R Jardine. Besides these two gentlemen there are seven Old Blues in residence – Messrs W D Llewelyn, E Smith, H Bassett, G L Wilson, H Bradby, L C H Palairt and G F Berkeley. The more prominent seniors are – Messrs T B Case, R T Jones, C W Little, J B Wood, H D Watson and W H Brain.

From Winchester there are three good Freshmen. Mr A J Boger has a good all-round reputation; in batting he had an average of 20.2 in 14 innings, one of which was 75 (not out), and in bowling he took 31 wickets at an average of 18.17. Mr F A G Leveson-Gower's batting average was 19.7 for 14 innings, and Mr B L Richmond 22.2 for 12 innings, the highest of which was 88. Mr L C V Bathurst eclipsed all his companions at Radley in batting and bowling. He averaged 40.3 in 13 innings (highest 104), and he took 43 wickets at an average cost of 8.3. Mr R C N Palairt, who hails from Repton, also did well with the bat, averaging 54 in 14 innings, the chief being 172. Mr H S T Gedge had a good school record for bowling at Loretto. Unquestionably the side is strong in

batting. With Messrs Smith, Berkeley and Bassett to bear the brunt of the bowling, having Palairet and Wilson as changes, the attack should be effective. The great want of the eleven is probably that of a good wicket-keeper, though Mr R C N Palairet has, it is said, displayed some skill at this post.

The programme is on much the same lines as last year, the match with Sussex being renewed, while it is not impossible that the vacancy caused by the falling through of the American fixture may be filled by a home match with that county. The season opens with the Seniors' match, which is set down for April 27. Lancashire's visit to Oxford on Monday, May 11, furnishes the first important game, and on Thursday of the same week the Gentlemen of England will be engaged. There are the customary matches with Marylebone, the last being limited to two days. Oxford v Cambridge is arranged for Monday, June 29.

At Cambridge University Mr G M'Gregor succeeds Mr Woods in the captaincy. Besides these two gentlemen there will be five of last year's eleven in resistance – Mr F S Jackson, Trinity; Mr R N Douglas, Selwyn; Mr E C Streatfeild, Pembroke; Mr A J L Hill, Jesus; and Mr D L A Jephson, Peterhouse. Mr C P Foley and Mr R C Gosling, both of Trinity, will also be eligible. There would appear to be a very strong contingent of likely Seniors in Messrs R O Crawford, A G Stubbs, P A Fryer, W I Rowell and N C Cooper, all of Jesus College; Messrs A K Fernie, A B Burney and L H Gay, Clare; Messrs G A Foljambe and W G Crum, Trinity; and Mr R A A Beresford, Selwyn; Mr H Wright and Mr A Ross, Peterhouse; Mr P H Morrison, Trinity Hall; and Mr A L Pochin, Caius.

Of the Freshmen Mr C M Wells goes up with a first-class reputation from Dulwich, at which college he headed both batting and bowling. In the former department he added 58.2 in nine innings (one of which reached 124), and he claimed 52 wickets at an average of 7.30. There are also Mr J G Gowans, of Harrow, and the Hon Mr Tollemache, from Eton.

After the meeting of the Perambulators and Etceteras (April 28 and 29), the Freshmen's match will begin on the following day, the Seniors being fixed for May 4. Mr A J Webbe takes down a Gentlemen of England side on the 7th, and Mr C I Thornton one on the 11th. Yorkshire pay their usual visit on May 28, besides which there are the two Marylebone matches, and those at the Oval and Brighton.

The charming ground of the Lyric Club at St Ann's, Barnes, will be the scene in May of two military matches, the Club and Ground playing the 93rd Highlanders on the 16th and Aldershot Division on the 18th. An especially interesting game has been arranged for July 24 and 25 between Old Etonians and Old Harrovians. The teams will be selected by the Hon Ivo Bligh (Eton) and Mr I D Walker (Harrow). It is intended to make in an annual fixture. In 1892 and thereafter, Old Wykehamists and Old Carthusians will meet at St Ann's, and it has also recently been suggested that the Eton v Winchester and Westminster v Charterhouse should be decided there. For the present, at least, the authorities are unwilling to make any alteration in the existing arrangement. The wickets have been entirely relaid since last season.

Surrey, with all of their team of last year available, should be able to retain their position at the head of the counties. Mr J Shuter will again captain the eleven, and the other amateurs are – Mr W W Read, Mr K J Key and Mr W E Roller. Mr E C Streatfeild and Mr R N Douglas will help when their services are not required by Cambridge. The professionals will include Lohmann, Maurice Read, Abel, Sharpe, Lockwood, Wood, Henderson, Brockwell, Bowley, Beaumont, Watts, Harris and Ayres, the last-named a very promising bat. All the men are reported to be in good health, and several have been practising on the matting at the Oval. There is never any cause for anxiety for the

wickets at Kennington, and the turf has plenty of time to recover any injury it may have sustained in the final contest for the recently-played National Football Cup.

The match list is again heavy. All the leading counties will be met, the Nottinghamshire fixtures being, as usual, set down for the Bank Holidays; the out match at Nottingham on Whit Monday and the return on August 3, at the Oval. Surrey again furnishes the second fixture of the Canterbury Week. Two matches with Somerset have been arranged, and many of the less important counties will also be engaged. Gentlemen v Players will take place on July 2, the Thursday before the Lord's match. During the winter the county lost an old servant in Edward Barratt.

This year Lancashire's programme is except heavy. There will be the customary home and home matches with Surrey, Yorkshire, Sussex, Kent, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire and Gloucestershire. They also play Somerset, Leicestershire, Essex and Warwickshire (twice). They open with a highly interesting contest, as on May 11 they visit Oxford and play the University eleven, after which they go up to Lord's to meet Marylebone. The return with Oxford will take place at Manchester on June 18. With the exception of the Kent match, which is arranged for Liverpool, the whole of the home games will be played at Manchester. It may be remarked that the Old Trafford ground is receiving great attention, and fine weather only is needed to produce some good wickets.

The same players that raised the county to its high position last year will again be available – Mr A N Hornby, Mr A C M'Laren and Mr A T Kemble, with Briggs, the two Wards, Sugg, Barlow, Watson, Mold, Paul, Yates and Baker. No doubt there will be a trial afforded to one or two promising colts, and there will be three test matches. The last news with regard to Pilling is very unfavourable, and his visit to Australia would not seem to have greatly benefited him, so that it is very unlikely that the county will have his services.

Kent will again play their home matches on a variety of grounds – Canterbury, Maidstone, Tonbridge, Beckenham and Gravesend, the interest in the game being pretty general throughout the county. They open their season with a match against Gloucestershire at Bristol, after which they visit Lord's to play Middlesex. Their game with Marylebone, which was the first last season after the anniversary meeting, has been moved forward to June 15. Besides the two matches alluded to, the programme consists of the returns with Gloucester and Middlesex, and of out and home engagements with Lancashire, Sussex, Nottinghamshire, Surrey, Yorkshire, Somerset and Warwickshire. The heavier part of the programme extends over the whole of August, during which month a match is provided for every day. It will be noteworthy for the jubilee of the Canterbury Week and of the Old Stagers. The cricketing will comprise matches with Gloucestershire and Surrey, the latter playing on the last three days. There will be a banquet to mark the occasion.

The eleven will again be captained by Mr Marchant until the end of July, after while the position will be filled by Mr W H Patterson. Lord Harris will still be at Bombay, but the club has a strong contingent of amateurs – Mr W H Patterson, Mr L Wilson, Mr F Marchant, Mr A Daffen, Mr C J M Fox, Mr M C Kemp and Mr L A Hamilton. Walter Wright, whose thumb, it will be remembered, was so seriously injured at the Oval last year, has the use of his hand again and feels confident that he will be able to bowl as well as ever. It remains to be seen whether his old skill will come back to him. However, he has been reappointed ground bowler to the Mote Park Club at Maidstone. There are also Alec Hearne, Wootton and Walter Hearne upon whom to rely. The last-named has been reappointed ground bowler at Canterbury, and will no doubt be tried again in some of the early matches. Of course, great aid will be expected from Martin, who bowled so well last year that he

was twice included in the England team, and George Hearne. Lord Throwley is the new president of the club, and Mr Cornwallis and Mr Leslie Wilson have been elected on the committee.

Yorkshire have arranged a comprehensive list of fixtures, and the great improvement shown by the eleven last year will, it is to be trusted, continue. They twice meet the neighbouring county of Lancashire, and Nottinghamshire, Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, Gloucestershire, Sussex and Somerset. Outside these first-class county engagements they visit Cambridge at the end of May and play their usual match with the University eleven, while they also play Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire (twice each) and Durham. Hall, who had a match fixed for his last season, but which was spoilt by the weather, has another game allotted for his benefit – the first engagement with Surrey on June 22 at Sheffield. The Scarborough Festival begins on August 27. The home matches will be played at Sheffield, Bradford, Dewsbury and Leeds. There will be a trial of strength between the Yorkshire Colts and Nottinghamshire Colts in June, while the wisdom of giving the youngsters of the county a trial late in the season after they have had opportunities from practice has been recognized. They will be placed in opposition to the Eleven at Bramall-lane on August 21.

The infusion of fresh blood into the team during the last season or two is beginning to bear fruit. Lord Hawke, Mr F S Jackson and Mr E Smith have promised to play; the other amateurs available are Mr W F Whitwell, Mr R W Frank and Mr B C Bolton. But, of course, professionals form the backbone of the eleven, and these are Ulyett, Hall, Peel, Lee, Wainwright, Hunter, Brown, Moorhouse, Whitehead and Harrison. During the winter the county lost two of their professionals – Preston and Joseph Hunter.

There is little change in the Nottinghamshire fixture card from former years. It is one of the first-class counties that has not found room for a game with Somerset. Such a contest should have proved a material addition to the attractiveness always to be found in the Trent-bridge programme. Outside the front rank only one county is favoured by the celebrated Notts eleven, who have given their old friends Derbyshire a couple of games, the first of which furnishes the opening of the county season on May 7 at Trent-bridge. Eleven days later follows the great Whit Monday fixture with Surrey. The other clubs to be met are Middlesex, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Sussex, Gloucestershire and Kent. August Bank Holiday is, of course, reserved for the Surrey return at Kennington Oval. Considering the keen rivalry that exists between the last-named team and Notts much interest should be aroused by the home and home games arranged between the second elevens of these counties, to be played on the same days that the first teams are engaged.

Mr Dixon again captains the eleven, which will also include H B Daft, Barnes, Flowers, Gunn, Needham, Shrewsbury, Attewell, Sherwin, Shacklock, Scotton and Richardson. The variations that are expected will be in the more frequent playing of Mr C W Wright and other amateurs, notably Mr Beves. Mee may be given a further trial, and there are two or three young players who have a good local reputation, especially T Attewell and Bagguley, who will not be overlooked should any opening arise. It may be noted that Colonel Denison, of Babworth-hall, is the new president of the club. The Nottinghamshire eleven will probably play Marylebone at Lord's on the original day set apart for the latter's game with the Americans.

Londoners will easily recall the brilliant victories gained by Middlesex last year at Lord's over Lancashire and Nottinghamshire, and how these successes heralded anything but the subsequent misfortune that attended a side which embraces many of our most brilliant amateur players. The

programme has been arranged on much the same lines as last year, with the important addition of two matches with Sussex. The reason why Middlesex and Sussex have not contested at cricket for so many years past has been much of a mystery, and the new fixtures will be welcomed by all who feel interested in the game. Middlesex v Somerset, productive last year of so much excellent cricket and the rarity of a tied match, will twice again be played, the first contest as, in 1890, being fixed for Lord's on Whit Monday. Middlesex will take part in the Cheltenham week, on the last three days of which they meet Gloucestershire.

Mr A J Webbe will captain the team and, in addition to Mr M R Jardine, the Oxford captain, hopes to have the services of the following gentlemen: - Mr S W Scott, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr T C O'Brien, Mr P J de Paravicini, Mr F G J Ford, Mr E A Nepean, Mr G F Vernon, Mr J Robertson and Mr J G Walker, while the professional element will embrace Rawlin, J E West, J T Hearne, Burton and Phillips. What Middlesex still badly want is a good wicket-keeper. Mr M'Gregor, of Cambridge, will doubtless be able to play for them in 1892, so that till then the side will have to put up with the misfortunes that so frequently attend an eleven with this deficiency.

Gloucestershire has every prospect of a good season. Dr W G Grace will have the aid of the usual strong amateur contingent, including Dr E M Grace, Mr O G Radcliffe, Mr W W F Pullen, Mr J Cranston, Mr F Townsend, Mr H V Page, Mr J A Bush, Mr H H Francis and Mr A C M Croome. Painter and Roberts will be regular members of the side, and Woof will be available for three of the earlier matches. Dr E M Grace writes that they have "a perfectly untried wicket-keeper with hands as hard as iron." Mr J J Ferris, the well-known bowler of the last Australian team, has taken up his permanent residence in Gloucestershire, but unless any special arrangement is made he will not be yet qualified to play for them.

The county ground at Ashley Down, Bristol, is looking well, and on the 30th inst. it will be the scene of the Colts' match, also of the first game of importance – Gloucestershire v Kent, on May 18. The return to this latter contest forms the opening feature of the Canterbury week. On June 4 the eleven will make its appearance in town, when they meet Surrey at the Oval; the second fixture with the latter is at Gloucester on August 10. They also play out and home matches with Sussex, Middlesex, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Nottinghamshire, while their matches with the neighbouring county of Somerset will be revived, one of these furnishing the opening part of the Cheltenham week, of which Middlesex v Gloucestershire is the second game.

The Sussex programme will consist of home and home matches with Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Gloucestershire and Hampshire. In addition to these, Marylebone will be met at Lord's, and the two Universities will play at Brighton, Cambridge on June 18, 19 and 20, and Oxford on June 22, 23 and 24. The Gloucestershire match on June 8, 9 and 10 has been set apart for the benefit of Walter Humphreys, who has rendered such excellent service to the county both as a batsman and a "lob" bowler.

Most of last year's eleven will be available – viz., Mr C A Smith, Mr W Newham, Mr F Thomas, Mr W H Andrews, Mr G L Wilson, Mr C J M Godfrey, Mr E J M'Cormick, Mr F H Gresson, Mr W H Dudney and Mr G H Cotterill, with Quaife, J Hide, Bean, Humphrey, A Hide, Tebay, Gibb, Charlwood and Butt. Every endeavour will be made to introduce new blood into the eleven. The ground is in capital condition and promises to give wickets equal to any in the country.

One of the clubs whose play will be very attentively watched is that of Somerset. Their long and brilliant series of successes last season, it must be borne in mind, were, with the exception of Middlesex, against counties of vastly different calibre to those they are to meet this summer. Apart from Nottinghamshire and Sussex, they play the whole of the leading counties, out and home matches with Surrey, Lancashire, Kent, Middlesex, Gloucestershire and Yorkshire. Marylebone visit Taunton and play the county on the 21st of August.

The amateurs will embrace Mr H T Hewett, Mr L C H Palairt, Mr W N Roe, Mr J B Challen, Mr C J Robinson, Mr S M J Woods, Mr W C Hedley, Mr H Ross and Mr G Fowler. The professional element will comprise Nichols, Tyler and Clapp. Mr Trask has gone to India, and it is feared that their wicket-keeper, Mr A E Newton, will only be able to take part in one or two of the August home matches. The turf at Taunton is being thoroughly well prepared, and little doubt is felt as to the provision of first-class wickets. Several improvements on the ground are in contemplation. Mr Murray Anderton, who is co-secretary with Mr T Spencer, has been in India since last November, but will return to England again at the end of May.

Since the Warwickshire fixtures were made at Christmas two other matches have been added to the list, Marylebone at Lord's and Durham. In the absence to the Americans a trial match will be played. The team will be similar in strength to last year, except that Mr H W Bainbridge may not be able to appear so frequently. Messrs L C Docker, H C Maul, J E Hill, J B Wood and C C Mott are all available, as well as the professionals Pallett, Shilton, Law, Richards, Lilley, Cresswell, A Bird and Collishaw. Arrangements have been made by which Pallett will be able to engage in all matches. Their only recruit is W A J West, who plays by virtue of his birth in the county. The staff will consist of Pallett, Cresswell, Lilley, Diver, Major, Bates and several local colts.

The ground is in good condition and, as the electric trams are now in full working order, substantial gates are expected. A new entrance has been made which brings the ground to within a mile-and-a-half of the New-street Station, Birmingham. It is quite probable that the county will play two matches with Surrey. Among the leading counties they meet Yorkshire, Kent and Lancashire, while at the end of May they visit Lord's. North v South has been secured for June 29.

The Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, is in excellent order, and the financial prospects of the Essex County Club are in much better condition than they have been for many years. Out and home matches will be played with Surrey, Lancashire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Hampshire and Leicestershire. Marylebone send a team to Leyton on Whit Monday to meet the county. All members of last year's eleven are again available. Mr O R Borradaile succeeds Mr Betts in the secretaryship.

Although Derbyshire challenged all the recognized first-class counties, they have only been able to get matches with their old friends, Surrey, Notts and Yorkshire. Somerset declined to give them a match. The eleven will be composed of the same players as last season, but the executive hope that Mr W L Shipton, who only took part in two matches last year, will be able to appear oftener, as he proved very successful on those occasions. They trust that Mr F R Spofforth will play more frequently in the team. Now that the Americans are not coming to England, Derbyshire wish to get at least two more matches.

Hampshire's Eleven will be selected from the following players: - Mr H W Forster (captain), Mr F

E Lacey, Dr Russell Bencraft, Captain E G Wynyard, Captain Barton, Mr A C Richards, Mr C J R Richards, Mr A J L Hill, Mr L H Gay, Mr L G Bonham-Carter, Mr H E W Hoffmeister and Mr D A Steel, with Baldwin, Soar and Roberts. It is also hoped that Mr P J T Henery and Mr E H Buckland will give their valuable services. The county play out and home matches with Surrey, Sussex, Staffordshire and Essex. Marylebone send a side to Southampton on June 26. The Staffordshire match will be set apart for Young's benefit.

The Rev G Townsend-Warner has arranged several interesting matches for Devonshire. They start their season on the county ground at Exeter with a game against Monmouthshire. Their next fixture is between the northern and southern divisions of the county. Plymouth will be the scene of a contest with the neighbouring county of Cornwall. They twice meet Marylebone, at Lord's on August 10 and at Exeter on August 28. There are also two matches with Glamorganshire and one with Hertfordshire. The Hon Mark Rolle has been re-elected president, and Lord Churston, Sir John Shelley and Mr M T Collier are vice-presidents.

Hertfordshire have arranged a very good programme. Their home matches are played on four different grounds in the county – Watford, Hitchin, Hertford and Bishop's Stortford. They twice meet Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Norfolk, and Devonshire once. Marylebone play them at Watford on July 29, and the return will take place at Lord's on August 5.

Staffordshire have issued a good list, but the fixtures of Cheshire are somewhat meagre. Leicestershire and Norfolk adhere to much the same arrangements as in former years. A complete list of the season's fixtures is appended: . . .

[Note: These can be found on Cricket Archive at

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLTS' MATCH

(Potted scores) Gloucestershire Colts 140 (F Stiddard 23, E S Branch 30, W F Burroughs 20; J J Ferris 4/55, Roberts 11/35) and 142 (F Stiddard 24; J H Iles 8/38, F Townsend 4/29). The County 116 (J J Ferris 22, F Townsend 23; G Ferris 4/13) and 93/8 (W G Grace 50*). Match drawn.

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

Yesterday, at the County Ground, Ashley Down, near Bristol, the trial of Gloucestershire Colts began. The weather was cold but fine, and the attendance was fairly numerous.

The Colts were sent in on a good wicket, but few of them could successfully cope with the bowling of Roberts, who was in excellent form, taking 11 wickets at an average of a fraction over three runs each. Mr J J Ferris, the Australian cricketer, was included in the County Eleven . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 April, page 5)

This, the first match of the season, was concluded yesterday at Ashley Down, near Bristol. Mr J J Ferris was unable to play for the county, having slightly hurt his left (bowling) hand.

Dr W G Grace carried off the batting honours with a not-out innings of 50, a most notable performance when it is remembered that there were 24 in the field. Mr Stiddard again batted well for the colts. Murch took three wickets in two overs, and Mr Iles also bowled effectively. The match was eventually drawn.

Tuesday 7 April, page 7: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

A special general meeting of the Marylebone Club was held last evening in the pavilion at Lord's to consider the proposed terms of settlement between the Club and the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway. Lord Willoughby de Eresby, the president, occupied the chair. There were nearly 200 members present, including . . .

The meeting was private, but through the courtesy of Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the MCC, we are enabled to give the following particulars: -

Summary of the terms of settlement between the railway and the Marylebone Club: -

1. The land which the railway company is to be at liberty to acquire through Lord's Cricket Ground and the Clergy Orphan School is not to exceed 124ft in width, measured from the Wellington-road. The area of the Lord's practising ground required is 4,318 square yards, and that of the Clergy Orphan School 3,487 square yards; the whole of this strip abuts the Wellington-road.
2. The railway company will buy the whole of the Clergy Orphan School, and retaining only the 3,487 square yards above referred to, will, before entering on any portion of the MCC property, convey to the club, absolutely and gratis, the whole area of 8,630 square yards on which the Clergy Orphan School now stands, clear the same of buildings and lay it down with turf for the purposes of the Club, and to the satisfaction of the Club's engineer.
3. The railway company is to complete the railway in tunnel or covered way through the Clergy Orphan School land before entering on the Marylebone land, and to restore the surface and lay it down with turf for Club purposes.
4. The railway company is to complete the railway in tunnel or covered way through the Marylebone property, between the month of September in one year and April in the following year, under a penalty of £5 a day for every day beyond April 30, and to restore the surface and lay it down with turf for Club purposes.
5. The railway company are to grant a lease to the Club for 99 years, at an annual rent of £200, of the land acquired for the purpose of the tunnel (covered over with turf as before mentioned), and thus the Club will eventually have the use of an area larger than that now enjoyed by the Club by 12,117 square yards.
6. All buildings on the acquired strip of Marylebone land, displaced or injured by the railway company, will be reinstated or made good.
7. The railway company to construct a subway between St John's-wood Station and Lord's Ground.

N.B. – The strip of land taken by the railway company will enable them to lay down ten lines of railway – sufficient to meet their requirements, if not permanently, at least for many years.

The President formally moved the acceptance of the above terms, and the motion was seconded by Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane. Sir Henry James, Lord Kensington and Mr Denison spoke in support of the scheme.

An amendment to reject the scheme was moved by Mr D Onslow, seconded by Mr G A Fitzgerald and supported by Mr C T Murdoch, M.P.

The amendment was put and lost by an overwhelming majority.

Thus the railway company have, so far as the Marylebone Club is concerned, acquired the right to construct the tunnel.

27 April: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE SENIORS' MATCH (not first-class)

(Potted scores) Mr J S Fair's Side 187 (H M Taberer 75, A Ross 24; A Somers-Cocks 3/58, W G Clegg 3/29, G R Theobald 3/23) and 283 (R T Jones 35, A Leechman 25, V T Hill 37, A Ross 26, J B Wood 61; W G Clegg 5/56, R T Jones 3/38). Mr L R Wilkinson's Side 204 (T B Case 53, H D Watson 29, W G Clegg 45, A Somers-Cocks 26; T S B Wilson 3/33, G Cuming 3/59, H M Taberer 4/45) and 192/9 (H D Watson 63, G R Richards 65; G Cuming 3/24). Match drawn.

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

In the parks at Oxford yesterday the season opened with the annual match between sides of seniors. These were captained by Mr J St F Fair and Mr L R Wilkinson. The weather was fine, the ground in good order and the company numerous.

Mr Fair's side went in first, and the feature of their innings was the excellent batting of Mr Taberer. He was two hours at the wickets, during which time he made ten fours, four threes, five twos and singles. Mr Ross put together 24 runs in two overs from Mr Wilkinson, in each of which he made three fours. The last batsman was dismissed with the total at 187.

Mr Wilkinson's side opened their batting in a most brilliant manner. Messrs Watson and Case ran up 71 before the fall of the first (Mr Watson's) wicket. His companion was dismissed for an addition 13, both being bowled by Mr Taberer. Mr Case batted freely and his 53 included five fours. The next three wickets only added ten runs . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 April, page 7)

The second day's play in the Seniors' match in the Parks at Oxford furnished capital cricket under the same favourable conditions that existed on Monday. Yesterday Mr Wilkinson's side, who had lost five wickets for 94, resumed their innings. Five more batsmen were dismissed for an addition of 30 runs, but Messrs Clegg and Somers-Cocks batted vigorously and added 77 while they were together. Mr Clegg's 46 included eight fours.

Mr St Fair's side were 17 runs behind on the first innings. At their second attempt they met with considerable success. Messrs Jones, Leechman and Hill all did well, while the partnership of Messrs Wood and Ross was only severed just before the drawing of stumps. Mr Jones hit seven fours.

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

Excellent batting characterized the last day's play in the Seniors' match in the Parks at Oxford. Mr St F Fair's side, who had lost six wickets for 200, resumed their second innings yesterday shortly before 2 o'clock. Mr Wood (not out 35) stayed until the figures had reached 235, when he was taken at slip for a capital 61; he made seven fours, three threes and four twos. Eventually the score amounted to 283, and Mr Wilkinson's side were left with 267 to obtain for victory.

They lost one wicket for 16, but afterwards Messrs Watson and Richards threw great spirit into the batting, and the bowlers were hit frequently. Subsequently several wickets were rapidly taken . . .

30 April: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE FRESHMEN’S MATCH (not first-class)

(Potted scores) Mr W D Llewelyn’s Side 232 (F Leveson-Gower 22, R C N Palairet 33, A L Nelson 102, H Garrett 20; A J Boger 5/65, D H Morgan 6/63). Mr M R Jardine’s Side 129 (D H Morgan 40*, M R Jardine 42; L C V Bathurst 6/46, D W Carr 3/27) and 48/8 (E W Denny 5/17, L C V Bathurst 3/21).

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

In the Parks at Oxford yesterday Mr A L Nelson, of Radley and Merton, played a remarkably fine innings of 102, which furnished the feature of the opening day of the Freshmen’s match. The sides were captained by Messrs Llewelyn and Jardine, the former’s going in first.

Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Palairet both fared well in the early batting, but the subsequent form of Mr Nelson eclipsed everything. His innings occupied two and a quarter hours, and his chief contributions were 11 fours, four threes and ten twos. Mr Palairet made four fours and Mr Leveson-Gower three. With the exception of a sharp shower the day proved fine, and there was a good muster of spectators.

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

Yesterday was a bowler’s day in the Parks at Oxford. Rain made the wicket slow and the strong wind was disagreeable alike to players and spectators. Thursday had been occupied with Mr Llewelyn’s side’s innings of 232.

Against the bowling of Messrs Bathurst and Carr Mr Jardine’s team offered a feeble resistance. Towards the close, however, the captain and Mr Morgan considerably improved matters and added 65 for the last wicket. Mr Jardine hit eight fours, a three and three twos, and Mr Morgan five fours, two threes and three twos. In a minority of 93, Mr Jardine’s side followed on . . .

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

The wet weather necessitated the abandonment of the Freshmen’s match at Oxford on Saturday. Great progress had been made with the game on the previous days; Mr Llewelyn’s side had scored 232 and Mr Jardine’s side 139 and 48 (for eight wickets) . . .

30 April: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – THE FRESHMEN’S MATCH (not first-class)

(Potted scores) Mr R N Douglas’s Side 259 (C M Wells 49, A H Dickinson 55, H C Pilkington 29, A M Lord 23, F S Keynell 24, C Heseltine 22, A Finch 22; R L Leigh-Clare 3/63, T P Tilley 3/29) and 141/8 (C M Wells 39, H C Pilkington 47*; A R Hoare 6/69). Mr E C Streatfeild’s Side 110 (A R Hoare 29; C M Wells 4/49, C F Blain 6/44) and 289 (M G Tollemache 26, H A Cooper 80, J J Robinson 58, E C Streatfeild 39*; C Heseltine 5/54, A M Low 3/40).

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

Mr E C Streatfeild filled the place of Mr M’Gregor at Cambridge yesterday as captain of one of the teams of Freshmen, while the other side was under the control of Mr R N Douglas. The contest furnished the opening of the season at the University. The weather was dull and a little rain fell.

Mr Douglas’s team went in first shortly after 12 o’clock, and the innings extended until late in the afternoon. Some capital batting was shown, but Messrs Wells and Dickinson, the opening pair, carried off chief honours. Mr Wells hit seven fours in his 49, and Mr Dickinson, whose play possessed much vigour towards its close, made one five and seven fours. He had the misfortune to be run out. Mr Streatfeild’s side went in . . .

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

The bad weather delayed the play in this match at Cambridge yesterday until a quarter past 2. Mr Streatfeild’s side, who had lost seven wickets for 78, then resumed their batting. In less than an hour the innings was finished for 110. Messrs Blain and Wells had bowled with considerable success.

Following on with arrears of 149, Mr Streatfeild’s team lost two wickets for three runs. Then came a spirited stand by Messrs Tollemache and Cooper, whose partnership produced 75. Mr Cooper threw great vigour into his batting and contributed 11 fours, two threes and five twos . . .

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

The Freshmen’s match was brought to a close at Cambridge on Saturday. Rain threatened at one time to prevent further play and there was very little cricket before luncheon. Subsequently a fresh wicket was pitched, the weather improved and shortly after 6 o’clock the game ended.

At the adjournment on Friday evening Mr Streatfeild’s side had followed on and, with four wickets in hand, had managed to avert an innings defeat. Messrs Collins and Robinson, the not-outs, batted steadily, and subsequently the latter, with Mr Gowans and his captain, met with great success. Among Mr Robinson’s hits were one five and five fours, and Mr Streatfeild hit six fours.

Mr Douglas’s side were left to make 141 to win. Again Mr Wells showed excellent form and with Mr Pilkington shared the chief honours of the victory. The last-named went in third wicket down at 55 and took out his bat for an excellent 47. Mr Douglas’s side won a capital match by three wickets.

30 April: THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS' MATCH (not first-class)

(Potted scores) Colts 116 (J C Wood 19, S Hooton 22*; W Attewell 12/37, W Flowers 4/18) and 95 (Walter Attewell 16; Lowe 8/19, Shacklock 5/4, J A Dixon 3/9). The Eleven 102 (Gunn 24, J A Dixon 33 retired; J Terry 3/12).

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

Yesterday, at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, the annual trial of colts began. Hitherto this test match has been played on Easter Monday, but the weather necessitated a postponement. The wicket yesterday was rendered slow by various showers, but with a few exceptions the young players offered a feeble resistance to the county, who, it may be noted, were without Barnes, Richardson and Scotton.

Mr Wood, the captain of Peterborough School, hit vigorously and made his runs in 25 minutes. Hooton batted steadily. Walter Attewell, a cousin of the county player [16], and Bagguley [8] already possess a good local reputation and yesterday they showed very fair form.

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

Both the weather and the wicket were against a favourable trial of colts at Nottingham yesterday, when this match was brought to a close. Beyond Gunn and Mr Dixon, the county side did little, and the innings, in which three wickets had fallen overnight, was completed for 102. Wharmby's medium-pace bowling produced a very good impression, and subsequently his style in batting was of much promise. Walter Attewell again fared well, and Lowe bowled effectively for the county. The game was drawn.

It may be mentioned that Lowe and Bagguley have been given places in the Notts eleven against Derbyshire.

4 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – THE SENIORS' MATCH (not first-class)

(Potted scores) Mr W Martin-Scott's Side 154 (H M Braybrooke 26, A G Stubbs 22, A R Burney 20, C Hoffmeyer 21; R L Aston 7/48) and 205 (W Martin-Scott 24, H M Braybrooke 38, R O Crawford 93; R L Aston 4/60, F J Nicholls 3/37). Mr W I Rowell's Side 91 (P A Fryer 24; A R Burney 7/54) and 269/6 (W I Rowell 30, N C Cooper 26, F J Nicholls 45, P A Fryer 34, R S Nicholson 34, W M Allen 33*, H Roughton 37*; A R Burney 3/92).

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

There were few feats of more than average merit in the first day of the Seniors' match at Cambridge yesterday. The sides were captained by Messrs Martin-Scott and Rowell.

The former's team went in first and were batting until after 3 o'clock. Aston bowled effectively and, in spite of some vigorous batting towards the innings close on the part of Mr Hoffmeyer, his analysis came out well. Mr Rowell's side were in a minority of 63 at the end of an innings each.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 10)

There was an excellent day's cricket at Cambridge yesterday, when the seniors' match ended. The early part of the day produced the fine innings of 93 by Mr Crawford, whose vigorous hitting may be judged from the contributions of 13 fours, five threes and five twos. The other batsmen on the side did little; but Mr Martin-Scott's team held an advantage of 63 on the first innings, so that their opponents had to face the formidable task of making 269 for victory.

The result came as a surprise. Mr Rowell's side met with great success; the runs were hit off and Mr Martin-Scott's team were beaten by five wickets.

4 May: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127173.html)

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

The season at Kennington Oval opened yesterday with one of those matches which in rev years have afforded the Surrey Eleven good practice for their games of more importance. Leicestershire have certainly given an opportunity for the display of the talent possessed by Surrey, who this morning have to face arrears on the first innings of 63.

Surrey took first innings on a pitch that had been rendered slow by Saturday's rain. Mr Shuter and Abel started successfully and by lively cricket ran up 64. Then Lohmann helped Abel to take the figures to 93. The next half-hour brought a great change in the position of affairs. Lohmann was taken at slip and Abel (who had played sound cricket until he approached 40, when he had adopted particularly curious tactics) was bowled, while Maurice Read and Mr Key were out in one over at 96. Three more batsmen went for an addition of 18, but Brockwell and Sharpe added 44 for the last wicket. An innings which had opened so well came to an end for 158. Walton and Mr Joyce both bowled effectively, the former always keeping an excellent length.

Leicestershire's innings lasted from 3.35 until half-past 6. The batting honours were borne off by Pougher and his captain, Mr De Trafford. They added 70 runs for the third wicket. Pougher then left at 115; in his 57, which occupied an hour and ten minutes, were two fives (drives), six fours, a three and three twos. Mr De Trafford threw great vigour into his batting, and an escape in the long field (Maurice Read missed the catch) enabled him to add 58 runs. He went in second wicket down at 45 and was sixth out at 149, having contributed 78 of the 104 added during his stay of an hour and a quarter. The later members on the "order" also contributed a good many runs, and Leicestershire claimed a substantial lead on the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 10)

Leicestershire played Surrey in a very good game in the opening of the season at Kennington Oval. Yesterday fortune fluctuated until late in the afternoon, when the home bowlers got the upper hand and, within a few minutes of the time set for drawing stumps, Surrey were able to claim a pretty substantial victory.

Improved weather and a truer wicket favoured the second day's play, which produced excellent batting and bowling, and was watched with keen interest by a large company. Surrey opened their innings at 11.30, having a deficit of 63 to hit off. The first hour proved somewhat discouraging to the home county, as, although Abel played well, such good men as Messrs Key, Shuter and W W Read were out for 58. Maurice Read and Abel put a much better complexion on affairs, and the figures travelled to 141 before the fourth wicket fell. Abel was now taken at slip for 62, an innings that had lasted two hours and a quarter and in which were one five, eight fours, two threes and five twos. Maurice Read and Lohmann were together until 207, when both were bowled. Lohmann made hits of five and six (to leg) and three fours and a three. Maurice Read contributed in his 68 eight fours, two threes and eight twos. Subsequently Henderson's cuts and drives were particularly clean.

Leicestershire were left with 203 to make for victory. This task proved much too heavy for them.

They started with some measure of promise, and good cricket by Wheeler and Pougher caused 50 to appear with only one man out. In the course of the next half hour the rapid dismissal of several batsmen crushed the hopes of the visitors. The sixth wicket fell at 75, but Joyce's excellent defence gave the Surrey team a lot of trouble towards the close. Eventually Surrey won by 73 runs.

Thursday 7 May, page 6: THE MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

The 104th anniversary meeting was held yesterday at Lord's, Lord Willoughby de Eresby (the president) in the chair. Among those present were the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Bessborough, Lord Hawke, Mr W Nicholson and Mr A N Hornby.

The annual report stated that, in 1890, 3,239 members paid, as against 3,185 in 1889; abroad, 209; life members, 218; total, 3,666. During the year 27 members died. Of the 160 matches played 84 were won, 40 lost and 36 drawn. The total cost of the new pavilion, increasing furniture, amounted to £21,000; of this sum £11,000 has been paid out of two years' income, and the only liability of the club at the present time is £10,000, owing to Mr W Nicholson.

The match list for this season will be found to contrast favourably with those of previous years, although no foreign elevens will visit England. The committee announced that North v South, on May 11, was for the benefit of Rylott. Notices had already been sent to members to the effect that the committee had been compelled to make an alteration in the distribution of seat tickets at Oxford v Cambridge and Eton v Harrow matches. The committee proposed to give the new arrangement a trial for one season.

A memorial having been received by the committee complaining of the refreshment supply on the days of the University and school matches, a sub-committee was appointed to go into the question, and the alterations contemplated would, it was hoped, contribute much to the comfort of members. The dining and luncheon rooms and enclosure adjacent to the White house will in future be reserved exclusively for members; and in order to avoid the intrusion of non-members, which has been the main cause of the inconvenience and crowding heretofore experienced, members will be required to show their passes on entering. The committee appealed to members to co-operate with them in carrying out this arrangement.

The Hon Alfred Lyttelton and Sir E Gray are the respective holders of the Gold and Silver Tennis prizes. Lord Londesborough expressed his willingness to become a trustee of the club in the room of the late Lord Dudley. Viscount Cobham, Mr W E Denison, Mr V E Walker and Mr J G Walker retired by rotation from the committee, and Lord Willoughby de Eresby, Viscount Anson, Mr C K Francis and Mr A J Webbe were duly nominated and subsequently declared elected.

The ground staff will consist of Thomas Hearne, Farrands, Clayton, Rylott, Wild, William Mycroft, G G Hearne, Wheeler, Sherwin, T Mycroft, W Hearn, Flowers, Price, Barnes, Gunn, Scotton, Hay, Fothergill, Attewell, Parnham, Burton, Pickett, Wootton, Davenport, Pentecost, Titchmarsh, Chatterton, J E West, Martin, Pougher, Rawlin, A Hearne, Carlin, Davidson, W J B West, Phillips, Shacklock, Richardson, Whitehead, Whiteside, Burns, Bean, Moorhouse, Needham and J T Hearne. The report was adopted.

At the annual dinner, held last night at Lord's, Mr V E Walker was nominated president of the Marylebone Club for 1891.

7 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MR C I THORNTON'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3661.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 12)

Cambridge have thus early in the season given an illustration of their batting strength. Yesterday, against a very powerful side got together by Mr C I Thornton, the University team went in first, and their innings extended from a few minutes past 12 until a quarter to 6. Charming weather favoured the game, to which additional attraction was lent by the inclusion in the visitors' eleven of Dr Grace, who has not been seen at Cambridge for a very long time. Mr Woods was absent from the University team, in which places were found for two Freshmen – Messrs Wells and Tollemache – and three Seniors – Messrs Rowell, Braybrooke and Crawford.

The batting honours of the day were borne off by two Old Alleynians – Messrs Douglas and Wells. The former's 131 was the result of finished cricket; it occupied three and a half hours and embraced one five (two by an overthrow), nine fours, eight threes and 22 twos. Mr Douglas went in first and was fifth out at 234 – caught at short-leg. Mr Wells hit with great judgment and, with Mr Douglas, added 129 for the third wicket. The last five batsmen only increased the record by 28. Mr Thornton's team had some 25 minutes to play . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 12)

Another day's cricket of much excellence has to be recorded in this match at Cambridge. The fine weather of Thursday was missing and there was a little rain, but the large attendance showed how keen was the interest in the game, while the wicket, beyond a slight slowness, played well.

Mr Thornton's team Essex their innings, in which they had made 28 overnight. With a single added Mr Ferris was taken at slip. Mr Barrett, the Australian, played with his characteristic caution and waited for the loose ball from which to score. Mr Murdoch left at 42. Then came Dr Grace, who appeared in capital form, and whose cuts and drives furnished true illustrations of his skill. Mr Barrett was in two and a half hours for his 40. Dr Grace and Peel raised the figures to 149 when the former returned the ball. In his 54 were six fours, two threes and six twos. So far there was promise of a large score by the visitors, but the other six wickets of England went down for an addition of 54. Cambridge fielded and bowled equally well.

When the University, who held a lead of 59, began their second innings, five batsmen were disposed of for 28 runs. Subsequently Messrs M'Gregor and Jackson improved matters, and the interest in the game was sustained.

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

The season is unlikely to produce many better matches than that which finished on Saturday at Cambridge, when the England team were left with victory by one wicket.

Few games transpire where one of the sides does not have cause to complain at ill-fortune. In this instance it was Cambridge, who, at a critical stage of the contest, lost both the bowling and batting services of Mr Streatfeild. His right hand was struck by a fast ball from Mold, an accident that

necessitated his retirement from the game.

Cambridge in Friday night were 166 ahead, with two wickets in hand. Mr Streatfeild was soon hurt, but some hard hitting by Mr Braybrooke helped to advance the record to 135. England wanted 195 to win.

The start afforded little cause for anxiety. Messrs Thornton, Murdoch and Barrett played so well that the 100 appeared with only two men out. Cambridge, however, fielded and bowled with great keenness and a series of disasters befell the visitors. Dr Grace was run out by his partner and Mr Barrett was at length dismissed. Six men were out for 143, but Mr Webbe and Briggs scored steadily, and at the fall of the eighth wicket only nine runs were required.

Seven of these had been made when Peel, fielding as substitute, missed Mr Philipson at third man, and the hit went for a single. With the scores level Briggs lost his wicket, and there seemed some prospect of a tie match when Mold, the last man, arrived. After some cautious play the latter scored a single, and England won an exciting match by one wicket.

7 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3662.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 12)

Glorious weather ushered in the season at Lord's. The opening of the MCC v Sussex match furnished an eventful day's cricket both as regards batting and bowling. An individual three-figure innings on the opening day of the season would be in itself remarkable; but the feat achieved by Marlow yesterday was the more noteworthy because it was the occasion of his first appearance in important cricket at Lord's and for Sussex.

Of late years Sussex has almost invariably played Marylebone a good game, and the present match promises another success for them. Mr A N Hornby had command of the Marylebone eleven, in which were various well-tried cricketers, while Sussex, besides Marlow, who hails from Staffordshire and is now qualified for the marine county by residence, played Wells, of Shoreham, and Hilton, of Lewes.

Marylebone had the first innings on a good wicket. They lost Lord Hawke, Mr Hornby and Pougher for 12 runs, after which Davenport and Mr Wright made a stand. Four wickets were down for 69 when Humphreys was put on to bowl lobs. The change met with surprising success. With the second ball Humphreys dismissed Mr Wright and the innings was rapidly finished off. In a little over hour and a half he took five wickets for 10 runs; it was immediately after luncheon that Marylebone lost their last man. Total, 88.

The county did not start well, Quaife playing on at nine. Bean stayed with Marlow until 55, but six men were out for 84. In the next hour and a quarter Humphreys and Marlow put on 95 and, after the former had been caught at short-leg, Butt stayed while 61 more were added. Subsequently Tate kept up his end, while Marlow rapidly scored, and Sussex were able to claim a great advantage. Marlow made his 100 in two and a half hours without a real mistake, although the ball occasionally baffled him. He possesses a very attractive style; his driving on both sides of the wicket is good, but the cut seems his strong stroke. It was a brilliant display of batting to which he treated the spectators, whose warm applause showed how well his efforts were appreciated. Marlow took part some years ago in a Notts Castle match at St John's-wood, but yesterday's was his first appearance at Lord's in a game of any note.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 12)

Lob bowling again played a prominent part in the cricket at Lord's yesterday, when Sussex defeated Marylebone in a most decisive manner. The county on Thursday night held an advantage of 174, and had not completed the first innings.

The game was finished in two hours and a half. Sussex lost their ninth and tenth wickets for an addition of six runs. Marlow increased his overnight figures by a single, and then fell to a catch at wicket. His 144 was the result of excellent play; during his long stay of three and a half hours he gave no chance, and his chief hits were 12 fours, 13 threes and 16 twos.

Marylebone began their second innings shortly after 12 o'clock. Tate and Hilton were the bowlers. The start was disastrous, Lord Hawke losing his wicket in attempting a run, while with a single

recorded Mr Hornby was secured at short-leg. Mr Pope and Davenport played well, and during their partnership matters improved. The score reached 45, and then came a fresh series of disasters to Marylebone. Davenport retired "leg before" and Humphreys caught and bowled Mr Pope, while Moorhouse was run out. Five for 45.

In the course of two or three more overs West, Pougher and Mr Hillyard all fell to the lob bowler, whose four wickets so far had only cost three runs. Richardson gave little trouble, but Martin, the last man, batted with exceptional vigour and, with Mr Wright, added 73 for the tenth wicket. Martin was bowled directly after luncheon, and Sussex won the match by an innings and 53 runs. Martin's fine batting and the effective lob bowling of Humphreys stood out prominently as the features of the game.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128170.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 12)

Yesterday's play in this match at Kennington Oval was characterized by some remarkable scoring on the part of the Surrey eleven, who retained possession of the wicket from 12 o'clock until half-past 6, and even then were four men in hand.

Abel and Maurice Read, the first pair, made 91 in an hour. Read hit three fours, a three and four twos, and Abel, who fell to a catch at third man at 103, contributed two fives, five fours, a three and two twos. Mr Key stayed with Mr W W Read until 154, and Lohmann's partnership with the latter produced 53. Mr Read fell to Major Bethune's bowling at 233; he was in an hour and 50 minutes for 80, the result of vigorous batting. He hit two fives, nine fours, a three and five twos. Henderson and Lockwood became partners at half-past 4, when the record was 271 for six, and they kept up their wickets to the day's close, when 155 had been put on. Henderson gave an easy chance to Soar at mid-on when his figures were at 78.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 12)

The Surrey bowlers carried all before them at Kennington Oval yesterday, and Hampshire, after more than a day's fielding, were twice quickly dismissed.

Lockwood and Henderson, the Surrey not-outs, with 92 and 84, speedily completed their hundreds, and at 450 the long partnership came to an end by the bowling of Lockwood, who had been in upwards of three hours. He hit one five, ten fours, five threes and ten twos. With Henderson, he had put on 179 for the seventh wicket. Henderson survived some time longer, but was at last taken at point for 105. He obtained his runs in rather less than two hours and a half, contributing two fives, 11 fours, six threes and five twos. Eventually the innings, which occupied six and three-quarter hours, closed for 494, 68 having been added since Thursday night.

Hampshire offered very feeble resistance to the Surrey bowling, and in an hour and 50 minutes their first venture was completed for 86. They fared worse in the second attempt, and Surrey won by an innings and 342 runs. The bowling figures of Lohmann and Sharpe were remarkable.

7 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128177.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 12)

The Boundary eleven were seen to considerable advantage at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, yesterday in their match with the home county. Going in first they kept possession of the wickets for four hours. The credit of the 213 score was well distributed among the side, but Chatterton and Malthouse batted particularly well.

Shrewsbury and Mr Dixon obtained 59 in an hour for the first Nottingham wicket before the latter fell to a catch at mid-off, and afterwards Gunn and Shrewsbury played out time. It may be noted that Nottinghamshire are trying two fresh left-hand bowlers – Lowe and Bagguley – in the absence of Richardson and Scotton. Messrs Spofforth and Walker were unable to assist Derbyshire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 12)

Nottinghamshire scored heavily on their ground at Trent Bridge yesterday, and many of their eleven were seen to great advantage. Flowers's batting in the latter part of the innings, however, overshadowed much of the excellent play shown earlier. Overnight Notts had gone in against 213, and were credited with 75 for one wicket.

Yesterday the turf remained unaffected by rain in the morning, but later Flowers was able to get his runs while the wicket was very easy on account of a long shower. The partnership of Gunn and Shrewsbury, who got together on the previous evening, realized 101. Shrewsbury's innings lasted nearly three hours, and embraced six fours, eight threes, ten twos and singles. Gunn left just before luncheon for 66, in which were five fours and five threes; he was in about two and a half hours.

Barnes and Daft both met with success and, after a long delay by rain, Flowers hit with great brilliancy, making 100 in an hour and a half. To-day the visitors will have to face a large majority, as Notts with two wickets in hand are already 151 ahead.

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

As was expected, Nottinghamshire easily won their first match of the season at Trent Bridge on Saturday. Errors in the Nottingham field, however, enabled Derbyshire, by the aid of Storer and Bagshaw, to extend the game until close upon 6 o'clock. The wicket was rendered difficult by rain, and Notts at once declared their first innings at an end, being 151 ahead. Flowers's 100 included a six (square-leg hit out of the ground), 11 fours, seven threes and eight twos, and beyond a chance at 92 he made no mistake during his 90 minutes' batting.

Derbyshire started in a manner so feeble as to promise an early finish. They lost five wickets for 44. But Bagshaw and Storer, profiting by many mistakes by Nottinghamshire (six chances were unaccepted), then added 96. Storer hit four fours, five threes and five twos, and Bagshaw in three hours scored 86 (not out) by five fours, a three, 18 twos and singles. At a quarter to 6 Nottinghamshire won the match by ten wickets.

7 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – FIRST TWELVE v SIXTEEN FRESHMEN (not first-class)

(Potted scores) Sixteen Freshmen 126 (F Leveson-Gower 51; L C H Palairet 5/36, H M Taberer 4/15) and 91 (L C H Palairet 5 wkts, G F H Berkeley 4 wkts). The Twelve 245 (W D Llewelyn 32, H D Watson 43, M R Jardine 92*, G L Wilson 24, E Smith 30; E W Denny 5/65, T E Williams 3/19).

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 May, page 12)

The usual match at Oxford with the above title was begun yesterday under the most favourable conditions. Mr F Leveson-Gower carried off the batting honours among the Freshmen. He hit five fours, three threes and eight twos. His dismissal was brought about by a good catch at point [E Smith].

When the Twelve went in Mr Llewelyn made two hits of six. On both sides the bowling and fielding were good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 12)

Yesterday's play in this match at Oxford was characterized by the fine innings of Mr M R Jardine, who went in first wicket down and took his bat out for 92. Among his hits were ten fours, four threes and 11 twos. Mr Watson only added nine to his overnight score, but Messrs Smith and Wilson both gave their captain considerable assistance. The Freshmen started their second innings badly . . .

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

Saturday's cricket at Oxford did not furnish any display of talent among the Freshmen. Overnight they had gone in a second time and lost four wickets for 40 runs. On the last day the bowling proved so effective that the Twelve eventually claimed the victory by an innings and 28 runs.

Friday 8 May: SURREY COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The annual general meeting of the members of the Surrey Club was held last evening at Kennington Oval, when the balance-sheet and report were brought forward. Receipts from the matches amounted to £7,272, and expenses £5,279. Surrey v Notts produced £1,019. The total receipts for the year were £18,121 and the expenses were £9,434.

In their report the committee stated that they were glad to be able to congratulate the members on the fact that the county last summer fully upheld the high reputation of Surrey cricket. Altogether 25 matches were played, of which 16 were won, five drawn and four lost. According to the system of scoring adopted by the meeting of county secretaries in the previous December, Surrey was entitled to be considered the most successful of the eight leading counties. Of the 14 first-class matches nine were won and only three lost – a record which speaks well for the excellence of the all-round cricket of the eleven so ably captained by Mr John Shuter.

Home and home matches have been arranged for the season of 1891 with Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Notts, Somersetshire, Sussex and Yorkshire. One match will be played with Cambridge University at the Oval, and the annual match between Gentlemen and Players has been fixed for July 2, 3 and 4 at the Oval. The Somersetshire Eleven showed such excellent all-round cricket last year that the reappearance of that county at the Oval will be very popular.

All interested in Surrey cricket will have heard with regret of the death of E Barrett, who for so many years played for the county.

Acting on the expression of opinion at the special general meeting last May with regard to the limitation of members, the committee felt justified in interpreting liberally the powers bestowed on them. During the year 625 new members were elected. At the present time the club numbers 3,172 members. The report and accounts were adopted.

Lord Oxenbridge was re-elected president and Lord Bessborough vice-president of the club.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3663.html)

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

Mr A J Webbe took a good side of gentlemen to Cambridge yesterday, and called upon Walter Wright and J T Hearne to help with the bowling. The Cambridge eleven had the assistance of Mr S M J Woods, but Mr Streatfeild, who was injured last Saturday, could not play.

Going in first, the visitors started well. Mr Hewett hit with great vigour and obtained 43 of the first 62 runs, contributing six fours. Subsequently Mr Pearson and Mr Webbe met with success, but the total did not reach the heavy score once promised. When Cambridge went in Hearne bowled effectively, besides which the University had two men run out.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 7)

At Cambridge yesterday the fortunes of the game fluctuated in a manner that made the day's play particularly interesting. The University eleven had fared very badly on Monday evening, and left off with three wickets in hand and 53 runs necessary to prevent the follow on. Two more wickets fell for 13, but the last pair of batsmen defied the visitors' attacks until the runs had been obtained. The last wicket had realized 43.

The visitors, who were 76 ahead, lost three batsmen for ten runs, and the figures were only 54 when the fifth wicket fell. After luncheon, however, Messrs Phillips and Vernon quite changed the aspect of affairs. Profiting by several errors in the field off Mr Woods's bowling, the batsmen scored rapidly and added 83 during their partnership. Mr Vernon then left, but Mr Philipson continued his vigorous batting until 213, when he was out leg before.

Cambridge, who wanted 300 to win, started well, Mr Douglas, prior to being caught at slip, contributing most of the first 61.

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

The finish of this match at Cambridge yesterday was very interesting, and the determined effort made by the University to win only failed by a few more than 30 runs. In spite of their excellent cricket the Light Blues thus lost the second of their games. Three hundred was the number required by Cambridge to win, and of these they had scored 83 on Tuesday night for the loss of Mr Douglas's wicket.

Messrs Rowell and Beresford were soon separated yesterday, the latter being bowled. Mr M'Gregor, who followed in, had an escape with his figures at six, after which he played remarkably well. Mr Rowell was in considerably more than two hours for 34, but Mr Jackson soon left and four men were out for 141. Fine batting by Mr Wells ensued; he scored 35 out of 46 added for the fifth wicket. Mr M'Gregor was caught and bowled, Mr Hill retired leg-before and Mr Wells was bowled shortly before luncheon. In the last-named's 51 were six fours and three threes. Subsequently Messrs Woods and Tollemache scored freely, but the last wicket fell at 267, and Mr Webbe's eleven won by 32 runs.

11 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3664.html)

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

Oxford had much the worst of the cricket yesterday when engaging Lancashire county, on the Dark Blues' ground. They were handicapped by the absence of Messrs Thesiger, Bradby and Bassett, the loss of the first-named's bowling being severely felt towards the close of the day.

The fine weather and the attractiveness of the match brought together a large company. On a fast wicket the Oxford eleven got through the first innings in two hours and a quarter. Mr E Smith alone batted with any success. He threw great vigour into his play, and in three-quarters of an hour scored 53 out of 71. Six wickets had fallen for 36 when he went in. Mr Taberer stayed while 51 were made for the eighth wicket. Mr Smith contributed a six, nine fours, a three and a two. The bowling of Watson furnished a feature of the day.

Lancashire, in spite of some free batting by Sugg, lost four men for 68, but Ward and Yates put on 77 for the fifth wicket, and later Mr Crosfield scored rapidly. Ward in an hour and a half made five fours, five threes, eight twos and singles; and Yates six fours, a three and three twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 7)

There was no improvement shown by the University at Oxford yesterday when this match was brought to a close. On a fast and true wicket the Dark Blue batsmen, with the exception of Mr Taberer, showed very feeble form and failed to avert the innings defeat. Overnight Lancashire, with four wickets in hand, were 82 ahead.

Mr Crosfield, the not-out with 43, was soon disposed of; indeed, the outstanding batsmen added only 37. Mr Crosfield hit six fours, two threes and two twos. Mr Mortimer, who was making his first appearance for the county, took out his bat for 22, an innings that had occupied two hours.

Oxford were 119 in arrear, and their second venture in two and a quarter hours produced 115. Mr Taberer went in when seven men were out for 46, and ran up 47 out of the 69 produced by the last three wickets. He was missed early in his innings, otherwise his play was capital. Among his hits were six fours, a three and eight twos. Eventually Lancashire won by an innings and four runs.

11 May: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3665.html)

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

The excellence of the cricket at Lord's yesterday should tend to revive the interest in North v South. This season the Marylebone Club arranged the fixture for the benefit of their veteran professional Rylott, whose first engagement at Lord's extends back to 1872.

Everything favoured a good match. The sides were remarkably strong and were captained by Dr W G Grace and Mr A N Hornby. The former brought up a man quite fresh to important cricket – Board, a wicket-keeper, of whom when the season was first thought of Dr E M Grace stated that they had a capital man, with hands as hard as iron. All the other players in the team were well-known. Mr J J Ferris, the Australian, was heartily welcomed back to Lord's. Charming weather prevailed, the wicket was fast and the true bowling largely accounted for the comparative smallness of the scores. Certainly the batting, bowling and fielding were well worthy of the talent found in the North and South ranks, and the large company by their enthusiasm showed how well the cricket was appreciated.

Dr Grace was quite in his old form. He started the Southern innings with Abel, who was taken at wicket before scoring. The figures had been advanced to 24, when M Read drove the ball into the hands of Flowers at mid-off. Pougher had secured both the wickets; Attewell was the other bowler. Dr Grace and Mr W W Read added runs rapidly, and 50 went up after 40 minutes' play, while at the end of an hour the figures were at 78. Peel and Flowers had some time since taken up the attack, but Attewell resumed – a change that was at once successful, as at 79 he bowled Mr Read. Dr Grace did not long survive Mr Read, for at 87 his excellent innings was closed by a good catch at slip. In an hour and ten minutes Dr Grace had obtained 61 out of 87; his chief contributions were nine fours, a three and six twos.

Mr Cranston had not scored when he fell to the wicket-keeper, and five men were out for 89. Subsequently the best feature of the innings was the play of Lohmann. With Mr Radcliffe he raised the record to 122 before luncheon. There were several changes in the bowling during the partnership, which ultimately realized 43. Mr Radcliffe, who had played cautiously, was then taken at third man. Lohmann next had Mr Ferris for a partner, but having scored 37 the professional gave a chance to Mr Hornby at slip. He made great use of his life, and with a boundary drive completed his 50. Mr Ferris had already been bowled, and Board was caught in the long field at 157. Lohmann stayed until he had equalled Dr Grace's figures, when he was beaten by a good ball from Attewell. Among his hits were seven fours, four threes and seven twos, and he got his 61 in an hour and a half. The dismissal of Sharpe shortly after 4 o'clock closed the innings for 166.

Mr Dixon and Ulyett opened the Northern batting at 4.25. Mr Ferris and Sharpe bowled well, and runs were not obtained very easily. When stumps were drawn the North were 77 behind with six wickets in hand, so that it is likely to be a capital match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 7)

The repetition of the glorious weather and of excellent cricket furnished much enjoyment to the 6,000 people who yesterday visited Lord's. There was a larger attendance of members in the

pavilion than on Monday, and the enclosure was also well patronized.

While the batting was so good, there was missing the brilliant play of Dr W G Grace, whose comparative failure in his second innings must have been disappointing to the company, although the latter found some compensation in the fine, vigorous hitting of Maurice Read. The public have a weakness for hard hitting, and readily forgive a batsman of such powers any mistakes. Earlier in the day Barnes had shown that he had not forgotten how to cut or drive, and a loose ball on the leg side rarely escaped him. The bowling was again true, and a little firmness in the wicket was occasionally apparent. It was really anybody's match on Monday night, and until nearly 5 o'clock yesterday there seemed little to choose between the sides. But subsequently the steady dismissal of the southerners lessened the prospect of a good finish.

Barnes (37) and Peel (19), the not outs, went on with the North innings, in which four wickets had fallen for 91. Mr Ferris and Sharpe had charge of the bowling. The 100 was soon reached, but Lohmann, when he took up the pavilion end attack at 116, got out Peel in the first over. The partnership for the fifth wicket had realized 75. With Flowers in, Martin was given a trial at the nursery end. Barnes by this time had made his record of runs the highest in the match. Flowers went at 147, but Mr Hornby with Barnes infused new life into the game. At 166 Mr Ferris resumed, and with his second ball he bowled Barnes, whose innings had extended over three hours. He had played remarkably well, although not scoring with quite his usual quickness. He hit two fours, five threes and ten twos. Seven for 166. Mr Hornby fell to a catch at long-on, Attewell at long-off, and Pougher was bowled, and the innings ended just before luncheon for 193. This gave an advantage to the North of 25. Sharpe and Lohmann, of Surrey, had the best bowling figures.

After the interval Dr Grace and Abel went in again for the South to the bowling of Pougher and Attewell. With only seven runs recorded Dr Grace was well caught at wicket, and M Read joined Abel. This partnership considerably improved matters. Runs came rapidly, and Barnes and Ulyett were tried in turn at the pavilion end. Fifty-three were obtained in three-quarters of an hour, but nine runs later Ulyett bowled Abel and Mr W W Read in the same over. Mr Cranston, who came next, did not seem at home at either end. Maurice Read, however, threw plenty of vigour into his batting, but, having obtained 42, he should have been caught by Pougher at long-on. He then completed his 50. Flowers displaced Ulyett at 85, but the 100 was reached at 4.35, soon after which Mr Dixon and Ulyett went on to bowl. Having contributed 73, Read gave a difficult chance to Mr Hornby at long-on, and then Ulyett's next ball bowled him. He had got his 77 in two hours by nine fours, four threes, seven twos and singles. Four for 122.

From this stage matters went badly for the South. Attewell resumed bowling, and in the course of a few overs disposed of Mr Radcliffe, Lohmann and Mr Ferris. Board came next, but with a single added he lost Mr Cranston, who returned the ball. The last-named player had been in more than an hour and a half, but his batting was much below the average. Eight for 138. Board was the next to leave – clean bowled. Martin and Sharpe obtained 10 for the last wicket, and within a few minutes of 6 o'clock the innings ended for 150. It had lasted about three hours. Attewell, when he went on the second time, met with success, and his four wickets averaged altogether only seven runs each.

The North wanted 126 for victory and, considering the strength of the side, this seemed an easy task of the fast wicket. Mr Dixon and Ulyett started to get the runs and, from the bowling of Mr Ferris and Lohmann, had scored nine when play ceased for the day . . .

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

After a keenly contested match the South triumphed over the North yesterday at Lord's. The visitors had 126 runs to make to gain the victory, but the defects noticeable in the wicket on Tuesday had become more serious, and in the hour and three-quarters over which the third day's play extended, most of the batsmen to get any runs were those who went forward to play. Even these did not meet with sufficient success to save the match, which would probably have been more decisively won had no errors occurred in the southern field.

Throughout, the fortunes of the game fluctuated in a way that sustained the interest to the end. Although the pitch showed signs of breaking up on Tuesday night the actual result furnished a surprise. The North, with ten wickets in hand, wanted 117 to win. Mr Dixon and Ulyett, the not-outs, resumed batting at 11.40. Mr Ferris and Lohmann, who had opened the bowling on the previous night, again had charge of the attack.

With his first ball Mr Ferris dismissed Mr Dixon, while Ulyett after hitting Lohmann to leg for three had to leave; he had scored the 15 runs then recorded. Lord Hawke and Gunn were now partners. The professional obtained five by an on-drive, but at 29 Board caught Lord Hawke at wicket. Three down. Barnes and Gunn played well, the former gaining a couple of fours by off-drives. Martin and Sharpe took up the bowling after the 50 had been announced, when the prospects of the North's success were bright. However, following another four by Barnes a series of misfortunes befell the visitors. Board stumped Barnes at 54, and a single later he caught Peel. Five for 55. Three wickets fell at 61. Sharpe bowled Flowers and Mr Hornby, and Gunn played on. Eight for 61. The condition of affairs had been quite reversed in the course of a few minutes.

When Attewell and Pougher got together they were both missed by Lohmann at extra slip. Attewell then cut Sharpe, off whom the chances had been given, for three, and Pougher drove the same bowler for four and played him to leg for a like number. The wicket had produced 25 when Attewell was bowled. Sherwin, the last man, arrived, but Pougher having driven Martin for four was out leg before, and the South won a fine match by 34 runs.

Board, the Gloucestershire wicket-keeper, made a very successful first appearance at Lord's. On each day the weather was very fine and Rylott must have had a good benefit.

14 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3666.html)

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

It was a bowler's wicket at Lord's yesterday and the batsmen all day were at a disadvantage. Great progress was made with the match and the play proved even. Lancashire brought up almost their full strength, and in their ranks was to be found the Rev V Royle, whose brilliancy in the field at cover-point secured for him such a foremost place among cricketers. Of late years he has not played very much county cricket. Marylebone, in addition to a strong professional contingent, had the services of Lord Hawke, Dr Grace and Mr Cranston. The last-named was elected a member of the MCC in 1890, when, for Gloucestershire, his left-hand batting proved so successful.

Lancashire had first innings, and against the bowling of Attewell and Martin started pretty well. Mr Hornby and Sugg batted freely for a time, but both had been dismissed by the time the score reached 64. Mr Hornby was caught in the long-field and Sugg drove the ball into the hands of mid-off. Barlow and A Ward added four in 35 minutes, and then a one-handed catch by Dr Grace low down at point sent back Barlow. Briggs and A Ward made a stand and raised the figures to 90, but after luncheon the last six wickets were captured in 35 minutes for the addition of 27 runs. Sherwin displayed great skill in stumping Watson. Martin and Attewell had utilized the opportunities offered by the wicket.

Marylebone's innings occupied the rest of the day. Mold's fast bowling got up rather dangerously, and Barnes's left hand was so bruised by the ball as to necessitate the retirement of the Notts professional. Accuracy in batting was indeed a matter of no small difficulty. Dr Grace made a few good cuts and drives before a clever piece of stumping dismissed him. Lord Hawke played a capital innings: one square-leg hit over the ring for four from Mold elicited very warm applause. The Yorkshire captain was in an hour for 37. Towards the close Attewell showed sound defence, and eventually the innings realized 128, which gave Marylebone a lead of 11.

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

There was a disagreeable change in the weather at Lord's yesterday, and the heavy rain and hail showers caused considerable delay in the game. The wicket again assisted the bowlers, and the analysis of Flowers towards the close of the Lancashire second innings was remarkable.

Mr Hornby and Barlow began the county's second venture at 11.40. There were arrears of 11, and ten of these had been made up when a catch at wicket sent back Mr Hornby. Sugg, who followed, chiefly helped to raise the score to 20, and then a storm of rain and hail prevented further play until 20 minutes to 2. Before luncheon the runs reached 43. Sugg, who had driven the ball several times in vigorous style, was out shortly after resuming, when Chatterton, fielding as substitute for Barnes, caught him in the long field. Barlow had been in more than an hour for 15 before Sherwin took him at the wicket.

Neither Briggs nor the Rev V Royle gave much trouble, and five men were out for 54. Ward and Yates kept together a long time, but the former had a couple of escapes and he profited considerably by them. He obtained six by two drives from Martin, who at 86 gave up the ball to Dr Grace, while at 99 Flowers went on at Attewell's end. After the 100 had gone up, at 3.55, there was another

delay through hail. Subsequently Flowers rapidly finished off the innings. He bowled Ward, after the latter and Yates had put on 56 for the sixth wicket. Baker and Mr Kemble were out at the same total, and a fine running catch in the long field dismissed Mold. Watson had been called away, and the Lancashire score was left at 117, curiously enough the figure of the first innings. Flowers had taken four wickets for eight runs.

Marylebone required 107 to win, and they began a difficult task on a treacherous wicket about 5 o'clock. Briggs started the bowling and got Flowers stumped in the first over, and in his second Dr Grace played under a ball, which went into slip's hands. Lord Hawke and Mr Cranston were now together. The former made a couple of fours by drives, but, having scored 14, he was missed from a "skier" by the wicket-keeper. The record had been advanced to 33 when rain stopped play for the day, the Club wanting 74 to win with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 7)

After a remarkably even match the county beat the Marylebone Club at Lord's on Saturday. Rain stopped the game at an interesting stage on Friday night, Marylebone, with two wickets (those of Dr Grace and Flowers) down, wanting 74 runs to win.

Saturday morning's heavy showers prevented the renewal of play until 20 minutes past 2, luncheon having been taken an hour earlier than usual. Lord Hawke, 20, and Mr Cranston, 4, the not-outs, then resumed the home batting. Briggs and Baker were the bowlers. Lord Hawke made a single from each end and then hit Briggs to leg for four. However, at 41 Lord Hawke was smartly stumped and Mr Pope arrived.

The cricket became very quiet until the new-comer hit Mr Baker to the square-leg boundary and sent up 50, which had been obtained in rather more than an hour. Mr Cranston obtained four by a drive, but at 60 Briggs dismissed him with a "yorker". Messrs Russel and Pope were together, and there seemed every likelihood that the MCC would get the runs. At 74, however, Mold threw out Mr Pope from mid-off, and three runs later Mr Littlewood skied the ball and was caught at point. Six for 77.

Four runs were added, when the seventh and eighth wickets fell, a good catch at mid-off sending back Mr Russel, while Attewell was taken at slip. With Barnes away, Sherwin, the last man, appeared. Several sharp runs were made, but then the new-comer was caught at third man and the match ended, Lancashire winning by 21 runs.

14 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3667.html)

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

The Dark Blues were seen to great advantage at Oxford yesterday in the match against the Gentlemen of England, captained by Mr A J Webbe, who had secured a very good side. Mr E Smith carried off the honours of the day with a three-figure innings. Mr W G Clegg, a Senior, was given a trial for the University.

Oxford went in first, and Messrs Llewelyn and Watson started well for them, making 42 before they were separated. The former was then taken at wicket and the latter succumbed to a ball from Mr Forster. Mr Jardine fell to a catch at point, and Mr L C H Palairet was caught at slip at 69. Messrs Wilson and R C N Palairet added 43 for the fourth wicket, but both were out at 112, while Mr Taberer was bowled at 126. Seven down.

Mr Smith, who had been the seventh on the "order," by his brilliant batting out quite a different aspect on the game. Mr Brain stayed while 58 were made for the eighth wicket, and Mr Clegg while 89 were put on for the ninth. Mr Smith was the last to leave, caught in the long field. He scored his 117 in two hours without giving a chance, and the vigour of his batting will be gathered from the composition of his innings, which included two sixes, 20 fours, a three, four twos and 14 singles. The last three Oxford wickets added altogether 157 runs. When the visitors went in Messrs Webbe and Vernon scored freely . . .

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

The Gentlemen of England were batting nearly the whole of the time devoted to cricket at Oxford yesterday. On Thursday the University had completed an innings for 283, and the visitors had lost two wickets for 82. Rain and hail caused various interruptions, but the turf never became difficult and a high rate of scoring was maintained.

Mr Vernon played brilliantly and advanced his not-out score from 31 to 90. He gave a chance with his figures at 79, which was the only blemish in a fine innings. During his stay of an hour and a quarter he hit 15 fours and six twos. Mr Webbe played well and helped Mr Vernon to add 89 during their partnership. Afterwards Mr Pearson hit with great vigour, and in company with Mr Ferris put on 72 for the seventh wicket. Mr Pearson got his runs in an hour and ten minutes, and contributed 12 fours, three threes and four twos. Eight wickets fell for 275, but Messrs Case and Hillyard added 76 for the ninth, the former showing excellent form for 55, in which were seven fours, a three and six twos. Eventually the Gentlemen completed their innings for 359, at 25 minutes past 5. The last four wickets produced 192.

Oxford, who were 76 behind, had rather more than half an hour's batting . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 7)

Saturday's play in this match at Oxford was characterized by excellent batting on the part of Mr M R Jardine, the Oxford captain, and Mr G L Wilson, the captain of the University football eleven.

The Dark Blues would have fared badly interfered had it not been for the long partnership of the gentlemen named. The closing hour's cricket on Friday enabled the visitors to secure an advantage, as Oxford, going in against a majority of 76, lost two wickets for 22 runs.

On resuming, two more fell for an addition of 14. Messrs Jardine and Wilson then got together and, in spite of the many bowling variations brought against them, the partnership lasted nearly two hours. Both batsmen showed excellent form and neither gave a chance. For the fifth wicket 103 runs were added before Mr Webbe caught Mr Wilson. His chief hits were six fours, five threes and four twos. Mr Jardine could get no one else to stay with him and the last five wickets added only 29 runs. The Oxford captain went in when the first man was out at four and remained unconquered. He was batting rather more than three hours, and his chief hits were seven fours, four threes and eight twos. Mr Ferris bowled very effectively. The Gentlemen had not time, of course, to get the 93 necessary for victory, and the game was drawn.

14 May: SURREY v ESSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128171.html)

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

Yesterday's play in this match at Kennington Oval was characterized by the evenness with which the Surrey score was distributed among the side. Essex were in the field until nearly 5 o'clock, and afterwards they lost several batsmen and were left with much the worst of the game.

Abel and Mr Shuter began the Surrey innings, and reached 39. Subsequently Read and Abel advanced the figures to 112, when the former, who had shown excellent batting, played on, and Abel was caught at mid-off. The last-named had contributed seven fours, three threes and two twos. Mr W W Read and Lohmann added 75 in an hour for the fourth wicket; Mr Read hit eight four and two threes, and Lohmann seven fours and four twos. Neither Mr Key nor Ayres gave much trouble, but Henderson and Brockwell remained partners while the score travelled from 207 to 260. After Henderson had been caught by the wicket-keeper, Brockwell saw the departure of the other batsmen and remained not out. In his 48 were six fours, two threes and six twos. The innings closed at five minutes to 5 for 294.

Mr Owen batted successfully for Essex, but could get no one to stay with him for any length of time. Burns helped to add 28 for the second wicket. It may be noted that Lockwood and Wood are away from Surrey, while Essex are weakened by the absence of Mr A P Lucas.

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

Surrey have this season met Leicestershire, Hampshire and Essex, all of whom have been decisively beaten on Kennington Oval. These contests should have afforded the side considerable practice for their great match with Notts at Trent Bridge on Monday.

Yesterday's success was not unexpected. Against the home score of 294 the visitors had lost four men overnight for 61, and they had to continue the game on a soft wicket. Mr Owen, the not out, batted carefully again, but was caught at slip at 67, having been in more than an hour for 24. Lohmann and Sharpe steadily finished off the innings, and Essex followed on with arrears of 166.

Mr Owen played well, and with Cutts scored 41 for the first wicket. Carpenter stayed while 20 more were added, but afterwards the batsmen were disposed of rapidly, and at 73 Mr Owen was the fifth to leave. He had been in an hour and a half for 37, in which were four fours and four twos. The last five wickets were captured for an addition of 24 runs, and Surrey won the match by an innings and 69 runs. Lohmann and Sharpe had remarkable bowling figures.

18 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3668.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 4)

The bad weather prevented any start being made in this match at the County Ground, Bristol, yesterday. It was not until after luncheon that all hope of play was given up, and then it was agreed to postpone the game until this morning. The elevens are . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 10)

After a day's enforced idleness, owing to the weather, the western county began their match against Kent yesterday at Ashley Down, Bristol. Successful in the toss, the home side sent in Drs W G Grace and E M Grace at ten minutes to 12. Wright and Martin were the early bowlers.

The start was unpromising, as with only a couple of runs scored Dr E M returned the ball. Mr Radcliffe arrived and both batsmen played steadily. With the total at 32 the new comer was clean bowled and his place taken by Mr Francis. An hour's play produced 50, when Martin handed the ball to A Hearne. The Gloucestershire captain, among lesser items, cut Wright for four and drove him for the same number. That bowler then gave way to G Hearne. The separation, however, came from the other end, and at 78 Dr W G Grace was secured at cover-point. His 46, which had taken him 100 minutes to obtain, comprised five fours, two threes, five twos &c. A catch at long-on dismissed Painter, and at 93 Mr Francis, who had shown great patience, played on.

Luncheon over, Messrs Cranston and Sainsbury were opposed by Wright and A Hearne. A hit for four by Mr Sainsbury shot the total up to 100, but nine runs later he was bowled, and Mr Cranston fell to cover-point. Seven down. The last three batsmen only added 16 runs, the innings closing a little before 4 o'clock for 135. A Hearne had bowled very effectively, but Martin could not give his side much assistance owing to rheumatism.

Kent began their batting with Mr Patterson and A Hearne. Both of these were bowled by Woof, and three wickets were down for 42. Mr Daffen and G G Hearne then played out time. Although the weather was extremely cold there were between 4,000 and 5,000 spectators on the ground.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 7)

Inclement weather again interfered with this match at Bristol yesterday. On Tuesday evening Gloucestershire had completed an innings for 135, and three Kent wickets were lost for 88. Mr Daffen, 19, and G G Hearne, 28, resumed the batting at a quarter to 12, to the bowling of Dr E M Grace and Woof.

A good many runs were made from the former, and the 100 soon appeared. At 109 Roberts displaced Dr E M Grace, but the separation was effected from the other end, as at 111 Woof bowled Hearne. The partnership had yielded 69 runs, and Hearne had shown sound defence. A shower stopped the game for a quarter of an hour. Mr Mitchell then joined Mr Daffen and the bowlers were again Woof and Roberts. The cricket proved quiet, and a cut for three by Mr Mitchell was the only item of note for a long time. Woof bowled eight maidens out of ten overs. Mr Mitchell, after

having a narrow escape of being run out, was dismissed by Woof at 128.

More rain now fell and prevented further cricket until the luncheon interval had been taken. Mr Marchant was next on the "order," but eventually another downpour altogether stopped the match, which was left drawn with the score as under . . .

18 May: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3669.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 4)

Heavy rain at Lord's yesterday prevented a ball being bowled in this match, and the start was postponed until this morning. The elevens are as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 10)

Various reasons accounted for the great interest aroused in the match between Middlesex and Somerset at Lord's yesterday. Apart from the fact that Somerset have been admitted into the charmed circle of first-class cricket, the matches last year between these counties have not been forgotten. How well Somerset won on a hard wicket at Lord's and the tie match at the end of the season at Taunton are fresh in the minds of the cricketers. There was a pleasing change in the weather, but though the day was bright the cold wind was still present, and late in the afternoon the rain returned. Several thousand spectators were on the ground.

Somerset had first innings, and on the soft wicket started well. Messrs Fowler and Hewett started runs at a good pace, and various bowling changes were tried. When Burton went on at 45, he got Mr Fowler caught in the long field without addition to the score. Mr Hewett was third out, taken at mid-off at 66. Subsequently Rawlin bowled with great success, and Mr Roe alone made any stand. At luncheon the figures were 128 for seven wickets; but, on resuming, the innings was rapidly finished off, Mr Roe being out second ball. It had lasted two and a quarter hours. Rawlin had bowled remarkably well, and his seven wickets averaged five runs each.

Messrs Scott and Webbe opened the Middlesex batting and scored so rapidly that 45 runs had been made in 20 minutes, when Mr Scott returned the ball. Mr Nepean came next, and Mr Webbe had a narrow escape of being caught at slip. However, the Middlesex captain made many excellent cuts and drives until at 63 he was well caught on the off-side. Mr O'Brien's stay was brief, as, after having obtained a couple of fours, he succumbed to a catch at long-off.

After this capital start Middlesex fared badly for a few overs. Although 80 went up as the result of an hour's play with only three men out, six wickets were down for 101. Mr Vernon was missed by Mr Hewett at point when he had scored 14, and immediately afterwards he drove a ball from Tyler over the ring in front of the tavern. However, Mr Robinson, fielding deep on the off-side, then caught him from a similar stroke to that which had brought about the downfall of Mr O'Brien. Seven for 111.

Saunders (a cricketer from the Ealing district, who had been put in the side in consequence of the indisposition of Mr Stoddart) now joined Hearne. The latter made a fine drive for four, but at ten minutes to 5 a heavy shower stopped the game for three-quarters of an hour. At 121 Tyler bowled Hearne, and nine runs later West, who had made one or two good hits, was out to a catch at wicket, Mr Newton taking the ball low down on the off-side. Burton, the last man, arrived, and the light, which had been very bad, grew worse. While the umpires were considering whether it was advisable to go on, another heavy shower drove the players to shelter, and at 6 o'clock stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 7)

Heavy rain fell during the early morning at Lord's yesterday and rendered the turf so soft that soon after 2 o'clock it was decided not to play, and this match was consequently drawn.

18 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3670.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 4)

So keen is the interest taken in the matches between Nottinghamshire and Surrey that in recent years they have been raised, as it were, above the level of county contests. The first meeting of the present season was fixed as usual for Whit Monday at Nottingham. Both elevens were weakened by the absence of an intending player, that of the home side being the more serious. Without Barnes, who was in such good form in North v South, Notts could not be said to have their full strength. The injury to his left hand last week at Lord's, however, proved so severe that he could not play, and Walter Attewell took his place.

Bright, cold weather was experienced, and the attendance on the Trent-bridge ground was very large. The showers of Sunday had rendered the wicket a little slow, but it materially improved as the day wore on. Surrey were fortunate in winning the toss, and within a few minutes of noon Abel and Mr Shuter went in. Shacklock led off the attack from the pavilion end, Attewell being the other bowler.

Nine runs were obtained in three hits, after which Abel made a bad stroke in the slips. Mr Shuter then cut the ball into the hands of Shrewsbury at point, and when a dozen runs only had been made Maurice Read was secured at mid-off. An appeal against Mr W W Read for stumping was answered in the negative; but at 31 he was caught at cover-point. Three down. Lohmann arrived and at once began to hit out vigorously. When he had made seven he drove a ball loftily to the long field, and Gunn only just failed to catch him. Fifty runs were the result of an hour and ten minutes' play; eight only had been added when Lohmann was taken at point. Mr Key joined Abel, and at luncheon the total had reached 72.

Subsequently the batting was very steady, the fielding and bowling both being good. In half an hour, however, the 100 was signalled amidst the most hearty applause. Then runs came rapidly in spite of bowling changes. Abel completed his 50 at ten minutes to 4, and Mr Key soon reached the same number. The 150 went up at a quarter past 4, and loud cheers greeted an off-drive for five by Abel. With the total at 164 Mr Key was dismissed by a catch at slip. His partnership with Abel had lasted two hours and produced 106 runs; he had batted splendidly and his chief hits were four fours, six threes and five twos.

Half the wickets were now lost, and Henderson joined Abel. The latter, when he had made 70, gave a return chance to Shacklock. Soon after 5 o'clock the score was advanced to 200, and at 20 minutes past that hour Abel completed his 100, a feat that was heartily acknowledged. A little quiet play ensued, until at 219 a catch at wicket dismissed Henderson. Six down. With an addition of eight runs three batsmen were disposed of – Brockwell was caught at mid-on, Wood obstructed his wicket and Abel played the ball on. The last-named had been batting four hours, and his 103 was made up of a five, five fours, three threes, 18 twos and singles. Nine for 227. Sharpe and Bowley batted well and added 23 for the last wicket, when the former was stumped. Total, 250; duration of innings, four hours and three-quarters. Nottinghamshire sent in Mr Dixon and Walter Attewell . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 10)

The fortunes of the Midland county in this important match were in the earlier part of yesterday's play at a very low ebb. It will be remembered that on Monday at Trent Bridge Surrey had accurate 250 runs as the result of an innings. There was again a numerous company when Mr Dixon and Walter Attewell took up their positions at 20 minutes to 12. Lohmann and Sharpe led the attack.

After being missed by Bowley, the professional was caught at extra slip. Shrewsbury came, and Mr Dixon hit well, but at 20 the former fell to a catch by the wicket-keeper. Two down. Gunn arrived, and for a few overs both batsmen showed commendable caution. Mr Dixon then scored more rapidly. At 36, however, he gave Mr W W Read a hard chance high up at point, the total then having reached 50. Three runs later Bowley received the ball from Lohmann, and Mr Dixon at once drove him for five. Eleven runs came from Sharpe's next over. Gunn, when he had made 15, was nearly caught by Mr Key at mid-on. Lohmann superseded Sharpe, after the total had reached 72, at the pavilion end, and this change ultimately had great effect. At 85 he disposed of Gunn, three runs later Flowers was bowled, and Mr Wright was beaten at 97. Half the wickets were now lost.

Daft joined Mr Dixon, and the 100 was completed at a quarter past 1. Ten runs were added, when Lohmann found his way to Mr Dixon's wicket. This gentleman had been in two hours, and had batted in very fine style; his hits comprised a five, five fours, eight threes, eight twos &c. Daft was also bowled at 119, and William Attewell and Shacklock became partners. These played very carefully, and prior to the interval had put on 20 runs. After luncheon every ball was anxiously watched, as there were still three wickets to fall and only 32 required to prevent the follow on. The matter was soon set at rest, however, as in a quarter of an hour the three batsmen were dismissed for an addition of eight – Shacklock was caught at slip, Sherwin run out and Needham bowled, William Attewell carrying out his bat for 24. Total, 147.

Nottinghamshire were now 103 behind, and their outlook was indeed gloomy. Shrewsbury and William Attewell followed on at 20 minutes past 3. Lohmann and Sharpe again opened the bowling. The start was most disheartening. When three runs only had been made Attewell was splendidly caught by Mr W W Read running from point. Gunn then joined Shrewsbury. The latter went in for a defensive game, while the former twice drove Lohmann for four. The visitors soon varied their attack. At 30 Sharpe relieved Abel, and ten runs subsequently Bowley was put on, while at 49 Lohmann gave way to Brockwell. So far the innings had lasted an hour. An idea of Shrewsbury's patience may be gathered from the fact that he was in for 25 minutes without having scored, while at 61 he was caught at wicket, after having taken an hour and a quarter to obtain eight runs.

Mr Wright then appeared, and Gunn continued to bat brilliantly. A misfortune befell the home side at 77, as the last-comer ran Gunn out when the latter was well set. In his 59 were seven fours, two threes and six twos. Mr Dixon assisted Mr Wright and the arrears were made up, but at 106 the latter was caught at slip. Four down. Mr Dixon and Flowers played most brilliantly and, although the visitors tried all the tactics of which they were masters, it was not until 72 had been put on in 50 minutes that the professional was bowled – leg stump. Daft arrived to the assistance of Mr Dixon, and both kept their wickets intact until the end of the day.

The weather was fine and the wicket in first-rate order. There were about 8,000 people on Trent Bridge, and the greatest enthusiasm was shown.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 7)

Surrey's victory at Nottingham yesterday was much more easily gained than might have been anticipated from the position of the game on Tuesday evening. With the pitch still in excellent order and faster than at any time during the match, every one expected to see the last five Nottinghamshire wickets add substantially to the overnight score. But the later batsmen failed lamentably, and the prospects of a good finish faded quickly.

The Southerners are to be congratulated on their success in a match rendered remarkable by the batting feats of Abel and Mr Dixon and the good all-round form of Lohmann, who, in addition to taking ten wickets in the game, greatly contributed by his fine free hitting to the decisiveness of the result. The interesting stage at which stumps had been drawn, coupled with the pleasant weather, caused several thousand people to visit the Trent Bridge ground yesterday morning.

Nottinghamshire (who had followed on with arrears of 103) were 12 runs ahead with five wickets in hand, and the not-outs were Mr Dixon (58) and Daft (8). At 20 minutes to 12 play was resumed, Abel bowling an over in order that Sharpe and Lohmann might go on at their original ends. The misfortunes of the home side began early. With six runs added Daft fell to a catch at slip, and at 212 Mr Dixon was bowled. The Nottinghamshire captain had batted brilliantly; his 62 had occupied him an hour and 50 minutes, and he contributed five fours, seven threes and seven twos. In the double innings Mr Dixon made 135 runs, and he has never played better for his county. Seven down. Another five runs saw the close of the venture; Shacklock was caught at extra slip, Walter Attewell run out and Needham bowled. During the morning the last five wickets had fallen in 25 minutes for an addition of 12 runs.

Surrey wanted 115 for victory, and at half-past 12 they began the task with Abel and Mr Shuter. Shacklock and Attewell were the bowlers. Abel made two fours and Mr Shuter a couple of threes, all but cuts, and 14 runs were thus scored in three overs. The Surrey captain then played a ball from Attewell on to his wicket. Maurice Read came next, but he had not scored when a catch low down at mid-on dismissed him. The capture of these wickets naturally revived Nottingham's hopes, which were further freshened when, after a few good hits by Abel had raised the score to 30, Flowers took up the bowling and quickly got Mr W W Read caught by the wicket-keeper. Three for 33.

Eighty-two were thus wanted when Lohmann came to the aid of Abel, who had been playing remarkably well. Lohmann disregarded all cautious tactics and immediately on his arrival played in a most free and confident manner. Runs came rapidly from Flowers, nor did Attewell escape the batsmen's vigour, and Needham and Shacklock were soon deputed to take up the attack. Any chances that Nottingham might have had of saving the game quickly disappeared. Four cuts for four each (two by either batsman) were among the best strokes of the day. The partnership had yielded 50 runs in half an hour when Lohmann skied the ball to third man. He had made 34 by brilliant cricket. Four for 82.

Nine runs later Mr Key gave a bowler a return catch, but with Henderson in the game was soon over. Abel by a cut and a leg hit for four each completed his 50, and although the attack underwent another change the 100 appeared at five minutes to 2. Seven runs were wanted when luncheon time arrived, so it was decided to play on, and at ten minutes past 2 Surrey won the match by five wickets. Abel made his 63 in an hour and 40 minutes; among his contributions were nine fours, three threes and five twos. In the match he obtained 166 and was only once out.

18 May: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128180.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 4)

During the morning at Brighton yesterday the weather was cold and wet, rendered play between these counties on the Hove Ground impossible until after luncheon. Hampshire, who had won the toss, then decided to go in. Mr Russell and Dr Bencraft were opposed by Mr C A Smith and Tate.

The side were in for two hours and obtained 99. The batting honours belonged to Dr Bencraft, who played throughout the innings and was then unbeaten, his principal hits being four fours, five threes and seven twos. The fielding was excellent and Hilton bowled well.

Sussex began their venture with W Quaife and Marlow. The latter, who ran up 100 at Lord's in the first match of the season between Marylebone and Sussex, again did well. Mr Newham went in second wicket down; he hit freely for his not-out contribution of 51 . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 10)

The opening day's play at the Hove, Brighton, left Sussex with a material advantage, as the visitors had completed an innings for 99, and only four of the home wickets were lost for 107.

When the game was resumed yesterday morning the weather proved quite genial. Mr Newham, the not-out with 51, only added a couple and was then caught at cover-point; among his hits were seven fours and three threes. The last wicket fell at a quarter past 1 for 157.

Hampshire, who were 58 behind, were all out in an hour and 20 minutes for 60 runs. Tate achieved a fine performance with the ball, taking nine wickets for 24 runs. From the complete score which follows it will be seen that Sussex won by ten wickets.

18 May: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127174.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 4)

There was an excellent day's cricket at Derby yesterday in the match between these elevens. Both counties were well represented.

Derbyshire had first innings and started in a manner that promised a heavy score. Chatterton and Mr Wright, in spite of bowling changes, made 84 in an hour and ten minutes before the professional was bowled. Subsequently Mr S H Evershed batted successfully, but Walton bowled with effect, and at the end of three hours the innings terminated for 171. Walton's bowling, it may be noted, made a very favourable impression at the Oval a few days since in the Surrey v Leicestershire match.

When the visitors went in Warren and Wheeler obtained 46 runs for the first wicket, but the batting honours were borne off by Mr de Trafford and Pougher, and at the close of the day Leicestershire claimed a good advantage.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 10)

Hitherto Pougher, the Leicestershire professional, has been chiefly known for his fast bowling. This season, however, he has developed great ability in batting, and yesterday he succeeded in scoring a three-figure innings against Derbyshire at Derby. Fine free hitting characterized his cricket throughout the four hours that he was in. Among his hits were eight fours, 12 threes and 18 twos. He appeared to give no chance and has never before played so well for the county. Holland and Pougher put on 164 for the fifth wicket, and both were out at the same total. Eventually the innings closed for 409.

Derbyshire, who required 238 to avert the innings defeat, had an hour's batting . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 7)

When play ceased in this match on Tuesday evening Derbyshire could have had little hope of saving the game. They had begun their second innings with arrears of 238, and had lost two wickets for 63 runs.

Yesterday, at Derby, the home eleven, with few exceptions, fared badly. The rain left the wicket slow, and the Leicestershire bowlers made most of their advantages. Chatterton played well and Mr Spofforth hit vigorously. However, the home team's second innings was all over in another two hours, and Leicestershire won the match by an innings and 65 runs.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/113/113426.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 May, page 4)

At Bradford yesterday the weather proved fine, though cold, and there were about 3,000 people to witness the match between these counties. Lord Hawke was unavoidably absent from the home eleven. W A J West (late Northamptonshire) played for the first time for Warwickshire on the birth qualification, while Richards was away. A good wicket had been provided, but the play did not come up to the average.

Yorkshire were successful in the toss and went in first. They were all out in two hours and a quarter for 132. Ulyett hit vigorously and put together 50 in a little less than an hour. He, in conjunction with Hall, caused the first wicket to yield 48, while the partnership of Peel and Wainwright produced 43. The last five batsmen, however, were all dismissed for 19. Pallett's bowling was noteworthy, as when he went on a second time he took five wickets for six runs.

Ks were all out in an hour and three-quarters for 95, the attacks of Peel being very effective. Mr Docker made a few good hits, but seven of the visitors were only credited with 23 runs between them. Yorkshire went in a second time . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 10)

The concluding day's play in this match at Bradford produced cricket of much the same character as seen on Monday. At the end of an innings each Yorkshire led by 37 runs, and at the close of the day they had lost a wicket in their second venture for 8.

The weather was dull and threatening. Ulyett and Hall batted steadily and raised the score from 15 to 79 in rather more than an hour. Several wickets then fell, and seven were lost for 101. Wainwright and Whitehead made a stand and put on 45, and it was a quarter past 3 when the innings ended for 155.

Warwickshire required 193 for victory, and this task was begun by West and Law, who made 40 for the first wicket. Wainwright then bowled so effectively that seven men were dismissed for 62. Subsequently matters improved, and the time for drawing stumps was extended in order to finish the game. Yorkshire finally won by 65 runs.

21 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3671.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

Owing to the rain there was no cricket in the match between Marylebone and Cambridge University at Cambridge yesterday. At 1 o'clock it was decided to abandon any idea of play and to postpone the start until this morning at half-past 11 . . .

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

The Marylebone Club was not so strongly represented in their customary match at Cambridge as had been expected, and the absence of the Hon A Lyttelton and Flowers, the latter owing to a sprain, was a little disappointing. Under the circumstances, Mr C D Buxton, who had charge of the visiting side, enlisted the services of Mr Gowans, a Freshman from Harrow, and Mr W I Rowell, a Senior, who has been identified with the University eleven this season. The MCC professional talent was strong. Mr M'Gregor, the home captain, was away from the eleven, and Mr Gay filled the position of wicket-keeper. Mr Foley played for the first time this term.

Thursday's rain had left the wicket soft, but the game furnished much play of interest. Having won the toss Cambridge went in first. Against the bowling of Attewell and Davidson they started badly. Messrs Douglas, Wells and Beresford were out for 17, and ten runs later Mr Foley played on, while Mr Jephson was taken at slip. Five for 27. Then came a stand by Mr Jackson and Braybrooke, who put on 47 before the latter was caught by Gunn in the long-field. Chatterton and Pickett had gone on to bowl during the partnership. Mr Jackson left at 91, also taken at long-on. Both Mr Jackson and Mr Braybrooke had made a hit for five, and the former besides scored a four, three threes and nine twos. After luncheon, although the last wicket produced 15 runs, the innings was soon over. Total, 126.

Chatterton and Mr Rowell opened the visitors' venture very successfully, and the partnership had lasted nearly an hour when a good piece of fielding by Mr Tollemache brought about the dismissal of Chatterton. Gunn played well, but half the wickets were lost for 87. Mr Rowell showed great patience. Gunn's 37 included a four, four threes and seven twos; and he was batting an hour and a half. At one time Marylebone appeared to have much the better of the day's play, but the dismissal of three batsmen at 120 made matters much more even.

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

At Cambridge, on Saturday, the Marylebone Club inflicted on the University team its third defeat. Overnight the Light Blues had made 126, and the MCC for the loss of eight wickets had scored 120.

Hearn and Mr Gowans, the not-outs, resumed the batting in pleasant weather. A mistake by Mr Foley at mid-off, which gave Mr Gowans a life, proved particularly expensive to the home side, as that batsman ran up 40 in three-quarters of an hour, hitting three fours, seven threes and two twos. The ninth wicket produced 55, and the innings ended at 12.25 for 176, Marylebone thus leading by 50 runs.

Messrs Douglas and Wells obtained 39 for the first Cambridge wicket, 31 being contributed by the latter before he was leg-before. Mr Douglas played very patiently, but he was missed by Hearn at slip with his figures at 16. Three wickets fell before luncheon for 55. Subsequently Mr Douglas and Mr Foley were both caught and bowled, the former having been in an hour and 40 minutes for 23. Beyond Mr Jackson, the rest of the side did little, and at 4 o'clock the venture terminated for 106. Attewell and Davidson had bowled with great effect.

The MCC required 57 for victory. They started badly, losing Messrs Rowell and Eaton for four runs. Chatterton and Mr Buxton left at 18, after which Davidson and Gunn added 30. The former was run out, and Hearn had also left when at half-past 5 Gunn made the winning hit, and Marylebone won the match by four wickets.

21 May: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3672.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

Neither the racing nor the gloomy weather kept the public from the Old Trafford cricket ground, Manchester, yesterday, when the first day's play in Lancashire v Surrey was witnessed by some 12,000 people. Rain during the night rendered the wicket slow, and drizzling showers caused the turf to be wet throughout cricket hours. Lancashire had got together their full strength to oppose the victors of Notts, and Mr A G Steel, who is so rarely seen in important matches, gave his aid to the home county. There were no changes in the Surrey side that had played at Trent Bridge earlier in the week.

Winning the toss, Mr Shuter decided to go in, and, with Abel, began the Londoners' innings shortly after 12 o'clock. Watson and Mold were the bowlers. After a little cautious play, Abel made a couple of cuts for four each from the fast bowler, but in attempting to play him to leg he had his middle stump sent down at 22. With Maurice Read in there were several big hits and the score rose steadily to 40, when the Surrey captain was beaten by Watson.

The two Reads advanced the figures so rapidly that Mr Hornby changed his attack and gave Briggs a trial at Watson's end at 70. This alteration, however, did not succeed in effecting a separation, so Watson resumed, and Briggs went on in place of Mold. At length Watson bowled M Read for a vigorous 38. The third wicket had produced 59 runs in rather more than an hour. With Lohmann batting, Mold resumed, but the 100 was signalled at 20 minutes to 2. Mr Walter Read left a couple of runs later, after which Lohmann and Key gave the Lancastrians a lot of trouble. The former made many brilliant drives and cuts, and it was not until after luncheon that the fifth wicket fell. There had been more changes in the bowling, but when Briggs came on again he got Mr Key caught at extra slip in his first over. Lohmann and Mr Key had put on 55 runs in 35 minutes. Five for 157.

Three more men were out for the addition of 12 runs – Lohmann, Brockwell and Henderson. Lohmann obtained his 50, out of 68 added while he was batting, in less than an hour; he hit six fours, four threes and three singles. Eight for 160. Wood and Sharpe made 40 for the ninth wicket. Mr Steel, however, took up the bowling after the 200 had gone up and speedily closed the innings for 209.

Lancashire started their batting at half-past 4. Barlow and Mr Hornby were opposed by Lohmann and Sharpe, from whom they scored 21 in ten minutes. Mr Hornby was then bowled, and Barlow obstructed his wicket nine runs later, while at 36 A Ward returned the ball. Mr Steel and Sugg improved the Lancashire prospects, adding 50 runs in as many minutes. Sugg hit brilliantly until caught at slip at 91. Bowley, who had gone on for Sharpe, quickly disposed of Mr Steel and Briggs, and six wickets were down for 99. Afterwards Mr M'Laren batted very well. Baker helped him to obtain 17, when the latter was caught at point, and then Messrs M'Laren and Kemble played out time.

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

So far the cricket in Lancashire v Surrey, at Old Trafford, Manchester, has in every way merited the attention given to it. The play, too, was worthy of better weather. Yesterday there was, besides a

repetition of Thursday's gloominess, a lot of rain, which in the afternoon brought the game to an early adjournment. Throughout the interest in the match was well sustained, and the fluctuations kept the immense crowd in a high state of enthusiasm.

Lancashire had the misfortune to lose the services of Briggs and Watson, who were too indisposed to take any part in yesterday's cricket. These were most serious losses. The score on Thursday evening stood thus – Surrey, 206; Lancashire, 143 (seven wickets). Messrs M'Laren and Kemble, the not-outs with 24 and 13, who had become partners when 116 had been obtained, were opposed at 11.35 by Lohmann and Sharpe.

Mr M'Laren scored rather freely from the former, and at 165 Bowley relieved Lohmann, who a few runs later took up the bowling at Sharpe's end. This latter change had the effect desired in the bowling of Mr Kemble in the first over. The partnership had realized 57. With Mold in, Mr M'Laren completed his 50; but at 187 the dismissal of the professional closed the innings, Watson being away ill. Mr M'Laren took out his bat for an excellent 51, which had occupied rather more than an hour and a half; his chief hits were nine fours, four threes and six twos. Mr M'Laren, it may be remembered, obtained 100 last year on the occasion of his first appearance for the county on the Hove ground at Brighton.

It was half-past 12 when the Lancashire innings ended, and shortly before 1 o'clock Surrey, who held a lead of 22, entered on their second venture. Mr Shuter and Abel faced the bowling of Mold and Mr Steel. Having obtained five runs, the Surrey captain was missed in the long field by a substitute, a mistake that proved serious for the home side. As the score rose rapidly, Baker superseded Mr Steel at 32, but 50 appeared after 40 minutes' play. Barlow then went on for Mold, and the change proved successful, as at 61 Abel was bowled. Ten runs later Baker disposed of Mr Shuter. Brockwell and Mr W W Read were partners at the luncheon adjournment, when the figures stood at 76.

On resuming, matters went badly for Surrey, and there were loud cheers from the Lancashire partisans as Brockwell and Mr Key succumbed to Mold's bowling, and Mr W W Read returned the ball to Baker. Five for 90. Lohmann again rendered his side great service and, with Henderson, soon put a different complexion on the game. There were various bowling changes. Henderson gave an opportunity to Ward in the long field and another difficult chance to point. The men were well set and scoring rapidly when rain came on and stopped the game for the day.

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

Victory attended the Southerners at Manchester on Saturday and thus closed a week in which Surrey had triumphed over Nottinghamshire and Lancashire. Great sympathy was felt for the Lancastrians, whom illness robbed of the services of two bowlers – Briggs and Watson – and the severity of this handicap rather lessened the merit of Surrey's success. Yet the visitors played a fine game and scored heavily while the wicket remained easy.

It must not be thought that Lancashire were left quite destitute of bowling, for they had Mr A G Steel, Mold, Barlow and Baker. After two days' gloominess there was a welcome change in the weather, but the heavy rainfall of Friday left the turf so heavy as to delay the start on Saturday morning nearly an hour. The advantage possessed by Surrey, who were 175 ahead with five wickets in hand, did not seem to have decreased the interest in the match, and a crowd 8,000 in number gathered round the enclosure at Old Trafford. Lohmann and Henderson (the not-outs with

35 and 27), who had become partners at 90, were opposed by Mold and Baker.

A dozen runs were scored in the first two overs, after which the figures slowly travelled to 174, when Lohmann returned the ball. The sixth wicket had realized 84 runs. Lohmann's vigorous innings included five fours, a three and 11 twos; in the match he had scored 99 runs, besides having bowled so well. With Maurice Read and Henderson together runs came rapidly, and at a quarter past 1 the 200 appeared. Mr Steel and Barlow took up the bowling for a few overs, but Baker and Mold soon resumed. After Read had been let off by a substitute (fielding at long-on), Henderson returned the ball. His stay had lasted two hours and a quarter, and his chief contributions were five fours, five threes and two twos. Seven for 231. The last partnership had yielded 57.

Wood was bowled first ball – middle stump; but when Sharpe came in Read had another life in the long field, Mr M'Laren making the mistake in this instance. At luncheon the record stood at 240 for eight wickets. Under ordinary circumstances Mr Shuter would probably have closed his innings, but in the absence of Briggs and Watson from the home side he refrained from doing this. On resuming Mold and Baker were again the bowlers. Sharpe should have been stumped, but at 261 both he and Read were out, the latter being caught in the long-field for 57, in which were four fours, three threes and six twos. Time, 3.5.

Lancashire went in at 3.25 with the only hope of playing out time and drawing the match, as 284 would have been necessary to win. Lohmann and Sharpe had charge of the bowling. Mr Hornby, who started with Barlow, was out leg-before when two runs were scored. Sugg and Barlow both played cautiously, and had added 19 in 35 minutes when Mr W W Read tried his lobs with success, as at 27 he caught and bowled Sugg. From this stage the Lancastrians were steadily dismissed. A Ward and Barlow slowly added 12 and then the former was bowled, while at 49 Mr Steel left. Mr M'Laren batted freely and the bowling underwent two or three changes. Mr Read relieved Sharpe, who crossed over to Lohmann's end and disposed of Barlow after the latter had been in an hour and a half. Five for 67.

Soon afterwards Sharpe atoned for a piece of misfielding by throwing out Baker. The end quickly came; Mr Kemble was caught at slip and Mold bowled in the next over, the innings closing for 76. Surrey thus won by 207 runs.

21 May: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3673.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

There was another day's compulsory idleness at Lord's yesterday, where the heaviness of the night's rain had so saturated the turf as to prevent a start in the match between Middlesex and Kent. The decision to postpone the game until this morning was arrived at early in the day. The sides are . . .

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

Yesterday was only the second day this week at Lord's that cricket was permitted by the weather. Even then there was considerable doubt in the morning as to the possibility of any play, and 3 o'clock had been reached when a start was made on a wicket pitched very close to the nursery. The weather was dull, and most of the cricket took place in a drizzling rain. Mr E C Mordaunt, an old Wellingtonian, was given a trial in the Middlesex team, otherwise the elevens representing the counties were the same as those played by them at the beginning of the week.

At 3 o'clock Middlesex began their innings, which lasted an hour and 50 minutes and produced only 68 runs. Martin had bowled with much success, but the feebleness of the Middlesex batting was most disappointing. Kent went in at 5.25, and had lost two wickets for 53 runs when the game was stopped for the day.

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

Remarkable bowling by Martin was the great feature of the cricket at Lord's on Saturday, when, on a treacherous wicket, Kent beat Middlesex most decisively. Play was resumed with the position of affairs favouring the visitors, who had got within 15 of their opponents' score and had still eight wickets in hand.

Matters for a long time went all against Kent. Rawlin and J T Hearne each claimed two wickets in the course of a few overs, and an addition of five runs saw the sixth batsman leave. Mr Castle returned the ball at 69, and Martin was out in the same way to Rawlin at 75; at this stage the latter's analysis during the morning read thus: - 9 overs (4 maidens), 10 runs, 4 wickets. Nuttall left at 84. So far there was little in the game; but an unexpected stand was made by Kent for the last wicket. Wright hit with great vigour and 36 were put on before the dismissal of Mr Mitchell, who was bowled. Wright made five fours. Kent thus held the substantial lead of 52.

Middlesex began their second innings at 20 minutes past 1, but on the bad wicket Martin and Wright carried all before them. Mr Webbe was well stumped at 5, Mr Scott bowled at nine, Mr O'Brien caught at cover-point at 11, and at 15 Mr Nepean was bowled. Mr Hadow and Rawlin slightly improved matters until after luncheon, when the professional was run out, Mr Hadow refusing to start for a hit by himself. Then Martin finished off the innings with great rapidity, taking the last five wickets in three overs and three balls (two maidens) for seven runs. Martin in the double innings took 13 wickets at an average cost of under four runs each. Kent won by an innings and eight runs.

21 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v H PHILIPSON'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3674.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

To fill the dates rendered vacant in the University programme by the abandonment of the American visit, a game was arranged at Oxford with Mr H Philipson's team. The latter embraced many excellent cricketers and, with Messrs Smith and Bassett away from the Oxford Eleven, is likely to prove quite a match for the Dark Blues. Mr H T Hewett was to have played for the visitors, but he was succeeded by Mr R T Jones, a Senior and an Old Etonian. The weather was cold and the drizzling rain made matters unpleasant both for players and spectators.

Going in first, Mr Philipson's Eleven started in a manner that almost foreshadowed disaster for Oxford. Mr Walker and Mr Jones opened the innings on a slow wicket and, despite various bowling changes, before they were separated ran up 114 runs in an hour and three-quarters. Both were then out. Mr Walker played brilliantly and contributed six fours, three threes and eight twos. Mr Jones showed capital form, but was fortunate in escaping an earlier dismissal. After this excellent start Mr Philipson's team fared badly, and Messrs Croome, Vernon, Philipson and Shacklock were all disposed of by the time that the figures reached 128. Six down.

Then came another stand. In 40 minutes Lord H Scott and Mr Collins added 70 runs, of which number Mr Collins made 50 by one six, six fours, four twos and singles. Subsequently the innings was rapidly finished off for 204. Mr Berkeley bowled well. Oxford went in, and when play was stopped owing to the bad light the score stood thus . . .

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

There seemed a little probability of this match being proceeded with at Oxford yesterday after luncheon, but just as the players were coming out more rain fell, and the game was postpone until this morning.

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

There was a bright and interesting day's play at Oxford on Saturday, when the fine weather proved a most agreeable change after the dull and wet experiences of Thursday and Friday. The Dark Blues were seen to considerable advantage on the slow wicket. At the resumption of the game the figures were: - Mr Philipson's team, 204; and Oxford 23 for the loss of two batsmen.

The fourth wicket fell at 78, and then came a determined stand by Messrs Jardine and L C H Palairret, who for an hour and a quarter defied the attacks on the visitors and added 90 runs. Mr Palairret now obstructed his wicket. In his 53 were 11 fours, a three, a two and four singles. Mr Wilson gave little trouble, and at 190 the Oxford captain's excellent innings was closed; Mr Jardine had been in rather more than three hours, and had hit 11 fours, two threes and six twos. Richardson injured his foot and was unable to give his side the bowling assistance expected. There was a balance of three runs in favour of Oxford on the first innings.

Mr Philipson's team fare badly against the bowling of Mr Berkeley, and in half an hour five of them

were out for 18 runs. Shacklock then threw great vigour into the batting, and the innings did not finish in time to allow Oxford to get the 59 necessary for victory. When the game ended in a draw the home side had lost three wickets for 14.

21 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/113/113424.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

Both Yorkshire and Leicestershire had been successful in their matches at the beginning of the week, and they entered the field at Leicester yesterday with every prospect of a good match. Although the day opened cheerlessly and rain delayed the start for half an hour, there was a numerous company present.

Choice of innings fell to Yorkshire, and at half-past 12 Ulyett and Hall began the visitors' innings. Walton and Pougher shared the bowling, which was so true as to prevent any fast scoring. Hall had a narrow escape of being caught at wicket. A twofold change in the attack was tried, but at 37 rain stopped the game, which could not be resumed until some time after luncheon.

Walton bowled Ulyett at 47, and Mr Sellers, who came next, was taken at slip without scoring. With Peel in the 50 appeared at 3.30, but a dozen runs later Hall's capital innings was closed by a catch at wicket. Soon after Brown's appearance rain stopped play for the day . . .

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

The heavy rain and soft state of the wicket at Leicester yesterday caused an early decision to adjourn the play until this morning to be arrived at. Little progress was made with the match on Thursday, when Yorkshire lost three wickets for 62.

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

Saturday was a bowler's day at Leicester, and although little progress had been made with the game on Thursday and Friday, the match was nearly played out. Yorkshire, who had lost three wickets for 62, completed their innings in an hour for an addition of 48, Walton again bowling well.

When the home side went in the attacks of Peel were very effective, and seven men were dismissed for 24. The others improved the position slightly, and the innings in an hour and three-quarters realized 52. Peel took seven wickets for 23 runs.

Yorkshire having obtained 53 in their second venture, declared their innings at an end, in the hope of getting their rivals out in an hour and a quarter for less than 111. Four Leicestershire batsmen fell for 35; but a stand by Mr Turner and Holland averted further damage to the home side, and the game was left drawn.

25 May: LORD SHEFFIELD'S XI v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3675.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

Lord Sheffield's name is so closely allied with cricket that it seems quite natural to be witnessing an attractive match between a powerful side selected by his lordship and the Marylebone Club, who were strongly represented, at Sheffield-park, Sussex, yesterday. The names of the captains, too – Dr W G Grace and Mr W L Murdoch – revived memories of the many famous Australian games played in the grounds of Sheffield-park, which, in spite of the miserable weather yesterday, possessed all its old picturesqueness.

During the morning the rain gave a poor prospect of cricket, but an improvement in the weather and the protection of the wicket enabled the sides to make a start at 3.25. Martin was left out of the Marylebone side at the last moment and, in consequence of the indisposition of Briggs, Lord Sheffield called upon Walter Wright, the Kent professional, to complete the home team. The ground was thrown open free to the general public and, in spite of the wet, there was a good muster of spectators.

Dr Grace won the toss and, with Mr Webbe, opened the Marylebone innings. Lohmann and Wright were deputed to bowl. Misfortune early overtook the visitors, as Mr Webbe was called for a short run in the first over of Lohmann's and failed to get home, Phillips, who left his post at the wicket to field the ball at short leg, smartly returning to Lohmann. Mr O'Brien joined Dr Grace, and for a few overs the play was quiet. The new batsman then began to score with more freedom, although in one instance he narrowly escaped giving Wright a return catch. A couple of cuts for four each were noteworthy contributions by Mr O'Brien, who shortly afterwards gave a chance to Lowe at mid-off. However, at 42 an easy catch by Viscount Cantelupe at mid-on disposed of him after he had been in half-an-hour for 28. Two down.

Affairs now went badly with Marylebone. Dr Grace, who had scored with less than his usual freedom, was bowled in trying to drive a ball from Wright; his 19 had taken him some 50 minutes to obtain. Total 49. Mr Cranston was soon bowled; Mr Walker was stumped at 57; at 63 Mr Vernon was secured at point; and five runs later, Mr Philipson, who had been missed at mid-on, played a ball into his wicket. Seven for 68.

Messrs Pope and Ferris by careful batting steadily raised the score, and at half-past 5 the 100 was announced. Subsequently the innings rapidly closed. A good catch at wicket disposed of Mr Ferris, who had helped to add 36; and Mr Pope, after being in an hour and a quarter, played on. Mr Russel was taken at point without scoring, and the innings ended for 109. Lohmann and Wright had bowled unchanged.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 10)

Bright weather, excellent cricket and an exciting finish left little to be desired by the company which assembled at Sheffield-park yesterday. After some showers in the morning, the day became very fine, and the beautifully-wooded grounds were seen at their best. Monday night had left the score thus: - MCC, first innings, 109.

At 11.50 Messrs Barrett and Newham opened the batting for Lord Sheffield's team, and were faced by Attewell and Dr Grace. Runs came freely from the latter, and Mr Ferris soon relieved his captain. The 20 went up after as many minutes' play. A shower, which stopped the game for a few minutes, made the wicket very easy, and runs were obtained so quickly that Dr Grace resumed in place of Mr Ferris. After another short delay owing to rain, the Australian was well caught at the wicket for 16. One for 47. Mr Murdoch joined Mr Newham and, in spite of several changes of bowling, the score was raised to 107 before Mr Murdoch was bowled. In 50 minutes the partnership had yielded 60 runs.

After the interval, Marlow joined Mr Newham, but was speedily dismissed by Mr Ferris. Lohmann and Mr Newham, however, at once passed the MCC total. At 136 Mr Newham's long and brilliant innings was closed by a catch at mid-off. His 77 included nine fours, three threes and nine twos. Mr Somerset and Phillips gave little trouble. Lohmann left at 166, and the innings was soon finished off for 172.

Being 63 to the bad, the MCC began their second venture, Dr Grace and Mr Webbe being confronted by Lohmann and Wright. Only two runs were recorded when Dr Grace was well caught at long-on, and at 15 Mr Webbe played on. Misfortunes followed fast. Mr O'Brien was bowled at 29, a "yorker" from Lohmann sent back Mr Cranston at 39, and Mr Walker was out directly afterwards. Five for 39. At 49 Mr Vernon was bowled, and Mr Philipson was out from the succeeding ball. With 20 minutes remaining for play and 14 runs wanted to avert the innings defeat, an exciting finish seemed certain. At 55 Mr Ferris was well stumped, and at 59 Mr Russel was clean bowled. But Attewell and Mr Pope, the last pair, obtained four runs and saved the match by playing out time.

25 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3676.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

Lord's ground was completely saturated by the rain on Sunday, while the showers of yesterday morning made the wicket quite unfit for play. Weather permitting, a start will be made this morning.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 10)

Lord's ground was still unfit for cricket yesterday, owing to the heavy rain of Sunday and Monday. As the match was limited to two days, it was decided to abandon the fixture altogether.

25 May: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128511.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

At Derby yesterday these counties should have begun the first of their annual matches. Rain fell heavily throughout the morning and, as there seemed little chance of its ceasing, the start of the match was postponed until to-day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 10)

More rain fell at Derby yesterday and, having waited until after luncheon, the sides agreed to abandon this match, in which a start should have been made on Monday.

25 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE ELEVEN v NEXT SIXTEEN

(Potted scores) The Eleven 49 (W G Clegg 16; G Cuming 4 wkts, E W Denny 3 wkts) and 78/2 (W D Llewelyn 35). Next Sixteen 263 (G R Theobald 44, C J R Richards 35, A J Boger 43, G R Wood 53*; L C H Palaret 6 wkts). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

Yesterday at Oxford the customary match under this title should have commenced. Owing to the heavy rainfall play was postponed until this morning.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 10)

On a slow wicket at Oxford yesterday the Eleven had much the worst of the day's play in the match with the Next Sixteen. Rain had prevented any cricket on Monday.

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

Yesterday, at Oxford, the closing stage of the match between the Eleven and the Next Sixteen was productive of some excellent batting. The Eleven, however, sadly missed the services of their two prominent bowlers – Messrs Smith and Bassett. Overnight the score stood thus: - The Eleven, 49; Next Sixteen, 182 for seven wickets.

Messrs G R Wood and Hill, the not-outs, were partners for some time, and subsequently Mr Wood saw the dismissal of the rest of the side and remained unconquered with 53 to his credit. He showed excellent form throughout his stay of three hours. Mr L C H Palaret bowled with the greatest success. When the Eleven went in with arrears of 214 Messrs Watson and Llewelyn batted well, and eventually the game was left drawn.

25 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – THE ELEVEN v NEXT SIXTEEN

(Potted scores) The Eleven 104 (N C Cooper 53, C M Wells 21; A B Burney 5 wkts, G Castley 3 wkts) and 181/8 dec (W M Scott 49, N C Cooper 44, C M Wells 26; A B Burney 4 wkts). Next Sixteen 85 (C M Wells 6 wkts, A J L Hill 4 wkts) and 45/6 (P A Fryer 20; W M Scott 4 wkts).

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 12)

The heavy rain at Cambridge yesterday and Sunday made the ground so soft that cricket was out of the question, besides which there was a continuation of the wet weather. The game will be begun this morning.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 10)

Yesterday at Cambridge the usual match between the Eleven and the Next Sixteen was begun. The heavy rains had left the wicket slow, but there was an agreeable change in the weather. From the Eleven Messrs Wood, Foley, M'Gregor and Streatfeild were absent. Mr Hill performed the "hat trick" early in the innings of the Sixteen by dismissing Messrs Hoare, Pilkington and Weigall with successive balls.

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

When play ceased in this match at Cambridge on Tuesday evening each side had completed an innings, and the Eleven led by 19 runs. The weather was showery yesterday, when the Eleven went in a second time.

Messrs Rowell and Scott made 33 for the first wicket and, after the former's dismissal, Messrs Scott, Cooper and Wells all met with success. Mr Scott's 49 included a hit out of the ground for six, and seven threes were also obtained by him. Mr Wells again played in good form until caught at mid-off, but Mr N C Cooper carried off the batting honours of the match. His second innings occupied nearly two hours, and his aggregate runs in the two days were 102. Mr Jephson fell to a catch at long-leg. Mr Hill returned the ball. Mr Jackson was caught at long-on and Mr Tollemache was bowled after making a drive for five. With eight wickets down for 181, the Eleven declared their innings closed. The Sixteen had an hour and 35 minutes' play, and then the game was drawn.

Tuesday 26 May: LORD SHEFFIELD'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Lord Sheffield has decided to take a team to Australia at the end of this season. Dr W G Grace, Lohmann, Briggs, Peel and Attewell will be included in the side.

28 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3677.html)

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

Yorkshire paid their annual visit to Cambridge yesterday and began their match against the home eleven on the University ground. Lord Hawke was unable to play for the county, while Cambridge were without the services of Mr E C Streatfeild, and Mr C P Foley again appeared in the eleven.

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

Play in this match was resumed yesterday at Cambridge shortly after noon in unpleasant weather. The University ultimately won by four wickets, which is their first victory this season.

28 May: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3678.html)

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

The Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, was so affected by rain that no start could be made yesterday in this match, and an early decision was arrived at to postpone the game until this morning.

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

After a promising morning yesterday at Manchester, rain again fell a little before 12 o'clock and so affected the wicket as to render a further postponement necessary. A start will be made at half-past 11 to-day, should the weather prove favourable.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 June, page 12)

Sussex narrowly escaped defeat at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Saturday, when this match, delayed from the Thursday and Friday, was begun and nearly finished in a day. The wicket was much affected by the late heavy rains, and some remarkable bowling analyses were recorded. There was a great improvement in the weather and the spectators numbered several thousand.

Winning the toss, Lancashire took first innings, but against the bowling of Tate and Mitchell the home team's start did not foreshadow that near approach to success which was almost accomplished. Mr M'Laren, Sugg and A Ward were out for 13. Briggs, however, having had a life at the hands of the bowler, batted vigorously, and with Barlow advanced the score to 56, or 43 for the partnership. Five wickets were down at luncheon for 73, and subsequently two more batsmen were soon disposed of. Mr Hornby and Baker, however, made another stand for the eighth wicket, which produced 30 runs, and, after two and three-quarter hours, the innings ended for 133. Mitchell, of Worthing, who played some years ago for Sussex and has a right-hand medium pace delivery, bowled with much success, his five wickets averaging seven runs each.

Mold and Briggs got the first five Sussex men out for 17 runs, and it was owing alone to the batting of Quaife that the full score in an hour and a quarter reached 45; Mold's five wickets cost only 11 runs, while those of Briggs averaged six runs apiece.

Sussex entered upon their second venture with arrears of 88. Six of the visitors were got out in less than an hour for 29, but Bean, who had already received some assistance from Marlow, was now joined by Butt, and the pair played out time, the game, after an exciting finish, ending in a draw. Sussex, with only four men to lose, were 40 runs behind.

28 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3679.html)

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

In rather uncertain weather this match began yesterday at Oxford, forming the last fixture of the Dark Blue Eleven on their own ground.

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

In this match, concluded yesterday at Oxford, Marylebone were victorious by nine wickets.

28 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128434.html)

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

Lord's ground yesterday had scarcely recovered from the late rains, for, although the wicket was pitched low down towards the nursery, it was still very slow, and the bowlers always held an advantage.

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

The close of an innings each in this match at Lord's left the county with the substantial majority of 71 runs. When play commenced yesterday at 20 minutes to 12, Marylebone, who had lost a wicket in their second venture for 14, resumed batting. From the score appended it will be seen that Warwickshire won by nine wickets.

1 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3680.html)

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

Feeble batting and a treacherous wicket combined to produce a remarkable day's play at Lord's yesterday, when a match between MCC and Notts was begun and finished. Dr Grace was captain of a powerful Marylebone team, in which appeared Messrs W L Murdoch and J J Ferris, newly-elected members of the MCC. Mr J A Dixon and Shrewsbury were notable absentees from the Notts team, and the two colts – Wharmby and T Attewell – were given a trial. From the full score given below it will be noted that Marylebone won by an innings and 37 runs.

1 June: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3681.html)

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

Somerset's deserved reputation last season invested their appearance at the Oval yesterday with unusual interest. Surrey, who won the toss, began badly by losing their captain, Mr Shuter, when only eight runs were scored. Lohmann batted well until a match at mid-off dismissed him.

Abel and Mr Read caused 50 to be reached after 55 minutes' play, and then the latter cut Nichols for three and sent Tyler to the leg-boundary. The former gave up the ball to Mr Fowler, and Abel quickly made 12 by three leg hits in an over of the change. This caused Nichols to resume, and a hit through the slips by Abel sent the 100 up as the result of an hour and 35 minutes' play. A smart piece of stumping dismissed Abel. Maurice Read's stay was brief, but Mr W W Read drove Tyler finely to the on for five. Two overs later, however, he was well caught at wicket.

Mr Key and Henderson played with great confidence, and at 20 minutes to 4 Mr Key completed his 50. At length a double change in the attack was tried, Messrs Fowler and Hill going on. This proved a wise step, as in the latter's opening over Mr Key was bowled, the partnership with Henderson having yielded 77. His principal items were six fours, two threes and six twos. Lockwood arrived, and at 5 minutes to 4 the 200 was reached. The new comer played on; but Brockwell and Henderson hit with the greatest freedom. The former, though twice missed, batted most vigorously and ran up 50 in three-quarters of an hour. The bowling underwent many changes, but the 300 was registered at 5 o'clock. Two runs later Brockwell was run out; his chief hits were nine fours, six threes and seven twos.

An unexpected stand was made by Henderson and Wood. The former batted exceptionally well and the bowling was again mastered. It underwent many variations, but the batting continued to triumph, and the 400 was signalled at 6 o'clock. Henderson was missed in the long field, and profited by his escape by completing his 100 at a quarter past 6. At length, after having been in for three hours and 50 minutes, he was rather easily stumped. His innings, which was a capital display of batting, comprised 12 fours, five threes, nine twos &c. The stumping of Sharpe closed the innings for 449 at half-past 6. Wood carried out his bat for 71, which were a five, ten fours, four threes and three twos. Somerset went in for a quarter of an hour, during which they lost two batsmen.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 10)

This match was concluded at the Oval yesterday. At the close of the first day's play Surrey had completed an innings for 449, while the visitors in a quarter of an hour had lost two wickets for 17.

Yesterday play was resumed at 11.35. The eight outstanding wickets were all captured in 55 minutes for only 20 runs. With the overwhelming odds of 412 against them the western county went in a second time, but not one attained to double figures. Fifty minutes proved sufficient to disposed of the whole of them for 37. Surrey thus won by an innings and 375 runs. The bowling of the home side speaks for itself, but it may be added that their fielding was excellent.

1 June: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3682.html)

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

Sussex showed greatly improved batting powers yesterday at Dewsbury, when, having won the toss, they decided to go in on a rather slow wicket. Their innings extended over four hours. After Marlow's speedy dismissal, Quaife and Bean put together 46, when the latter was clean bowled.

Both Messrs Newham and Dudney did fairly well, and the fourth wicket fell at 87. Quaife's chanceless innings was closed through the dexterity of the wicket-keeper. His 47 occupied two and a quarter hours, the chief items being two fours, five threes and six twos. Humphreys and Mr Smith threw great life into the game and obtained 54 before they were separated. The former was ultimately caught by Ulyett, and his principal hits were five fours, three threes and three twos. The last man, Hilton, did well, and the innings realized 187. Harrison bowled effectively, taking six wickets for 43 runs.

Yorkshire had a little less than an hour's batting. Ulyett was got rid of without reaching double figures; but Hall showed characteristic patience and received some assistance from Brown, who was eventually secured at wicket. Lord Hawke infringed the "l.b.w." law . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 10)

Sussex made the most of their opportunities at Dewsbury yesterday, and on a wicket spoilt by rain twice got out Yorkshire and won in an innings. So far this season Sussex have an excellent record when compared with their disastrous list last year. It is not often that they play such a winning game, and yesterday's success should infuse into the side that confidence which was greatly lacking in 1890.

Some remarkable bowling by Bean furnished the characteristic of the second day's play. Rain delayed the start until 20 minutes to 1. Yorkshire, who had lost three wickets for 45, then resumed their innings. Hall played steadily and was last to leave at 95, Yorkshire having thus to follow on against arrears of 92. A series of misfortunes befell the home eleven and, in spite of some hitting by Peel and Wainwright, the last wicket fell at 61 and Sussex claimed the substantial victory of an innings and 31 runs.

1 June: WARWICKSHIRE v KENT (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128188.html)

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

There was a remarkably even day's cricket at the county ground, Birmingham, yesterday, when Warwickshire, with their full strength, opposed Kent.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 10)

There was little to choose between the sides at the close of Monday's play in this match at Birmingham, when Kent held a lead of seven runs on the first innings and Warwickshire had lost a wicket in their second venture. The home side did well yesterday and were not all disposed of until 3.25.

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

Kent gained a decisive victory over Warwickshire at Birmingham yesterday. The visitors were left with 157 necessary to win, and this large number was obtained at the cost of one wicket. Yesterday morning Hearne again batted well, and his not-out innings, which extended over three hours, included two fours, six threes, seven twos and singles. Kent won by nine wickets.

4 June: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3683.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 7)

In the absence of Mr Hornby through indisposition, the captaincy of the Lancashire eleven in this match at the Aigburth Ground, Liverpool, devolves on Mr A G Steel. Rain fell heavily yesterday, and it was decided to put off the start until this morning.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

Downpours of rain at Liverpool yesterday caused play in this match (which should have commenced on Thursday) to be further postponed until to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 10)

The match between these counties, after having been deferred from Thursday and Friday to Saturday, at Liverpool, had to be abandoned owing to rain.

4 June: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3684.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 7)

The heavy rain of yesterday morning completely saturated the turf at Lord's and necessitated the postponement of the Yorkshire and Middlesex match until this morning. The sides are . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

Everything favoured the bowlers at Lord's yesterday, and they made good use of their advantages. Play began shortly before 12. Mr Webbe won the toss and decided to put his opponents in, a policy that was scarcely attended with the success expected.

Yorkshire lost Ulyett (caught at point) in the first over of the game, but Brown and Hall both hit with considerable vigour. The former was bowled at 36, and a fine running catch in the long field sent back Hall at 67. After this capital start the wickets went down rapidly to the bowling of Hearne, and five were lost for 75. Mr Sellers was in an hour and a quarter for a fortunate 22. The 100 went up at 1.35, after which the other five batsmen were got out for nine runs. Wainwright made the best hit of the innings – a drive over the terraces on the northern side of the ground for four. Yorkshire were all out shortly before 3 o'clock for 100.

Middlesex were soon in a very sad way. From the first ball Mr Stoddart was well caught low down at mid-off, and Harrison in one over bowled Messrs Scott and Nepean. Messrs Webbe and Johnston [Note: O'Brien under assumed name] were soon dismissed, and only 22 runs were recorded when the fifth wicket fell. Messrs Vernon and Hadow made a few good cuts and drives. At 41, however, Mr Hadow was caught at slip, Mr Vernon bowled and J T Hearne taken at short leg. West slightly improved affairs; but the innings, which lasted an hour and ten minutes, only realized 63. Harrison took five wickets for 14. Middlesex were left with arrears of 46.

Yorkshire lost three wickets for 12 runs, and five were down for 25. Peel was badly missed at point, after which he helped to increase the score to 54. Wainwright was the last to leave, and Middlesex had 124 to make to win. In the double innings Hearne claimed 14 wickets for 65 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 10)

To the end of this match at Lord's the wicket remained treacherous, and on Saturday morning Middlesex failed in their attempt to get the 124 runs necessary for victory. They had entered upon the task the previous night, and Phillips had been dismissed without scoring. Mr Stoddart joined West, while the bowlers were again Peel and Harrison.

The misfortunes of Middlesex began early, as the first ball of the day West returned, while at two Mr Stoddart, for the second time in the match, failed to make a run. Three down. Messrs Scott and Nepean played carefully and added 25 in three-quarters of an hour, but then Wainwright, who had relieved Peel at 24, disposed of Mr Nepean and Mr Johnson [O'Brien] with successive balls. Five for 27.

Mr Webbe joined Mr Scott, who made several good drives on the off side, but at 44 he was bowled after a stay of an hour. Mr Hadow was next on the order. He soon drove Peel, who had displaced Harrison, for four, and 50 went up after an hour and a quarter's play. Subsequently the other four wickets fell for as many runs. Mr Hadow was caught low down at cover-point, Mr Vernon fell to a fine one-handed running catch, and Rawlin and Hearne were bowled. Total 54. Yorkshire thus won by 69 runs.

4 June: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3685.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 7)

In consequence of the wet weather a start was not made in this match at Kennington Oval yesterday. The decision to postpone play until to-day was made about 2 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

There was a full day's cricket at Kennington Oval yesterday, when the first match of the season with the western county attracted about 5,000 spectators. Surrey again won the toss, but began badly by losing Maurice Read and Lohmann for seven runs.

Abel and Mr W W Read then became associated against the bowling of Woof and Dr W G Grace. These batsmen soon put a brighter complexion on affairs. The score quickly reached 38, and then Woof gave way to Roberts. Mr Read profited by this change, as in the opening over he sent the last four balls (long hops to leg) to the boundary, causing the 50 to be signalled in 40 minutes. In spite of many variations in the bowling, this partnership yielded 110 runs. It was dissolved by Mr W W Read being finely caught at wicket. His principal hits were ten fours, three threes and two twos. Abel, after batting for two hours and ten minutes, fell to a catch at mid-on. Among his hits were five fours, two threes and six twos. Half the wickets were now lost for 130, and the other five only added 34.

When Gloucestershire started batting at 20 minutes to 4 the sky had become overcast and the light was very treacherous. Dr E M Grace and Mr Radcliffe were opposed by Lohmann and Sharpe. The first-named made two cuts to the boundary, but at 25 he lost the company of Mr Radcliffe – clean bowled. Mr Sainsbury's stay proved brief, and at 38 Dr E M Grace fell to a catch at point. The first 50 runs came at the rate of one per minute. Dr W G Grace, who did not seem comfortable with Sharpe's attacks, had his middle stump knocked down by that bowler. Mr Cranston batted well for a little while, but was at last beaten by a ball from Lohmann. Painter hit freely and made two fours in an over. The 100 was reached at 5 o'clock. Sixteen runs later Painter and Mr Evans were both bowled by Brockwell, who had relieved Sharpe; the eighth and ninth wickets went for seven runs, but Woof and Roberts put on 21, the innings closing a little before 6 for 144.

Surrey had 20 runs to the good and went in a second time. Some very lively scoring was witnessed, 24 runs being made by six hits in three overs. At 57 a catch at short slip dismissed Read, after which Abel and Henderson played out time.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 10)

There were about 8,000 spectators at Kennington-oval on Saturday to witness the conclusion of this match, the interest in which was sustained until late in the afternoon. Fortunately the rain held off, but the wicket was rather difficult. At the close of Friday's play each side had completed an innings, while Surrey, with 20 runs in hand, had only lost one batsman in their second venture for 64.

Abel and Henderson continued their batting at ten minutes to 12. Dr W G Grace sent down an over, after which Mr Radcliffe and Woof bowled. Abel made ten off the former by two cuts and an on drive, and at 87 the Gloucestershire captain resumed. The 100 was completed at 12.20; but seven runs later Roberts, who had superseded Woof, clean bowled Henderson. Lohmann hit freely for a few overs, but at 123 Abel fell to a catch in the slips; he had been batting a little over an hour and a half for his 56, in which were five fours, five threes, eight twos &c. Without alteration in the total Lohmann was clean bowled, and Messrs Key and Read became associated. The latter drove Roberts finely to the on for four, after which the score was advanced by very easy stages to 139, when Mr Read was clean bowled. Lockwood came, and Mr Key twice cut Roberts for four, the latter giving way to Woof at 157. A single later Lockwood returned the ball, and Mr Key was out lbw. Six for 158. The last four wickets only added 21. Total 179.

Gloucestershire now wanted exactly 200 to win, and there remained nearly four hours in which to obtain them. Dr E M Grace and Mr Radcliffe started promisingly by making 17 in four overs from Lohmann and Sharpe. Indeed it was not until 32 had been registered that a splendid catch at short-slip dismissed Mr Radcliffe, and at the same total Dr E M Grace was clean bowled, while nine runs subsequently Mr Sainsbury was also secured at slip. Three down.

Dr W G Grace and Mr Cranston became partners and every ball was eagerly watched. Little could be done against Lohmann, but Dr Grace managed to score pretty freely off Sharpe, from whom he made 16 by four drives, but off one of these he had an escape in the long field. At 83 Abel went on, and in his third over caused Dr W G Grace to be splendidly caught at slip, and Mr Cranston (who had been more than three-quarters of an hour getting four runs) to be finely caught at long-on. Five for 83. Lohmann, against whom only a single was recorded in seven overs, then clean bowled both Mr Francis and Mr Evans, this making four wickets which had fallen in a couple of overs. Woof as caught at slip and Painter at point; but Roberts and Board put on 20 for the last wicket, the innings, which had occupied a little over two hours, realizing 113. Surrey thus won by 86 runs.

The honours of the match belong to Abel, who, in addition to scoring 110 runs, had a hand in the downfall of five batsmen in the visitors' second venture. The champion county have up to the present won all their first-class matches, having defeated Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, Somerset and Gloucestershire.

5 June: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127175.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

Remarkable bowling by Mead characterized the concluding day's play in this match at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton. At the end of an innings each Leicestershire held an advantage of 46. The home side set their rivals 115 to win. Two wickets were captured before luncheon, and subsequently Mead dismissed the other eight batsmen at a small cost, and enabled Essex to win by 47 runs.

8 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3686.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 10)

Neither Middlesex nor Nottinghamshire [has] been very successful this season. The former lost to Kent and Yorkshire, while Notts, besides being beaten by Surrey, were only leg stump Monday defeated in a day by the MCC. But these results did not keep away the cricketing public from Lord's yesterday, and there was a very good attendance.

Nottinghamshire had the advantage of going in first. The Midland county began in a way very unlikely to encourage the side, as Shrewsbury was bowled second ball. Matters improved in the hands of Mr Robinson and Barnes, but the rate of scoring was never fast. Fifty-seven runs were added during the partnership. Barnes played well, but only 91 were recorded when the fifth wicket fell. Mr Wright, who went in at 59, batted with great patience, but Flowers profited considerably by an error on the part of Mr Mordaunt in the long field.

Mr Beves had an easy escape at the hands of the home captain at mid-off, although he was soon afterwards bowled, a fate that befell Mr Wright at 152. The latter was ninth to leave after a stay of an hour and 50 minutes. Great life was infused into the cricket by the vigorous stand of Sherwin and Shacklock. They added 41 in half an hour. Hearne's five wickets cost 12 runs each.

Against the bowling of Attewell and Shacklock Middlesex fared badly; Messrs Webbe, Scott and Stoddart were out for 11, and the dismissal of Mr Nepean took place at 26. Mr Johnston [O'Brien] played well and had made many fine hits when he had the misfortune to be run out, Mr Mordaunt, his partner, sending him back after the batsmen had almost crossed. A brilliant left-handed return catch disposed of Hearne, and just before 7 o'clock the innings ended. Shacklock claimed six wickets for 69 runs. Middlesex will follow on to-day with arrears of 100.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 7)

Middlesex are to be congratulated on the success which they obtained in this match at Lord's yesterday after a stubborn uphill fight. They followed on yesterday morning with arrears of 100, and the start foreshadowed something approaching an innings defeat.

In a very brief time three of the very best batsmen on the side were bowled out by Attewell for 11 runs – Messrs Stoddart, Webbe and Scott. Then came a stand by Messrs Johnston [O'Brien] and Nepean, who by thoroughly good cricket raised the score to 73. Shacklock, who had crossed over, now disposed of Mr Nepean. Rawlin joined Mr Johnston, a partnership that more than doubled the figures. Mr Johnston showed remarkably fine form. By 20 minutes to 2 the 100 was completed and the innings defeat thus averted; Mr Johnston had already reached his 50. Mr Dixon varied the bowling frequently, but the total was 152 when Mr Johnston fell to a smart catch at slip. In two hours and a quarter he had put together 85, which gave him a record in the match of 116 runs; he hit 11 fours, four threes and seven twos. West ran up 48 in 40 minutes; he made seven fours, two threes and five twos.

Middlesex set their opponents 134 to obtain for victory. The Middlesex team bowled and fielded with great success, the Nottinghamshire defence proved feeble, and in rather less than two hours

and a half the visitors were got out for 84. Middlesex thus won a remarkable match by 49 runs.

8 June: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3687.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 10)

One of the most attractive matches on the Sussex programme was set apart for the benefit of W Humphreys, a professional who has both by his batting and lob bowling rendered invaluable service to the county for many years.

Yesterday's game at Brighton opened under slightly unfavourable circumstances: rain had left the ground so heavy as to delay the start, and it was nearly 1 o'clock when Sussex, who had won the toss, took first innings. The wicket was rapidly improved by the strong wind. Both sides were powerful and there was every prospect of a good game.

Against the bowling of Dr Grace and Woof Sussex began badly, losing Quaife and Marlow (the latter caught at deep square leg) for 11 runs. Bean and Mr Newham put a better complexion on the game and advanced the figures to 48 before the professional was taken at wicket. Subsequently matters went all against the home side. Mr Newham played very well, but the other members of the team were rapidly got out. Hilton and Butt, however, stayed some time, and eventually the innings realized 136. Mr Newham was last to leave for an excellent 67. Beyond an escape after he had scored 50 his batting was free from fault, and extended over two and a quarter hours. His chief hits were eight fours, a three and eight twos.

The brothers Grace scored 56 for the first Gloucestershire wicket. Dr E M Grace played with much of his old vigour and made 58 out of 107, when he was third to leave. He contributed eight fours, a three, six twos and singles.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 7)

Yesterday was a bowler's day at the Hove Ground, Brighton, when Gloucestershire easily defeated the home side.

8 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127176.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 10)

These counties began a match yesterday at [Leicester]. Leicestershire went in first, but Mold and Briggs got them out rapidly. Pougher alone reached double figures, and he 22 occupied him an hour and a quarter. He was eighth out at 47.

Lancashire lost four wickets for 22, but then A Ward and Paul put on 63 in an hour and a half, and at the end of an innings each Lancashire claimed an advantage of 62. One of the features of the day was the bowling of Briggs, who dismissed six batsmen for 24 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 7)

This match was completed at Leicester yesterday.

8 June: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/113/113427.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 10)

There was an excellent day's cricket at the Headingley Ground, Leeds, yesterday, when these counties began a match. Lord Hawke, Yorkshire, and Mr F R Spofforth, Derbyshire, were notable absentees from the elevens. The weather was fine and spectators mustered in strong force.

Derbyshire had first innings. After the dismissal of Sugg, Bagshaw and Davidson, a stand was made by Mr Evershed and Chatterton, who in an hour put on 70 runs for the fourth wicket. Mr Evershed's brilliant innings included a five, three fours, seven threes and four twos. Chatterton batted with great care, and when eight of the side were out the score stood at 96. Mr Walker and Porter, however, hit freely, and the last two wickets realized 61 runs.

Yorkshire went in at 20 minutes to 5. Hall and Ulyett ran up 57 before they were separated.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 7)

At Headingley, Leeds, yesterday's cricket in this match proved of a very interesting character . . .

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

After an excellent match at Leeds the Derbyshire eleven yesterday beat Yorkshire by 45 runs. The state of the game on Tuesday night was rather in favour of the visitors, as Yorkshire had still 143 to make to win, with eight wickets to fall.

Peel and Mr Hill raised the score to 60, but five men were out for 74. Hall and Moorhouse greatly improved matters, and as runs were added steadily there seemed some prospect of the success of the home side. However, at 122 Moorhouse returned the ball. The sixth wicket had produced 48 runs in 50 minutes. Subsequently the innings was rapidly finished, and Derbyshire won by 45 runs.

11 June: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3688.html)

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

For the greater part of cricketing hours at Lord's yesterday the bowlers held almost undisputed sway; but there was a material change in the aspect of the game as the day drew to a close, and as the spectators saw and applauded the brilliant batting of Mr A E Stoddart.

Middlesex, who went in, were without the services of Mr Johnston [O'Brien], who had contributed in such a great measure to the victory against Nottinghamshire. Messrs Stoddart and Webbe started in a way that promised a good score. At 40, however, the Middlesex captain was bowled, and at 62 Mr Stoddart fell to a catch at wicket, following which disasters came quicker than ever to the home side. Four men were out for 81, and at luncheon seven had been disposed of for 95. Subsequently, the other three wickets were captured for a single; and the innings, which had opened so brightly, was finished for 96.

Lancashire went in at a quarter past 3. Sugg started vigorously, but at 17 Hearne dismissed him, while at 26 the same bowler in one over got out Barlow, Mr Crosfield and Paul. The score was still 26 when Ward left and half the wickets were down. Yates and Baker gave little trouble, and seven men were out for 33. Briggs and Mr Hornby scored freely for a little time, but in 75 minutes the innings was completed for 63. Hearne had the remarkable average of eight wickets for 22.

Shortly before 5 Middlesex, with a lead of 33, began their second innings. Messrs Stoddart and Webbe in an hour and three-quarters completely mastered the Lancastrian attack. It was in vain that Mr Hornby varied his bowling, until at 121 the batsmen were separated. In Mr Stoddart's brilliant 87 were 11 fours, a three and ten twos. Stumps were drawn with the game much in favour of Middlesex.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 15)

Middlesex have followed up their victory over Nottinghamshire with a much more decisive success against Lancashire. Two such triumphs in a week will almost obliterate the memory of the side's feebleness in the Kent and Yorkshire matches.

There was nothing in yesterday's batting at Lord's comparable to the brilliancy of Mr Stoddart's innings on the previous evening, and with few exceptions the bowlers carried all before them. Middlesex, with eight wickets in hand, were 164 ahead. Mold and Briggs rapidly got out the remaining batsmen. Messrs Nepean and Scott were not long together, for at 135 a catch at point disposed of the former. An addition of ten was made before the bowling of Rawlin, while at 151 West was dismissed. Mr Scott played carefully, but the innings was rapidly finished off for 166. Towards this total the first three players on the "order" contributed 148.

With 200 necessary for victory Lancashire went in at 1 o'clock. Barlow and Sugg faced the bowling of Hearne and Nepean. The former quickly sent back Sugg, but Ward and Barlow batted steadily and raised the record to 34. Then the latter was out leg-before. Mr Webbe had previously changed his bowling, putting on Phillips for Mr Nepean, a change that met with great success. At 45 Mr Crosfield was bowled and Paul caught at wicket, and Briggs left at 47.

Five down. Yates and Ward advanced the record to 54 before luncheon, but subsequently the match came to a rapid end, the other five wickets falling for an addition of 13 runs. Three went down at 60; Ward caught in the long-field, Baker bowled and Yates run out. Phillips quickly disposed of Messrs Hornby and Kemble, and victory rested with Middlesex by 132 runs. It may be noted that last year Middlesex won both their home matches with Nottinghamshire and Lancashire.

11 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3689.html)

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

This match maintains its reputation as a bowler's game. Throughout yesterday at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, the cricket was very quiet and productive of few points of more than passing interest. The wicket was good and the weather fine; but the bowling was so true that those who attempted to force the scoring had soon to retire.

Yorkshire had first innings, and Ulyett and Hall put together 34 before the latter was bowled. Ulyett was third out (caught at slip) at 64 for a capital 40, which had occupied him an hour and a half to make. Tunnicliffe and Wainwright both showed good batting, the former contributing 33 out of 53 during his stay. Barnes and Mr Dixon bowled well, and at half-past 4 the innings terminated.

When the home side went in Shrewsbury was caught at wicket before a run had been scored. Afterwards Gunn and Mr Robinson played carefully, and at the end of an hour and three-quarters the record stood at 61 for two wickets. It will be noted that Lord Hawke is absent from the Yorkshire eleven, in which Tunnicliffe and Wardle are being again tried.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 15)

Yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, furnished a striking contrast to the quiet play of Thursday. Barnes carried off the honours of the day with a fine three-figure innings. He and Gunn, the not-outs with 16 and 29, resumed the Nottinghamshire batting at 11.35, the score standing – Yorkshire, 148; Notts, 61 for two wickets.

Gunn hit with much more freedom than on Thursday evening, and in half an hour completed his 50. Soon afterwards the 100 went up, but at 107 a catch at wicket sent back Gunn, who in two and a half hours had made 58 by a four, eight threes, eight twos and singles. When Mr Dixon arrived Barnes quickly reached 50, and then the figures were taken to 148, at which total the home captain succumbed to a catch at wicket; the partnership had realized 41. Mr Wright stayed some time for nine, and Flowers hit vigorously until caught at slip at 207.

Then came a long stand by Daft and Barnes; the latter increased his score to 100 after being in four and a half hours, but at 264 he was taken at slip. He had played faultlessly, and his driving, cutting and leg-hitting were in his old vigorous form. He contributed three fours, nine threes and 15 twos. The innings will be classed among Barnes's many excellent feats for Nottinghamshire. A collection in the pavilion for him produced nearly £12. Further trouble was in store for Yorkshire, Attewell and Shacklock both scoring freely. The former made 33 out of 42 in half an hour, and it was a quarter to 6 when the last wicket fell for 336.

Yorkshire, who were 188 behind, had 20 minutes' batting, and obtained 15 runs without mishap. Sherwin injured his leg, and Mr Wright kept wicket for the home side.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 June, page 7)

Nottinghamshire beat Yorkshire at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, on Saturday afternoon, in the decisive manner that might have been expected from the position of the game on Friday evening. Yorkshire, who had begun their second innings with arrears of 188 and had made 15 without loss of wicket, resumed their batting in fine weather, and with the turf still in good order.

Ulyett and Hall were soon separated, the former being bowled at 20, while an addition of eight saw the dismissal of Wardle by a left-handed return catch. With Peel and Hall together the Yorkshire prospects somewhat improved, and their steady batting gave the home side a lot of trouble. In an hour and a quarter 60 runs were added, and then Peel, who had previously given a chance to the wicket-keeper, played the ball into the hands of point. Tunncliffe was caught in the same position.

Hall continued his patient defence until 103, when he was fifth to leave after having been in two hours and three-quarters. Wainwright was sent back without alteration in the figures. Subsequently Brown, Mr Sellers and Mr Hill batted with freedom, but the innings closed for 163, and Nottinghamshire won by an innings and 25 runs. Sherwin was unable to keep wicket, and Mr Wright filled the position.

11 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3690.html)

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

The London cricketing public looked with almost eager interest for the appearance of the Cambridge Eleven at Kennington Oval, so good is the talent which the Light Blues have shown that they possess. They may not have won most of their home matches, but in no case were they beaten with ease, while they were victorious in a capital game against Yorkshire. Surrey put its full strength into the field, and the excellent day's cricket was witnessed by some 5,000 people. The sun shone brightly all day, the wicket was fast and true, and the only thing unappreciated was the strong northerly wind.

For the first time this season Mr Shuter failed to win the toss, and under these circumstances Mr M'Gregor decided to go in. Messrs Douglas and Cooper scored 45 for the opening wicket. The former made many good strokes, but there was a lack of precision about Mr Cooper's batting. He was in an hour for 25, and was third out at 59. Messrs M'Gregor and Streatfeild showed good form, but the honours of the innings were carried off by Mr F S Jackson, who went in fifth at 67. With his captain he put on 50 for the fifth wicket, and with Mr Streatfeild 47 for the sixth. Mr Jackson was then out to a running catch in the long field by Brockwell. Shortly before his dismissal he had sent Lockwood to leg for three fours in one over, and altogether he made nine fours, six threes and one two. Lockwood was afterwards credited with the last four wickets at a cost of three runs; his full analysis was four for 15. Cambridge completed their innings within a few minutes of 4 o'clock.

Abel and Lockwood scored 31 for the first Surrey wicket, and, after Mr Woods had got Lockwood caught at cover-point and had bowled Maurice Read, the figures were advanced to 82. Abel, who had given a further illustration of his success as a batsman this year, was then taken at cover-point for 43; he contributed five fours, two threes and four twos. Mr Woods bowled out Mr Read and Mr Key (the fifth wicket falling at 107), and then by a brilliant one-handed catch at mid-off disposed of Lohmann. Six for 109.

Mr Woods had been bowling splendidly, and had assisted in the dismissal of the six batsmen. He should have at once got out Mr Shuter, but Mr Jephson at mid-off failed to make the catch. Cambridge at this stage had rather the better of the game. Henderson and the Surrey captain, however, obtained runs quickly. Mr Shuter, when he had scored 24, was again missed, this time by Mr Streatfeild, from a skier at mid-on from Mr Woods's bowling, while Henderson gave a sharp chance to Mr Jackson at extra slip. At length Henderson was run out, the partnership having produced 53. Mr Shuter was last to leave – bowled by Mr Woods. The mistakes in the Cambridge field had proved very expensive: Mr Shuter made the whole of his 51 after he had been let off. Apart from the errors mentioned it was a brilliant innings, and included seven fours, two threes and five twos. Mr Woods took seven wickets for 91, a great feat against the powerful Surrey side. Stumps were drawn shortly before 7 o'clock, the county leading by 11 runs on the first innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 15)

The check to Surrey's victorious career has come from a quarter least expected. Yesterday the conquerors of Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, Gloucestershire and Somerset succumbed to

Cambridge University. Mr Woods's fine fast bowling was the chief cause of Surrey's downfall; he had the remarkable record in the match of 14 wickets for 11 runs each. At the close of Thursday each side had completed an innings, and Surrey claimed an advantage of 11 runs.

Cambridge went in a second time at half-past 11, and in the course of an hour matters took a decided turn in favour of the county, Sharpe and Lockwood, the early bowlers, disposing of four batsmen for 44 runs – Mr Douglas caught at third man and Mr Wells at point, and Messrs Cooper and Jackson bowled. Messrs M'Gregor and Hill threw much more vigour into the batting, but a two-fold change in the attack, which gave the bowling to Abel and Lohmann, was adopted with surprising success. Abel bowled the Cambridge captain and Lohmann dismissed Mr Hill, both wickets falling at 78. Mr Streatfeild gave little trouble, but Mr Woods made several hard drives and ran up 27 out of 34 added for the eighth wicket before a well-judged catch at long-on disposed of him. Mr Jephson was in a very long time for a few runs, and the innings closed just before luncheon for 133.

With only 123 to make for victory Surrey seemed to have a fairly easy task in hand. But an exciting afternoon's cricket was in store for the large company of spectators. During the luncheon interval the morning's dullness had passed off, the weather became quite fine, and the rest of the game was watched under very favourable conditions. The turf was a little fiery, and Mr M'Gregor, the wicket-keeper, stood back to Mr Woods's bowling.

Surrey sent in Abel and Brockwell, who raised the score to 19, when the former was clean bowled. Brockwell had been badly missed by Mr Tollemache at cover-point, a mistake that cost the visitors several runs. However, at 35 Brockwell fell to a catch at slip. Mr W W Read was taken at mid-on and Mr Key played a ball into his wicket. Four for 52. Maurice Read and Lohmann scored at a brisk rate and 76 was reached, the game at this stage looking well for Surrey. But in one over Mr Woods then got out Maurice Read, Henderson and Mr Shuter, and with three wickets to fall Surrey yet wanted 47 runs.

Lohmann, who had been playing well, made a three to leg and obtained four by a drive. At 87 he was taken at wicket. Wood called Lockwood for an injudicious run, through which the latter player was dismissed. Sharpe, the last man, survived an over from Mr Woods, who then bowled his leg stump out of the ground, and Cambridge won by 19 runs after a fine finish. The victors were heartily cheered, and there were loud cries for Mr Woods by the company who gathered in front of the pavilion.

15 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3691.html)

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

At Lord's yesterday the cricket in the match between Marylebone and Kent was of a thoroughly interesting nature. The county had first innings. After the dismissal of Mr Weigall at 11, Mr Marchant batted in a manner so brilliant as to revive memories of the Eton and Harrow day when his fine, free hitting for the Etonians gave him a reputation that has since been well sustained.

The 50 appeared after 40 minutes' play, while Mr Marchant completed his individual 50 in even less time. Rapidly the score reached 88, at which total A Hearne, G Hearne and Mr Fox were out. Mr Marchant was fifth to leave at 106, having in rather more than an hour made 73. His chief hits were seven fours, four threes and six twos. The seventh wicket fell at 124, but Mr Braybrooke and Wright batted vigorously and put on 58 for the eighth, and the innings eventually realized 195. Wright contributed five fours.

Marylebone lost Dr Grace, caught at cover-point, before a run had been scored, and Mr Pope returned the ball at 5. Mr Ferris played well, but the batsmen were steadily disposed of, and five were out for 60 runs. In spite of some successful cricket by Hearn and Captain Friend, six runs were wanted to avert the follow on when the last man arrived. This number was just obtained, Marylebone finishing their innings in a minority of 79.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 10)

After a long day's cricket this match was concluded yesterday at Lord's, the Marylebone Club experiencing another reverse. As will be seen from the appended score, Kent won the match by 175 runs.

15 June: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3692.html)

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

Surrey secured a great advantage in this match at the Oval yesterday, not so much by their own merit as by the indifferent fielding of their opponents. Until after 6 o'clock the weather was fine and warm, and the attendance numbered about 6,000.

Middlesex went in shortly after 12 o'clock against the attacks of Sharpe and Lohmann. A catch at slip soon sent back the visitors' captain, while at 22 Mr Stoddart left. Subsequently everything went against the visitors. Aided by some excellent fielding, Sharpe rapidly dismissed the batsmen. Mr Nepean was fourth on the order, and was fifth out at 65. The other half of the innings produced only 21, and by 1.30 the last man had left. The innings, which had lasted an hour and 20 minutes, was remarkable for the bowling of Sharpe, who had taken nine wickets for 47 runs. Abel made four good catches at slip.

In a quarter of an hour before luncheon Surrey lost their captain for 23 runs. Maurice Read had given a sharp chance to point. On resuming, Abel skied the ball and was caught by the wicket-keeper. Then Maurice Read was badly missed by Mr Hadow in the long-field, and Mr W W Read was bowled. Three wickets were down for 38. During the next half-hour occurred a series of mistakes in the field which cost the visitors many runs. Lohmann should have been stumped before he had scored, while Mr Scott dropped an easy catch from that batsman when the latter had scored 17, while in the same over Lohmann had another life at the hands of the wicket-keeper.

By half-past 3 the scores were equal, and the fortunate batsmen had put on 65 in a little more than half-an-hour, when at last Read, in trying to drive, was caught at slip. Lohmann gave another chance of stumping before he was secured at mid-off at 120. Various other lives were given to the batsmen. Nine wickets fell for 194. Sharpe and Wood, however, added 39.

Middlesex, facing a majority of 147, lost Messrs Stoddart and Scott for seven runs. Mr Webbe (having escaped being caught at wicket) subsequently showed some of the best batting of the day, and when rain stopped play at a quarter to 7 the score was as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 10)

There was no improvement in the wicket at Kennington Oval yesterday, and Middlesex, who faced a majority of 147, were beaten very decisively. Surrey won by an innings and three runs. Sharpe's remarkable bowling was the best feature of the match.

15 June: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3693.html)

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

The Park Avenue, Bradford, was yesterday visited by a very large company, when fine weather favoured the opening of this match. Lord Hawke, who was absent from the Trent Bridge game last week, resumed the captaincy of the home side, from which, however, Harrison was away. Bulmer, a right-hand, medium-pace bowler, of Guisborough, was given a trial. Mr A G Steel, Mr A C M'Laren and Watson were unable to play for Lancashire.

Going in first, the visitors lost five wickets for 67, more than half of which number of runs had been contributed by Sugg. Briggs and Mr Crosfield added 59 before the dismissal of the former. Another stand was made by Yates and Mr Crosfield, who had put on 89 for the seventh wicket, when a catch at mid-off disposed of Yates. He had obtained seven fours, a three and four twos. Yorkshire's troubles were not yet over, as Mold and Mr Crosfield added 55 for the last partnership. The last-named player went in fourth wicket down at 62 and took out his bat for 82, his innings having lasted three hours. He was twice missed by Wardall – at slip with his figures at 29 and at cover-point at 37. Among his contributions were ten fours, one three and eight twos.

Ulyett and Hall started well for Yorkshire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 10)

The whole of cricketing hours at Bradford yesterday were occupied by the double innings of Yorkshire, who, in spite of several good batting achievements by their members, had the worst of the play. It will be seen from the appended score that Lancashire will have only 72 to make to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 7)

Yesterday, at Park-avenue, Bradford, Yorkshire suffered another reverse, this week visitors winning easily by eight wickets.

15 June: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128185.html)

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

In the early part of yesterday Nottinghamshire were seen to considerable advantage at Derby, but owing to a heavy storm the game ended abruptly soon after 3 o'clock.

The visitors, who were captained by Mr J S Robinson, took possession of an excellent wicket. Mr Robinson was bowled in the second over when only two runs were scored. Gunn then joined Shrewsbury and these batsmen played sound cricket. Gunn completed his 50 with the score at 81, after being in an hour and ten minutes. At luncheon the score was 103. On resuming Shrewsbury soon reached his 50, and no separation had been effected when rain stopped play.

It will be noted that Mr J A Dixon, Mr C W Wright and Sherwin are absent from the Nottinghamshire eleven. Another trial is being given to Bagguley, and Carlin will keep wicket in place of Sherwin, who was injured at Trent-bridge last week.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 10)

Yesterday at Derby the turf awarded the bowlers some assistance, so that the visitors' score did not reach the high figures expected. At the end of an innings each the home side were 96 behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 7)

Yesterday, at Derby, the home eleven made a determined effort to save the game, but eventually Nottinghamshire won by seven wickets.

15 June: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128417.html)

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

Yesterday's play at Southampton was of a remarkable character, furnishing two individual innings of over 100, made at a very rapid rate. Going in first on a good wicket, Essex were not dismissed for nearly four hours, the runs averaging more than 100 an hour.

The early batting was noteworthy by the capital cricket of Carpenter, whose 65 included 11 fours, a three and three twos. Seven wickets before luncheon were captured at a cost of 191 runs. Pickett and Mr Kortright quickly reached 200, while the third 100 was made in three-quarters of an hour. The partnership realized 244. Pickett was taken at cover-point for 114, obtained in an hour and a half; he hit 16 fours, seven threes and two twos. Mr Kortright made his 158 in an hour and three-quarters. He four times drove the ball out of the ground for six each, besides which he secured a five and 22 fours. Hampshire went in . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 10)

Against the heavy score Of Essex at Southampton the home side yesterday played well, but were unable to save the innings defeat. Essex won by an innings and 40 runs.

15 June: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127177.html)

Days 1 and 2 – no reports

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 7)

After a remarkably close match at Birmingham Leicestershire beat Warwickshire yesterday by two wickets. There was a difference of five runs in favour of the home county at the end of an innings each, and then Warwickshire set their opponents 208 to make for victory. On Tuesday night 134 of these had been got for the loss of three batsmen, but the other 74 runs cost five more wickets.

18 June: LANCASHIRE v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3694.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 June, page 10)

Yesterday the Oxford eleven paid their annual visit to Manchester to meet the home county. The weather was dull. A capital wicket had been prepared, and on this the Dark Blues, who had won the toss, took first innings, Briggs and Mold bowling.

Although Mr Watson was seen to some advantage, the score had reached only 44 when the fourth wicket fell. Mr Jardine, however, batted carefully, and the more vigorous cricket of Mr Wilson helped considerably to improve Oxford's prospects. Six men were out for 101, and at 120 Mr Jardine, who had been in about two hours, was dismissed. Mr Boger hit with freedom and ran up 41 in an hour by six fours, two threes, two twos and singles.

When Lancashire went in Oxford bowled and fielded well. Barlow alone made any lengthy stay, and when stumps were drawn the county, with five wickets in hand, were 47 behind. Mr E Smith was unable to assist Oxford in this match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 June, page 14)

The state of the game at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Thursday night furnished no index to yesterday's cricket. Lancashire's last five wickets nearly trebled the 115 for which the first five batsmen had been dismissed.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 June, page 7)

As might have been expected from the state of Friday night's score in this match at Manchester, the Dark Blues were decisively beaten on Saturday. The last four Oxford wickets produced only 17 runs, and Lancashire won by an innings and 54 runs. Smith, who played for the first time in the county team, proved very successful in bowling. Although the visitors' batting was disappointing, their fielding was excellent.

18 June: LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3695.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 June, page 10)

Mr A G Steel, playing for Liverpool and District against Yorkshire at the Aigburth Ground, Liverpool, yesterday, made 100 runs in two hours and a quarter. The District scored 269 and Yorkshire 91 for one wicket.

Day 2 – brief mention only

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 June, page 7)

After three days' excellent cricket Mr A G Steel's Liverpool team beat Toronto by 54 runs on Saturday at the Aigburth-road Ground. There was a difference of two in favour of Yorkshire on the first innings, but the county were set 216 to win, a task which they failed to accomplish in spite of the good batting by Hall and Ulyett.

18 June: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3696.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 June, page 10)

The six thousand people who visited Lord's yesterday were able to watch cricket under the most pleasing conditions. Every one must have enjoyed the fine summer weather, and the brilliancy of the batting, in which Mr "Johnston" [O'Brien] excelled.

Gloucestershire brought up almost their strongest batting side, but were severely handicapped by the absence of the bowlers Wood and Roberts, the former being unable to leave Cheltenham, while the latter is ill. The weakness in the attack was very much felt, and once more had Dr W G Grace to bear the brunt of the bowling. Middlesex found a place in their eleven for the Hon F J N Thesiger, who was captain at Oxford last year, and another new wicket-keeper was tried in Mr Menzies, of Cambridge.

The visitors, who went in first, lost four wickets (including both the Graces) for 14 runs, but Painter then threw such vigour into the batting that with Mr E Sainsbury he added 81 in an hour. They were out within a few runs of each other. Painter's 61 included six fours, four threes and four twos. No one else gave much trouble, and by 3 o'clock the innings closed for 128. Hearne and Mr Nepean both bowled well.

Middlesex lost Messrs Webbe and Stoddart for 21 runs, and then came the brilliant batting of Mr "Johnston," who had Mr Nepean for a companion. Apart from Dr W G Grace the bowlers were very freely hit. Mr "Johnston" cut and drove with great force and finish, and in an hour and three-quarters he had made 102 of the 168 recorded. In Dr Grace's next over Mr "Johnston," in attempting a third drive for four, was well caught at long-on for 111, in which were 18 fours, a three and seven twos. The third wicket, which fell at 177, had produced 156.

Mr Nepean's 49 occupied more than two and a half hours. He was caught behind the bowler at 210. Afterwards Mr Thesiger played well and was last to leave, cleverly caught on the long-field boundary. Dr Grace's seven wickets averaged seven runs each.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 June, page 14)

Another large company was present at Lord's yesterday when this match was concluded. Middlesex eventually won by eight wickets.

18 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3697.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 June, page 10)

Few grounds when dry and true are so much a batsman's as is that at Hove, Brighton, where yesterday nearly 450 runs were made . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 June, page 14)

Yesterday the Hove Ground was again hard and true, and Sussex were able to approach within 45 runs of their opponents' heavy total.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 June, page 7)

The heavy scoring in this match at Brighton culminated on Saturday in the establishment of a new record for the highest aggregate of runs in an English first-class match. During the three days 1,402 runs were made, a number 63 in excess of the previous best record, which was, curiously, the outcome of the Cambridge v Sussex game last year. The Hove wicket proved as true as ever on the third day, and the exciting cricket was watched by a large company.

On Friday night Cambridge, with three wickets in hand in their second innings, were 285 runs ahead. Two more batsmen were soon disposed of, but Messrs Wood and Jephson added 99 runs in an hour for the tenth wicket, and Sussex were left with 412 to make for victory and rather less than five hours to play.

Three men were out for 68, so that the start afforded no index to the subsequent sensational batting. Messrs Brann and Newham put on 102 in an hour and a quarter for the fourth wicket, Mr Newham at this stage being bowled. He hit six fours and two threes. Humphreys stayed with Mr Brann while 60 runs were obtained in 40 minutes, after which Messrs Brann and Andrews scored 120 in 70 minutes. With an hour left for play Sussex, with half their wickets to fall, wanted 87 to win, but when Messrs Andrews and Brann were separated the innings was quickly finished.

The batsmen named were both out in one over, and the other three added only 13 runs. Mr Brann was missed by Mr Cooper at mid-off and third man, and by Mr Woods at mid-off, the chances being given with his figures at 94, 118 and 147. He was in three hours and a quarter and contributed 24 fours, four threes and six twos. One of the threes was increased to seven by an overthrow. Mr Andrews obtained eight fours, two threes and six twos. Thus this extraordinary match was won by Cambridge University by 48 runs.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128189.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 June, page 10)

After a lapse of four years the matches between Surrey and Warwickshire have been revived. There were several thousand spectators to see the opening day's cricket in the first of the games at the county ground, Birmingham, yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 June, page 14)

Following the remarkable batting by Surrey on Thursday came some great bowling feats by two members of the same side at Birmingham yesterday. Overnight the home team had gone in and lost one wicket without scoring, and yesterday, in spite of Mr Bainbridge's capital innings, the rest of the team were dismissed in less than two and a half hours for 120. Mr Bainbridge was in nearly an hour and a half, and made four fours, six threes and three twos. Sharpe in the last 14 overs took six wickets for ten runs.

Lockwood carried off the bowling honours in the second innings; he dismissed Shilton, Pallett and Cresswell with successive balls. In a little over two hours Warwickshire were all out a second time, and Surrey won by an innings and 126 runs.

22 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3698.html)

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

The week preceding the University match is always of great interest at Lord's, where the final trial games are decided. Yesterday some 5,000 people were present at headquarters; the attendance of members was very large and the enclosures were all well filled.

By their feats at the Oval and Brighton Cambridge have drawn more than usual attention to their cricket. Yesterday they decided to give Mr Woods, their chief bowler, a week's rest, and Mr Wells also stood out. These vacancies were filled by Mr Martin Scott, who is, perhaps, better known as a Rugby Union football player than as a cricketer, and Mr C P Foley, an Old Blue.

Marylebone had first innings on a fast and true wicket. Mr Rowell, who is eligible for the Cambridge eleven, opened the batting with Mr Wright, and before the latter was taken at slip 72 had been made in an hour and a half. Mr Murdoch was run out at 99, but Barnes and Mr Rowell stayed together until 135, when both left. Mr Rowell had played very carefully for his 53. Seven wickets were captured for 147. Mr Pope, however, speedily ran up 31, and with Attewell raised the figures to 215. Then came a determined stand by Attewell and Hearne, the former of whom got his 62 in an hour and a half.

Cambridge should have had three-quarters of an hour's cricket, but a couple of showers interrupted the game . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 June, page 10)

Monday night's rain converted the pitch at Lord's into a bowler's wicket, and yesterday the Cambridge eleven fared badly against the Marylebone professionals, J T Hearne, Barnes and Attewell.

22 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3699.html)

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

Sussex were batting during the whole of the time that cricket was practicable at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday. The wet weather curtailed the hours of play, as after an interruption from 1.40 until 3.50, stumps were drawn for the day at the close of the Sussex innings.

The honours were carried off by Mr Newham, who supplemented his successes against Cambridge with a fine not-out innings of 134. He went in first wicket down at 10 and was batting three hours and three-quarters. In spite of several mistakes he played with great brilliancy and made 11 fours, eight threes and ten twos. He might have been caught at point by Mr Llewelyn with his figures at 55 and 120, Mr Berkeley missed him at slip at 77, and subsequently he had a life at the hands of Mr Wilson at cover-point. Mr Andrews helped Mr Newham to put on 91 for the fifth wicket, which was the longest stand of the innings.

The Hon F J N Thesiger and Mr E Smith were included in the Oxford Eleven, but the latter was unable to reach Brighton in time to bowl for the side.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 June, page 10)

The Hove ground at Brighton was the scene yesterday of some remarkable bowling by Tate, the Sussex professional, who took seven wickets in nine overs for seven runs. Oxford followed on . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 June, page 10)

The Oxford eleven played an uphill game with considerable spirit at Brighton yesterday. The county won by nine wickets.

22 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3700.html)

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

In the presence of about 10,000 spectators the first day's play in this match at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, was productive of a batting triumph for Surrey, who occupied the wickets nearly the whole time. The proceeds of the game are to be devoted to the Louis Hall benefit fund. Hall appeared for the county in 1873, but it was five years later when he secured a regular place in the eleven. Generally his batting has been characterized by its patience, but not unfrequently he scores with considerable quickness.

The weather was fine and the wicket in capital order. Lord Hawke and Brown were absent from the Yorkshire ranks, and their places were filled by Mr B C Bolton, an amateur, of Hull, and Mounsey, of Sheffield. Maurice Read's brilliant batting furnished the feature of the day, while the success of Hunter, the home wicket-keeper, was also very pronounced.

Going in first, Surrey lost Mr Shuter (caught at cover-point) and Abel for 44 runs. Then followed a stand by the two Reads, who added 82 for the third wicket in an hour and a quarter before Mr Walter Read was stumped. Neither Lohmann nor Mr Key gave much trouble and the fifth wicket fell at 148. Henderson, however, stayed while 82 more runs were put on. The 200 went up at 20 minutes past 4, Read completing his three figures soon afterwards. Henderson was caught at wicket, and at 279 Maurice Read fell to a catch in the long field. Read took three hours and three-quarters to make his 135, in which there were 11 fours, seven threes and 12 twos. Beyond a chance to Ulyett at point when he had scored 46 he made no mistake. The innings closed for 296 and Yorkshire fared well in the brief time left for play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 June, page 10)

Yorkshire were batting during the time that the weather allowed cricket at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday. Apart from Ulyett and Hall, however, the defence was feeble.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 June, page 10)

Yesterday furnished another easy success for Surrey, whose bowlers at the Bramall-lane Ground, Sheffield, got Yorkshire out a second time at a small cost on a treacherous wicket. It will be seen from the following score that Surrey won by an innings and 27 runs.

22 June: KENT v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128179.html)

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

Yesterday's cricket at Gravesend was of a very ordinary character. Rain caused one delay early in the afternoon, and later it interfered more seriously with the game.

The home side had first innings. They lost five good batsmen for 72 runs, but Mr Fox and Mr Wilson then became partners and raised the score to 135. Mr Fox obtained his 43 in an hour and 20 minutes; he gave no chance and his chief items were four fours, five threes and two twos. Mr Solbe, formerly of Dulwich College, made his first appearance for the county and batted well. Kent were all out for 179. Warwickshire went in . . .

Day 2 (no report or scorecard from Wednesday 24 June, page 10)

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 June, page 10)

Yesterday afternoon, at Gravesend, Kent won this match by three runs.

25 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3701.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 12)

The Gloucestershire team were able yesterday at Bristol to have the aid of their bowler Roberts, whose illness had kept him out of the match at Lord's last week. Lord Hawke reappeared to captain the Yorkshire eleven, in which Penny, a bowler fresh to county cricket, was given a trial. Shortly before five o'clock a heavy storm put a stop to the game . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 12)

At Bristol yesterday the rain again interfered with the cricket and limited the time of play to three and a half hours.

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

After a rainy morning at Bristol on Saturday the afternoon brought both fine weather and exciting cricket. Yorkshire, who, with six wickets in hand, were only two runs behind the home score, resumed their batting at 12.25.

Hall and Tunncliffe added 43 runs, and Thornton the wet prevented any more play until after luncheon. The figures reached 197, or 88 for the partnership, before Hall and Tunncliffe were separated. The former made 67 in three hours and three-quarters, and his chief hits were four fours, four threes and six twos. Tunncliffe threw much more vigour into his batting and contributed 54 in an hour and a half by seven fours, two threes, seven twos and singles. Having scored 225 for eight wickets, Yorkshire declared their innings at an end, and at 20 minutes to 5 Gloucestershire went in a second time with arrears of 88, the home county having only the draw for which to play.

On a treacherous wicket Yorkshire rapidly got out their opponents. Peel bowled with great success, and received much aid from Hunter, the wicket-keeper, and Ulyett at point. Five batsmen were dismissed for 20 runs, and two others were got rid of in the next half-hour. Messrs Townsend and Cranston added 15 runs in 30 minutes, but after the former was out Mr Cranston was seized with illness and hard to retire. The last wicket was taken within two or three minutes of "time," and Yorkshire won by an innings and 40 runs.

25 June: KENT v MIDDLESEX

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

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 12)

At Beckenham, yesterday, the return match began between Kent and Middlesex. There was a large attendance of spectators. The overnight rain had made the wicket favourable to the bowlers, and at no time during the day were the batsmen able completely to master the attack. Kent went in first, and only just reached 100 when the last wicket fell. Middlesex had an advantage of seven on the first innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 12)

The wicket at Beckenham yesterday helped the bowlers even more than on the opening day. Kent won by 34 runs.

25 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3703.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 12)

Oxford University began their customary two days' match with the MCC at Lord's yesterday, when they placed in the field the side chosen to represent them next Monday against Cambridge.

Oxford started batting on a slow wicket. Mr Watson played well, and was second out, at 45. Then came the stand of the innings by Messrs Jardine and Palairet, the latter throwing great vigour into his play. Eighty-six runs had been put on when the Oxford captain fell to the wicket-keeper. He was in about two hours for his 33. Mr Palairet was seventh out, caught at mid-off, for 74, obtained in rather more than two hours. He contributed six fours, six threes and eight twos. Oxford were all dismissed by 4.50 for 191. The last five wickets had put on only 20 runs.

Marylebone were batting during the remainder of the day. Seven wickets fell for 88, but when Mr Kitcat and Burns got together the follow-on was averted.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 12)

After having at one time very much the best of the game at Lord's, Oxford were yesterday decisively beaten by Marylebone.

25 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3704.html)

Days 1 and 2: scorecards but no reports

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

Nottinghamshire gained a brilliant victory over Lancashire at Trent-bridge on Saturday. After Lancashire had lost seven wickets for 79 Baker, Mr Kemble and Watson nearly doubled the score. Baker and Mr Kemble added 35 runs for the eighth, and Baker and Watson 41 for the ninth wicket. The visitors were all out for 155.

Nottinghamshire required 123 for victory. The runs were soon obtained, and Nottinghamshire won by seven wickets. Barnes made 47 in an hour and a half by two fours, six threes, six twos and singles.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127278.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 12)

Wet weather greatly interfered with the play in this match at Leicester yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 12)

There was some extraordinary cricket at the Aylestone Ground, Leicester, yesterday, when this match was continued. The wicket became treacherous and the bowlers possessed a great advantage. Leicestershire increased their overnight score of 63 for three wickets to 132. An hour and a half was taken to complete the innings. Mr de Trafford made his runs in an hour, hitting four fours, two threes and 11 twos.

When Surrey went in the bowling of Pougher and Woodcock was so effective that the visitors were all out in less than two hours for 82, their smallest score of the season. Lohmann was injured while batting. Sharpe and Lockwood disposed of Leicestershire a second time in a little over an hour. Surrey had 83 to make for victory . . .

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

The vigorous batting of Maurice Read at Leicester on Saturday morning quickly placed the result of this game beyond doubt. Surrey won by eight wickets.

29 June: NORTH v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3705.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 June, page 11)

Two good elevens were got together by the Warwickshire Club for this match at Birmingham yesterday, and with fine weather and the wicket favourable for an excellent game, some 6,000 people visited the ground.

Going in first, the North were batting from a quarter past 12 until a quarter to 6. Gunn carried off the honours of the day with a splendid 125 (not out). He went in first wicket down at 24 and was batting four hours; he gave no absolute chance and contributed 13 fours, three threes and 17 twos. Five wickets fell in two hours for 118, so that at the outset there was not much probability of a heavy score. Mr Docker and Gunn put on 54 in half an hour while they were together, and Pougher and Gunn 45. The last wicket (Lilley's) produced 63. Lilley made three fours, several threes and eight twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 10)

Rain fell at Birmingham yesterday and delayed the resumption of this match for some little time. The batting proved far less attractive than that of the opening day. The best feature of the cricket was the bowling of Attewell.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 10)

Little cricket was practicable at Birmingham yesterday owing to the rain. The South managed to avert the follow on, and then the dismissal of Wright closed the innings. With an advantage of 72 the North entered upon their second venture, but rain caused the abandonment of the game . . .

29 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3706.html)

Monday 29 June, page 7

At Lord's to-day the Universities begin their 57th match. Of the 56 matches now decided Cambridge have won 28 and Oxford 25, the remaining three having been left unfinished. The elevens selected for this year's contest are as follows: -

Oxford. – Mr M R Jardine, Fettes and Balliol (captain); the Hon F J N Thesiger, Winchester and Magdalen; Mr E Smith, Clifton and University; Mr W D Llewelyn, Eton and New; Mr G F H Berkeley, Wellington and Keble; Mr H Bassett, Bedford House, Oxford, and St Catherine's; Mr G L Wilson, Brighton and Hertford; Mr L C H Palairet, Repton and Oriel; Mr A J Boger, Winchester and New; Mr W H Brain, Clifton and Oriel; and Mr H D Watson, Winchester and Balliol. Eight of these played last year, the three new men being Messrs Boger, Brain and Watson.

Cambridge. – Mr G M'Gregor, Uppingham and Jesus (captain); Mr S M J Woods, Brighton and Jesus; Mr F S Jackson, Harrow and Trinity; Mr R N Douglas, Dulwich and Selwyn; Mr E C Streatfeild, Charterhouse and Pembroke; Mr A J L Hill, Marlborough and Jesus; Mr D L A Jephson, private and Peterhouse; Mr G J V Weigall, Emmanuel; Mr W I Rowell, Marlborough and Jesus; and Mr C M Wells, Dulwich and Trinity.

Of the foregoing ten, seven were in last year's team, the fresh players being Messrs Weigall, Rowell and Wells. The eleventh place will not be filled until this morning. It rests between Mr C P Foley, Eton and Trinity Hall, who played in 1889 and 1890; and Mr W Martin Scott, Jesus.

Play will begin at noon.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 June, page 11)

The early morning of yesterday, with its heavy downpours of rain, would hardly have justified the most sanguine in anticipating the fine afternoon which succeeded it. Yet long before noon the approaches to Lord's presented their usual activity, and when the warning bell which demands that the enclosure should be cleared had been rung, it was seen that the spectators had mustered in their thousands. These seemed quite determined to withstand any inconveniences from the weather, and their enthusiasm in the end was amply rewarded.

The vagaries of cricket are too well-worn a subject to need enlargement. Oxford at one time seemed to be on the verge of upsetting all previous calculations. Their fielding was of so excellent a character as to call forth the enthusiasm of all cricketers. One serious mistake alone marred it. Indeed, those who thought the Dark Blues had no chance discovered by the time the luncheon interval had arrived a strong revulsion in their favour. During the interval it appeared that the Hon F Thesiger, whose hand had been injured, could participate no further in the game, and his place was taken by Mr Case.

By this time the company had increased, and before the close of the day there were nearly 20,000 on the ground. The brilliancy of Lord's, it may fairly be said, has seldom, if ever, been so fully displayed. "Knatchbull's" corner and the space at disposal by the acquisition on Henderson's

Nursery were fully appreciated by the various coaching parties.

The details of the play will speak of the game itself. Although at one time the fortunes of Cambridge were at a low ebb, their subsequent recovery seems to suggest that even in cricket an estimate may be formed from various performances. Among the company were the Duke of Buccleuth, the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Londesborough, Lord Darnley, Lord Sefton, Lord Coventry, Lord Truro, Lord Bessborough, Lord Kinnaird, Prince Albert Victor of Schleswig-Holstein &c.

Within ten minutes of 12 a sharp shower promised to delay the start, but the second bell brought the umpires (W A J West and Phillips) into the field at 12 o'clock. The news was soon known that Cambridge had won the toss. By the time Messrs Douglas and Rowell (the batsmen) had taken up their positions at the wicket the day was again bright. To the former the field was disposed thus: - Mr Brain, wicket; Mr Smith, point; Mr Llewelyn, mid-off; Mr Palaret, cover-point; Mr Boger, long-off; Mr Thesiger, third man; Mr Berkeley, slip; Mr Wilson, extra slip; Mr Jardine, extra mid-off; Mr Watson, mid-on. Mr Smith's field was as follows: - Mr Brain, wicket; Mr Llewelyn, point; Mr Watson, mid-off; Mr Jardine, cover-point; Mr Thesiger, third man; Mr Bassett, slip; Mr Wilson, extra slip; Mr Berkeley, mid-on; Mr Palaret, extra third man; Mr Boger, long-leg.

The first run of the match, made by Mr Douglas, produced a fine piece of fielding on the part of the Oxford captain, Mr Jardine. At the outset, however, the batsmen appeared disinclined to force the game. Mr Rowell cut a ball from Mr Smith late for three, but Mr Bassett in his third over beat him and struck his leg stump. One for 6. As Mr Weigall appeared rain again set in. An ill-judged single might have cost Mr Douglas his wicket had the ball been returned to the pavilion end. At the end of the over, rain drove the players to the pavilion, seven runs having been obtained in a quarter of an hour at the cost of one wicket.

The weather cleared up, and in a quarter of an hour another attempt at progress was made. With the second ball Mr Bassett clean bowled Mr Douglas, the ball keeping low and taking the leg stump. The dismissal of the reputed best bat on the Light Blue side, and two men out for 7, was not a brilliant start.

If experience on big days at Lord's is any advantage, Mr Foley, the new comer, certainly possessed it by his feats for Eton and Cambridge in past years. Mr Weigall hit a ball from Mr Smith that rose as high as the batsman's head to leg for four. More rain fell at 12.45, and a second time the players sought the pavilion.

After a quarter of an hour Mr Bassett nearly bowled Mr Weigall. Mr Foley obtained four by a cut. The spectators had something justifiably to applaud in a fine piece of fielding deep on the off side. A little hesitation between the batsmen about a single caused the friends of Cambridge some anxiety, and then a drive by Mr Foley for three brought more applause. The score reached 29, and then a very good catch at third man disposed of Mr Weigall, who had been tempted to hit a short ball from Mr Smith. Three for 29. Mr Hill was next in. Two good strokes (a cut for three by Mr Foley and a drive for four by Mr Hill) were followed by a very fast ball from Mr Smith, which took Mr Foley's leg stump. Four for 38.

Directly he came in, Mr Jackson was nearly caught by the wicket-keeper, after which he obtained four by a leg hit. Mr Hill cut Mr Smith finely to the boundary, and 50 was reached in rather less than the hour. Mr Jackson gave a chance to the wicket-keeper, and Mr Wilson missed Mr Hill at extra slip. Mr Bassett still bowled well and the batsmen had to exercise great caution. Mr Jackson,

however, in trying to drive a ball, had his middle stump knocked down. Five for 61 was certainly a feeble show for the Cambridge men.

Applause greeted the captain (Mr M'Gregor), who got three runs in the first over and doubled this number by placing Mr Smith to square leg. Mr Jardine changed his bowling tactics for the first time at 69, when Mr Smith gave way to Mr Berkeley. Mr Hill got a couple of lucky fours from Mr Bassett, who twice nearly bowled that batsman in the same over. Mr Smith was put on just before luncheon, but Mr M'Gregor cut him for four (all run), and at the adjournment the score was 86.

Another shower during the interval was neither of sufficient length nor heaviness to delay the renewal of the game, and at five minutes to 3 the bowlers were again Messrs Bassett and Smith. The best hit for some time was a late cut to the boundary by Mr Hill, and then in the course of a few overs the 100 was completed and ten minutes past 3. Mr M'Gregor got a couple of fours to leg from Mr Smith, who had dispensed with his long-leg fieldsman, bringing on Mr Berkeley at 114. Exactly 50 runs had been added during the partnership when it had lasted an hour. Mr Bassett was still bowling well. Quiet play and a few singles were the product of a good many overs. At 124 Mr Bassett, who had bowling from the start, gave way to Mr Wilson, in whose first over Mr Hill got four by a leg snick. The spell of quietude was broken by a brilliant piece of fielding at extra mid-off. Mr M'Gregor thrice fruitlessly tried to get the ball round to leg, and then, in playing right back to Mr Berkeley's bowling, the Cambridge captain was beaten. In an hour and ten minutes the partnership had realized 67 runs. The value of this stand speaks for itself, as Cambridge had previously been doing so badly. Six for 130.

Mr Streatfeild's arrival had been anticipated with interest by lovers of big hitting. Already Oxford had paid dearly for Mr Wilson's early mistake, and they were reminded of its cost when, at ten minutes to 4, Mr Hill completed his 50. More unproductive play was finally enlivened by a couple of fours on the leg side from Mr Berkeley. At 149 Messrs Bassett and Smith resumed bowling, and the latter chance at once had the effect desired, as from the third ball Mr Hill was taken behind the wicket. Since his escape at 15 Mr Hill had played remarkably well, and during his stay of two hours had contributed eight fours, a three and five twos. Seven for 150.

Mr Wells joined Mr Streatfeild, who, so far from scoring with his usual quickness, had been in 25 minutes for two runs. He then made four by a cut and drove Mr Bassett to the off boundary. Each man obtained a four through the slips, but at 178 Mr Wells was very cleverly stumped, and Mr Woods came in. His stay was brief, and Mr Jephson brought up the rear. The batsmen made various big drives, and cheers greeted the 200 at 4.35. Mr Wilson displaced Mr Bassett, and soon afterwards Mr Berkeley went on at the other end. This latter change effected the separation, Mr Streatfeild being bowled, and at a quarter to 5 the innings was completed for 210.

Oxford went in at a quarter past 5, Messrs Llewelyn and Watson being the early batsmen. Mr Woods opened the bowling with his fielding thus: - Mr M'Gregor, wicket; Mr Weigall, point; Mr Jackson, cover-point; Mr Rowell, mid-off; Mr Jephson, mid-on; Mr Wells, slip; Mr Streatfeild, cover-slip; Mr Foley, long-off; Mr Hill, third man; and Mr Douglas, deep slip. Mr Jackson had much the same disposition: the changes were that Mr Woods took cover-point; Mr Douglas, long-off; and Mr Foley went into the slips.

Mr Llewelyn obtained four by a leg-hit from Mr Woods, and previously four byes had been obtained at the opposite end. Mr Watson just turned a ball on the leg side and it went to the boundary, after which this fast rate of scoring stopped. Mr Woods bowled at a great pace. Mr Llewelyn cut the ball to the boundary, but at 19 a catch at extra slip disposed of Mr Watson. The

misfortunes of Oxford had started in earnest – for Mr Jardine, the captain, fell to a “yorker” on the leg stump, second ball. Mr Foley then dropped an easy catch in the long field from Mr Palaret before he had scored. Directly afterwards, however, he was well taken at wicket, and three men were out for 24.

Mr Case came next. Mr Llewelyn showed fine defence and obtained various runs by drives all along the ground. He next hit Mr Woods to the on boundary. The score was steadily advanced to 49, and then Mr Case was out to a bad hit – caught at mid-off. Half the wickets were afterwards down, and Mr Smith, who has a big hitting reputation, arrived. Mr Llewelyn made a beautiful drive from Mr Woods to the off boundary, and Mr Smith scored five by two hits from the other end. At 69 the attack was varied, and Mr Hill, who had relieved Mr Jackson, bowled Mr Llewelyn. The latter, who had been in an hour and 20 minutes, had shown some of the best batting of the day. Six for 69.

Eight runs later Mr Smith was bowled, off stump, and Messrs Boger and Bassett got together. The latter was badly missed at point from a skier by Mr Weigall, who after three attempts to secure the ball finally dropped it. The score was carried to 88, and at 7 o’clock play ceased for the day, Oxford, with three wickets to fall, wanting 43 to avoid the follow on.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 10)

Cambridge won the University match with anything but the expected ease. Indeed they were hard pressed at the finish. A success by two wickets does not prove that superiority the existence of which every one was so readily willing to assume. Undoubtedly the better side won, but the match furnished a further illustration of the uncertainties of cricket.

The Dark Blues are to be congratulated on the stern uphill game played by them; they showed that they possessed good batting, their fielding was superb and the left-hand bowling of Messrs Bassett and Berkeley last evening almost placed victory within their grasp. Oxford went into the field against a team of much more than average skill, whose victories on good wickets against Surrey, Yorkshire and Sussex must have made them quite confident of success. The bowling of Mr Woods and the wicket-keeping of Mr M’Gregor were striking features in the match, and late yesterday came the brilliant batting, in every way characteristic of Eton, of Mr C P Foley, who could justly claim a good share in the Cambridge triumph. It was a long and excellent day’s play, and 7 o’clock struck as the winning hit was recorded.

The scene at Lord’s yesterday possessed the usual charms of a fashionable day, and the promenade during the intervals well sustained the reputation of the place. Yesterday’s weather scarcely equalled that of Monday, but the attendance reached about 18,000 in numbers. Any decline in the interest of the game, consequence on the advantage early secured by Cambridge, was removed by the batting of Messrs Smith and Wilson, and from that stage the interest was sustained to the closing hit.

The weather was dull and rain threatened. The batsmen were ten minutes late in taking up their positions at the wickets. Messrs Boger and Bassett, the not-outs, then went on with the Oxford innings, 43 runs being necessary to avert the follow on. Sharp runs were made until seven had been added, when the play became quiet and four maiden overs were sent down. Mr Woods, who, with Mr Hill, had charge of the bowling, dismissed Mr Bassett at 95, and Mr Brain arrived. Then came another disaster for Oxford; the batsmen started for a single, but Mr Woods, at cover-point, fielded

the ball beautifully and threw the wicket down, Mr Boger being run out.

When Mr Berkeley, the last man, came in 35 runs were still necessary to avoid the follow-on. The 100 was reached at ten minutes past 12, amid loud applause. Mr Brain stopped a couple of fast "yorkers" from Mr Woods, and then cut that bowler for three. Five more runs were obtained before Mr Jackson took up the bowling at the Nursery end, 23 being at this stage necessary to save the follow-on. Without addition, Mr Brain gave Mr Woods an easy return catch, and the innings closed at 12.25 for 108. Mr Woods had bowled with great success, and his seven wickets cost little more than eight runs each.

Oxford began their second innings at ten minutes to 1. The original order was maintained, and Messrs Llewelyn and Watson opened the bowling. Messrs Woods and Jackson were the bowlers. In the first quarter of an hour the chief items were a single, increased to five by an overthrow of Mr Foley's, and a cut for four by Mr Watson. A brisk rate of scoring was maintained. Mr Watson contributed various twos and threes, and Mr Llewelyn drove Mr Woods to the off-boundary, bringing the record to 30 in 20 minutes. The batsmen were separated a single later, when point received an easy catch from Mr Watson, who had made matters very lively during his stay.

Mr Jardine was greeted with applause, as was the single by which the Oxford captain prevented his inclusion among batsmen who in these contests twice fail to score. Mr Jardine sent Mr Jackson to leg for four, and at the end of half-an-hour the record stood at 43 for one wicket. Mr Woods fielded his own bowling well, and Mr M'Gregor's wicket-keeping was still a feature of the play. For a time the game proved quiet, but the score travelled steadily to 49, when, as the men seemed well set, Mr Wells was given a trial at Mr Woods's end. Fifty went up at 20 minutes to 2, and six runs later Mr Streatfeild went on in lieu of Mr Jackson. This latter change had the effect desired, as at 61 a catch at extra-slip dismissed Mr Jardine. When Mr Woods resumed bowling he at once got Mr Llewelyn caught at third man and, with three wickets down for 61, an adjournment was made for luncheon. Mr Llewelyn had again greatly impressed the spectators by his excellent batting.

Play was resumed at a few minutes before 3 o'clock. Mr Case went to the wickets with Mr Palairet, and Messrs Woods and Streatfeild were the bowlers. Several drives for twos and singles advanced the score to 74, when a good return by Mr Douglas caused Mr Case to be run out. Four down. Mr Wilson, who followed in, cut Mr Woods for a well-run five, and this, with a fine piece of fielding by Mr Jackson at cover-point, elicited loud cheers. Afterwards a good catch by Mr Streatfeild at extra slip dismissed Mr Palairet, half the wickets being down for 81.

Mr Smith kept the field busy, cutting and driving Mr Woods for four each. With several of these items the score travelled to 99, and then a cleverly judged run brought up the 100 at half-past 3. A fine drive to the boundary by Mr Smith saved the innings defeat directly afterwards. Lively cricket continued. Mr Wilson, thinking he was caught at slip, started to walk away from the wicket, but was called back by his partner, an incident that caused some amusement. Mr Smith now cut Mr Woods for four and drove the same bowler for three. Forty-two runs having been added in 20 minutes, Mr Jackson superseded Mr Streatfeild. Mr Smith cut him for four, but in the next over was taken at mid-on. He had scored 32, of 47, in the 25 minutes during which his innings lasted.

When Mr Boger arrived the play became a little tedious. Seven runs were put on in a quarter of an hour, and then Mr Wells was tried in lieu of Mr Woods with immediate success, Mr Boger being easily taken at cover-point. Mr Bassett was quickly caught at extra slip. Mr Brain joined Mr Wilson, who cut Mr Jackson for four, and thus with various singles sent up the 150 at 4.20. Nine runs later Mr Brain skied the ball to mid-on, but Messrs Wilson and Berkeley gave considerable

trouble for the last wicket, and at 173 Mr Woods displaced Mr Wells. Mr Wilson cut Mr Jackson for four and three, and at 10 minutes to 5 he completed his 50 with an off-drive to the boundary. Meantime Mr Berkeley had been carefully keeping up his wicket without attempting to hit. He played a fast and good over in a way that evoked loud cheers, but Mr Wilson was then bowled, and the innings closed for 191 at 4.55. Mr Wilson had played remarkably well for his 53; he gave no chance, and the chief hits were one five, four fours, two threes and four twos. The last wicket added 32 runs.

With 90 necessary for victory, Cambridge sent in Messrs Rowell and Douglas at 5.25. Mr Bassett opened the bowling, and Mr Smith had charge of the attack at the pavilion end. With the last ball of the over Mr Smith struck Mr Rowell's leg stump. Mr Weigall came next, and four byes and a boundary drive by Mr Douglas were recorded. However, only 12 runs had been scored when Mr Weigall was clean bowled. This was not a hopeful start for the Light Blues.

Mr Foley made eight in two hits from Mr Smith, but in the same over he was nearly caught at point. A lucky four in the slips was credited to Mr Douglas. Runs still came at a brisk pace, and 47 had been obtained in 35 minutes when Mr Berkeley received the ball from Mr Smith. Without addition Mr Douglas was bowled. Mr Hill joined Mr Foley, who, after the 50 had gone up at 6.15, made a fine boundary drive in front of the tavern. At 60 Mr Hill was taken at slip and Mr Jackson came in. Mr Foley obtained four by a cut, after which Mr Jackson was bowled, making five wickets down for 67.

Mr M'Gregor was next in. Within a dozen runs of the finish Mr Foley's brilliant innings was closed by a catch low down at extra slip; he had been in a little over an hour, and his 41 included six fours, two threes and two twos. After this fine innings Cambridge must have completely forgiven any errors made by Mr Foley in the field.

Only a dozen runs were wanted to win, but this number cost the Light Blues a great deal of trouble. At 88 Mr Streatfeild was bowled, and with the figures even Mr M'Gregor was out in the same way. Amidst considerable excitement Mr Woods arrived; he drove the first ball sent him to the boundary and won the match for Cambridge by two wickets. A large company assembled in front of the pavilion and warmly cheered the players.

20 June: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/113/113423.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 June, page 11)

The home eleven were seen to considerable advantage in this match at Derby yesterday. They went in first and obtained possession of the good wicket nearly the whole day. Mr Wright and Chatterton put on 99 for the second wicket, and this stand was the feature of the cricket. Chatterton, who was second out, was in an hour and three-quarters for 46, hitting two fours, two threes and eight twos. Mr Wright's hits were two fours, ten threes and eight twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 10)

Yesterday, at Derby, the home eleven managed to hold their own against Yorkshire. There were two prominent features in the day's cricket – viz., the batting of Ulyett and Chatterton.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 10)

Yesterday at Derby, during the time that weather permitted cricket, the home side further increased the substantial lead possessed by them on Tuesday night. The great feature of the match was the fine innings of 106 by Chatterton, who made the runs in three and a half hours without a mistake. He was bowled at 208, having contributed one five, five fours, ten threes and 14 twos. Storer stayed with him while 83 runs were added, and when rain caused the match to be drawn the score stood thus . . .

2 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3707.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 11)

The fact that 10,000 people visited Kennington Oval yesterday would show that Gentlemen v Players maintains its position among the leading attractions of the season. It was a purely cricket crowd and the play was watched with a keen and discriminating interest.

The Surrey Club had been fortunate in getting together representative sides, although there were two or three men, such as Mr A G Steel, Mr E A Nepean and Martin, whose absence had to be regretted. Cambridge furnished four members of the Gentlemen's side, of which Dr Grace was captain, while the North sent seven and the South three of the professionals, captained by Ulyett. Everything was favourable for the game; the sun shone brilliantly and any slowness in the wicket rapidly disappeared under the influence of the fresh breeze. Prince Christian Victor and Viscount Oxenbridge (the Surrey Club president) were among the spectators in the pavilion.

Choice of innings fell to the Players, for whom Ulyett and Shrewsbury made a fairly promising start. Each man gained four by a boundary drive, but, having scored nine, Shrewsbury had an escape at the hands of Dr Grace at point. Ulyett continued to play in excellent form until at 36 he was well caught at mid-off. Meanwhile Shrewsbury had not profited very much by his life, and at 55 both he and Gunn were dismissed; Gunn cleverly caught and bowled, and Shrewsbury secured at slip. A "yorker" from Mr Woods proved too much for Barnes, and four wickets were down for 64. The fifth should have gone down at the same figures, but Dr Grace at point dropped a catch from Read. Read stayed until 115 and was then finely stumped, while, just before, Abel had fallen to third man. This pair of Surrey batsmen had played carefully and put on 49 for the wicket.

The fielding and bowling were the best points of the cricket throughout the innings, excepting perhaps the batting of Ulyett. Mr M'Gregor's wicket-keeping, too, was as finished as ever. The last four wickets averaged ten runs each, and the total reached 165. It was half-past 4 when the innings terminated. Mr Woods, the Cambridge fast bowler, had been kept on throughout the three and a half hours that it lasted, and his six wickets for 69 was a wonderful feat against a batting side of so much skill.

Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart opened the South innings and in 20 minutes the score travelled to 31. Mr Stoddart made most of the runs, but the biggest hit was a straight drive by Dr Grace from Lohmann, the ball pitching on the front of the pavilion. Dr Grace was given out leg before, and Mr O'Brien, having helped to raise the figures to 55 in 35 minutes, was taken at mid-on. At the end of 50 minutes the score stood at 73, and then Mr Stoddart's brilliant innings was closed by a well-judged catch at long-on.

Messrs W W Read and Dixon played sound cricket, both driving and cutting well. Sharpe, who had earlier gone on at Lohmann's end, gave way to the latter bowler again at 85. The 100 was reached after an hour and 20 minutes' play, and then followed a spell of quietude. Briggs was taken off from the lower end at 108, and Peel substituted. For a long time the most noteworthy incident was a hard boundary drive by Mr Read. Very few bad balls were sent down, and the fielding, too, was very accurate, so that few opportunities offered for fast scoring. Mr Dixon obtained six runs by two late cuts, and when the partnership had lasted an hour 53 had been added.

Sharpe now took another turn with the ball and later Ulyett displaced Peel. Mr Read completed his 50 by a hit for two, and then at 140 Mr Dixon was bowled off his pads. The wicket had produced 67 runs. Mr Douglas came in for the last five minutes and Lohmann was put on at the gasometer end. However, no further wicket fell, and the drawing of stumps found the Gentlemen 21 runs behind and six wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 July, page 12)

How much the fortunes of cricket are dependent on the weather was illustrated in a marked manner at Kennington Oval yesterday, when late in the day the Players, on a ruined wicket, collapsed before the bowling of Messrs Ferris and Woods.

Indeed, the state of the ground made it very questionable whether the game should have been resumed so early after the downpour which preceded luncheon. It was a matter of no small difficulty to get a firm footing. The interesting stage at which the game was adjourned on Thursday evening, when the Gentlemen were 21 runs behind with six wickets in hand, naturally attracted a good many early visitors to the Surrey ground.

Mr W W Read failed to improve his overnight score; in his 50 were five fours, four threes and two twos. Five for 144. Messrs Smith and Douglas batted freely and in 25 minutes added 43, but in hitting to leg the latter was bowled at 187. Mr Jackson's stay was brief – caught at wicket. Seven for 209. Mr M'Gregor aided Mr Smith, who was playing excellently, and the batsmen were still partners when, at 12.50, rain stopped the game; 88 runs had been made in 80 minutes.

There was no more play until a quarter to 4. Mr Smith then completed his 50, but at 239 he lost the company of Mr M'Gregor, taken at mid-on. Mr Smith was caught at long-off at 275 for a superb 76; he was in an hour and a half and contributed nine fours, four threes and ten twos. Hunter threw Mr Woods's wicket down, and at 4.25 the innings terminated for 278.

At a quarter to 5 the Players began the task of hitting off the arrears of 113. Mr Ferris bowled with great effect and took every advantage of the bad wicket. Ulyett and Shrewsbury raised the score to 17, and then the former fell the extra mid-off; Gunn and Abel were caught at slip at 22 and 27, at 33 Shrewsbury, whom Mr Jackson had missed at cover-point, was secured by mid-off. A single later Read and Peel were out. The last four added 25 runs. Mr Ferris's seven wickets averaged only four runs each. From the score subjoined it will be seen that the Gentlemen won by an innings and 54 runs.

2 July: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3708.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 11)

Heavy scoring by Sussex characterized the opening day's play in this match at Tonbridge yesterday, when the visitors were at the wickets all the time without completing an innings. Batting honours were carried off by Mr Newham and Bean, who became partners when the first man was dismissed at 21.

After surviving an escape of running out the batsmen got thoroughly set, and for two hours and a half they defied the varied attacks of Kent. The score had been increased by 181 and Bean was within three runs of his 100 when the bowling of the professional severed the partnership at 202. Bean gave no chance, and in the three hours of his stay contributed 14 fours, two threes and three twos.

Mr Newham was third out at 238. He made his 105 in three hours, scoring eight fours, four threes and 13 twos. Subsequent Mr Brann batted with freedom and scored 51 of 75, included in which were six fours and five twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 July, page 12)

Quick scoring was recorded at Tonbridge yesterday in the comparatively brief time that the weather permitted cricket. The last two Sussex wickets (eight had fallen overnight for 354) gave great trouble. The partnership of Humphreys and Butt produced 77 in three-quarters of an hour, and altogether the ninth wicket realized 91 runs. Butt contributed seven fours, a three and four twos. Humphreys carried out his bat for 63; he was in an hour and a half, and made eight fours, a three and five twos. Sussex scored the heavy total of 431.

When Kent went in Mr Weigall was soon caught at slip, but Mr Marchant played with great brilliancy, and when rain stopped play for the day the score was as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 July, page 11)

In the brief time that cricket was practicable at Tonbridge on Saturday there was some very brilliant batting by Mr F Marchant, the captain of the Kent eleven. He was in for two hours and he gave no chance. His hits were 21 fours, three threes, seven twos and 16 singles. The game was abandoned . . .

2 July: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128175.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 11)

Wet weather considerably interfered with the cricket at Manchester yesterday. During the hours of play Lancashire retained possession of the wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 July, page 12)

Yesterday, at the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, Lancashire had very much the better of the day's play against Warwickshire. Yates played with freedom and the Lancashire total reached 232. Subsequently the home bowlers were very effective. Warwickshire had to follow on . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 July, page 11)

Warwickshire proved no match for their powerful opponents at Manchester, and on Saturday they were decisively beaten. The visitors, who followed on in a minority of 108, fared badly against the bowling of Mold and Watson. The former had a remarkable average in the double innings. He took 11 wickets at a cost of a little over six runs each.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127179.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 11)

Marylebone were represented by a fairly strong side in this match at Lord's yesterday. The home team took first innings.

After three wickets had been lost for nine runs Flowers and Mr Coxon batted well, and subsequently Mr P Russel met with considerable success. Flowers was bowled at 70 for a vigorous 44, made at the rate of one a minute. He hit seven fours, a three and three twos. Messrs Greaves and Russel put on 50 runs for the seventh wicket.

Leicestershire were dismissed in an hour and a half, and were 67 behind on the first innings . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 July, page 12)

There was some interesting cricket in this match at Lord's yesterday, when rain slightly interfered with the play. Marylebone went on with their innings, and Chatterton and Mr Pope made 78 altogether for the second wicket. From that stage, however, the home team were steadily dismissed. Chatterton was fifth to leave at 106, having, by sound defence, contributed more than half the runs. Pougher disposed of Mr Greaves, Hearne and Sherwin with successive balls, and thus performed the "hat trick." Altogether his eight wickets averaged 6.5 runs each.

The county went in to get 205 to win . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 July, page 11)

At Lord's on Saturday morning the wicket played treacherously, and Leicestershire failed to complete a task so well begun by them.

3 July: DURHAM v YORKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/102/102932.html)

Day 1 (no report or scorecard from Saturday 4 July, page 12)

Day 2 (report from Monday 6 July, page 11)

L Hall played a fine innings of 102 for his county against Durham at Sunderland on Saturday. He batted with more freedom than usual, and his driving was particularly good. Yorkshire made the match an opportunity for the trying of various new men, and, in spite of these experiments, they managed to win easily by six wickets.

6 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3709.html)

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

It is to the Lord's match that cricketers look for the crucial test between Gentlemen and Players. There is an air of importance about the fixture at headquarters by which even the cricketing public are affected. They know the depth of the influence possessed by the Marylebone Club, in whose hands the representative nature of the match reaches a thoroughness that can scarcely be equalled elsewhere.

Some years have elapsed since the Gentlemen were so strong in bowling. With Mr Woods in wonderful form, Mr Nepean, Mr Streatfeild, Mr Ferris, Mr A G Steel and Dr Grace there is an array of bowling talent against which any Players' side could scarcely hope to make a very heavy score. And Messrs E Smith and Stoddart are also bowlers. It is always gratifying to record the appearance of Mr A G Steel, who usually manages one and sometimes two first-class matches a year that revive memories of the very pleasant seasons when the famous Cambridge cricketer was able to devote more time to the game he plays so well. About 8,000 people watched the cricket with keen interest until their enjoyment was abruptly stopped by a heavy thunderstorm, and the day's cricket was shortened by some three hours in consequence of the torrents of rain.

Dr Grace eventually found a wicket that suited his bowling. Ulyett won the toss and with Shrewsbury began the Players' batting at five minutes past 12. Messrs Woods (from the pavilion end) and Ferris were the bowlers. With the field very deep Ulyett scored only singles from various fine drives; but he obtained four by a cut, and had made 11 out of 18 when a catch low down at slip dismissed him at the end of half an hour. Gunn arrived, to be bowled by the third ball, which kept low and completely beat him.

Abel came next. Shrewsbury cut Mr Woods for four and scored two or three singles by sharp running. Fifty went up after an hour's play and then Dr Grace relieved Mr Nepean, who had gone on in place of Mr Ferris at 37. A few overs later Mr Streatfeild was tried and Dr Grace crossed to Mr Woods's end. From Mr Streatfeild a bad mistake was made by Mr Ferris at cover point, at whose hands Shrewsbury escaped with his figures at 36. Soon afterwards Abel was caught at slip in trying to get the ball round to leg. The third wicket in rather less than an hour had produced 50 runs.

Barnes joined Shrewsbury. Dr Grace puzzled the batsmen repeatedly, and Barnes, after being nearly caught at point and slip, was out leg before. Maurice Read returned the first ball sent him, and five wickets were down for 82. Peel was next on the order and at luncheon the score stood at 84.

After the interval Dr Grace and Mr Woods shared the bowling. Shrewsbury made one fine drive for four and completed his 50 after a stay of two and a quarter hours. The 100 was reached at 3.10, but seven runs later Mr Streatfeild went on for Mr Woods and dismissed Peel at 111. Lohmann attempted to force the game and paid an early penalty, as Dr Grace completely beat him, the seventh wicket falling at 116. Mr M'Gregor appealed for stumping against Attewell, but the umpire decided in the batsman's favour.

At 20 minutes to 4 a heavy storm burst over the ground, and its severity was such that any chance of

further play was speedily removed. However, stumps were not drawn until nearly 5 o'clock, when the weather had become quite fine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 11)

Very little progress could be made with this game at Lord's yesterday. Rain fell in the morning and delayed the start, while after luncheon there was a heavy downpour of an hour's duration, and play had then to be abandoned. In the brief time that cricket was practicable the game furnished at least one point of more than average interest – the running out of Attewell, brought about by an extraordinary piece of fielding by Mr Woods at mid-off.

Shrewsbury and Attewell, the not-outs, were faced by Dr Grace and Mr Ferris. For some time no good hit was recorded, and in a quarter of an hour only five runs were put on. Then Attewell started to run for a hard drive of his own, but the ball was brilliantly fielded and unerringly returned by Mr Woods at mid-off. Attewell tried to get back but it was too late, Mr M'Gregor having put the wicket down. Eight for 123.

Sharpe came next. Shrewsbury hit a ball from Dr Grace to the boundary in front of square leg, while Sharpe obtained four runs by a drive. Mr Woods had previously superseded Dr Grace. However, at the interval no further wicket had fallen. After luncheon rain began to fall, and play was abandoned for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 July, page 6)

Bad weather pursued this match to the end. On each day the rain came about 3 o'clock, but the storm was most severe on the third afternoon, and the oldest cricketers could not recall an instance to compare with the flooded state of Lord's yesterday.

The Players went on with their innings at ten minutes to 12. Thirty-five runs were obtained in three-quarters of an hour, and then the venture ended. Sharpe was well caught at mid-on and Sherwin at long-on. Shrewsbury achieved the distinction of carrying his bat through the innings for 81. He was in four hours and a quarter, but his early play was scarcely up to the average. Besides giving the easy chance to Mr Ferris at 36, he made various bad strokes. His chief hits were eight fours, four threes and five twos.

Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart began the Gentlemen's batting shortly before 1 o'clock. Peel and Lohmann were the bowlers. At 18 the former got Dr Grace caught at wicket and Mr Stoddart at mid-on. Messrs O'Brien and Read played excellent cricket. Several changes were made in the bowling. Attewell displaced Lohmann, but subsequently gave way to Sharpe, and went on at the other end in lieu of Peel. Mr O'Brien had gained four by a splendid cut, and two fine drives by Mr Read to the boundary were much admired. Mr Read was out, leg-before, at 60, and half-a-dozen runs later Mr O'Brien was caught at point. Four for 66. An adjournment was now made for luncheon.

Subsequently Messrs Steel and Smith were partners. Mr steel scored several runs by clever strokes on either side of the wicket, and Lohmann soon displaced Sharpe. This change was effectual, as Mr Smith, who had given Attewell a hard return chance, was out to a well-judged catch at long-off. Five for 80. Mr Streatfeild arrived, but after the follow-on had been averted a thunderstorm stopped

the game. Rain fell in torrents and the cricket ground was literally flooded. The match was abandoned with the score thus . . .

6 July: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128186.html)

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

The Surrey team which visited Southampton yesterday included only three of the regular members of the eleven. Mr D Jephson, of Cambridge University, was among the players and carried off the batting honours of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 11)

There were frequent interruptions by the rain at Southampton yesterday. During the hours of play Surrey retained possession of the wicket and scored freely.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 July, page 6)

The team sent down to Southampton by Surrey proved far too powerful for Hampshire. Yesterday Surrey won by 208 runs.

6 July: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127180.html)

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

Yesterday bowlers had matters much their own way at the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 11)

At Manchester, yesterday, the cricket was characterized by a brilliant innings of 105 by A Ward for Lancashire. Usually this professional plays a very patient game, but yesterday he threw great vigour into his batting. He made 105 of the first 130 and, beyond being nearly caught at slip early in his innings and at 86 giving a chance to the wicket-keeper, his play was free from fault. He was in two and a quarter hours, and contributed 18 four, two threes and seven twos. As will be seen from the subjoined score, Lancashire have secured a great advantage.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 July, page 6)

At Manchester yesterday the home bowlers again roved too much for Leicestershire. Briggs's analysis in the match was remarkable – viz., nine wickets for 50 runs. Eventually Lancashire won by 207 runs.

9 July: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3710.html)

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

Both counties were well represented in this match at Taunton yesterday. The sides had not met since 1884, and the game naturally aroused great interest.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 13)

This match was concluded yesterday at Taunton, when Lancashire won by nine wickets; Mold achieved a great bowling feat, taking 15 wickets for 131 runs.

9 July: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3711.html)

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

The midland county was seen to great advantage at Brighton yesterday. Once again the Hove proved itself a batsman's ground, and Nottinghamshire, a side usually associated with steady scoring, averaged 70 runs an hour during their long innings. The visitors gave a trial to Bagguley, and in the Sussex team Jesse Hide made his first appearance since his recovery from a severe strain.

Nottinghamshire went in first, and lost Shrewsbury, caught at short leg, at 11. Thus Sussex had no reason to complain at the start. But the dismissal of the great batsman furnished no index to the subsequent play. In an hour and a half, for the second wicket, Mr C W Wright and Gunn put on 105 runs. The former, like Shrewsbury, fell a victim to short leg. Mr Wright's excellent innings included nine fours, three threes and a two, and also a five (four by an overthrow). Gunn was third out, at 151, caught at slip. His chief hits were six fours, a three and nine twos, and he was in rather more than two hours.

There were a couple more achievements in the batting department. Barnes, who went in second wicket down, at 116, was seventh out at 247, and Attewell took out his bat for 56, made in an hour and a quarter. The latter's chief contributions were eight fours, two threes and two twos.

Sussex had a little over an hour's play. Bean and Marlow made 51 in 35 minutes from the first wicket . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 13)

Phenomenal batting feats were recorded in this match at Brighton yesterday. Bean carried his bat through the Sussex innings, making 28 fours, while for Notts Gunn and Shrewsbury got together at half-past 3 and were still partners at the drawing of stumps.

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

After a match productive of much extraordinary cricket, Nottinghamshire triumphed on the home ground at Brighton last Saturday. Bean almost succeeded in making a three-figure score in each innings; he followed up his 145 (not out) with 92, which gave him the fine record of 237 runs. But the batting of Shrewsbury and Gunn enabled Nottinghamshire to declare their innings at an end early in the day, and after an excellent fight Sussex were beaten.

On Friday evening Notts scored 286 for one wicket, Gunn and Shrewsbury each obtaining over 100, and on Saturday morning before the batsmen were separated the total reached 332. The partnership in four hours had produced 312 runs. Shrewsbury was first to leave (caught at mid-off). His fine innings of 165 included 18 fours, five threes and 21 twos. Gunn did not long survive, and within five minutes he was bowled by Humphreys. The chief features of his well-furnished innings were 22 fours, four threes and 14 twos. Three for 340. With the dismissal of Flowers, Nottinghamshire declared their innings at an end.

There were five hours then left for play, and Sussex had 396 to make for victory. Marlow and Bean opened the home innings in a brilliant manner, obtaining 80 runs in 50 minutes for the first wicket. Marlow made eight fours. With Mr Newham and Bean together the fast rate of scoring continued, and at the end of an hour and a half 140 went up. Mr Newham was now bowled, and at 159 Bean fell to a catch at long slip. The latter in an hour and three-quarters put together 92 by 15 fours, seven twos and singles. Three down.

Wickets were now Stephenson captured and, although Mr Brann and Mr Wilson ran up 44 in 50 minutes for the sixth partnership, Sussex were eventually out for 251. Thus Notts won by 144 runs. The weather was fine and a large company witnessed the play. It may be noted that over 1,100 runs were recorded in the match.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/113/113428.html)

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

Yesterday, at Headingley, Leeds, the return match between these counties were begun on a slow wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 13)

At Leeds yesterday this match furnished some very interesting cricket . . .

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

One of the surprises of the season was furnished on the concluding day of this match at Headingley, Leeds, last Saturday, when, after a wonderfully good game, in which fortune frequently fluctuated, Leicestershire beat Yorkshire by one wicket. On the previous evening the visitors had been set 170 to make for victory, and 12 of this number had been obtained for the loss of Wheeler's wicket.

Mr De Trafford and Warren in 40 minutes added 68 for the third partnership. The honours of the day were carried off by Mr De Trafford, who made 60 out of 78 in rather less than an hour. He hit seven fours, three threes and eight twos. With only five batsmen out the figures stood at 147, so that only 23 runs were necessary for victory. But two wickets fell at 147 and two at 148. The last man arrived and 22 were wanted for victory. After much excitement the runs were obtained, and Leicestershire won by one wicket. An injured hand caused Hunter to relinquish the post of wicket-keeper to Tunnicliffe.

13 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3712.html)

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

Dr W G Grace is suffering from a sprained leg, and although he finally decided to play in this match at Bristol yesterday he did not field. Both counties were well represented.

Mr Radcliffe and Dr E M Grace opened the home innings in a bright and promising way, making 76 for the first wicket in an hour and a quarter. Mr Radcliffe's brilliant 54 included six fours, three threes and four twos. Afterwards Gloucestershire fared badly, and the other nine wickets produced only 52 runs. Dr E M Grace played with remarkable care and was in three hours, being eighth out at 120. He hit four fours, a three and six twos. Mold and Smith bowled remarkably well.

Lancashire passed the home score and have yet seven wickets to fall. A Ward and Smith added 86 for the second partnership, the former making four fours, five threes and eight twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 11)

Smith seems to be a strong acquisition to the Lancashire eleven, both as a bowler and batsman. He followed up some admirable bowling with fine batting, and his three-figure innings was a faultless display of sound cricket. From the state of the game on Monday night the success of Lancashire seemed most probable, but it was generally expected at Bristol that the home side would be seen to more advantage than on the opening day.

The last seven Lancashire wickets added 161 runs. Smith was ninth out at 289, having been batting three and three-quarter hours. He gave no chance and his chief hits were 11 fours, seven threes and 19 twos. Yates threw great vigour into his game, making one four, five threes and six twos.

Dr W G Grace played well when Gloucestershire went in a second time, but the others did little, and ultimately Lancashire won by an innings and 65 runs. Mold took 14 wickets for 95 runs.

13 July: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3713.html)

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

Yesterday, at Mote-park, Maidstone, the visitors, who previously this season had played in a manner little worthy of their 1890 reputation, had considerably the best of the day's cricket.

Going in first on a pretty good wicket, Kent, up to a certain point, did fairly well. A Hearne and Mr Wilson, the early batsmen, scored 40, and afterwards the latter, with Mr Fox, raised the record to 74. Mr Wilson was then cleverly stumped and, following his dismissal, the home players collapsed and the innings ended for 106. Mr Woods and Nichols bowled with great success, and were supported by admirable fielding and wicket-keeping.

There were two and a quarter hours left for play when Somerset went in. Mr Hewett left at 44, and then came a long stand by Messrs Palaret and Challen, who put in 95 runs. The former's brilliant 79 included eight fours, a three and 13 twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 11)

After an interesting day's cricket at Mote-park, Maidstone, yesterday, Somerset beat Kent and gained their first victory of the season. On Monday evening Somerset had secured a great advantage and yesterday their last seven wickets put on 78 runs more. Mr Challen batted with great care and was in two and a half hours for 41.

Kent up to a certain point fared well in their second innings. Mr Braybrooke made six fours and Mr Marchant and Mr Fox five each. However, after the sixth wicket had fallen for 146, the last four produced only 14 runs.

Somerset experienced considerable trouble in getting the 49 necessary for victory. Martin and Wright bowled effectively and got five of the visitors out for 29. Subsequently the task was accomplished without further loss, and Somerset won by five wickets.

13 July: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3714.html)

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

Yesterday, at the Hove, Brighton, the turf showed its characteristic trueness. When it became known that Surrey had won the toss, a long day's fielding for Sussex seemed probable. And so it proved. The home eleven were in the field the whole of cricketing hours, and Surrey were not out until ten minutes to 7.

Abel, whose success has been most consistent this season, surpassed himself in his finished driving and cutting, and achieved the greatest feat recorded in his career. There was a little ill-fortune attaching to his missing the 200 by only three runs. Altogether his innings extended over five and a half hours, and he contributed 23 fours, seven threes and 12 twos. He had a couple of escapes at 121, when Hide let him off at slip, and later, when he might have been run out. He was eighth out at 384 – stumped off the lob bowler. The two longest stands of the day were by M Read and Abel (110 for the second wicket) and by Henderson and Abel (106 for the sixth wicket). Maurice Read's chief items were seven fours. The last four Surrey wickets fell for 11 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 11)

Sharpe and Lohmann bowled with great success at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, and thus were Surrey enabled to place one more victory to their credit this season. The whole of Monday had been occupied with the visitors' innings of 187.

Apart from Bean, the Sussex batsmen yesterday played feebly. After a promising start by Bean and Marlow, who made 65 for the first wicket, the home team fared badly. Bean was out at 70 – caught at wicket. His chief hits were seven fours, three threes and two twos. The last five batsmen added only ten runs. Sharpe, when he went on a second time, captured four wickets in 14 balls without a run being scored from him.

Sussex, who followed on, did even worse at their second attempt, and in an hour and a half were all out for 92. Sharpe took ten wickets in the match for 70 runs. Surrey won by an innings and 179 runs.

13 July: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3715.html)

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

Many of the 10,000 people who visited the Bramall-land Ground, Sheffield, yesterday must have been keenly disappointed by the feebleness of the home defence. Save for Ulyett, the whole side fared badly at the hands of Flowers and Attewell, who got them out on a good wicket at a comparatively small cost.

Winning the toss Yorkshire went in, and Ulyett and Hall obtained 47 runs in an hour and a quarter for the first wicket. At luncheon three batsmen were out for 66 runs. Subsequently Ulyett was taken deep on the off-side. He had been in two hours for his 47, in which were a five, two fours, five threes and four twos. So steadily were the men dismissed that after the interval the last seven Yorkshire wickets were captured in an hour and a quarter for 50 runs.

Notts then obtained 84 in two hours for the loss of Mr Dixon. Gunn and Shrewsbury took an hour and a half to make the last 36 runs. It may be noted that a strain necessitated Barnes's absence from the Notts eleven, while an injured hand keeps Hunter away.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 11)

Nottinghamshire yesterday quite maintained the advantage secured by them in this match at Bramall-lane Ground, Sheffield, on the previous evening. Shrewsbury and Gunn, the visitors' not outs, remained together until 134, when Gunn fell to a fine catch at point. In two hours the second wicket had put on 86 runs.

Shrewsbury was the third to leave, caught at slip for 59, a patient but good innings in which were eight fours, five threes and two twos. Four more wickets fell for 19 runs, but the last three obtained 126. Daft, Shacklock and Bagguley were chiefly responsible for this latter fact. Daft and Bagguley added 70 in a little over an hour. Daft was in fifth wicket down at 165 and was last out at 292. He contributed nine fours, a three and three twos.

With arrears of 182 Yorkshire went in a second time, and at the drawing of stumps the visitors possessed a great advantage.

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

As the position of the game on Tuesday night foreshadowed, Nottinghamshire gained an easy victory over Yorkshire at Sheffield yesterday. The outstanding home wickets were captured rapidly, and in the course of rather less than 40 minutes the match was finished, Nottinghamshire winning by an innings and 76 runs. Hall carried out his bat for 41; he was in two and a half hours and hit five fours, three threes and three twos.

16 July: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3716.html)

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

Mr A E Stoddart is to be congratulated upon his great batting achievement at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, when in the presence of some 5,000 people, he carried his bat through the Middlesex innings, contributing 215 out of the 372. His drives and cuts were of a most brilliant nature, and he timed the ball almost unerringly.

There were two mistakes during his stay of five hours. At 86 he seemed to give a chance to slip, and at 109 Mr Kemble at wicket might have caught him. Otherwise his batting was faultless. Twenty-five fours, nine threes and 22 twos were the chief figures of the innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 July, page 12)

Middlesex followed up their batting triumph of Thursday with fine bowling and fielding, and yesterday, at Old Trafford, Manchester, they defeated Lancashire for the second time this season. A feature of the day was the bowling of J T Hearne, whose ten wickets averaged a fraction over eight runs each.

Lancashire resumed their innings, in which nine runs had been scored overnight. Barlow played with great care and was in an hour and 20 minutes, while Sugg threw plenty of power into his batting. Towards the close Mr Kemble met with some success, but eventually Lancashire had to follow on with arrears of 209. Subsequently Yates, Briggs and Mr Hornby improved matters. Middlesex, however, won by an innings and 69 runs. The weather was fine and about 7,000 people were present.

16 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3717.html)

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

Yesterday, at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, the Sussex team were batting during the whole of cricketing hours, and had not completed their innings at the drawing of stumps.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 July, page 12)

The home eleven, at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, played an uphill game with great spirit. It will be remembered that Sussex were batting the whole of Thursday, and scored 283 for eight wickets. Yesterday, in an hour, the outstanding batsmen added 49 runs. Butt was ninth out at 326 for 77, an innings that extended over two hours and included eight fours, four threes and ten twos.

Nottinghamshire lost three good wickets for 65. Afterwards the home prospects improved, chiefly by the aid of Shrewsbury, who was in three hours and three-quarters for 75, being seventh to leave at 179. Tate missed him at slip when he had scored 24, otherwise his batting was faultless; his principal contributions were a five, four fours, five threes and 11 twos. Attewell and Shacklock added 41 in 25 minutes, and at the drawing of stumps Notts, with a wicket to fall, wanted 15 to save the follow on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 10)

Following the batting triumphs of Thursday and Friday came a great change in the character of the cricket at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, and Sussex, though in such an advantageous position on the second evening, were beaten on Saturday by three wickets.

It was a victory of which Notts should feel proud for many a day. Rarely does a side who makes over 300 in the first innings of a match get beaten. Sussex, after playing a winning game until Saturday morning, failed in the last stage of the contest. Overnight Notts, with a wicket to fall, wanted 15 runs to avert the follow on. Shacklock and Sherwin quickly obtained these, and the visitors began the second venture with a lead of 68.

On a wicket that had broken up, Attewell and Shacklock bowled with great effect. Not one of the Sussex men reached double figures, and the side was out in an hour and a quarter for 38. The bowlers were unchanged, and the accuracy of Attewell's pitch may be judged from his analysis. He was on all the time and his four wickets only cost six runs.

Butt's absence from the post of wicket-keeper rather handicapped Sussex. And his loss was felt early in the last innings of the match, when the home captain was missed by Hollands, who was standing back to the fast bowling. Notts had gone in to make 107 for victory. Four men were out for 67 runs and seven for 87, so that the result of the game was as yet uncertain. Attewell, however, played remarkably well at this critical stage, and without further loss the runs were obtained, and Nottinghamshire won by three wickets.

The company, which was more numerous than on the opening day, took an enthusiastic interest in

the play. During the first two days 19 wickets produced 570 runs, while on Saturday 17 fell for 176 – a striking contrast. Since their losses to Surrey and Middlesex earlier in the season Notts have won all their matches.

16 July: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3718.html)

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

Between seven and eight thousand spectators appeared at the Oval yesterday to witness this match. Both the teams were thoroughly representative, except in the matter of wicket-keeping. Hunter and Wood possess great reputations for skill behind the wicket, and, curiously enough, they were kept out of the game by injured hands. Mr A F Clarke, of Mitcham, has on several occasions assisted Surrey, while Messrs F S Jackson (Cambridge) and E Smith (Oxford) took their places in the Yorkshire eleven.

With the weather so fine and the wicket fast and true, everything was favourable for a good match. Once again Mr Shuter won the toss. With Abel, the Surrey captain started the innings in an animated manner, and 66 were obtained in the course of 50 minutes. They were out within a few runs of each other. Maurice Read was taken at wicket at 91, but Mr W W Read and Lohmann gave a lot of trouble. The former did not play with his accustomed precision, and besides being missed at wicket, he was twice nearly bowled. However, the score steadily rose, and within 70 minutes of the start the 100 went up. Lohmann threw plenty of vigour into his batting and, after giving a difficult chance to Peel at mid-off, he drove a ball from Harrison to leg for five. In the last over before luncheon Lohmann was dismissed, and four men had left for 149.

Subsequently Messrs Read and Key were quickly got rid of, but Brockwell and Henderson added 47 at the rate of about a run a minute, and later Sharpe helped Henderson to put on 55 for the ninth wicket. Henderson took out his bat for a steady and well-played 54.

Sharpe and Lohmann bowled so well, especially the former, that Yorkshire fared badly. Ulyett and Wardall were bowled, Mr Smith was caught at wicket and Hall taken at slip, four wickets falling in 40 minutes for 20 runs. Peel and Mr Jackson infused some life into the batting by several crisp cuts and hard drives. However, Mr Jackson was secured at wicket at 40, and the other half of the innings realized 27 runs. Peel strove hard to stay the disasters of his side, and was in three-quarters of an hour for his 25, being ninth out, finely taken low down at extra slip. The Yorkshire innings lasted rather less than an hour and a half. The defence was feeble in the extreme, and possessed every trait of a completely crestfallen side.

While Sharpe seemed most to trouble the batsmen he was less effective than Lohmann, whose six wickets cost 33 runs; while Sharpe's four averaged seven runs each. In bowling, fielding and wicket-keeping Surrey have rarely been seen to so much advantage as they were in this hour and a half. To-day Yorkshire will have to follow on with arrears of 235.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 July, page 12)

Surrey won another match yesterday, Yorkshire in this instance being the losers. After the feeble display of the visitors at the Oval on Tuesday evening most of the interest had been taken out of the game. In some degree this was revived by the capital Yorkshire batting and, following on against the heavy arrears of 235, it was much to that county's credit that they averted the single innings defeat.

Ulyett and Hall opened the second venture, and the former contributed 18 out of 23 before being caught at slip. Then came the partnership of Mr Jackson and Hall, both of whom were in excellent form. The score rose so rapidly that Mr Shuter soon changed the bowling, but 59 had been added in less than an hour when Mr Jackson played on. Lord Hawke's ill fortune did not forsake him while neither Mr Smith nor Peel gave much trouble, and the fifth wicket fell at 102. Wardall stayed some time and helped Hall to raise the score to 148, when a catch at wicket disposed of the former. Another 17 runs were added, and then Lohmann clean bowled Hall, who was attempting to drive. His 60 had extended over two hours and three-quarters, and the chief hits were five fours, two threes and five twos.

Wainwright was soon out, but a stand by Cartman and Wormald produced 65 runs in 50 minutes. The latter was taken at slip, and when Harrison arrived only two runs more were obtained, a clever catch at point disposed of Cartman, who had played very well. Lohmann's full bowling record was 12 wickets for 112. Surrey quickly got the necessary runs and won the match by ten wickets.

16 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v DERBYSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128181.html)

Day 1 (no report or scorecard from Friday 17 July, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 July, page 12)

After an interesting match at Lord's Derbyshire were successful yesterday by four wickets. At one period of the game the county seemed likely to be decisively beaten, but some vigorous cricket by Mr Walker and Porter averted the danger of a follow on, besides which Marylebone batted feebly at the second attempt.

Although possessing a lead of 50 on the first innings, the home side set their opponents only 128 to obtain for victory. Sugg and Bagshaw made 78 of these in 50 minutes for the first partnership, and eventually Derbyshire won by four wickets.

16 July: ESSEX v HAMPSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128419.html)

Days 1 and 2 – no reports or scorecards

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 10)

Hampshire finished up a successful week's cricket with a second victory, beating Essex at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, on Saturday, after an exciting match. Essex held a lead of 26 on the first innings, but the visitors played well, and the home team at the second attempt had to make 177 to win. The early batsmen did well, but Hampshire bowled and fielded so well that in the end Essex were beaten by 21 runs.

20 July: L HALL'S YORKSHIRE XI v M SHERWIN'S NOTTINGHAMSHIRE XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3719.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 11)

At Bradford, yesterday, there was some heavy scoring in the match between Sherwin's eleven and Hall's eleven; the sides were almost identical with those which represent Notts and Yorkshire. Hall's eleven were batting all day and made 313 for seven wickets. Peel put together 150 and Ulyett 67.

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

There was again heavy scoring at Bradford yesterday in the Hall's Team v Sherwin's Team match. Shrewsbury, for the latter, made 104 (not out). The score of Hall's side was 393, and at the drawing of stumps Sherwin's eleven, with three wickets to fall, wanted 63 more runs to avert the follow on.

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

Shrewsbury achieved the great feat of carrying his bat through the innings in this match at Bradford. In the early part of the season the ill-fortune of this celebrated batsman led people to think that he had lost much of his batting skill. But his fine form these last few weeks has quite falsified these opinions. His 151 not out was a fine performance and quite worthy of his reputation. Two individual innings of 150 in one match furnishes almost a novelty. Yesterday the game was left drawn . . .

20 July: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3720.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 11)

The heavy rain at Taunton yesterday prevented any play in this match, and the start was postponed until to-day.

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

After a day's compulsory idleness on account of the wet weather these teams began their match at Taunton yesterday.

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

After the enforced idleness in the match between these counties at Taunton on Mon on account of weather, Tuesday and a little play yesterday proved sufficient to decide the contest. It will be remembered that at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday the visitors were all out for 94, while Somerset had amassed 236. The former had gone in a second time and lost half their wickets for 69. Thus when the game was resumed at 11.30 yesterday Gloucestershire had the disheartening task set them of getting 73 to avoid a single innings defeat.

Mr Radcliffe (the not out with 39) had Mr Townsend for a companion. Nichols and Tyler were intrusted with the bowling. The visitors' misfortunes soon began, as when he had added five Mr Radcliffe was bowled; he had batted well and just managed to gain the highest score of his side, among his hits were six fours, two threes and four twos. Six down. Woof was out through venturesomeness; but Murch proved an able partner for Mr Townsend. The latter sent a ball of Tyler's out of the ground, and the 100 was soon signalled. A twofold change in the attack was adopted, Messrs Woods and L Palairret going on. A capital catch at square-leg at length dismissed Murch, whose partnership with Mr Townsend had yielded 53 in a little over half an hour.

The end soon came, as Mr Woods got the last two wickets in one over. Mr Townsend hit a six, three fours, three threes, four twos &c. Somerset were put in for a single, and they ultimately won by ten wickets.

20 July: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3721.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 11)

From the score subjoined it will be seen that this match, begun yesterday at the Hove, Brighton, is so far very even.

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

The triumph of Sussex at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, was welcomed by an enthusiastic company. Although they have lost a good number of matches, Sussex have shown a marked improvement in their games this season.

20 July: WARWICKSHIRE v CHESHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128427.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 July, page 11)

Brilliant batting by Mr L C Docker characterized the play in this match at Birmingham yesterday.

No further reports found.

20 July: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128173.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 21 July, page 11)

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

Surrey's defeat by Derbyshire at Kennington Oval yesterday has furnished one of the season's surprises. While Derbyshire are to be congratulated on their success, it must be remarked that the majority of the Surrey batsmen played very badly, and in a way quite unworthy of a side that had won the whole of the first-class county matches in which they had engaged. The metropolitan eleven should certainly have fared better yesterday, but they were dismissed rapidly on a wet wicket, and in the end were decisively beaten by ten wickets.

23 July: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3722.html)

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

Yesterday furnished a batting triumph for Kent in this match at Tonbridge. Rain prevented a start before ten minutes to 2, but the wicket rapidly recovered, and from luncheon time until the drawing of stumps it played well.

The honours of the day were borne off by Mr F Marchant, whose brilliant cricket was in every way worthy his great reputation. Kent lost Mr Wilson at 16, after which Mr Marchant and A Hearne added 146 in an hour and a half for the second partnership. Beyond a chance to Mr Dixon in the long-field, with the figures at 70, the Kent captain made no mistake. His chief figures were 15 fours and six twos. A Hearne played steadily for 59, which occupied two hours and a quarter, and included nine fours, a three and six twos. Messrs Fox and Rashleigh also did well . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 12)

More batting triumphs have to be recorded from Tonbridge. Yesterday Kent, who had made 292 for six wickets on Thursday, did not complete their innings until the score had been increased by 90 runs.

Mr Fox made his first 100 for the county, an honour well deserved by him after the great service he has rendered to Kent these last few years. Mr Fox took three hours to obtain his 103, in which were 16 fours, two threes and seven twos, while a single was increased to five by an overthrow.

Nottinghamshire had an uphill game to play, and into this they threw great spirit. Again Shrewsbury showed that he has quite recovered his form. His innings of 82 extended over four hours, and included ten fours, five threes and six twos. He went in first and was fifth out at 231. Several other Notts batsmen did well . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 7)

When play ceased in this match on Friday evening at Tonbridge there seemed some probability of the powerful midland team having to follow on, as with six wickets down they were yet 140 behind.

Flowers, the not out with 53, played very finely, however, and received great assistance from Attewell and Bagguley. But the Kent fielding at times grew lax and the batsmen had various escapes. In an hour and three-quarters the visitors increased their score by 104 runs, and Sherwin being unable to go in owing to an injured hand the innings closed. Flowers once again proved what an invaluable batsman he can be at a critical period, and his 116 will rank among his best achievements for the county. His chief hits were 16 fours. Nottinghamshire were only 36 behind.

In their second venture the home team quickly had two of their men dismissed, but Messrs Marchant, Patterson and Fox fared well, and Kent declared their innings at an end when they were 156 ahead, leaving the rivals 50 minutes to play. Mr Wright, Shrewsbury and Mr Dixon were out for 27, and then Barnes and Gunn kept together for the remainder of the time, and the game was

finally drawn.

23 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3723.html)

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

Many years have elapsed since Dr W G Grace was away from a Gloucestershire match. Yesterday, however, at Old Trafford, Manchester, he stood out of the side in consequence of a severe strain. Lancashire were well represented, but in the absence of their regular wicket-keeper they gave a trial to W Pilling, a brother of the late Richard Pilling.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 12)

In spite of the advantage obtained by them on the opening day of the match at Old Trafford, Manchester, Lancashire were yesterday hard pressed and managed to win by only four wickets, a very different result from what had been expected after Thursday's play.

To Mr Radcliffe belong the honours of the game. After Gloucestershire had followed on against a majority of 125, Mr Radcliffe, in two and a quarter hours, put together 116. Mr Pullen assisted him to add 50 for the third wicket, and Mr Sainsbury 70 for the fourth. Mr Radcliffe's great batting feat ended at 165. His chief hits were 13 fours, three threes and 19 twos.

Lancashire went in to make 87 for victory. With six men out 20 runs were still wanted, but Mr Hornby and Baker then hit off the number, and Lancashire won by four wickets.

23 July: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3724.html)

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

The batting success of the visitors at Taunton yesterday will almost come as a surprise. Lord Hawke has been rather unfortunate in the matter of scoring during the summer, but his brilliant achievement yesterday showed that he has not quite lost his batting skill. Yorkshire were without Peel and Mr F S Jackson, the former having been injured.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 12)

There was a fine day's cricket at Taunton yesterday, but although the home side saved the follow-on Yorkshire secured a great advantage by the time that stumps were drawn.

Somerset resumed their innings. Mr L C H Palairt was seventh out at 177 for a vigorous 76, in which were eight fours, five threes and six twos. Amidst some excitement Somerset managed to avert following their innings, and Yorkshire began the second venture with a lead of 71. Subsequently the cricket was characterized by the brilliancy of Ulyett's batting. He was seen at his best, and his 110, will rank among his greatest achievements.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 7)

With their brilliant victory over Somerset at Taunton on Saturday Yorkshire, it is hoped, have broken the spell of ill-fortune that has so persistently pursued the side this season. Yorkshire on Friday night had entered upon their second innings, and were 270 ahead with five wickets in hand at the drawing of stumps.

When play was resumed Ulyett's fine display of hitting was soon closed by a return catch; he went in third at six and was seventh out at 219, having scored 118 in two and a half hours by two sixes (drives out of the ground), 14 fours, three threes, eight twos &c. Eight wickets were lost for 2311 Wainwright and Hunter then added 59 in a little over half an hour. By very vigorous cricket Wainwright obtained 54 before being bowled; his principal hits were seven fours. Eventually the innings realized 315. During the morning 116 had been made in an hour and a quarter.

There were four and a half hours left for play when Somerset went in, 386 being necessary to avoid defeat. Messrs Hewett and Fowler quickly ran up 33, but four men were dismissed at these figures. Wainwright followed up his capital batting with very good bowling, while after luncheon Harrison took three of the last five wickets for seven runs. Mr Woods and Mr Hill batted well, but eventually Yorkshire won by 262 runs.

23 July: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128420.html)

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

Essex and Warwickshire began at match at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday. The feature of the play was the fine innings of 72 by Mr A P Lucas for Essex. At the end of the day Essex had made 191 and Warwickshire 44 for two wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 12)

Essex gained a brilliant victory over Warwickshire at Leyton yesterday, winning by ten wickets. Mead bowled wonderfully well for the home county. Essex scored 191 and 23 (no wicket), and Warwickshire 88 and 125.

27 July: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3725.html)

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

Rain fell heavily yesterday morning at Kennington-oval, but the weather cleared soon after luncheon and a decision was made to start play about 4. The weather, however, became wet again, and eventually the match was put off until this morning at 11.30. Maurice Read stands out of the Surrey team owing to an injury sustained in Scotland last week.

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

The Sussex batsmen found the slow wicket at Kennington Oval yesterday of a very different nature from those to which they have of late been accustomed. Long before the innings was over the visitors must have contrasted their feeble batting with some of the brilliant achievements at the Hove, Brighton, this season.

Surrey gained a substantial advantage; the rain late in the afternoon proved a friend to them and, with the wicket wet and easy, they scored 100 runs in the last hour of the day. Mr R N Douglas took M Read's place in the home eleven, while, with Butt injured, the veteran H Phillips again appeared as the Sussex wicket-keeper. Several thousand people visited the Oval, and the weather during the greater part of the cricketing hours was fine.

Sussex won the toss and took first innings. Sharpe and Lohmann were the early bowlers. Marlow and Bean started fairly well, making 22 before the latter's dismissal; but the batsmen then left rapidly. Messrs Brann, Newham and Wilson all failed to score, and at the end of an hour and a quarter the record stood at 61 for five wickets. Marlow continued his steady defence. Humphreys helped to add 11, but the best stand was by Parris and Marlow, who put on 24 for the eighth partnership. Parris made various good drives and, had he hastened, might have scored five by a leg hit from Lohmann. When the 100 had been reached Parris, in trying to pull a ball, had his middle stump bowled down.

After luncheon the venture quickly ended for 123. Marlow had taken his bat through the innings for 43; he gave no chance during his two-and-a-half hours' stay, and his chief hits were four fours, four threes and four twos. Lockwood's analysis came out best – viz., five wickets for 25 runs.

Surrey, who went in at a quarter-past 3, lost Mr Shuter and Mr Douglas for 17 runs; the former played on and the latter was caught at extra slip. Abel, who had narrowly escaped being taken at point, and Mr W W Read gave a lot of trouble, and 50 appeared after three-quarters of an hour's play. Good fielding by Bean (cover-point) and Mr Andrews (mid-off) was loudly cheered. Fifty-one runs had been added in as many minutes when Mr Read was well caught and bowled by Hide, who held a hard return with his left hand. Abel left at the same total, four wickets being down for 68.

Henderson and Lohmann played very cautiously at the outset and the play grew dull, but the quietude was relieved by several brilliant pieces of fielding. Lohmann began to bat freely. The 100 went up at 5 o'clock, directly after which Henderson was bowled, and rain stopped the game for three-quarters of an hour. On resuming, Lockwood and Lohmann obtained runs freely from Mr

Wilson, and at 10 minutes past 6 the Surrey score was passed. The figures rose rapidly until 136, when Lohmann played under a ball which went into the hands of slip. In his excellent 40 were four fours, three threes and four twos.

Mr Key was later in the "order" than usual. Lockwood, who got most of the bowling, scored freely from both ends. Mr Key, too, started scoring fast, and in half an hour the partnership yielded 50 runs, while 61 had been put on when Humphreys got Mr Key well caught at wicket on the leg side. Humphreys had not been tried before 183, and he was effective in his second over. Seven for 197. After the 200 was reached an easy catch at mid-off closed the capital innings of Lockwood, whose chief hits were four fours, five threes and five twos. Humphreys quickly dismissed the last two batsmen, and the innings ended for 205.

In rather over an hour since the interruption by rain the last five wickets produced 102 runs, although the innings finished more rapidly than might have been expected. The 190 went up with only six men out, yet the whole side was disposed of for 205. To-day Sussex go in a second time with arrears of 82.

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

In consequence of the bad weather very little play was possible in this match at Kennington Oval yesterday, and late in the day the game was left drawn. Surrey had a considerable advantage on the first innings, and their lead of 82 had been reduced by only 11 at the cost of one Sussex wicket when the contest was abandoned.

Lohmann and Abel were the bowlers during yesterday's cricket. The former beat Marlow with a good ball in the third over, and Bean narrowly escaped being caught at point by Mr W W Read from the other end. Soon after Mr Newham's arrival the weather became wet again, and having waited until half-past 5 the umpires declared the wicket unfit for further play. Surrey had won all their previous first-class county matches.

27 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3726.html)

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

Mr W G Grace was sufficiently well yesterday to resume his captaincy of the Gloucestershire eleven at the Bramall-lane Ground, Sheffield, but he did not bowl and he had a man to run for him whilst batting. Mr Townsend is absent from the Western county side, and Mr F S Jackson is kept away from Yorkshire by an injury.

Going in first, Yorkshire opened in a promising manner. Lord Hawke and Hall scored rapidly and, in spite of bowling changes, 50 went up in 35 minutes, but 13 runs later a ball from Murch dismissed the Yorkshire captain. Ulyett did not stay long, as when Woof went on to bowl again he was completely beaten. With Wardall in the 100 soon appeared, and at the luncheon adjournment the record stood at 112 for two wickets.

After the interval Wardall was bowled. Peel and Hall offered further resistance, the latter reaching his 50 after an hour and three-quarters' stay. Peel batted vigorously, and so did Mr Smith after an escape at the hands of Dr E M Grace at point. Hall was out at 160; he had made his runs with more than his customary freedom and gave no chance. The chief hits in his 60, with extended over two and a quarter hours, were seven fours, seven threes and two twos. Mr Smith and Wainwright put on 63 runs in 35 minutes for the seventh wicket, the former being then caught at long-off. Wainwright obtained 68 in an hour and a quarter by nine fours, six threes, four twos and six singles. He was missed by Iles in the slips at 41, and subsequently Mr Radcliffe, at mid-off, let him escape. Murch bowled with great success, his eight wickets averaging rather more than 12 runs each. Yorkshire were all out by 5 o'clock.

The visitors fared badly in the hour and a quarter that they were in. Dr W G Grace made seven out of the first 27 runs . . .

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

Gloucestershire made a determined effort to retrieve their lost fortunes at Sheffield yesterday, but in the end Yorkshire easily triumphed. Overnight the home team had completed an innings for 283, and seven of the visitors were out for 81. On resuming Gloucestershire finished the first venture for an addition of ten runs.

They followed on against a majority of 192, and started in a most promising manner. Dr E M Grace and Mr Radcliffe scored rapidly, the former making four fours in Wainwright's opening over. At the end of 20 minutes the record stood at 45, and the figures had reached 75 before a catch at slip sent back Dr E M Grace. Six runs later Mr Radcliffe, who had made 50 out of 81 in three-quarters of an hour, was dismissed. Then Dr W G Grace played on – first ball – and Painter was bowled. But a stand was made by Messrs Pullen and Sainsbury. The arrears were made up with six wickets in hand, and in an hour and a quarter 123 runs had been added, when the batsmen were separated. Mr Pullen was taken at point for 86, the only mistake in a remarkable innings being a chance to mid-on at 60. His principal hits were 16 fours, three threes and two twos.

Mr Sainsbury was in an hour and a half for 36. The remaining batsmen did little, and the total

reached 222. Of this number 198 had been contributed by Messrs Pullen, Radcliffe and Sainsbury, and Dr E M Grace. Yorkshire, who had only 31 to make for victory, won by ten wickets.

30 July: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3727.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

Very little cricket was possible in this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, rain delaying the start for an hour and preventing any play after luncheon.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 8)

On the slow wicket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, Lancashire secured a substantial advantage over Yorkshire. It will be remembered that there was only a little play on Thursday.

Yesterday's cricket was characterized in its early stages by the brilliant batting of Ward and Sugg, who put on 118 for the second wicket. Ward made 70 in two and a half hours, hit chief hits being six fours, seven threes and four twos, while Sugg got his runs much more quickly by nine fours, three threes, seven twos and singles. Messrs Smith and Crosfield and Yates also did well, and the innings realized 288.

Yorkshire started badly, but Peel and Wainwright greatly improved the position of affairs. Owing to the sudden indisposition of Mr Sellers the Lancashire captain allowed Yorkshire to complete their side with Mr Jackson of Leeds.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 August, page 6)

The state of this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Friday evening pointed to an easy victory for the home county, and Saturday saw Lancashire win even more decisively than was expected. Peel batted remarkably well, and beyond a very hard return to Mold, in attempting to take which the latter was injured, he gave no chance. Yorkshire had to follow on against a majority of 138, a task which proved altogether beyond them.

30 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3728.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

Dr W G Grace's misfortunes follow each other quickly. Yesterday the injury to his knee was so much better that he had intended taking part in this match at Trent-bridge, but whilst practising he strained his back and at the last moment had to stand out of the side.

From Nottingham Barnes and Sherwin, both suffering from slight injuries, were absent, although it is hoped that they will be well enough to appear at the Oval next Monday. Wharmby, a man of some promise, and Mr W Marshall, the captain of the Notts Castle Club, filled the vacancies in the eleven. Mr C W Wright kept wicket. The weather was cold and showery . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 8)

The defeat of the Nottinghamshire eleven at Trent-bridge yesterday, at the hands of Gloucestershire, by an innings and 122 runs, will come as a great surprise to a large majority of the cricketing community.

30 July: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3729.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

Yesterday was a bowler's day at Taunton, when these counties began their return match. The treacherous state of the pitch is considerably borne out by the scores, and the 24 wickets which fell averaged a fraction over nine runs each.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 8)

Both sides are to be congratulated on the brilliancy of this match, finished at Taunton yesterday, which was ultimately won by Kent by four wickets.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128183.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

In consequence of the bad weather no play was possible in this match at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday. A start will be made this morning.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 8)

After a day's enforced idleness through the bad weather, a start was made in this match at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday. The rain, however, allowed of less than two hours' cricket. In the absence of Mr Shuter and Maurice Read, Watts and Ayres were included in the Surrey team, captained by Mr W W Read. With the exception that Mr A P Lucas was away, Essex had their full strength.

On a slow wicket the visitors made a start at 11.25 with Abel and Lockwood. Pickett and Mead were the bowlers. Six wickets were down when rain stopped the game at 2 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 August, page 6)

Although the delays by rain on Thursday and Friday made the reaching of a definite issue in this match rather improbable, yet a large company assembled on Saturday afternoon at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton. The match was left drawn without either side having gained a decided advantage. Surrey made 127 and 114, and Essex 88 in one innings.

3 August: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3730.html)

Monday 3 August, page 6: THE CANTERBURY WEEK

The 50th anniversary of the Week at Canterbury will be celebrated in a manner well worthy of the famous festival. Kent v Gloucestershire and Kent v Surrey furnish a cricket programme of great excellence, and it is hoped that Dr W G Grace will have sufficiently recovered to play in the first of the matches. To-day the Kent eleven will consist of . . .

The “Old Stagers” will on Wednesday evening be entertained at a banquet at the Foresters’-hall by the Mayor and the Kent County Club, and there will be the usual dramatic performances at the theatre on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The city is to be specially illuminated at night.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 August, page 8)

Celebrations of jubilees have been plentiful of late, and now it is a cricket festival that has completed its 50 years of existence. The Canterbury Cricket Week is quite an institution among the large cricketing community, and at present attention is concentrated on a festival loved well of all whose good fortune has led them into the ancient city at perhaps the only time of the year when it discards its customary garb of sombreness and quietude. Street decorations, illuminations, dances, banquets, amateur theatricals, all combine to lend a helping hand to the entertainment of visitors after the day’s play is done.

Of course the cricket is the thing. The appearances of the county of the Graces and of the champion eleven furnish a programme of unequalled excellence. The jubilee, too, has come at a time when Kent possess a side worthy in every respect of its high place in the history of the game. So long ago as 1841 the Canterbury Week was founded, but it was a year later when the “Old Stagers,” who are inseparable from the festival, appeared on the scene, and thus the Week is said to begin at 1842. Since then there has been no break in the observance of the anniversary.

The Week has witnessed many changes in the game. In early times Kent were sufficiently strong to contest games with All England. As the “sixties” were approached, age had proved the master of a good deal of Kent’s skill, and England were opposed by 14 and 16 of Kent, and sometimes the county would combine with Surrey or Sussex to play the Rest of England.

The mere mention of a Grace seems to bring us much nearer to 1891, but it was in 1862 when a presentation was thus made to Dr E M: - “With this ball, presented by the MCC to E M Grace, he got every wicket in the second innings, in the match played at Canterbury August 14 and 15, 1862, Gentlemen of Kent v England, for whom he played as an emergency, and in which, going in first, he scored 192, not out.” In 1868 Dr W G Grace for South v North scored two hundreds in one match – 130 and 102 (not out).

On the opening night of the festival in 1842 the following lines formed a part of the prologue written and spoken by Tom Taylor: -

“Your cricketer no cogging practice knows,
“No trick to favour friends or cripple foes,
“His motto still is ‘May the best men win.’
“Let Sussex boast her Taylor, Kent her Mynn,
“Your cricketer, right English to the core,
“Still loves the man best he has licked before.”

“The Canterbury Week, its Origin, Career and Jubilee” contains the scores and numerous incidents of the Week collected by Mr F Milton Small, whose interesting work should have afforded much pleasure to many of the spectators during the rain of yesterday. This week the “Old Stagers” play In Honour Bound, the Paper Chase, A Thumping Legacy, Nine Points of the Law and Box and Cox.

Everyone would have been pleased to see Lord Harris back at Canterbury taking part in the festival with which he has so long been identified.

It is a little distressing to begin with a regret, yet there must have been keen disappointment among the 5,000 people who yesterday visited the St Lawrence Ground that Dr W G Grace had not sufficiently recovered to captain Gloucestershire. Under these circumstances the leadership of the western county devolved on his brother, Dr E M, who had not been at Canterbury for upwards of 20 years. Mr Townsend, too, was kept out of the visitors’ eleven by an injury. Mr W H Patterson captains Kent’s strongest team.

Though rain prevented a start before 3.50, great progress was made in the comparatively brief time of cricket. Dr E M Grace having won the toss, Mr Radcliffe began the Gloucestershire innings on a wet and, for the time being, an easy wicket. Martin and Wright were the bowlers. Dr E M Grace did not remain very long, as a good running catch from cover-point disposed of him, while at 21 Mr Radcliffe was dextrously caught at the wicket. Mr Pullen and Painter scored so freely that the 50 appeared after half an hour’s play. Having obtained 15, the amateur gave a difficult chance to George Hearne at mid-off. The last-named subsequently took up the bowling at Martin’s end. At 70 a brilliant right hand catch, low down, at extra mid-off by Mr Patterson dismissed Painter. The third wicket had produced 49 runs. Three for 70.

From this stage the visitors’ innings collapsed. Messrs Page and Croome were out at 76, and after Mr Pullen and Mr Sainsbury had raised the score to 90, Martin went on again and bowled so well that the venture was speedily completed. He got out Mr Pullen in his first over, and when the figures had reached 100 Murch, Woof and Roberts were sent back. A single later Board, the eleventh man, left, and Mr Sainsbury took out his bat for a capital 20. The last seven wickets had fallen in an hour for 31. Martin, when he went on a second time, dismissed four batsmen for four runs. Wright, too, had bowled wonderfully well. Kent had been in ten minutes when rain stopped the game . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 11)

So far, the weather has not proved a friend to the Jubilee celebrations at Canterbury. Monday’s cricket was in a great degree spoilt by the wet, and there was only something over two hours’ play. Yesterday the rain allowed only 35 minutes for the game’s continuation and then it fell pitilessly, and everything at the St Lawrence Ground grew dull and dreary.

Gloucestershire had finished an innings for 101 and Kent had scored two runs without loss of a

wicket, when, at 11.35, the match was renewed. Woof and Roberts bowled to Mr Daffen and A Hearne. With four runs added the former succumbed to a catch at extra mid-off, the first Kent wicket falling at six. Mr Marchant arrived and the spectators prepared themselves for some fine hitting. However, after three on the leg side by each batsman and a four in the same direction by Hearne, a brilliant piece of fielding at mid-off by Mr Pullen, who made a fine catch, got rid of Mr Marchant. Two for 20. The home captain (Mr Patterson) aided A Hearne, but the partnership had only been of a few moments' duration when the heavy rain drove the players from the field.

Late in the afternoon there seemed some prospect of further progress, but the brightness ended with another shower and cricket for the day was abandoned. Some 4,000 people visited the ground in spite of the inclement weather. To-day a start will be made at 11 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 8)

The loss of time caused by the rain on Monday and Tuesday could not have been compensated for by the most rigid punctuality yesterday. Good intentions were frustrated at the outset, as an inspection of the turf at 11 o'clock resulted in a decision to wait and give the pitch some time to dry.

There was plenty in play to interest the company, but regrets were many that the contest should have been so hindered by the storms. Gloucestershire 101 and Kent 23 for two wickets was the record when at 10 minutes to 12 Mr Patterson, 3, and A Hearne, 10, resumed the home defence to the bowling of Woof and Roberts. Both batsmen played in capital form, and various good strokes were deservedly cheered. As the score rose steadily a change in the bowling was tried; Murch relieving Roberts at 45. Woof, however, quickly afterwards got Hearne caught at wicket for 24, an excellent innings. Without addition an easy catch at cover-point disposed of Mr Patterson, and four wickets were down for 47.

Messrs Rashleigh and Fox were now partners, and at 12.20 the "50" appeared. Four runs later Mr Rashleigh had his leg stump bowled down, and at 58 the same bowler got rid of Mr Wilson. Messrs M C Kemp and Fox infused great life into the game and ran up 21 runs. Mr Fox was well taken at mid-on, while at 85 Mr Kemp fell to a catch at point. Neither Martin nor Wright gave much trouble, and at 1.20 the innings was completed for 94.

Gloucestershire went in a second time, with a lead of seven runs. Mr Radcliffe played freely and with Dr E M Grace scored 27 runs before luncheon from the bowling of Wright and Martin. Off the last-named Mr Radcliffe scored four fours (three of them in one over). Some rain fell during the interval and subsequently caused a delay of three-quarters of an hour.

On resuming at 3.35 a fine catch deep on the off side by Mr Marchant dismissed Mr Radcliffe at 43. Painter joined Dr E M Grace, who played a vigorous game until secured by G G Hearne at mid-on – a very good catch. Two for 65. Painter was clean bowled, and Mr Sainsbury fell to G G Hearne, who had relieved Wright. Four for 72. Mr Pullen attempted to force the game, but was finely caught in the long field by Mr Daffen, who took the ball running. Five for 79. Messrs Croome and Page batted with considerable freedom and, although Wright resumed, the 100 was announced at 4.35. Two runs later Gloucestershire declared their innings ended and put Kent in with 40 minutes to play, the visitors being 117 ahead.

Mr Daffen and A Hearne faced the bowling of Dr Grace and Wood. The attack was varied, but at

the end of half an hour the figures stood at 21. Mr Daffen was then caught at long-off, after which Mr Marchant and Hearne played out time, the match being left unfinished.

3 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3731.html)

Mon 3 August, page 6

To-day, at the Oval, the return match between these counties will begin. R Daft accompanies the Notts team, which has been chosen as follows . . . R Daft will play for Shrewsbury, should the latter not have sufficiently recovered from the injury sustained in the Notts v Gloucestershire match . . .

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 August, page 8)

While the day has long since passed when Notts used to come up to the Oval on the August Bank Holiday and beat Surrey with a regularity that must have almost stifled the spirit in the southern shire, only a season or so has elapsed since the superiority of Surrey over the midland county became so manifest. Even the one-sidedness of the records this season did not affect the “gate” at the Oval yesterday, for the numbers reached about 25,000.

Necessarily there was a considerable holiday element in the crowd. Any little incident at all allied to humour – a mistake in the field or an error in batting – was never passed over by a large section of the spectators, although generally it seemed more a cricket crowd than has frequently been seen at the Oval on similar occasions.

Shrewsbury’s injured hand prevented his taking part in the game, and Mr Richard Daft was once again given a place in the Notts eleven. This decision of the Midland executive was no doubt caused by the excellent local cricket shown of late by Mr Daft, who is now in his 56th year, and whose last county match was in 1881. It is curious that he should have come back to important cricket after a lapse of ten years, and then as a substitute for Shrewsbury, who has imitated him in style with a success that made the copy almost equal to the original. Another incident is the fact that father and son were playing in one match. Maurice Read not having sufficiently recovered from injury, Mr E C Streatfeild, of Cambridge University, took the eleventh Surrey place.

Sunday’s storms had left the ground terribly soft, and early in the morning everyone was ready to predict a bowler’s match. But it needed no particularly keen foresight to outline the manner of the day’s cricket. And what appeared probable became facts before the drawing of stumps. Various showers prevented the turf’s growing so treacherous as it would have done without rain, yet very few instances of the triumph of batting transpired, and without mistakes in the field the scoring would have been smaller. Generally the weather was bright, but, while of brief duration, the showers were heavy.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 11)

Ten thousand people visited Kennington Oval yesterday morning, and upwards of 9,800 of them were returned as having paid for admission. The journey proved to have been undertaken to see less than an hour’s cricket and a terrific hailstorm, followed by heavy rain. A very large proportion of the crowd looked round in vain for shelter against the hail and rain, which drove with great force across the ground.

The early morning was bright and hopeful, and the game was resumed at 11.35. Surrey had made 176, and Notts for two wickets were credited with 34 runs. Gunn (13) and Barnes (5) were the not-outs, while the bowling was shared by Lohmann and Streatfeild. The wicket remained in about the same condition as on Monday.

Gunn at once grew busy, and after making six by two hits from the amateur he stepped forward to play Lohmann, and drove the ball over the covered stand on the right of the pavilion. This brought the 50 up shortly before 12 o'clock. So far the innings had lasted an hour and ten minutes. Barnes, having obtained 11, gave a chance to Mr W W Read, but he profited little by the escape, as at 54 Lockwood clean bowled him. Mr Richard Daft, as he made his way in, was very warmly greeted by the crowd. Lockwood now displaced Mr Streatfeild. Gunn drove him for four, while Mr Daft showed capital form and thrice sent Lohmann for two. At 64, however, Gunn hit a little hastily at a ball from Lockwood and gave Mr Key an easy catch at mid-on. Lockwood had twice nearly bowled Gunn, whose 30, however, was a capital innings. Four for 64. Attewell came next, and Mr Daft drove Lohmann to the off for four and to the on for two. At 70 Attewell was clean bowled. Five down. Mr Wright, who had been unfortunate whilst fielding on Monday, failed in batting; the first ball from Lockwood completely beat him.

Matters were going badly for Nottinghamshire when the storm of hail, thunder and subsequently rain broke over the ground. The weather never seemed likely to mend, but it was not until nearly 5 o'clock that the decision to abandon every idea of further play was announced. Lockwood's analysis during the morning was three wickets for four runs. To-day Nottinghamshire, with four wickets in hand, will have to make 27 to save the follow on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 8)

The dependence of cricket on the weather was never better exemplified than in this match. The game loses much of its charm under the conditions that existed at Kennington Oval during the early part of this week. Rain reduced the wicket to a deplorable state and, although the sun shone out brilliantly yesterday, play was impracticable before noon.

Any hope the visitors may have had of saving the follow on was rapidly dispelled, and of actual cricket there was not much more than two hours. An idea of the condition of the pitch may be secured from the fact that in this time 14 wickets fell for 60 runs. Thus Surrey continued their victorious career. Next to the bad weather the fixture will be perhaps best remembered for the wonderful bowling of Lohmann and Lockwood.

Mr Richard Daft, the not out with 12, was accompanied to the wicket by his son to continued the Notts first innings. The record stood thus: - Surrey, 176; Nottinghamshire, 70 for six wickets. With his first ball Lohmann got Mr Richard Daft caught low down at slip. The fifth, sixth and seventh wickets had all fallen at 70. H B Daft and Shacklock played cautiously, and in 20 minutes six runs were added. Then H B Daft was taken at slip and Bagguley was dismissed by the third ball sent him by Lockwood, nine men being out for 82, so that when Sherwin, the last man, came in 15 runs were yet required to avert the "follow on." For a time the play became very interesting, but at 86 Shacklock hit a ball to third man and a run was attempted. Lockwood, however, returned the ball unerringly to Wood and Sherwin was run out.

At a quarter past 1 the visitors went in a second time. Lohmann opened the bowling, and with his

first ball sent back Flowers, caught at cover-point. Gunn batted steadily until at five he played on. Mr R Daft and Barnes were partners some time, but with small results, as with the figures at seven the former was well caught in the long field by Brockwell. When Mr Dixon arrived Barnes had an escape at the hands of Brockwell, who, after judging the ball with great precision, missed the catch. Barnes then made various good strokes, including a cut for three from Lockwood. The score at luncheon time was 18.

Subsequently, Lohmann and Lockwood again had charge of the bowling. An easy catch at cover-point quickly dismissed Mr Dixon, and four men were out for 22. Mr Wright played on at 30, and with half the side out 60 runs were wanted to save the innings defeat. Attewell stayed while 14 runs were added and then skied the ball to mid-on. Barnes at 44 had his off stump bowled down, and without addition Lohmann sent back H B Daft. Shacklock and Bagguley were also quickly out, the last-named being bowled by a ball which broke in so much that the batsmen did not attempt to play it. The sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth wickets all fell at the same total – 44.

The bowling figures of Lohmann and Lockwood were remarkable; the latter in the double innings claimed eight wickets for 28, while Lohmann's ten cost only 56 runs. Surrey thus won by an innings and 46 runs. At the close of the match an enthusiastic crowd gathered in front of the pavilion and loudly cheered the various players. Surrey have now won nine of out ten first-class county matches, the game with Sussex being drawn.

3 August: LANCASHIRE v ESSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128176.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 August, page 8)

Rain greatly interfered with this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday. Both counties were well represented. Essex took first innings, and in the hour and three-quarters over which play extended after luncheon, five wickets fell to the bowling of Briggs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 11)

At one time yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester, the southerners secured a considerable advantage, but in the end Lancashire had the best of matters. Rain interfered with cricket, and it was after 3 o'clock when Essex resumed their innings, in which five wickets had fallen for 79. In an hour the venture was completed for an addition of 39. Mr Rowe's 21 occupied two hours.

Lancashire lost seven wickets for 51, but then F Ward and Mr Crosfield doubled this number, and these batsmen were still together at the close of the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 8)

There was little to choose between the scores of the sides in this match at Manchester on Tuesday evening. Yesterday, however, the last three Lancastrian wickets put on 51, which gave the home eleven a lead of 25 on the innings. Briggs again bowled with great effect, and although the visitors put together 61 for the loss of two batsmen, the whole team was out for 99. Briggs took 14 wickets in the match.

Lancashire wanted 75 to win. A Ward left in the first over, but then Sugg and Heaton hit off the runs in 50 minutes, and gained the victory by nine wickets.

3 August: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128187.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 August, page 8)

Yesterday, at Southampton, the day's play in this match proved of an interesting nature. No cricket was practicable before luncheon. Afterwards Hampshire completed their first innings in two hours. The best form was that by Mr Hill, who took out his bat. He hit eight fours, a three and two twos. In the absence of Butt, through an injury, Mr Dudney kept wicket for Sussex.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 11)

After a great deal of rain at Southampton yesterday, some progress was made with this match late in the afternoon. Mr Brann hit three fours in his 26 . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 8)

Yesterday, at Southampton, the visitors played a winning game the whole time. Having secured an advantage of 21 on the first innings, Sussex got their opponents out in an hour and a half for 57. Tate and Humphreys bowled with great success. Sussex had 37 to make for victory, which number they obtained after losing three wickets.

3 August: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/113/113425.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 August, page 8)

The bowlers had matters all their own way in this match at Birmingham yesterday. Warwickshire went in first, but Peel and Harrison rapidly dismissed the side, the latter's six wickets averaging a little over five runs each. Yorkshire fared little better. During the day 17 wickets fell for 144 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 11)

Yesterday furnished almost as many bowling triumphs as Monday had done, but in the end Yorkshire won easily. When stumps were drawn at Birmingham on the first evening there was not very much to choose between the positions of the sides. Hall batted with great care and took his bat through the visitors' innings for 33, which occupied two hours and a quarter. Yorkshire won by eight wickets.

6 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3732.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 4)

Yesterday's play in the return match between Gloucestershire and Sussex furnished cricket of an extraordinary character, as the score will show. Sussex lost the services of Marlow through an injury to his hand, and Wells did not arrive in time to bat. Dr W G Grace was sufficiently well to captain the western county.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 7)

After a match in which the bowlers always held an advantage, Sussex were victorious at Clifton yesterday afternoon. Although matters went so badly for Gloucestershire on the opening day their friends had certainly not given up hope of success. Sussex at the close were 105 ahead, with five wickets to fall.

The game was resumed in fine weather and before a large company. Eighty runs were added in an hour and a half by the visitors before the last wicket fell. Mr Smith played freely and obtained 31. During the morning Murch secured three wickets for nine runs.

Gloucestershire were left with 186 to get for victory, but on the treacherous turf the accomplishment of the task was highly improbable. Dr E M Grace hit vigorously, and Painter and Mr Pullen also made some good strokes. Seven wickets were lost for 75, after which Roberts, Murch and Broad batted resolutely, Roberts and Board adding 29 for the last wicket. In two hours the innings ended for 130, and Sussex won by 55 runs. A feature of the match was the remarkable bowling of Tate, whose record was 12 wickets for 61 runs.

6 August: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3733.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 4)

The weather yesterday showed no relenting spirit, and its unkindness was again most keenly felt. Ladies' Day and a match of so much interest as Kent v Surrey possessed sufficiently powerful attraction to frustrate the ordinary results of rain and a threatening morning, which did not stay the keepers of the jubilee celebrations. With conditions so unfavourable the conditions at the St Lawrence Ground nevertheless mustered about 7,000 strong.

As last year, Kent were fortunate in securing such an excellent fixture for the second match of the week. Both elevens were thoroughly representative, yet it may be remarked that Maurice Read would have been found a place for Surrey had he been thoroughly well. Mr W H Patterson led the same eleven into the field as had met Gloucestershire, and the visitors were identical with the victors over Notts on Wednesday.

Mr Shuter's good fortune in tossing for choice of innings has become almost proverbial, so it was with no surprise that people heard of his success yesterday. Owing to the rain there was very little cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 7)

Glorious may be written regarding yesterday's weather, but the term would scarcely be applicable to the cricket. Good bowling on a bad wicket has not been sufficiently uncommon this season to be regarded as brilliant cricket. Yesterday brought many batting failures and various bowling triumphs. Surrey have again been favoured with good fortune, and winning the toss has once more meant in all probability winning the match.

Another crowd of 7,000 or thereabouts showed that the interest in the festival has not waned, and perhaps for the first time during the week the St Lawrence Ground presented a spectacle worthy of its past associations. Under the influence of the hot sun the ground rapidly grew treacherous; its assistance to the bowlers became apparent half-way through Surrey's innings, but it was poor Kent that most suffered, and the home county's friends had to be content with regrets of their side's misfortunes.

In the hour's play on Thursday Surrey had made 60 for one wicket. They resumed their innings at 25 minutes to 12 yesterday, Lockwood and Abel being opposed by Martin and Wright. In the former's first over Lockwood was nearly bowled. Runs were added steadily and there were many good hits, the batsmen showing no lack of confidence. At 94 A and G G Hearne took up the attack, but with yet only one man out the 100 was telegraphed at half-past 12. With his figures at 41 Lockwood narrowly escaped dismissal; he made a bad stroke towards cover-point, but Mr Fox just failed to get properly to the ball. At length at 111 A Hearne bowled Lockwood in an unmistakable manner, the middle stump going down. In an hour and three-quarters the partnership had run out 82 runs; of this number Lockwood was credited with 48, in which were five fours.

Mr W W Read came in, and Wright resumed bowling in lieu of George Hearne. A cheer was given for Abel as that famous batsman reached his 50; but the end of this admirable innings was then

near, and he, too, was dismissed by A Hearne. Abel was in two and a half hours, and his chief scores were four fours, two threes and eight twos. A catch at cover-point soon disposed of Mr Read, and four wickets were down for 122. The bowlers steadily triumphed; at 138 Lohmann fell to the wicket-keeper, and Henderson cut the ball into point's hands, the record at luncheon being 144 for six.

On resuming the last four wickets averaged a fraction under six runs each, but it was Mr Streatfeild who got nearly all the runs. A clever catch at cover-point disposed of Mr Key, Mr Kemp secured Brockwell, Wood was taken at slip and Mr Streatfeild was last to leave – also caught at slip. Time, 3.25; total, 169.

Already there had been many signs of the wicket's condition, and the prospects of Kent against the famous Surrey bowlers were not bright. It was a quarter to 4 when the home side began their innings, A Hearne and Mr Daffen facing Lohmann and Lockwood. Before a run had been noted the professional was caught at slip, and Mr Marchant arrived. The latter played in his well-known free manner, but lost Mr Daffen at 19. Mr W H Patterson came next. Mr Marchant continued to bat well. He twice cut Lockwood to the boundary, and drove him for two other fours. This fast scoring brought on Sharpe at 41, but Lohmann immediately after took a wicket by bowling Mr Marchant, whose 31 included six fours, two twos and three singles.

Mr Fox was next on the "order," and the 50 appeared. Soon afterwards came the startling collapse of the home batting. Sharpe bowled Mr Fox and had Mr Rashleigh caught at cover-point in one over. Lohmann sent back Mr Wilson, George Hearne was out scoreless and Mr Kemp was bowled. Eight for 57. Mr Patterson's careful innings soon afterwards ended, while the disposal of Martin closed the innings for 69 at a quarter past 5. Lohmann bowled finely and took every advantage of the wicket, and Sharpe, too, had a good analysis.

Kent followed on with arrears of 100, and the start of their second innings was not hopeful. Lohmann and Sharpe were again the bowlers. The Kent captain did not long have the assistance of Mr Rashleigh, whom Lohmann got rid of at 9. Nor did Mr Marchant stay any length of time, and two wickets were lost for 20. Then A Hearne and Mr Patterson kept together until the close . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 7)

While the jubilee celebrations at Canterbury were so full of success, yet Kent will scarcely recall the cricket portion of the festival with much delight. The weather ruined the first match, and in the second rendered to Surrey that advantage of which the champion county has this season been usually able to boast as a consequence of Mr Shuter's frequent success in winning the toss. For Kent the fine weather came at the wrong time. Had there been a little rain on the Friday it would have made the conditions of the game far less uneven; but the hot sun proved a friend to the Surrey bowlers, and Surrey's score was very formidable to play against with the wicket so false.

It may be remembered that the decision to play late on Thursday afternoon, when the ground was quite unfit for cricket, also materially helped Surrey. Memories of last year's exciting finish were revived only to point a contrast – how Surrey's last man was almost bowled by the last ball of the match, but, escaping, saved the visitors from defeat.

Although Saturday's cricket was comparatively brief, it was sufficiently long to produce much good play. Against almost insurmountable difficulties Kent fought a losing battle with courage worthy of

the county's best traditions, and the Surrey bowlers in their triumphs frequently felt the vigour of Mr Wilson's batting. This victory raises Surrey's brilliant record among the counties to ten wins and one draw out of 11 matches played.

There was a good attendance on the St Lawrence Ground in the morning to see the closing incidents of the match. The wicket was as bad as ever, and this was not the only misfortune for Kent. Mr Kemp's hand had been so severely injured as to prevent his taking a second innings, and his absence was a severe loss. The home side wanted 60 runs to avert the innings defeat, and had eight wickets to fall. Against the bowling of Lohmann and Sharpe, Mr Patterson and A Hearne resumed batting at 25 minutes to 12.

Hearne cut Lohmann for three and obtained four by a square-leg hit from the other end. However, at 48 he was out leg-before. Mr Fox arrived and the 50 was reached. Six runs later Mr W H Patterson had his leg stump bowled down, and two other batsmen were out, while after Mr Wilson had made four by a drive George Hearne was dismissed. Seven for 60. Wright joined Mr Wilson, who batted freely. When 22 runs had been added Lockwood relieved Sharpe, only to have ten scored in an over from him. Mr Wilson scored four and two by leg hits. Then Sharpe resumed, but Mr Wilson scored ten in his first over by two fours and a two, bringing the 100 up and averting the innings defeat. Lockwood was now put on at Lohmann's end, and with his first ball he got out Wright. The partnership had realized 44 runs. Martin soon left, and the innings ended for 104. Mr Wilson carried out his bat for an excellent 32.

Surrey had only five to make for victory, and Messrs Shuter and Key went in to get them. The former scored a couple, and then Mr Key with a pull for four won the match for Surrey by ten wickets. Lohmann had a remarkable bowling record for the match – viz., ten wickets for 42 runs.

With the weather so unfavourable the "Old Stagers" commanded more than their usually large share of attention. And of this they proved themselves well worthy. The applause and enthusiasm of the crowded houses on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday showed how keenly appreciated were the skill and hard work of the players. With the epilogue (written by Mr W Yardley) the week's festivities virtually ended.

6 August: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3734.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 4)

A brilliant day's cricket was witnessed in this match at Bradford yesterday. At the first meeting of these counties a little time since, Somerset were decisively beaten, but yesterday with their full strength the Western eleven proved themselves quite capable of fighting an uphill game. Lord Hawke and Mr F S Jackson were absent from the home side, in which Moorhouse and Mr Frank appeared.

Yorkshire went in first and started in anything but a hopeful manner. Three wickets were down for 13, including Mr Frank, who was badly injured on the hand by a ball from Mr Woods, and retired. Peel and Wardall, however, added 50, and then Peel and Mr Smith put on 77 in three-quarters of an hour. Mr Smith played finely and contributed seven fours, a three and a two in his innings, which was terminated by a catch in the long field. Peel was bowled in the second over after luncheon for an excellent though not faultless 70; he was in an hour and a half and made ten fours, two threes and five twos. Tunnicliffe and Wainwright met with some success, and at half-past 3 the venture closed for 175.

Somerset opened in a startling manner, the first five wickets being lost for 18 runs. But during the next hour and a quarter a vastly different complexion was put on affairs. Mr L C H Palaret and Mr Woods added 87 in 40 minutes, the latter scoring 50 of this number by eight fours, a three, four twos and singles. More brilliant batting followed, Messrs Hill and L C H Palaret obtaining another 50 runs in 35 minutes. Thus the sixth and seventh wickets, in an hour and a quarter, had produced 137 runs. Mr L C H Palaret was ninth out in the last over of the day, being caught and bowled. He made nine fours in a fine innings. From the figures given below it will be seen that the game is very even.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 7)

Somerset have quite justified their inclusion in the front rank of the cricketing counties. This season has frequently seen them to great advantage. One of their best achievements was in the return match with Yorkshire, which the western county won yesterday at Bradford in brilliant fashion.

At one time on Thursday the condition of the game pointed to anything except the success of the visitors, but by the time that stumps were drawn there was little to choose between the positions of the sides. Somerset were then 18 runs behind, with one wicket to fall. Yesterday Messrs Robinson and Newton threw plenty of vigour into the batting and eventually Somerset were able to claim a lead of 26 on the innings, the last wicket having added 44 runs. Wainwright's analysis came out very well – viz. seven wickets for 73 runs.

Yorkshire went in a second time, and after Ulyett had been caught at point, a fine stand was made by Wardall and Hall, who raised the score to 80 – the partnership in an hour and ten minutes had yielded 77 runs. Wardall played a good free game. Subsequently everything went against the home side, and in three-quarters of an hour the last eight men were out, the total reaching only 116. Mr Woods in the double innings had taken 11 wickets, and this feat with his invaluable batting credited

him with a big share in the victory.

Somerset wanted 91 to win. Mr Hewett hit with his well-known brilliancy, and got 30 of the first 39 runs in 20 minutes. Four wickets fell for 50, and then Messrs Challen and Roe steadily obtained the runs, Somerset winning the match by six wickets.

6 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127186.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 August, page 4)

The match between Essex and Leicestershire was greatly delayed by rain yesterday, at Leicester. The home side went in first, and had scored 65 for three wickets at the drawing of stumps.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 August, page 7)

This match was continued yesterday at Leicester. There was much excellent cricket, the batting of Messrs Buxton and Bevington for Essex being a feature of the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 7)

Saturday's play in this match at Leicester furnished much cricket of interest. The visiting side secured a lead of 22 on the first innings, but Leicestershire did so well at the second attempt that they were able to declare their venture closed with the record at 202 for seven wickets. Warren batted well, and in his 80 were 12 fours.

The Essex batsmen played brilliantly, and during the hour and three-quarters left for play made 120 runs for the loss of only four men. The game was drawn . . .

Monday 10 August: THE COUNTIES

The positions of the leading counties are now as follows: -

	Matches				Points
	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	
Surrey	11	10	1	0	10
Notts	10	5	1	4	1
Kent	9	3	4	2	1
Lancashire	10	5	1	4	1
Middlesex	10	4	1	5	-
Somerset	8	3	1	4	-
Sussex	10	3	4	4	-
Yorkshire	12	4	0	8	-
Gloucestershire	12	2	2	8	-

The points, it will be seen, are scored by deducting losses from wins, drawn games being ignored.

10 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3735.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 7)

The return match between these counties opened at Bristol yesterday. Maurice Read again took his place in the visiting side, from which he has been absent a fortnight, and Gloucestershire also had their full strength. Fine weather was experienced and spectators mustered in strong force.

On a heavy but, for the time being, easy wicket, Gloucestershire went in first, Mr Shuter's customary good fortune in tossing for choice having for once deserted him. But Gloucestershire did not turn the advantage of first innings to much account, and Lohmann and Sharpe got the side out in two hours and a half for 103. The home players should certainly have done better. At one time, however, they were in a far worse state. Five wickets fell in three-quarters of an hour for 18.

Messrs Pullen and Page considerably improved matters, and in 50 minutes they added 56 runs for the sixth wicket. It should have been noted that Lohmann took his first four wickets in seven overs for eight runs. Mr Pullen had an escape at mid-off prior to his dismissal by a catch in the long field. Another stand by Messrs Croome and Page was followed by a rapid end to the home batting, the last wicket falling at a quarter past 4. Sharpe, towards the close, took three wickets for six runs.

Surrey did well on the difficult turf. Abel and Mr Shuter made 33 for the first wicket in half an hour, while Mr W W Read and Lohmann added 42 runs in 25 minutes for the fourth. At the drawing of stumps Surrey had secured a good advantage in spite of the admirable bowling of Dr W G Grace and Woof. In two hours the visitors made 116, Henderson and Lockwood finally playing out time . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 4)

Fortune still favours Surrey, whose success at the county ground, Bristol, yesterday, increases their record to 11 wins and one drawn game out of 12 matches played. With Surrey it is not a case of losing the toss and losing the match. Although they had the worst of the wicket on Monday, the champion county secured a considerable advantage, and yesterday they resumed the batting with only five men out and a lead of 13.

Henderson and Lockwood were opposed by Dr W G Grace and Woof. Only 11 runs were added when Lockwood drove the ball into the hands of mid-on. Henderson left at 146 and Mr Key was soon caught at point. Eight for 151. Meantime, Brockwell, with his score at 5, had an escape at the hands of Painter – a mistake for which Gloucestershire dearly paid. After a long delay through rain, Brockwell and Wood scored rapidly, and though the bowling was varied, 67 runs were put on for the ninth wicket in three-quarters of an hour. Brockwell was the last to leave – caught at point. He made 57 out of 83 in an hour by six fours, five threes, five twos and singles. The last five Surrey wickets altogether added 110 runs in an hour and a half.

The home eleven, with arrears of 123, went in a second time shortly before 3 o'clock. Dr W G and Dr E M Grace started to the bowling of Lohmann and Sharpe. Dr E M Grace made 17 out of 21 before being caught at mid-on. Mr Radcliffe was dismissed at 36, and subsequently there was a delay of half an hour owing to the rain. Dr W G Grace and Mr Pullen raised the score from 51 to 93

for the fourth wicket in 25 minutes, and thus took every advantage of the wet and easy turf. Dr W G Grace was fifth out – caught at mid-off at 111. It is a long time since he was so successful; his innings extended over an hour and three-quarters, and he made his runs in his well-known manner, without a fault. The chief hits were four fours, two threes and two twos.

After the captain had left the Gloucestershire innings collapsed, the last five wickets falling in half an hour for 14 runs. Lohmann's 11 wickets in the match averaged nine runs each; and Sharpe, too, did well. Surrey had three runs to make to win, and they gained the victory by ten wickets.

10 August: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3736.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 7)

In consequence of the heavy rains the wicket was found to be unfit for play much before 3 o'clock in this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday. Subsequently, the game greatly progressed, and a large company visited the ground. Mold had sufficiently recovered from his recent accident to take his place in the home eleven, from which the familiar figure of Barlow was absent. Somerset brought the same side that had beaten Yorkshire towards the close of last week.

The visitors won the toss and took first innings. Briggs and Mold were the bowlers. They got Messrs L C H Palairet, Hewett and Roe rapidly out, but Messrs Woods and Challen played excellently and, in spite of changes in the attack, scored 57 in 35 minutes for the fourth partnership. Seven men were out for 103. Eventually the score reached 156; Mr R C N Palairet and Tyler put of 26 for the last wicket, which fell at a quarter past 5. Mold was credited with the dismissal of five batsmen for 65 runs.

Lancashire went in at half-past 5. The 50 was reached in rather less than an hour, and stumps were drawn with the figures at 56 for two wickets. There is a good prospect of a fine match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 4)

This match, at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, produced excellent cricket. When Lancashire, who were 100 behind with eight wickets to fall, resumed batting, A Ward showed fine form, but two of his companions were soon out.

The 100 went up at 12.10, and 20 minutes later Ward increased his score to 50. Yates stayed while 59 were added for the fourth wicket. Ward, who was caught at long-off at 143, had been in two hours and a quarter, and the chief items in his 60 were six fours, four threes and eight twos. Baker, Mr Crosfield and Mr Kemble all did well, and in the end Lancashire were able to claim a lead of 59 in the innings.

Somerset began their second venture after luncheon. Runs seemed difficult to make, and when rain stopped play for the day four wickets were lost and 15 of the deficit remained. Thus Lancashire possess a great advantage. To-day cricket will begin at 11 a.m.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 8)

Everything pointed to the defeat of the western county when stumps were drawn in this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Tuesday. With six wickets to fall in their second innings Somerset were then 15 runs behind.

Yesterday an easy victory was gained by Lancashire. Messrs Challen and Hill, the not outs, played well, but after the innings defeat was averted Briggs and Mold carried all before them, and the home side in the end were left with only 34 to make to win. This number cost two batsmen, and Lancashire won by eight wickets. Mr Challen's 33 for the visitors occupied two hours.

10 August: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3737.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 7)

The Hove Ground, Brighton, is usually so much a batsman's that for a side to make 265 in a day for eight wickets is comparatively slow scoring for the place. However, the rain, without making the wicket dead, had much reduced its hardness. With the weather fine, a numerous company assembled to see the cricket.

This was remarkable for the fine batting of Bean, whose consistently heavy scoring has been a feature of the Sussex season. In this instance he made 102; the run occupied a little over three hours and included ten fours, a three and 16 twos. He went in first, and was third out to a brilliant catch at point at 176. Beyond a difficult return chance half-way through the innings he appeared to make no mistake. Marlow also batted well and aided Bean to score 111 for the first wicket in a little over two hours. Marlow was taken at point for 41. J Hide gave little trouble, but Mr Brann and Bean added 55 for the third wicket. Mr Wilson also batted well and the Sussex score rose steadily. The fielding of Mr Wilson at point was a feature in the day's play; his manner of catching Mr Andrews was especially noteworthy.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 4)

Mr W H Patterson, the captain of the Kent eleven, played a brilliant innings of 120 at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday. Sussex were in the whole of Monday and scored 265 for eight wickets. The outstanding batsmen added 63 runs in 40 minutes. Mr C A Smith was fortunate in getting his 50; it was a vigorous display and included seven fours, two threes and five twos.

When Kent went in Mr Rashleigh, Mr Marchant and A Hearne all did well, and 70 were recorded in 40 minutes for the loss of two wickets. Mr Marchant made his 27 out of 28 added in the six overs of his stay. It was at this stage that Mr Patterson arrived. When once set he played a finished game and scored at a much faster rate than is usual with him. A Hearne did not stop long to assist his captain, and Messrs Fox and Wilson were quickly out. Mr Daffen exhibited great caution and was in with Mr Patterson while 86 runs were put on for the sixth wicket. Walter Wright assisted to avert the follow on, but at 256 Mr Patterson's fine innings ended. He had been in rather less than three hours and among his contributions were ten fours, six threes and 13 twos; a single was converted into five by an overthrow.

Sussex went in a second time, and the match was left at an interesting stage. The weather proved fine and the company numbered between three and four thousand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 8)

Rarely has the Brighton ground been so friendly to the bowlers as it was yesterday, when the 18 wickets that fell averaged less than six runs each. Heavy rain had fallen during the night, and this with the sun in the morning ruined the pitch and placed the batsmen at the bowlers' mercy. Sussex gained a decisive victory, thus maintaining the excellent form frequently shown by them this season.

It may be remembered that on Tuesday evening Sussex, with one wicket down in their second innings, were 86 runs ahead. In an hour and a half the other nine batsmen were dismissed for an addition of 52 runs, the highest score being Jesse Hide's 14. During the morning Martin bowled with remarkable effect.

Kent were left with 139 to get to win, but with the turf so bad that their chances of success were not so bright. Before luncheon five men were out for 33, and subsequently the innings was finished off in half an hour for an addition of 21 runs. Mr Fox, who had gone in just before the interval, left the ground during luncheon and had not returned when the game was renewed. Of course, he lost the rest of his innings. With the wicket so treacherous, it was unlikely that Mr Fox's batting would have altered the result, yet it might have lessened the severity of the defeat. Tate bowled well and took six wickets. Sussex won by 84 runs.

10 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3738.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 7)

The return match between these counties should have begun yesterday, at Bramall-lane, Sheffield. Rain, however, fell heavily, and soon after 3 o'clock the start was postponed until this morning.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 4)

After the compulsory idleness of Monday the weather had sufficiently improved at Sheffield yesterday to enable a start to be made in this match on the Bramall-lane ground. Middlesex won the toss and went in first on a slow wicket.

The beginning was not hopeful; Mr Stoddart played on at 12 and at 26 Mr Watson was secured at point. Matters underwent a change during the next partnership – that of Messrs O'Brien and Hadow. The former showed brilliant form, but the latter while hitting hard had a couple of escapes. In 50 minutes 55 runs were added. Harrison sent back Mr Hadow at 81. Mr O'Brien received a little aid from Rawlin and Mr Henery, and at 135 he himself was out to a very good catch at mid-on, the ball being taken low down. Mr O'Brien's 72 extended over a couple of hours and included seven fours, four threes and eight twos. After luncheon the last four wickets were captured for an addition of nine runs; the score had been raised to 146 before the interval.

Against the bowling of Hearne and Rawlin Yorkshire started badly, losing Ulyett, Hall, Wardall and Peel for 27 runs. Messrs Jackson and Smith obtained 31 in 20 minutes, and a like number was made for the last wicket by Harrison and Moorhouse. The innings, which lasted a couple of hours, came to an end shortly after 5 o'clock. Middlesex then went in a second time.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 8)

Yesterday, at Sheffield, the Middlesex eleven triumphed over Yorkshire after an excellent match. The end of an innings each left the visitors with a lead of 38. Play was resumed yesterday, when Phillips batted with considerable success. The turf, however, afforded the bowlers so much assistance that good defence was a matter of much difficulty.

A great feature of the day was the bowling of Wainwright, whose eight wickets averaged six runs each. Six of the batsmen were bowled by him, and he also threw out Mr Stoddart and put down the wicket at the running out of Rawlin. Thus Wainwright had some share in the dismissal of the whole Middlesex side. His achievement almost equals the feat of last year against Staffordshire, when he took the whole ten wickets. His length yesterday was very accurate and he made the ball break a great deal.

Yorkshire were left to obtain 127 for victory, a task that under the circumstances proved far too much for them. Hearne and Rawlin bowled with such effect that the total only reached 79, Middlesex thus winning by 47 runs. J T Hearne claimed ten wickets in the match for 94. During yesterday morning Middlesex completed their innings in an hour and a half for 70 runs, while Yorkshire in an hour and three-quarters were out for 79.

10 August: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128423.html)

Day 1 (no proper report or scorecard from Tuesday 11 August, page 7)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 4)

An easy victory was gained by Derbyshire, at the county ground, Birmingham, yesterday, over Warwickshire by nine wickets. The home side were 41 behind on the first innings, and at the second attempt their batting was again feeble.

13 August: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3739.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 4)

This match was opened yesterday at Mote-park, Maidstone. Mr M C Kemp was welcomed back to the Kent ranks, having almost recovered from the injury which he sustained during the Canterbury Week. Yorkshire introduced a new player to county cricket in the person of Mr Thornton, a left-hand batsman and bowler.

On a slow wicket that grew difficult as the game progressed, Kent, who won the toss, went in. The early part of the innings was characterized by the capital play of Mr Rashleigh, who made 49 out of 81 in an hour and a quarter. His chief hits were five fours, a three and five twos. Mr Marchant out together 23 with his customary rapidity, and Mr Fox also played well. At luncheon time the score was 119 for seven. Afterwards Mr Kemp, George Hearne and Wright met with considerable success, and the innings, which occupied two and three-quarter hours, closed for 173.

Martin and Wright bowled with great effect against Yorkshire, and seven of the side were out for 37. Tunnicliffe and Wainwright obtained 32, but eventually the last man left at 73. Martin took six wickets for 26 runs. To-day Yorkshire will follow on with arrears of 100.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

The close of Thursday's play in this match, at Maidstone, left Yorkshire with so much the worst of the game that the easy victory of Kent yesterday will not come as a surprise. Beautiful weather was experienced, and the closing incidents of the match were witnessed by a large company.

Yorkshire followed on at 11.30 with a deficit of 100. Mr Smith, Wardall and Hall were out for 22 runs, and the visitors' prospects were far from bright. The wicket still aided the bowlers. Pell, however, rendered his side great assistance, and he was ably backed up by Mr Jackson and Ulyett. Mr Jackson stayed until 57, and Ulyett was not out before 93. Beyond the three batsmen referred to there were no other double-figure innings. After luncheon two more wickets fell before the deficit was cleared off. Peel was last to leave, finely caught in the double figures for 57 – an excellent innings, without a chance, that occupied two hours and a half. In the match Martin had taken ten wickets at an average of a fraction over six runs each. Kent made the 23 necessary for victory in a quarter of an hour and won by nine wickets.

13 August: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3740.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 4)

Bad weather materially lessened the hours for cricketing yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester, when in the return match between these counties both clubs were very strongly represented. Shrewsbury reappeared for Notts after a fortnight's absence, while Mr M'Laren was included in the home eleven, from which Mr Hornby was missing. In spite of the unsettled weather a very large company, numbering about 7,000, assembled to see the cricket.

Nottinghamshire won the toss and took first innings. After the dismissal of Mr Dixon a stand was made by Shrewsbury and Gunn, who obtained 49 for the second wicket. Following Gunn's compulsory retirement, the Lancashire bowling proved so effective that six wickets were down for 70 runs. Attewell and Shrewsbury, however, were together a long while, adding 59 for the seventh partnership. Shrewsbury was eighth out, caught at wicket. His excellent innings of 67 occupied three hours, and included seven fours, a three and four twos. Rain stopped play at the end of the visitors' innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

Rain fell heavily at Manchester yesterday and prevented the renewal of this match. The game at present stands thus: - Nottinghamshire, first innings, 145.

Day 3 (report from Mon 17 August, page 5)

About 5,000 spectators witnessed the close of this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Saturday. The rain, which had prevented any play whatever on Friday, caused a further delay on the third morning, and it was 20 minutes to 2 when Lancashire started their innings on a heavy wicket.

Ward and Sugg opened the batting, and the bowlers were Attewell and Bagguley. Two men were out with only 23 scored, when Mr M'Laren joined Ward and a good stand was made. Shacklock and Flowers were soon put on to bowl but, as the changes brought about no separation, Attewell, at 46, resumed. However, 50 went up at a quarter to 4 and, although further variations were adopted, the score reached 76 before the dismissal of Mr M'Laren. The partnership for the third wicket had produced 53 runs in 80 minutes.

After some free hitting by Ward, a catch at slip sent back Briggs, and Yates arrived. The 100 appeared at a quarter to 5, and then Flowers displaced Bagguley. Ward continued his free batting, making three fours in Flowers's first over. Attewell bowled Yates at 121 and got out Baker in the same over. Mr Crosfield came in and Mr Dixon took up the bowling, when, at 147, he received a return catch from Ward. The latter had been in three hours, and his principal hits were 12 fours, four threes and nine twos. Seven down. Mr Crosfield was bowled, after which Mr Kemble and Watson threw considerable vigour into the batting, and it was five minutes to 6 before the last wicket fell. The game was then abandoned as drawn.

13 August: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3741.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 4)

Sussex, who won the toss and went in, began disastrously; it needed only a brief time to place them in a bad position. Against the bowling of Mr Nepean and Hearne four wickets – Bean, Marlow, Mr Brann and Mr Wilson – fell for 17 runs.

Matters greatly improved for the visitors during the partnership of Mr Newham and Hide. Both played thoroughly good cricket, although the latter exercised more than his usual caution at the beginning of the innings. It should have been noted that West, the Middlesex wicket-keeper, had injured his leg and had to retire; Mr Stoddart took his position and a substitute came out to field. The fifth wicket produced 64 runs in an hour, and then Phillips bowled Hide. Mr Smith was out second ball, and the luncheon interval was taken with the record at 89 for six wickets.

Subsequently the innings was completed in three-quarters of an hour for 130. Mr Newham was eighth out at 107, caught at mid-off. His batting had been of an excellent nature; he made his 56 in two hours, and among his figures were three fours, two threes and ten twos. Mr Nepean's five for 47 was the best analysis.

Middlesex began their innings at 10 minutes to 4, and the early batting was of a most brilliant character. Messrs Stoddart and O'Brien combined fine hitting with perfect defence, and their stand of an hour and a quarter for 118 runs will rank among the best feats achieved at Lord's this season. From the time they went in both men played with every confidence. Up to about 30 the scoring was pretty level, but after Mr O'Brien had been rather badly hit on the leg by a ball from Mr Wilson, an injury that seemed to check the batsman's freedom, Mr Stoddart drew right away. In an hour 90 runs were made, and a few minutes later the 100 appeared. At 118 Mr O'Brien stepped forward to meet a short pitched lob from Humphreys, but he did not get quite far enough and, missing it, was bowled. His 44 included five fours, three threes and four twos.

Mr Stoddart was third out at 155 – he played outside a good length ball from Tate and was bowled at a period when every one was expecting 100 from him. It was a brilliant innings of less than two hours' duration. He hit 11 fours, five threes and six twos. Afterwards Middlesex fared badly until Phillips and Mr Henery made a stand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

Sussex are unlikely to increase their good reputation for playing an uphill game well by yesterday's match at Lord's. Middlesex decisively beat them – a result that was in some measure foreshadowed by the Middlesex advantage overnight. The home side were then 74 runs ahead with seven wickets down. In 20 minutes yesterday morning Middlesex completed their innings for the addition of 12 runs; West, who was injured on the previous day, did not bat.

Sussex were 86 behind, and they lost Marlow when only 13 of the arrears had been obtained. Mr Newham and Bean, however, made a stand, the latter player hitting with great vigour and precision. At the end of an hour the score stood at 67, but four runs later a ball from Phillips dismissed the Sussex captain. Mr Brann joined Bean, who reached his 50 after his stay had extended an hour and

a quarter, while the possibility of an innings defeat was averted at half-past 1.

Mr Brann and Bean added 37 in 20 minutes, and then the misfortunes of Sussex began. Mr O'Brien, who kept wicket, caught Mr Brann, and at 117 Bean was bowled. The last-named's 67 occupied rather more than an hour and a half, and included seven fours, a three and nine twos. Both Mr Wilson and J Hide were disposed of before luncheon, a good one-handed catch, low down, at point, bringing about the downfall of Hide. The first ball after the interval proved too much for Mr Andrews, and seven wickets were lost for 120. Mr Smith and Humphreys infused some life into a losing game and put on 34 in 20 minutes before the amateur was stumped. Then the end came rapidly, and Middlesex were left with only 77 to make for victory.

The task was begun by Messrs O'Brien and Stoddart, who on the previous day had given Sussex so much trouble. Mr Stoddart played Humphreys' lobs very badly, but was out to one of them in a remarkable manner, the ball in returning going from the bowler's hands to deep mid-on. Humphreys had made an ineffectual attempt to catch it. Mr Scott was taken at wicket at 51, and then Messrs Hadow and O'Brien won the match for Middlesex by eight wickets. Mr O'Brien played with more than usual caution.

13 August: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3742.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 4)

There is something of a novelty in witnessing an uphill fight by Surrey. Yesterday on the county ground at Taunton the champion county fared badly in the return match with Somerset, which so far has furnished a striking contrast with the heavy scoring by Surrey in the game played by these clubs at the Oval early in the season. It was much of a bowler's wicket.

Choice of innings fell to the home eleven, whose venture extended from midday until after 4 o'clock and realized 194. Mr Hewett, the Somerset captain, played in brilliant form, and made 55 out of the first 84 in an hour and a quarter; his chief hits were one five, six fours, four threes and three twos. Messrs R C N Palairet and W N Roe were the other batsmen who proved most successful.

Surrey started well, but after 50 had been scored for two wickets, five batsmen were lost for 53. The visitors, with four wickets in hand, now require 44 runs to avert the follow on. The Somerset team bowled and fielded with great spirit. Between four and five thousand people visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

In their first-class county engagements Surrey until yesterday had not played a losing game. The position of affairs last evening at Taunton certainly points to the defeat of the champion eleven unless anything phenomenal happens. The weather was dull and close yesterday, but a large company visited the cricket ground and took an enthusiastic interest in the play.

Surrey, with only four wickets in hand, required 44 to avert the follow on. Lohmann and Mr Key added 26 runs before the latter was taken at extra slip. Lohmann was ninth out at 114, so that when Sharpe and Wood became partners one run was yet wanted to prevent the follow on. This was secured in the shape of a wide, bowled by Mr Woods. The last wicket, indeed, produced 40 runs, so that Surrey, being only 40 behind on the innings, left the game in an even state.

Somerset entered on their second venture at 1.20, and retained possession of the wicket for the rest of the day, making 231 for five wickets, at the rate of about 60 an hour. Messrs L C H Palairet and Hewett went in and made 38 before luncheon. Subsequently 30 more were added, and then Mr Hewett was taken at slip. The Somerset captain had obtained 42 in an hour and a quarter by one five, two fours, a three, seven twos and singles.

Mr Challen at the outset played with so much care that nearly half an hour elapsed before he scored. Runs, however, came steadily, the 100 going up after two hours' cricket. Mr Palairet gave a difficult return chance to both Lockwood and Lohmann. The partnership for the second wicket had yielded 66 runs in an hour, when Mr Palairet was caught at wicket for a fine innings of 60, in which were six fours, five threes and four twos. Two for 134.

Mr Challen, who had given a chance to Henderson at square-leg off a lob from Mr Read, was next joined by Mr Woods, whose stay was brief – caught at extra mid-off at 152. Mr R C N Palairet and

Nichols were soon disposed of, and five men were out for 181. Messrs Roe and Challen then added 50 runs and were still together at the drawing of stumps, when Somerset were 271 on, with half their wickets to fall. Mr Challen played a fine game and has so far been in two hours and a half. There was great enthusiasm shown in Taunton at the excellent form displayed by Somerset against the powerful Surrey side.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 5)

Surrey's first defeat by a leading county has been sustained from an unexpected quarter. While Somerset had furnished proof in plenty of its merited rise to the front rank, few could have thought that this alteration would be further justified by a victory over the champion county eleven at a time when they were at the height of their fame, and when their friends were beginning to think of a new "pavilion tablet" for the 1891 achievements. Every one will be ready to congratulate the western team as a success gained by sheer hard work and skill. And the team, too, made most of their good fortune in securing choice of innings.

Since the latter part of Thursday the match was played out on an improving wicket. Surrey were only beaten after a very hard struggle, which culminated in a most exciting finish; their last man was out in the last minute, and with Somerset rested the victory by 130 runs. When it is stated that half an hour before the end Surrey had five wickets to fall, the actual nature of the closing excitement will be the more readily conceived. By fine bowling and fielding the Somerset eleven converted what appeared to be an almost certain draw into a victory. Saturday's play was full of excellence and the large company watched it with intense interest.

Somerset, who were 271 ahead with five wickets to fall, resumed their batting at 11 o'clock, Messrs Challen and Roe, the former having 76 to his credit, being opposed by Lohmann and Brockwell. The partnership had already realized 50 runs. Twenty-three more were obtained in 20 minutes, and then a catch at long-off got rid of Mr Roe. Seventy-three had been added for the wicket in an hour and 20 minutes. Mr Hill, who came next, had an escape at the hands of Maurice Read in the long field, but when the home side were 321 on Mr Challen was bowled. He had made 13 more runs in three-quarters of an hour. His 89 was a great display of sound batting and extended over three and a quarter hours; he hit nine fours, four threes and eleven twos. He had gone in first wicket down at 68.

The 300 was reached at five minutes past 12, and after the bowling of Mr Hill a stand was made by Mr Newton and Tyler, and with nine wickets down for 331 Mr Hewett declared the innings at an end. During the morning Somerset had obtained 100 runs for four wickets in 80 minutes. It may be added that 331 is the highest total recorded this season against Surrey.

With a majority of 371 against them Surrey had four hours left for play, and they entered upon the task of saving the game at 20 minutes to 1. Abel and Mr Shuter showed considerable caution, and the figures were only slowly taken to 45, at which stage Nichols bowled the Surrey captain. Maurice Read joined Abel, and the luncheon score was 62 for one wicket.

Subsequently, with 11 added, Abel fell to a catch at extra slip, while at 98 Mr Walter Read drove the ball into the hands of extra mid-off. Then ensued the stand of the day. Maurice Read and Lohmann played beautiful cricket, and for an hour and three-quarters frustrated every endeavour by their opponents to beat them. Somerset bowled and fielded with great spirit, but the batting triumphed until there had been added 96 runs. Lohmann was then caught and bowled for 58,

included in which were six fours, four threes and seven twos.

It now seemed that the game had been saved, as with little more than an hour to play Surrey had six wickets in hand. Henderson was quickly bowled, and then Lockwood and Maurice Read raised the score in another half an hour to 236. Lockwood now left, and Somerset to win had to capture the other four wickets in a little over 20 minutes. At 237, however, three wickets fell – Mr Key, Brockwell and Maurice Read. The last-named had made 94 without a mistake and had been in three hours and ten minutes. His chief hits were ten fours, six threes and five twos.

Excitement was at a high pitch among the crowd when Sharpe, the last man, arrived, ten minutes then remaining for play. It was an anxious time for both sides. The fieldsmen crossed at the end of each over with great haste. But Wood and Sharpe batted steadily. The last over of the match was begun; two of the balls were successfully met, and then Mr Woods beat Sharpe and Somerset gained the victory by 130 runs. It was a wonderful finish and one unlikely to be forgotten.

Monday 17 August, page 5: THE COUNTIES

The positions of the leading counties are now as follows: -

	Matches				
	Played	Won	lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	13	11	1	1	10
Lancashire	12	6	4	2	2
Notts	11	5	4	2	1
Kent	11	4	3	4	1
Middlesex	12	6	5	1	1
Sussex	12	4	5	3	-
Somerset	10	4	5	1	-
Yorkshire	14	4	10	0	-
Gloucestershire	13	2	9	2	-

17 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3743.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 5)

The Cheltenham Week matches are of a very attractive kind, Gloucestershire meeting Somerset and Middlesex, and there will appear on the College Ground many of our leading amateurs. Bad weather in a great measure spoilt the opening day of the week, but the time for play proved sufficient for Somerset to put together a good score at a small cost of wickets. In order to strengthen their bowling department, Gloucestershire drafted Murch into the eleven, while Mr Robinson succeeded Mr Young among the visitors.

Going in first Somerset lost Mr Hewett, their captain, before he had scored; Woof bowled him. Messrs L C H Palairet and Challen, who had figured so prominently against Surrey, were destined to give the home county great trouble. There were various interruptions by rain and on the wet wicket the Somerset batsmen made most of their opportunity. Many bowling changes were tried, but in an hour and 50 minutes the partnership yielded 138 runs. Eighty-three of these were made in the last hour. Mr Challen batted finely and scored much faster than usual; among his contributions were 11 fours, two threes and 11 twos. Mr Palairet, too, showed excellent form. In spite of the inclement weather, there was a large attendance of spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

Yesterday was a disastrous day for Gloucestershire, who were beaten in the first match of the Cheltenham week by an innings and 130 runs. This was their second defeat this season by Somerset, who may fairly claim the chief honours in the West of England. Following the bad weather of Monday came much brightness, but the turf had been spoilt, and as the day wore on it afforded great aid to the Somerset bowlers. The success of Mr Woods and Tyler in the attack and the batting of Mr L C H Palairet were the characteristics of some remarkable cricket.

Monday's play had been limited to two hours, during which Somerset scored 142 for two wickets. Mr Palairet increased his not-out innings of 62 by 38 in an hour and a half, and thus just managed to obtain three figures. It is his first 100 in important cricket. He was caught at point at 230, being seventh to leave. His 100 occupied three and a half hours and included six fours, four threes and 15 twos. Woof bowled well and the last eight wickets were taken in two hours for 113 runs.

Gloucestershire were then got out by Mr Woods and Tyler in 50 minutes for 25 runs, the lowest score that can be remembered having been recorded by Gloucestershire. They did better at the second attempt, but eventually Somerset won by an innings and 130 runs. A large company visited the college grounds.

17 August: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3744.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 5)

Yesterday was a day both for batsmen and spectators at Gravesend, when the match Kent v Lancashire began under such fair conditions as were afforded by fine weather and good cricket. Kent cannot remember the cricket with any degree of satisfaction; their fieldsmen were kind to the Lancastrian batsmen, and whatever other illustration was furnished, there was that which showed how a team's disasters may be brought about by the missing of catches. The elevens were strong. Mr L A Hamilton again appeared on the side to which he rendered so much aid last season.

Lancashire won the toss and took first innings. Against the bowling of Martin and Wright, Sugg and Ward started batting freely; the former, however, having contributed 20 towards 30, was out leg before. Smith came next, and the scoring became much slower. When A Hearne took up the bowling at 61 a grave error was committed by Martin, who let off Ward at third man when the latter had made 34. The consequences of this mistake were, as it transpired, irreparable. After Smith had been bowled at 71 Mr M'Laren joined Ward, and before luncheon the figures reached 116.

After the interval both batsmen made plenty of good hits; the score advanced at a rapid rate and within three-quarters of an hour of the resumption Ward completed his 100. At this stage the total was 178. Almost immediately Ward had an escape in the long field at the hands of Mr Rashleigh. The chief incidents for some time subsequently were a couple of showers, which delayed the game 20 minutes, and the fact that Mr Patterson went on to bowl lobs. From Mr Fox's bowling Mr M'Laren was badly missed by Mr Rashleigh at cover-point, the figures of the batsman then being 68. Bowling changes were of little avail, and it was not until 10 minutes past 5 that the partnership was severed, after it had lasted two and a half hours. Mr M'Laren was then out to a good catch at point. The stand had yielded 215 runs, of which the amateur's share was 89; this included six fours, six threes and 12 twos.

Briggs came next, and Ward had a further life in the long field; at that time he had scored 160. The 300 appeared at 5.20, and three runs later Briggs, who had given a chance to Mr Wilson at point, was bowled. Yates arrived to see Ward's fine innings end; Ward played on at 326 and retired amid warm applause for 185. He had been in four and a half hours, and though he had made the various mistakes already noted, it was a great feat to score so many runs against the good bowling possessed by Kent. Ward hit 20 fours, nine threes and 14 twos. With his 95 last Saturday at Old Trafford he has obtained 280 runs in two innings.

Towards the close Yates and Baker batted steadily, and the total had reached 347 for five wickets at the drawing of stumps. The day was fine and several thousand people visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

Yesterday was a bowler's day at Gravesend, when the cricket furnished a marked contrast to the batting triumphs with which Lancashire had opened the match. Rain almost ruined the wicket; it prevented any play until after luncheon, and then the sun shone out brilliantly. As Lancashire finished their first innings the Kent fielding was as uncertain as on Monday, and various catches were dropped.

The drizzle lasted all morning, and when the home side came out the ground was wet, and this placed the bowlers and fieldsmen equally at a disadvantage. In three-quarters of an hour the Lancashire score was increased from 347 to 387. Baker stepped in to drive and was beautifully caught low down almost on the boundary by Mr Fox, decidedly one of the best catches in the match. Yates was missed at point (Mr Wilson) and at mid-off (Wright) from successive balls, and was then easily caught at point. Seven for 357. Mr Crosfield was taken at short slip and Watson was stumped. Mr Kemble, who had a couple of escapes, and Mold added 23 for the tenth wicket, and the innings finally closed for 387. Martin's six wickets had cost 137 runs.

When Kent went in the hot sun rapidly dried the surface of the turf and very quickly rendered it false. Mr Rashleigh and A Hearne started to the bowling of Mold and Briggs. The amateur made various good hits, but at 19 he was bowled. Kent's disasters soon began in earnest: a misunderstanding between Hearne and Mr Marchant cost the former his wicket. Messrs Marchant and Patterson each made one good boundary hit, but both were quickly out, and Mr Fox, too, was bowled, five wickets being down for 42. A remarkable ball from Mold struck Mr Hamilton's off stump, Mr M C Kemp was taken at slip, Mr Wilson at mid-off, and thus eight wickets were lost for 52.

Wright and George Hearne infused some life into the batting, the spectators being much amused by a couple of overthrows. The badness of the pitch showed itself when Wright was out, the ball getting up and going into point's hands off the shoulder of the bat. Martin and George Hearne added 27 runs, and then the innings ended for 87. Briggs's five for 35 was the better analysis; he and Mold had bowled unchanged.

Going in a second time with arrears of 300, Kent lost the brothers Hearne for 11 runs, after which came very brilliant batting by Messrs Rashleigh and Marchant, who obtained 51 in 25 minutes. With the dismissal of Mr Marchant, caught at wicket, stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 8)

When play ceased at Gravesend on Tuesday night the probabilities of Kent's saving the game were very remote. The home side, with three wickets down in the second innings, were 238 behind. Yesterday morning the weather was showery and caused several interruptions.

Mr Rashleigh, who had played so well in the last half-hour on Tuesday, was joined by Mr Patterson, and the bowling was shared by Mold and Smith; the latter, however, soon gave way to Briggs. Sixteen runs were added and then Mr Patterson was dismissed, while the fifth and sixth wickets fell at 87 – Mr Rashleigh and Mr Fox. The former made five fours, three threes and two twos. Mr Wilson failed, and at 96 a return catch got rid of Mr Kemp. Wright and Mr Hamilton remained together some time, and the partnership realized 24 runs. Then both were out, and Lancashire won the match by an innings and 180 runs. Briggs and Mold bowled remarkably well.

17 August: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3745.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 5)

Good wickets have been less uncommon of late at Lord's than they were earlier in the season. Yesterday the pitch was fast and true, the weather very fine and the cricket of much excellence. Thus the large company which assembled at hour and a quarter was left nothing at which to complain. Success has attended Middlesex in their recent matches in a marked degree and, forgetting the poor cricket at the first meeting of these counties, the general public gathered in large numbers. Surrey always commands a big following, and this did not appear to have been decreased by the defeat of the side at Taunton on Saturday.

Mr W R Moon, better known in the football community than at cricket, found a place in the Middlesex side, from which were missing Mr A J Webbe and Mr J E West – both injured. Mr O'Brien won the toss, and in company with Mr A E Stoddart opened the Middlesex innings shortly after 12 o'clock. The start was favourable, as the batsmen played brilliantly and treated the famous Surrey bowlers with scant respect, making 50 from them in half an hour. The attack had been several times varied when at 80 – the result of an hour's batting – Mr O'Brien was taken at slip.

During the next half-hour Surrey had rather the best of matters, Mr Stoddart, Mr Scott and Rawlin being disposed of, and the fourth wicket falling at 108. Mr Stoddart was second out at 93; his excellent 43 included six fours, a three and three twos. Messrs Hadow and Nepean remained partners a very long time. The scoring became quite brisk after luncheon, and many were the good strokes recorded. Several bowling changes took place before a catch at point sent back Mr Hadow. His stay had extended over an hour and ten minutes, and among his contributions were eight fours, three threes and two twos. Five for 173.

Messrs Nepean and Henery put on 43 for the seventh wicket in a little over 20 minutes; the latter made 34 of these – he hit five fours – and was then taken in the long-field. Mr Nepean's patient innings was closed by a catch at slip, and after a stand of 32 by Phillips and Mr Moon, Middlesex were finally out for 259. Lockwood had the best bowling analysis: he took the first five wickets for 91 runs.

Surrey lost Brockwell and Maurice Read for 23, after which Abel and Lohmann put on 63 by admirable cricket, the latter player being dismissed just before "Time." To-day Surrey will have to make 94 more runs to avert the follow on. It may be noted that Mr Shuter, the Surrey captain, has now lost the toss thrice in succession.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

This match began on a hard and true pitch, the side winning the toss made a big score, and then the rain came and spoilt the wicket and left the batsmen at the bowlers' mercy. Surrey, with seven wickets to fall, required 94 to avert the follow on, and they resumed batting at 11.40. Abel and Mr Read were the batsmen, and Hearne and Rawlin had charge of the bowling.

With a single only added Abel fell to a catch at mid-on, while at 88 Henderson had to leave – caught at slip. Mr Read and Lockwood, profiting by a mistake in the field, batted vigorously, and

39 runs were quickly obtained. Lockwood now left, but Messrs Key and Read made another stand, the score reaching 157 before the dismissal of Mr Read, who was caught at slip. He was in considerably more than an hour for 30. Seven down. Only 23 were necessary to avert the follow on, and with Mr Key, Mr Shuter, Watts and Sharpe to bat most of the spectators must have looked to the accomplishment of the feat. However, the ninth wicket fell when ten runs were yet wanted, and only seven of these were registered when the bowling of Sharpe left Surrey in a minority of 82.

The visitors went in again before luncheon and lost Mr Shuter – caught at long-on. During the interval the wicket had grown worse, as its surface dried, and Hearne and Rawlin on resuming bowled with great effect. Lohmann and Mr Read made a stand for the fourth wicket, the professional obtaining 25 out of 37 recorded during his stay. He was eventually caught in the long-field. Lockwood at once fell to a catch at slip, and following this Surrey's misfortunes continued to the close of the match.

Six wickets were down for 52, and the whole side was out for 62: Mr Read, caught at point; Mr Key, run out; Brockwell, bowled; Watts, caught by the wicket-keeper; and Sharpe, bowled. Rawlin's five wickets cost only 27 runs, and Hearne's four 25. Middlesex won by an innings and 20 runs. After the finish the crowd assembled in front of the pavilion and loudly cheered the various players.

17 August: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3746.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 5)

The return match between these counties began yesterday at the Hove Ground, Brighton, when the attendance was large and the spectators took a keen interest in the game.

With the wicket in good order it was expected that the side winning the toss would make a big score; but anticipations were not realized. Indeed, with two or three exceptions, the Sussex batsmen played rather feebly and were all out in two and a half hours. Bean, who has shown such fine form this season, failed to profit very much by an escape at the hands of Hall, and was run out. Mr Newham stayed 40 minutes and helped Marlow to make 20 runs. Neither Mr Brann nor Mr Wilson gave much trouble, and four wickets were down for 62.

Marlow was fifth out – caught at wicket – at 83; he had been in nearly an hour and three-quarters, and his chief contributions were four fours, a three and five twos. Hide met with some success, and Mr C A Smith batted vigorously, the last-named being the tenth to leave at 139. Wainwright, Peel and Mr Jackson had all bowled well and had been supported by some capital fielding.

When Yorkshire went in, Hall and Wardall were out for 29, but Peel and Ulyett before the close of the day put a vastly different complexion on affairs. Both batted finely and a chance by Ulyett to Hide at slip with his figures at 23 was the solitary mistake during the partnership, which so far has produced 144 runs. Yorkshire already possess an advantage of 34.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

Peel and Ulyett, perhaps the most celebrated of Yorkshire's present cricketers, each achieved a feat of great excellence at Brighton yesterday, and their fine batting contributed very largely to the decisive victory gained by their side over Sussex.

The batsmen mentioned became partners when two wickets were down for 29. They added 144 to the score on Monday evening, and resuming yesterday morning, when the turf was wet, the stand was increased to 180. Then Ulyett fell to a catch at wicket at 209. His 109 had extended over two hours and 40 minutes, and beyond a chance to slip with his figures at 27 he made no mistake; the chief items were 12 fours, five threes and eight twos. Peel was ninth out at 339. The latter part of his innings had been characterized by great care. His only error was a chance to Mr Brann at mid-off with the figures at 111. He went in at 29, so that he had obtained his 128 out of 310 in four and a quarter hours. His chief hits were 19 fours, three threes and eight twos.

Sussex in their second venture had to face arrears of 212. The side fared rather better than at the first attempt, but though showing good cricket they were beaten by an innings and 55 runs, the game being extended half an hour beyond the usual time in order to finish. After the rain the wicket played better than might have been expected.

17 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/127/127187.html)

Day 1 (no proper report or scorecard from Tuesday 18 August, page 5)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

Leicestershire had much the best of the play against Warwickshire at Leicester yesterday, and today, with seven wickets to fall, they have only 26 runs to get to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 8)

Yesterday, at Leicester, the Warwickshire eleven suffered another reverse, when they were beaten by the home county by five wickets. Warwickshire, after following on, set their opponents 34 to win, a task that was by no means easily accomplished.

17 August: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128421.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 5)

Derbyshire scored 73 for one wicket against Essex at Derby yesterday. Rain greatly interfered with cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

Derbyshire scored 184 and Essex 69 and six (for two wickets) at Derby yesterday. Chatterton, 80, and Mr L G Wright, 70, were the chief scorers for the home side.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 8)

This match was concluded yesterday at Derby. The visitors after following on fared well, fine batting being shown by Messrs Owen, Lucas and Carpenter. Derbyshire won by seven wickets.

20 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3747.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 10)

The second match of the Week began under conditions of the most unfavourable nature. Gloucestershire went in first on a slow wicket and in threatening weather, which subsequently turned to rain. Mr A J Webbe is still unable to play, and the leadership of the Middlesex eleven devolved on Mr T C O'Brien. The visitors were also without the services of Messrs Nepean and Scott, whose places were filled by Mr R S Lucas, of the Teddington and Richmond Clubs, and Mr G F Vernon. For Gloucestershire Mr Sainsbury appeared in lieu of Murch.

Mr O'Brien won the toss and put his opponents in. The brothers Grace opened the batting and were faced by Hearne and Rawlin. With the figures at 19 Dr E M was bowled. Mr Radcliffe arrived and a good stand was made. Mr Hadow and Phillips took up the attack, but the partnership had yielded 56 when Mr Radcliffe left. Mr Sainsbury fell to the wicket-keeper just before the adjournment. Rain began to fall during the interval and prevented any further play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 7)

Yesterday at Cheltenham the wicket was too wet to resume play at the usual time, and the delay lasted until 20 minutes to 2. Subsequently there was a heavy shower, but the weather cleared up again and generally the conditions for cricket were more favourable than on the opening day. The pitch was, however, very slow and the scoring never became fast.

Gloucestershire, who had made 77 for three wickets, resumed batting, Dr W G Grace, not out 39, being joined by Painter. Hearne and Rawlin were the bowlers. The figures were advanced to 89 before luncheon. When play was resumed Painter was at once disposed of, but Mr Pullen stayed some time with his captain. Dr W G Grace showed unusual caution and saw two more of his side out before the drawing of stumps, when his score amounted to 72, the result of four and a half hours' play. It is the highest innings credited to Dr Grace in important cricket this season.

So slow was the rate of scoring that in the last 90 minutes only 28 runs were recorded. Mr W R Moon, the Middlesex wicket-keeper, injured his hand during the afternoon and had to retire.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 8)

The bad weather pursued this West of England festival to its close, and on Saturday caused the abandonment of the return match between Gloucestershire and Middlesex. Thus Dr W G Grace had no opportunity of completing his unfinished innings of 72; the care with which he had batted may be judged from the fact that he was in four and a half hours; his chief hits were two fours, six threes and 11 twos.

20 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3748.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 10)

Another batting triumph for Arthur Shrewsbury, of the Nottinghamshire eleven, has to be recorded, and also other successes by Gunn and Flowers. Throughout yesterday only one wicket fell at the Trent-bridge Ground in the match between Nottinghamshire and Kent, which began on a perfectly true pitch. The excellence of the Kent bowling and fielding made the feat of the three Nottinghamshire men of much more than ordinary merit.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 7)

Shrewsbury and Gunn, who were batting a great part of Thursday at Trent-bridge, gave the Kent bowlers and fieldsmen a lot more trouble yesterday. A mistake by Mr Rashleigh in the long field considerably prolonged Shrewsbury's innings.

Gunn completed his 100 after a stay of three hours and 50 minutes, and the record stood at 350 before a fine catch at long-off by Mr Braybrooke dismissed him. The wicket had realized 232 runs in four and a quarter hours. Gunn gave no chance during his long innings, and his chief contributions were five fours, five threes and 12 twos. Throughout his defence was characterized by great precision. It may be noted that Gunn has scored over 1,000 runs in first-class cricket this season.

Shrewsbury was fifth out at 393 to a brilliant one-handed catch by Mr Patterson at mid-on. There were two mistakes in Shrewsbury's long innings – viz., a return chance to Martin at 62 and an escape at the hands of Mr Rashleigh at 146. He was in seven hours and three-quarters for 178, in which were seven fours, 12 threes and 31 twos. Subsequently the batting possessed few points of interest, and the last four wickets were taken for four runs. The total reached 418, as the result of the eight and three-quarter hours over which the innings extended. Martin's four wickets cost 151 runs.

The turf, which had been affected by the rain during the night, gave the bowlers some aid after the early part of the play, and when Kent went in wickets fell steadily. Messrs Patterson, Hamilton and Kemp met with some success . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 8)

When stumps were drawn on the second day of this match at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, the Kent eleven seemed to have little but defeat in store for them. However, rain fell heavily on Saturday and caused the abandonment of the match.

20 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3749.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 10)

Surrey had drawn too far away from their opponents for their position at the head of the counties to be affected by the losses against Somerset and Middlesex, and while these consecutive defeats of the champion county still exercise the minds of the cricketing community the matches of Surrey lose nothing of their attractiveness. Some seven or eight thousand people visited the Oval yesterday to see the opening of Surrey v Lancashire. It may be noted that the Lancastrians were decisively beaten at Old Trafford earlier in the season.

Cricketers have again to complain of the weather. The wicket was already soft, and a shower in the morning, after Lancashire had gone in, rendered it "easy" for a time. As the innings ended the bowlers became more difficult to play, and just as the prospect appeared of Surrey's going in on a treacherous pitch the rain came. The home county was represented by its full strength, and the same may be said of Lancashire, excepting, of course, the absence of Mr A G Steel, who is now seen so little in first-class cricket.

For the fourth consecutive time Mr Shuter lost the toss, and Lancashire entered upon the first innings shortly after 12 o'clock. Sugg and A Ward began batting against the bowling of Lohmann and Sharpe. Sugg started in a vigorous style, sending Lohmann to the square-leg boundary. A single, however, took him to the other end, where Sharpe at once got him caught. Briggs arrived much earlier than usual, an experiment doubtlessly tried in the hope of obtaining as many runs as possible while the wicket was comparatively easy.

However, various disasters were in store for the visitors. Ward was caught at slip, and at 24 Mr M'Laren drove the ball into the hands of Sharpe, who took it low down at mid-on. Briggs fell to third man, and then Smith and Yates became partners. After a delay on account of rain, Yates was caught at slip and half the wickets were down for 38, a poor outlook for Lancashire. A considerable improvement was made by Mr Crosfield and Smith. Fifty went up at 25 minutes to 2, and although Lockwood and Abel were tried, the figures at luncheon time were 77.

After the interval Lohmann and Lockwood had charge of the attack. Runs came steadily, chiefly from Mr Crosfield, and at 90 Sharpe was put on at the pavilion end, while Lohmann crossed over. Mr Crosfield, at 41, gave a difficult chance to Abel at slip, and then with a drive for two the score was advanced to 101 at a quarter-past 3. Smith was now caught at wicket, having been in an hour and three-quarters for 27. Sixty-three runs had been added during the partnership. Mr Hornby was bowled first ball, and at 112 Lohmann dismissed Mr Kemble. Watson was soon caught at slip, and Mr Crosfield was last to leave – stumped. He had been in an hour and three-quarters and his 57 was an innings of much merit. He contributed five fours, three threes and eight twos.

Rain fell heavily just as the umpires were going out prior to Surrey's innings, and there was no further cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 7)

Yesterday's wet weather prevented any play in this match at Kennington Oval. The score thus

remains – Lancashire, first innings, 125. If possible the game will be resumed this morning.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 8)

Between 5,000 and 6,000 spectators attended the Oval on Saturday to see the conclusion of Surrey v Lancashire match. Such small progress had been made on the previous days owing to the rain that the probabilities of the match being decided depended upon whether the sun would harden the surface of the pitch and place the batsmen at the bowlers' mercy. But there was little sunshine, and although the heaviness of the turf was unfavourable for batting the wicket was not sufficiently false to bring disaster to either side.

Surrey entered upon their innings at 11.40, Briggs and Mold bowling. The start was ominous. Briggs got out three men in his first three overs – Brockwell stumped, Abel caught at wicket and Lohmann bowled. With three wickets down for seven runs the two Reads became partners. After Mr Walter Read had given a hard return chance to the bowler, the batsmen played a sound and vigorous game. Forty was reached in the hour, and the attack had been varied at each end when at 62 Maurice Read, in trying to drive, sent the ball into the hands of slip. Fifty-five had been added during the partnership. Mr W W Read did not long survive his namesake, and at 67 he attempted to drive and was clean bowled. Five down.

Henderson and Lockwood were quickly disposed of, and the seventh wicket fell at 80. Messrs Key and Shuter, however, scored freely, and the latter profited considerably by an escape at the hands of the wicket-keeper when he had scored 12. Each batsman made one fine drive, and although Mold resumed the figures at the interval were 118. Subsequently Mr Shuter skied the ball and was caught by Watson running from slip to short leg. The Surrey captain had played remarkably well. Wood and Sharpe were soon out, but not before the home side had secured a lead of two runs. Briggs had the good analysis of seven for 56.

Lancashire went in a second time at 3.25, and lost Sugg when four runs were scored. Briggs and Ward played vigorously until at 40 Henderson was put on to bowl, and at once disposed of the latter. Mr M'Laren and Briggs also fared well and the spectators had plenty of opportunity for applause. The various bowling changes were unavailing until 82, when Lohmann resumed and got Mr M'Laren taken at mid-off, while at the same figures Briggs also drove the ball into the hands of mid-off and retired for an attractive 42. At 5.35, and with the total at 107, Mr Hornby declared the Lancashire innings at an end, leaving Surrey only 25 minutes to play, it having been agreed go draw stumps at 6.15. Twenty minutes were taken for the interval, and then Surrey scored 12 runs for two wickets. The match was left drawn . . .

20 August: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128422.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 10)

Mr A P Lucas played a fine innings of 113 for Essex against Warwickshire on the county ground at Bromley-Martin yesterday. Essex had a wicket to fall at the drawing of stumps.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 7)

There was further excellent batting on the county ground at Birmingham yesterday. Overnight Essex had made 321 for nine wickets. Twenty-two runs were obtained for the tenth partnership, and then the dismissal of Burns, caught at cover-point, closed the innings. Burns scored 51 without a mistake; his chief figures were six fours, two threes and four twos.

Messrs Bainbridge and Hill put together 94 for the first Warwickshire wicket. Mr Bainbridge was taken at short leg and Shilton at long-off, after which Messrs Hill and Bryan offered great resistance. Rain caused several delays.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 8)

This match, which produced heavy scoring on the first two days at Birmingham, was not concluded on Saturday owing to the rain.

21 August: SOMERSET v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3750.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 7)

At Taunton, yesterday, the powerful Somerset eleven began a match with the Marylebone Club. In consequence of the overnight rain the wicket was unfit for cricket until after luncheon. The home side took first innings, and while the turf was easy scored rapidly.

Mr G Fowler carried off the batting honours with an excellent 51. The total reached 228, at the rate of over 70 an hour. Pougher claimed four wickets for 62 runs, which was by far the best analysis. The MCC went in . . .

Day 2 (report from Monday 24 August, page 8)

There was some interesting cricket at Taunton on Saturday, when this match ended in the success of Somerset by six wickets. The Clean bowled, who on Friday night had lost four wickets for 22 runs, completed their innings for 114, and after following on set the county 27 to make for victory, which was secured at the cost of four batsmen.

The positions of the leading counties are now as follows: -

	Matches				
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	15	11	2	2	9
Lancashire	14	7	4	3	3
Middlesex	14	7	5	2	2
Nottinghamshire	12	5	4	3	1
Kent	13	4	4	5	-
Somerset	11	5	5	1	-
Sussex	13	4	5	3	-
Yorkshire	15	5	10	0	-
Gloucestershire	15	2	10	3	-

24 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3751.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

This return match was begun yesterday on the Clifton College Ground. Mr Wright beat Dr W G Grace in the toss for innings. Nottinghamshire were not dismissed until after three and a half hours' batting, during which time runs averaged about 59 an hour.

Shrewsbury went in first and was sixth out for a faultless 94, the result of two and a half hours' play. His principal items were eight fours, ten threes and eleven twos. Gloucestershire were in a few minutes and lost one wicket.

Mr R Daft again appears in the Nottinghamshire eleven, from which Mr Dixon and Gunn are absent. A trial is being given to a brother of William Attewell. Bagguley journeyed with the team to Bristol, but owing to his indisposition the visitors batted one short.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 6)

Owing to heavy rain no play was possible in this match at Clifton yesterday. The game stands thus: - Nottinghamshire, 205; Gloucestershire, 12 (for one wicket).

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

More rain fell at Clifton yesterday, and although further progress was made with this match the time left for cricket was not sufficient for playing it out. Thus Nottinghamshire had no opportunity of avenging the defeat sustained at the hands of the western county at Trent-bridge earlier in the season.

The turf, though very heavy, was not exactly treacherous, and William Attewell's bowling was of great merit. The best point in the brief day's cricket was the batting of Dr E M Grace, who alone made much headway against the Notts attacks. Eventually the game was drawn, and Clifton, like the Cheltenham contests, has to be recorded as ruined by the bad weather. It may be noted that Bagguley, who was taken ill on Mon, was succeeded by Griffiths, of Hyson-green, in the Notts team.

24 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3752.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 6)

In consequence of the rain play was impossible before 12.45. Somerset, who had lost three wickets overnight for 29 runs, went on with their innings. The home eleven just failed to avert the follow on. Somerset, who were 82 behind, did badly at the second attempt.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

The two counties who recently beat Surrey have decided their return match at Taunton, where Middlesex yesterday secured a very easy victory.

24 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3753.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

The famous wickets at the Hove, Brighton, are not proof against the wet summer, and yesterday the batsmen with two or three exceptions comparatively failed . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 6)

Mold and Briggs, the chief Lancashire bowlers, carried all before them at the Hove, Brighton, yesterday, with the result that Sussex were beaten decisively by an innings, although the visitors' score amounted to only 176.

24 August: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3754.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

Headingley, near Leeds, was the place set apart for the decision of the return match between Yorkshire and Kent. Yesterday's cricket was of a particularly dull character and seemed well suited to the weather.

Owing to the heaviness of the wicket a start was not effected until 12.35, when Yorkshire went in. The Kent fielding was smart and their bowling good, and although the home side were batting three hours and a half the total amounted to only 148. Hall carried off the chief honours with an innings extending over two hours. Six other members of the side reached double figures. Kent had 50 minutes' batting in indifferent light and lost two good men for 44 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 6)

Yesterday's cricket in this match at Leeds was greatly curtailed by the rain. The resumption of the game was impracticable until half-past 12, when Mr Fox and A Hearne went on with the visitors' batting and were faced by Mr Jackson and Wainwright. Eventually rain stopped the game . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

At Leeds yesterday this match, which had been so much interfered with by rain, was concluded. The weather showed little improvement and delayed the resumption until half-past 2, and in the end the game was drawn . . .

24 August: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128174.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 August, page 9)

In the absence of Mr J Shuter and Mr W W Read, the captaincy of the Surrey eleven yesterday revolved on Mr K J Key. The Surrey executive, too, with eventually no anxiety as to the chances of their team against Warwickshire, gave Lohmann a rest. Warwickshire has not this season had a very large share of good fortune, and its performances are unlikely to further the county's ambition for a place in the charmed circle of first-class cricket.

Following a bright morning came much dullness, and the later stages of yesterday's play were carried on under very uninviting conditions. Surrey, who went in first, started well. Abel and Maurice Read scored 59 for the opening partnership. Read hit four fours, two threes and five twos. When West was put on to bowl at 68 things took a decided turn in favour of the visitors, and in eight overs the new man got four wickets. Mr Key and Brockwell, however, built up a good advantage for Surrey and put on 91 for the sixth wicket. Brockwell skied the ball and was taken by the wicket-keeper at 178; he contributed five fours, four threes and four twos. The Surrey innings ended in a manner somewhat abrupt, the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth wickets all falling at 185. Mr Key, who played on, was credited with two fours, seven threes and three twos. Four for 31 by West was by far the best analysis.

Warwickshire's innings lasted from 4.25 until 5.50, and was remarkable for the extraordinary bowling of Lockwood, who finished up the venture by taking four wickets with successive balls: he got out Mr Bryan (who was in 50 minutes for two runs) with the last delivery of one over, and then clean bowled Collishaw, Bates and Leake. The last six Warwickshire wickets all went down at 54. Lockwood's six cost 24 and Sharpe's four 20 runs. Warwickshire followed on . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 6)

Warwickshire entered on their second innings with arrears of 131. Yesterday morning Mr Bainbridge, Shilton and Devey were out for 17 runs, but West and Richards played capital cricket. Pallett ran himself out, but West and Collishaw scored at a good rate and advanced the game to 80, when a catch at extra slip dismissed West, whose 32 had been made in good style.

Bates joined Collishaw and the batting became lively, the former showing an aptitude for leg hitting. The seventh wicket produced 31 runs, and then Collishaw was stumped. Leake stayed a little time while Mr Hill, escaping Abel at slip (a pretty easy chance), managed to avert the innings defeat. Surrey had only five runs to make for victory and they quickly won by ten wickets.

27 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3755.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

This match at Nottingham was postponed until to-day because of the bad weather. The elevens are . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 7)

This match began at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, but in consequence of the wet weather the progress made in the hour and a half, during which cricket proved practicable, was small. Play began at 20 minutes past 12, when Notts, who had won the toss, took possession of the heavy wicket. Shrewsbury and Flowers faced the bowling of Hearne and Mr Nepean.

The slowness of the scoring will be imagined from the fact that in 40 minutes only 11 runs were recorded. A catch at cover-point then disposed of Flowers. Gunn came next, and when a shower had stopped the play for a quarter of an hour Mr Nepean gave way to Rawlin. Gunn was soon caught at mid-off, after which Barnes and Shrewsbury, who were both missed, raised the score to 38.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 8)

Such little progress had been made with this match at Trent-bridge by the time that stumps were drawn on Friday night that the chances of a definite finish were remote, and the result was as surmised. The cricket furnished one exceptionally fine feat in the bowling by J T Hearne.

It will be remembered that two of the home wickets had fallen for 38 runs. On Saturday morning Hearne dismissed the other eight batsmen in an hour and a half, and secured a record for the innings of nine wickets for 32 runs. The home county were three hours making their 84.

Middlesex scored at a much faster rate and made 97 in a little over two hours. Mr O'Brien played well for 30, and Messrs Henery and de Paravicini batted with considerable vigour. Attewell's bowling was effective, and his six wickets averaged a fraction under six runs each. The game was drawn as follows . . .

27 August: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3756.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

In consequence of the wet weather the start of this match at the Oval was postponed from yesterday until this morning at 11 o'clock. The elevens are . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 7)

Soft and treacherous wickets have been the rule this season and that pitched for the last big London match of the summer has furnished no exception to the rule. After so much heavy rain on Thursday the public were not unprepared for a further delay because of the unfitness of the turf; but Kennington Oval recovers rapidly from the wet, and by 11.30 a start was made in Surrey v Kent.

Apart from the wicket's heaviness yesterday's play went on under conditions far more pleasant than usual and, although the cricket at times was not in keeping with the weather's brightness, yet the spells of brilliancy made the general verdict one of satisfaction. Seven thousand people were present and followed the play with a keen and discriminating interest.

Fortune attended Mr Shuter in the toss for the choice of innings, and it was no small advantage to Surrey, who, going in first, had the best of the wicket. Lockwood and Abel started the batting, and the former's vigorous style preceded a good deal of quietude. Against the bowling of A Hearne and Martin, Lockwood ran up 25 out of the first 29 in less than half an hour, and then fell to a catch at wicket. Maurice Read never seemed comfortable, and at 41 he was bowled, while Lohmann, after making two or three good hits, cut the ball into the hands of cover-point. Two pulls to the boundary characterized Mr Read's stay (a well-judged catch in the long field dismissed him), and at 98, the last ball before luncheon disposed of Mr Shuter. Abel had so far been in a couple of hours for 21, and it should have been noted that there had been a delay of half-an-hour because of a sharp shower – another advantage to the batting side.

After luncheon A Hearne and Walter Wright bowled so effectively that in an hour and a half the last five batsmen were disposed of for 31 runs. Abel's 30 furnished a striking illustration of patience; he was batting within ten minutes of three hours for his runs and was sixth out at 112. A Hearne had bowlers from the pavilion end right through the innings, and his analysis came out well – six wickets for 53 runs.

When Kent went in the pitch began to show signs of a most treacherous nature. However, after the dismissal of Mr Hamilton, Messrs Marchant and Rashleigh batted brilliantly, and 50 went up in 35 minutes. Then Mr Rashleigh played on, and nine runs later Mr Marchant was dismissed by a difficult one-handed return catch. Mr Patterson played well, but four more wickets had been taken for 19 runs when the game ceased for the day. Kent are 51 behind with seven men out.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 8)

The season finished in quite a sensational manner at Kennington-oval on Saturday, when Lockwood achieved a wonderful bowling feat and greatly helped Surrey to beat Kent decisively. On Friday

night Surrey already possessed an advantage, as the visitors with seven men out were 51 runs behind. On Saturday morning the innings terminated for an addition of 13, and Surrey, who were thus 38 ahead, entered on their second venture.

The start augured anything but for the subsequent triumph of the home eleven. Mr Shuter returned the ball, Maurice Read was bowled and Abel taken at cover-point, the three men leaving for 24 runs. Lohmann was dismissed at 49 and Lockwood was well caught in the long field at 63. Mr W W Read, however, played fine free cricket, and although he could get no one to stay with him he batted so well that during his hour's stay he put together 46 by six fours, a three, four twos and singles. He was seventh out at 96. The other batsmen added 16 runs, and at five minutes past 3 the innings terminated for 112.

Kent were left with 151 to make for victory. In an hour and a quarter the whole side was out for 45. When the sixth wicket fell at 24 there were already 11 byes. Lockwood clean bowled seven of the Kent men at a cost of 19 runs, which gave him a record of 11 for 40 in the double innings. Surrey won by 105 runs.

27 August: YORKSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3757.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

Yesterday the first match of the festival should have commenced, but rain fell heavily and at 3 o'clock it was decided to postpone the game until this morning.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 7)

Rain fell heavily again at Scarborough yesterday and further delayed the start in this match until today.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 8)

More rain fell at Scarborough on Saturday, and this fixture was abandoned without the bowling of a ball on any of the three days.

27 August: ESSEX v LANCASHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128184.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

At Leyton yesterday rain fell heavily and prevented any play in this match. A start will be made this morning.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 7)

At the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, the return match between these counties was begun. The rain of Thursday had left the wicket soft, and Lancashire batted before the turf became treacherous.

Ward and Mr M'Laren scored 85 for the first wicket at a faster rate than a run a minute. Four batsmen were dismissed for 176, but the other six added only 35 runs. Briggs and Mold got Essex out in less than an hour for 35 runs; half the wickets fell for 19, and Mr Buxton alone made double figures. Following on with arrears of 176, Essex did better, Messrs Owen and Buxton both showing excellent batting.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 8)

As was expected from the cricket of Friday, Lancashire on Saturday, at Leyton, gained a complete victory over Essex by an innings and 45 runs. Mold and Briggs both bowled with great success, and the latter's ten wickets cost only 76 runs. Mr Owen, Mr Buxton and Pickett all batted well, but the disasters of the first innings left arrears too big to be overcome.

Rain has been the predominant element in cricket during the last summer. Matches which gave promises of good finishes were spoiled, others were upset on the first or second days, while not a few had to be abandoned. Indeed, it is not too much to say that the season of 1891 ranks among the worst experienced for a number of years. Thus the uncertainties of the game have been considerably increased.

The question of county qualification continues to exercise the minds of cricketers. Indeed, it gives one a problem most difficult to solve, especially when so many conflicting interests are at stake. For instance, it does not seem right that a cricketer should play against the county of his birth, even though he may have qualified for another. We remember the indignation, somewhat freely expressed, when so good a cricketer as Southerton, who had been the mainstay of Sussex, appeared in the field for Surrey, and thus brought his excellent bowling to bear against his own county. One gentleman remarked, "I don't like to see Jimmy out there." If a man is engaged by a county in which he has resided for a number of years and is a lover of the game, let the committee invite him to play by all means. But it is not sportsmanlike for a county to pay a man's expenses for two years in order to secure his services. It robs the game of its interest and weakens than emulation which should exist in all contests.

The classification of counties has not been accomplished in an authoritative manner, and Somerset, by not making fixtures other than those with the leading counties, has been accorded a place in the first class.

With an improved record Surrey have again outstripped their rivals, and the difference between first and second positions is far greater than last season. In batting, bowling and fielding they have again showed excellence, while their good fortune in frequently winning the toss did not forsake them. Abel, the least pretentious member of the eleven, again heads the batting list in a marked manner. Throughout his batting was consistent, and on more than one occasion a smart piece of fielding by him got rid of a dangerous opponent. Lohmann's ability as an all-round cricketer was once more shown, and among the whole of the county bowlers he has the highest aggregate of wickets – 132.

Lancashire again occupy second place; but the distance between their record and that of Surrey is very wide. They, however, possess a powerful team, and the surprise is that they have not shown better form. Ward's batting and the bowling of Mold stand out prominently.

Middlesex have risen from seventh to the third place, a fact mainly attributable to their improved bowling. The Hearnese, who are identified with cricket, have furnished a good bowler for Middlesex; he is credited with 118 wickets, and his having obtained these at a fraction of over ten runs each is a fine performance. Mr T C O'Brien must be congratulated on his many batting triumphs, and in the absence of Mr A J Webbe, through accident, he captained the side on many occasions.

Nottinghamshire, who turn up bowlers like mushrooms and lose them with equal rapidity, improved their position by a point. At the outset Shrewsbury ran the risk of losing his reputation, but he then came with a rush and, in company with Gunn, achieved many noteworthy feats. Yet there seemed to be a lack of enthusiasm among the members of the side. It must have been with a feeling of chagrin that the county viewed the success of Lockwood and Sharpe for foreign clubs, and their really first-class bowler was left to them in Attewell.

The bad weather and treacherous wickets apparently affected Kent more than some of the other counties. They possessed an eleven of great strength, and were well captained by Mr Marchant in the earlier part of the season, and by Mr Patterson afterwards.

Somerset's elevation into the front rank was well deserved; still they have not achieved so much prominence as their partisans expected. Their victory over Surrey stamps them as a first-class county and has shown that they are capable of sound cricket.

A feature which makes the county programme more complete was the meeting of Middlesex and Sussex. They played home and home matches, when honours were divided. The county of the Lillywhites [has] shown vast improvement over the last few seasons, and there seems every likelihood of their regaining their old position, in spite of those who at one time wished to relegate them to the second-class.

Yorkshire's career has been characterized by defeat, which was experienced on ten occasions, although as a set-off they won five out of the other six games.

It seems incredible that Gloucestershire should be really at the bottom of the list. Their batting was weak, and only one fact need be noted to illustrate this – Dr W G Grace's average fell from 36.4 to 20.20. Dr E M Grace, perhaps the oldest cricketer approaching county form, at times hit vigorously. The position and averages of the leading counties follow: -

SURREY

Until late in the season Surrey held a record almost unparalleled. They won ten out of their first 11 games, the second match with Sussex having been drawn. Then came the losses, quite startling in their nature, with Somerset and Middlesex. Except for a brief time on the first day the former contest was fought out on a sound and true wicket, and the match was won on its merits. At Lord's, in the beginning of the next week, Surrey found themselves in much the same predicament as a good many of their opponents had been on occasions when the choice of first innings meant winning the match. After Middlesex had made a big score the rain came and ruined the pitch. Had Surrey not failed to avert the follow-on, the probabilities were that they would have saved the game.

"Lancashire v Surrey" was left unfinished, but the county closed the season on Saturday at the Oval in the most brilliant fashion, when Lockwood achieved a bowling feat of a wonderful nature. The full results were: - 16 matches played, 12 won, two lost and two drawn. All the victories were of a most decisive nature and were as follows: - Nottinghamshire, Kent, Gloucestershire and Yorkshire (twice each), and Lancashire, Somerset, Middlesex and Sussex. Last year nine matches were won, three lost and two drawn, so that this season they have even a better record.

The eleven varied very slightly during the whole of the engagements, and the changes in its composition were only temporary: Woods's hands were injured several times, and A F Clarke and Watts occupied the position of wicket-keeper, and M Read and Lockwood were away once or twice in consequence of indisposition. Abel, as last year, heads the batting with an increase of four in his average. Throughout the summer he was extremely successful, and his aggregate falls only 84 short of the 1,000. Maurice Read goes into second place with 30, and Lohmann is third with 26. The other batsmen all fall below their figures of last year.

But Lockwood, although his batting has fallen off, bowled with great effect in many of the matches

and is second on the bowling list. Sharpe at one time promised to run his companions very close for chief honours in the attack, but towards the close his bowling lost some of its sting – doubtless the result of hard work. His record is not so good as in 1890, when he took 100 wickets at 12.9. Lohmann is the most remarkable cricketer possessed by the side; he is third on the batting with 26, and has taken 132 wickets at an average of 10.87, which places him well in front of the other bowlers. Nor is fielding the least point in Lohmann's all-round play.

LANCASHIRE

Lancashire have secured second place on the list. Their record still is not so good as might have been expected from a side possessed of so much talent both in batting and bowling. Eight of the 15 matches were won, four lost and three drawn. Middlesex beat them both at Lord's and Old Trafford in a very decisive manner, and their other losses were at the hands of Surrey and Nottinghamshire. Rain deprived them of a victory in the first match with Sussex, but there was little advantage to either team in the unfinished games with Notts and Surrey. Somerset, Yorkshire and Gloucestershire were each beaten twice, and the other successes were over Sussex and Kent. The rain prevented any play whatever in the first match with the latter county, which had been arranged for the Aigburth Ground at Liverpool.

Lancastrians have still to regret that Mr A G Steel is not able to give the side more aid, while the vacancy caused by the loss of Richard Pilling, the wicket-keeper, has been found difficult to fill. It is a severe handicap on a man to have to follow such a master of the art, but Mr Kemble did very well for the side. W Pilling, a younger brother of Richard, received a trial, while apparently Whiteside, who is on the ground staff at Lord's, did not please Lancashire.

Mr A N Hornby captained the team in the majority of cases, and when away he was represented by Mr Crosfield. Albert Ward has in every way borne out the high opinions that were formed of him. Throughout the season he was very reliable and his ability either to play a careful or a forcing game received plenty of illustration. His 185 quite recently at Gravesend showed him to advantage in many respects. Mr A C M'Laren, who created such a stir two seasons since, when he got 100 at Brighton in his first match for the county, takes first place among the batsmen with the high average of 44. There were all those good traits in his batting that made him so conspicuous when in the Harrow eleven. Sugg rendered capital services and wound up with a fine 75 at Brighton, which materially helped Lancashire to the second victory against Sussex.

Mold and Briggs did most of the bowling and both showed excellent results. Mold finds a place among the few bowlers who have taken 100 wickets for the counties. Watson is still a member of the side, but Barlow was left out of the later matches.

MIDDLESEX

Middlesex have had a remarkably successful season. J T Hearne has proved himself the good bowler of which he long ago gave promise, and possesses a great average; he took 118 wickets at ten runs each, against his 35 at an average cost of 22 runs last year. In pace, pitch and break Hearne showed a great command over the ball, and Middlesex are to be congratulated upon having at last secured a bowler of the highest class. Hearne, too, is Middlesex born.

Mr T C O'Brien shares with Hearne the first honours of the Middlesex season. Since his Oxford

days Mr O'Brien, upon whom devolved the captaincy of the county in the later matches, has rarely batted with such consistent success. He is certainly a batsman loved of the spectators and, while more frequently playing a forcing game, he, when necessity arose, showed careful defence. Mr Stoddart was not so certain, but he serves his side well, securing an average of 30, and made the highest individual score of the team – namely, the 215 which so helped Middlesex to beat Lancashire at Old Trafford. Mr A J Webbe, like many other good batsmen, found the wet wickets anything but pleasant and, having the misfortune to injure his leg during the Harrow Wanderers' tour, he was unable to take part in the many fine victories with which his side finished up the season. Except Messrs O'Brien and Stoddart, the batsmen were greatly affected by the soft turf.

Hearne's achievements in bowling have already been noted, but attention may be drawn to the aid afforded the metropolitan county by Rawlin, Mr Nepean and Phillips. Wicket-keeping was a difficulty with which the side should not be troubled next year if it be true that Messrs G M'Gregor and H Philipson will by that time be qualified to play.

Middlesex beat Surrey, Nottinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Sussex, Yorkshire and Somerset once each and Lancashire twice. They lost to Kent (twice), Surrey, Yorkshire and Sussex, and games with Somerset and Nottinghamshire were left unfinished.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Nottinghamshire record shows a slight improvement on last year. Gunn and Shrewsbury each scored over 700 runs at an average of 40, and Barnes and Flowers too have both done well. Yet this capital batting has not raised the side to the position one might have expected. Shrewsbury failed in the early games, but the weak point in the team was the bowling. William Attewell bore the greatest share of the attack and roved himself in every way worthy of the high place he holds among the best bowlers of the day. The rest of the Nottingham attack was below the county's average: Shacklock's 46 wickets cost nearly 21 runs each in a season so favourable to bowlers, and Flowers's 29 cost 27 runs.

A good trial was afforded the young player Bagguley, and he gave every promise of developing into a skilled cricketer. Mr J A Dixon captained the team in the majority of the games. Mr Richard Daft, who had retired from county cricket for ten years, was again called upon to play, and he appeared at the Oval in the August Bank Holiday match. His son, although a good field, still bats with only a small amount of success.

The five victories were – over Sussex (twice), Yorkshire (twice) and Lancashire. They lost to Surrey (twice), Middlesex and Gloucestershire. Their four games after the return with Surrey were drawn.

KENT

Of the 15 matches played by Kent only four were won; five of the others were lost and six drawn. Two of the victories were over Middlesex, and Somerset and Yorkshire were each beaten once. Two defeats were sustained at the hands of Surrey and one each by Sussex, Lancashire and Somerset. It was a poor record for a side of so many fine cricketers and reduced the club's position from third last year to fifth.

The captaincy of the side was shared by Mr F Marchant and Mr W H Patterson. The former played with much of his old brilliancy and is first on the averages with 26 – the only one over 20 – against seven in the 1890 list. Mr Patterson appeared twice as often as last year, but there is a great fall in his record, to be attributed, as in most other cases, to the treacherous turf. Martin, A Hearne and Wright did most of the bowling, and the first-named only failed by two to reach 100 wickets. Walter Wright was not so successful as in 1890, but the injury to his hand may in some degree account for this.

It is pleasant to turn away from the disastrous cricket-field to the great success of the social portion of the Canterbury Week, when the “Old Stagers” celebrated their jubilee in a manner well worthy of the festival, and the part played by them since the Week’s institution.

SOMERSET

The latest addition to the first-class ranks has proved well worthy of its promotion. Above everything their victory over Surrey at Taunton, gained as it was by sterling cricket, stands out as a prominent feature of the season. The match was played out on a fast and hard wicket, and Somerset fought a winning game with the greatest brilliancy.

Kent and Yorkshire were each beaten once, and there was a double victory over Gloucestershire. The bad weather spoilt the opening game with Middlesex, and at the Oval it will be remembered how, after Surrey had made 449, the rain came and Somerset were left to bad on a ruined pitch. Both the games with Lancashire were lost easily, and so were the home fixtures against Yorkshire and Middlesex. Somerset v Kent, at Taunton, was a remarkably good match, and at one time, on the last day, the probabilities of the result seemed to favour the home side. Kent, however, won by four wickets. Five wins, six losses and one drawn match is a record of which the club should be very proud in the first year of its new existence. The side, too, may justly claim the chief honours of the West of England; they left Gloucestershire far behind, and according to the system of the division of honours they share with Kent the fifth place on the list.

Somerset certainly possess a great wealth of amateur batting talent. For 19 innings Mr L C H Palaret has the fine average of 31.2, and Mr Challen is second with 25.4. Mr Hewett, after starting unsuccessfully, maintained his reputation for brilliant hitting and captained the team with great success. The most prominent man in the side was Mr S M J Woods, whose all-round ability is remarkable. He has a batting average of 19, he took 72 wickets and is first on the bowling, while in fielding he was equally conspicuous.

There is no other county that can boast of two such skilled wicket-keepers as Mr A E Newton and the Rev A P Wickham, both of whom were seen to considerable advantage. Nichols and Tylecote bowled consistently well.

SUSSEX

There was a marked change in the cricket of Sussex. Frequently the side proved itself well worthy of the beautiful ground at the Hove, and showed batting of which any county might be proud. But in their bowling department they have plenty of room for good recruits.

The latter part of the season lessened in some measure what promised to be an exceptionally good

year for Sussex. Certainly better days seemed to have dawned for the county. A first-class bowler is what they require. Quaife did not have the success that seemed in store for him; he had plenty of style but failed to get runs. Bean batted with brilliant consistency, and an aggregate of 773 runs gives him an average of over 33, more than 14 better than the second man. Bean proved an invaluable all-round player; not the least feature of his cricket was his fielding, and the unerring return made him quite typical of the place (Sutton-in-Ashfield) that has produced, among others, Briggs, Flowers and Barnes.

Marlow is a decided acquisition to the eleven; he quickly made his mark as a batsman and secured 100 on his first appearance at Lord's against the MCC. Mr W Newham, the captain, gave evidence of the retention of his skill as a fast-wicket batsman, and Messrs C A Smith and G L Wilson also did well. Mr Smith, besides being third in the batting, is first in the bowling; Tate proved very successful and Humphreys's lobbs were frequently found invaluable in the attack.

Sussex beat Middlesex, Gloucestershire, Kent and Yorkshire, and their losses were against Nottinghamshire (twice), Lancashire, Gloucestershire, Middlesex, Surrey and Yorkshire. Their other games with Lancashire, Kent and Surrey were drawn.

YORKSHIRE

Yorkshire may rightly be described as an unfortunate side. An eleven containing such a fine array of talent should have certainly fared better, but a combination of bad luck and inclement weather brought about the downfall of the county on no fewer than ten occasions.

These losses were sustained by an eleven which could command such men as Ulyett, Peel, Hall, Hunter, Wainwright, Lord Hawke, Mr F S Jackson, Mr E Smith and Harrison. As the season progressed and brought no success, the committee drafted various new players into the side, with varying results. Lord Hawke, with perhaps the exception of his fine innings at Taunton, proved out of form, and his failures followed with the severest persistency. Messrs Jackson and Smith, of Cambridge and Oxford, both good all-round cricketers, met with a fair measure of success. Peel and Wainwright, too, bowled well.

The more the side is analyzed the more the fact becomes an enigma that Yorkshire should have had such a bad season. Ulyett batted excellently, while Peel's ability as an all-round player is illustrated by his first position on the averages with 24.12, and his 17.11 gives him second place among the bowlers. Harrison's delivery is not so fast as formerly, but his pace is yet great and he was frequently very effective.

Yorkshire did not achieve a great reputation as fieldsmen, but in David Hunter they possess the best professional wicket-keeper of the day. Of the new men fresh to county cricket, Tunnicliffe and Wardall seemed the most likely to work their way into the first rank.

Sixteen matches played, five won, ten lost and one drawn was the full record of the eleven. The victories were two over Gloucestershire and one each over Somerset, Middlesex and Sussex. Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and Surrey beat them twice, and Middlesex, Somerset, Sussex and Kent once.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The little brightness in a season of many disasters was seen at Brighton against Sussex, and later at Trent-bridge with Nottinghamshire. These were the only two instances of success; four games were drawn, while Surrey, Lancashire, Somerset and Yorkshire beat them twice, and Sussex and Middlesex once each. The whole record was two wins, ten losses and four drawn games. These figures are in no way comparable with last year's.

The chief cause of one of the blackest pages in the annals of Gloucestershire cricket has been the decline in the batting, and the most noticeable falling off in this respect is seen in the figures of Dr W G Grace, whose misfortunes have never before been so numerous. His aggregate is only 440, and the highest innings was the recent 72 (not out) against Middlesex; his average is a fraction under 21. The repeated failures of the Gloucestershire captain led people to think that the greatest cricketer of our times had permanently lost his skill.

The difficult conditions under which the games were so frequently played were forgotten by a large number of Gloucestershire's well-wishers. The decay of Dr Grace's cricket became a general theme. But he had a surprise in store in the shape of a couple of good innings – 54 and 72 – in the closing matches of the year. It should be remembered that he sustained an injury to his leg in Scotland, and just as he had recovered from this he strained himself while practising at the nets at Trent-bridge. When bowling triumphs had become so common as to call for only passing notice, Dr W G Grace was not behindhand, and, if an unsuccessful batsman, his skill with the ball was frequently demonstrated.

A great loss to the western county was Mr J Cranston's inability to get runs. Last year he was the best left-handed batsman in England, and this season, after many failures, his county gave up playing him. Mr Radcliffe, Painter, Dr E M Grace and Mr Pullen all did fairly well. Woof, Roberts and Murch met with a large share of success with the ball. There was one notable addition to the Gloucestershire ranks in the person of a sterling wicket-keeper – Board, whose skill both in stumping and catching was frequently displayed.

The following are the positions of the counties: -

	Matches				
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	16	12	2	2	10
Lancashire	15	8	4	3	4
Middlesex	16	8	5	3	3
Nottinghamshire	14	5	4	5	1
Kent	15	4	5	6	-
Somerset	12	5	6	1	-
Sussex	14	4	7	3	-
Yorkshire	16	5	10	1	-
Gloucestershire	16	2	10	4	-

The system of scoring adopted by the first-class counties is – drawn games to be ignored, the losses deducted from the wins and the remainder to count as points.

31 August: NORTH v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3758.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 September, page 4)

During the hours of cricket yesterday the attack triumphed in a marked manner, the wicket being favourable to the bowlers. Yesterday should have furnished the fourth day's play in the festival, but in consequence of the weather it was the first. A numerous company visited the ground, but there were scarcely two hours during which cricket in North v South took place.

In the absence of Dr W G Grace the captaincy of the South devolved on Mr T C O'Brien, who commanded a very powerful side. The home eleven, too, was very strong, in spite of the absence of Shrewsbury, and Lord Hawke had a lot of good bowling. The South won the toss, and at half-past 12 Messrs O'Brien and Stoddart opened the batting. Attewell and Briggs shared the attack.

Wickets began to fall rapidly. With only three runs recorded Mr O'Brien was taken at mid-off, and five later Mr Stoddart left. At 14 Abel was dismissed. Messrs Read and Murdoch improved matters, the former throwing plenty of vigour into the batting, while the Australian played more cautiously. Mr Read followed up a four from Briggs by scoring ten runs in one over from the Lancastrian, and, having contributed 16 towards the 21 added since his arrival, he fell to a good catch in the long field. Four for 35.

Bean stayed some time without scoring, and was stumped, while at 42 Briggs performed the "hat trick" by getting three wickets with consecutive balls: the victims were Mr Murdoch, stumped; Mr Hadow, leg before; and Mr Ferris, bowled. Eight down. Mr M'Gregor and Lohmann were together at the interval, when the figures were 44. Subsequently Lohmann batted freely, and 18 runs were put on in less than a quarter of an hour. Mr M'Gregor now had to leave – leg before – and when Mr Woods arrived rain soon stopped the game. After waiting an hour it was decided to postpone further play. The bowling of Briggs had furnished the feature of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 September, page 8)

The rain on Mon night rendered the wicket slow for the second day's cricket. The interest in the game was well sustained, and the play furnished many exceptionally good points. The batting of Mr E Smith and the all-round play of Lohmann were very fine, while Mr Woods distinguished himself with the bat and in the field.

The South, who had lost nine wickets for 68, resumed their innings at 12.35. Lohmann and Mr Woods scored rapidly from Attewell and Briggs, and in a little over a quarter of an hour 28 runs were added. Then Mr Woods fell to Peel's bowling and the innings ended. Briggs's seven wickets were cheaply secured. Lohmann carried out his bat for an excellent 30.

Soon after North had gone in, Ulyett drove the ball hard back and Lohmann caught it close to the ground with his right hand. Mr E Smith came in next. A light shower stopped the game for a few minutes, and on resuming Mr Smith gave many chances, which were missed. Before he had scored, Mr Read at third man missed him; he narrowly escaped being run out, and then Mr W W Read, this time in the long-field, again let him off. Mr Ferris dismissed Lord Hawke, and with Gunn in his place the score reached 38 before luncheon.

After the interval Gunn was brilliantly caught at mid-on by Mr Woods. Barnes gave little trouble, being caught at wicket. Chatterton and Peel remained only a short time. Mr Smith, who showed some fine batting and received great aid from Mr Jackson, was seventh out, being caught in the long-field at 105. He contributed 56 out of 101 added during his stay of 90 minutes; his chief hits were three fours, six threes and seven twos. The last three wickets put on 20 runs, and the innings ended at half-past 4 with a total of 125. The South, who were 29 behind, went in a second time . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 September, page 4)

Such close finishes as that witnessed yesterday, when the South beat the North by six runs, are very rare. The last stages of the match were thus naturally full of excitement, and the company assembled were aroused to a high pitch of enthusiasm. This kind of cricket compensated in a large degree for any shortcomings in the previous part of the Festival. Among the bowlers Lohmann stood out prominently: his 13 wickets in the double innings averaged six runs each.

On Tuesday evening the South had entered upon their second venture, and at the drawing of stumps they were 14 behind with eight wickets to fall. Messrs Murdoch and M'Gregor were opposed by Briggs and Attewell. The score rose steadily; the arrears were made up, and there was a surplus of four runs, when a catch at slip sent back Mr Murdoch. At 46 Lohmann and Mr M'Gregor were both out, the latter having played a capital innings of 20. For an addition of 26 Messrs Read, O'Brien, Hadow and Woods were disposed of, and nine runs later the innings closed with a total of 81. During the morning the eight South wickets had produced 66 runs in an hour and a half. Attewell and Briggs had bowled remarkably well.

The North add 53 to make for victory. At 3 o'clock Lord Hawke and Ulyett went in to the bowling of Lohmann and Mr Ferris. With five runs recorded Lord Hawke was dismissed, and was succeeded by Mr Smith. He drove a ball from Lohmann out of the ground for six, and when 30 appeared, with only one man out, the result seemed to be in little doubt. Without addition Lohmann, in one over, bowled Chatterton and Ulyett and caused Barnes to strike the wicket.

This change in the aspect of affairs infused fresh life into the game. Lohmann and Mr Ferris bowled splendidly and the fielding was good. It should be noted that Mr M'Gregor, having injured his hand, was succeeded as wicket-keeper by Mr Murdoch. At 35 Gunn was sent back, and five runs later a fine catch at slip disposed of Mr Smith. Mr Jackson, Attewell and Briggs were out by the time the total had reached 45, and then Hunter, the last man in, appeared to aid Peel.

Eight runs were wanted to win. Hunter played the rest of the over from Lohmann, but Peel, after obtaining a single, was finely caught low down at point, and the South won amidst great excitement by six runs.

3 September: GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND v M SHERWIN'S NOTTINGHAMSHIRE XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3760.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 September, page 5)

The exciting cricket of Wednesday has given new life to a festival which rain seemed to have at one time doomed for failure, and yesterday's game, though lacking a pretentious title, was far from devoid of interest. Captained by Mr T C O'Brien, the Gentlemen put a thoroughly good side into the field. Wednesday's injury kept Mr M'Gregor out of the team, but Mr W W Read, who played in his stead, accomplished a remarkable feat – the "hat trick" by a lob bowler. And the Notts team, though not representative of the county's full strength, contained its chief members, with the exception of Shrewsbury and Mr Dixon.

The day, though at times threatening, held fine and there was a large attendance of spectators. About half-past 12 the Gentlemen, who had won the toss, took first innings. Messrs Stoddart and Hadow were confronted by Attewell and Shacklock. After Mr Stoddart had escaped being stumped, Mr Hadow fell to a catch at third man before a run was recorded. Messrs Murdoch and Stoddart played carefully for a little while, until at 13 a catch at mid-on sent back the latter. Mr Smith played freely during the few overs of his stay, but at 29 both he and Mr Murdoch were disposed of.

The batting proved lively during the partnership of Messrs Read and De Trafford. The latter drove a ball from Shacklock out of the ground for six and made various other fine strokes. However, at 47 he lost Mr Read. Mr O'Brien was next in, and almost immediately Shacklock injured his hand in trying to take a return and had to retire. Bagguley filled Shacklock's place, but runs came rapidly until 71, when Mr De Trafford, who had made 33 in half an hour, was bowled. After lunch Lord Hawke and Mr Vernon took their places at the wickets, but were soon out. Messrs O'Brien and Woods, however, threw great vigour into their batting and put on 37 in half an hour. Mr Woods was caught at slip and, without addition, Mr Ferris was taken at wicket, the innings closing for 116 at 3.50.

Nottinghamshire went in at a quarter-past 4. After the speedy dismissal of Mr Wright and Flowers, a stand was made by Gunn and Barnes. The scoring became so rapid that the attack was varied, and 50 appeared amid cheers. Mr W W Read now went on to bowl, and in his first over he performed the "hat trick" by taking three wickets with successive balls – Barnes caught at mid-off, and Attewell and Dr Dixon bowled. Five for 51 . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 September, page 7)

Charming weather was experienced at Scarborough yesterday during cricket hours, but the resumption of the last game of the festival was delayed on account of the effects of a thunderstorm in the early morning. The match was proceeded with after luncheon, and the play furnished plenty to interest the company.

Notts, who had lost six wickets for 60 runs, resumed their innings, Gunn and Mr Robinson being opposed by Messrs Read and Ferris. Runs came slowly, and with 20 added Mr Woods took up the bowling in place of Mr Read. At 83 Mr Robinson obstructed his wicket; he and Gunn had made 31 during their partnership. So far runs had averaged about one every three minutes, but Bagguley threw fresh life into the batting and made ten in an over from Mr Woods. However, Mr Read's lobs

subsequently proved effective. He got Bagguley caught in the long field at 96, and after the 100 had gone up Gunn and Sherwin fell to him. The former had played very patiently, having been in two hours and a quarter for 40. Another feature was the effective lob bowling of Mr Read, whose six wickets averaged four runs each. It was five minutes past 4 when Notts completed their innings.

With an advantage of nine runs the Gentlemen went in a second time. Messrs Stoddart and Hadow opened the batting and scored quickly from Attewell and Bagguley. Mr Stoddart soon drove a ball from Attewell out of the ground and he treated Bagguley in a similar way. The attack was varied, but the figures had travelled to 52 in 40 minutes when Mr Stoddart was bowled for a brilliant 38. Mr Murdoch joined Mr Hadow, who had been missed at slip by Sherwin, and although there were further bowling changes no other wicket fell. The turf, though very soft, afforded the bowlers less assistance than might have been expected.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 September, page 8)

In spite of bad weather the Scarborough Festival this year will be remembered for much excellent cricket and for one particularly good finish. On Saturday, the closing day, the Gentlemen of England won by 115 runs.

The gentlemen on Friday night had scored 85 runs for the loss of only one wicket in the second innings. By luncheon time on Saturday they had raised the score to 233 for the loss of eight men, and Lord Hawke then declared the innings ended. Mr Hadow had played remarkably well, and Mr Read's 52, knocked up in less than an hour, was even better. He contributed nine fours and seven twos. Mr de Trafford and Mr O'Brien also showed good style.

The Notts eleven, with three hours to play, were left with 243 to get to win. The start promised an early finish, five wickets falling for 27 runs, and six for 39. Gunn and Bagguley put on 65 in a little over half an hour, but no other members of the side reached double figures. Gunn's 62 were made in very good style and his innings lasted more than an hour.

Wednesday 9 September, page 5

Lord Sheffield's team will leave the Albert Docks on Friday, October 2, in the P and O steamer Arcadia. The side may play a match at Colombo on the way out.

10 September: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3764.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 September, page 4)

The Hastings Festival still holds its place among the features of the season. With the weather fine and a match between the North and South, the festival entered upon its fifth celebration yesterday. Dr W G Grace was captain of the South, while the North was led by Mr C W Wright, who was successful in winning the toss. Albert Ward and Hall went in first, and were opposed by Lohmann and Mr Ferris.

The score rose steadily; the best stroke were three boundary cuts by Ward from Mr Ferris. The defence was sound, and as the batsmen appeared to be getting well set, Martin and Sharpe took up the bowling. But these changes did not stop the fast scoring, and 50 was reached at the rate of a run a minute. With his figures at 22 Hall have a hard return chance to Martin, who failed to accept it. And then a variation in the bowling was adopted, Dr Grace displacing Sharpe at 78. Ward had an escape at the hands of Mr Stoddart in the long-field, and quickly afterwards he advanced his record to 50 and the aggregate to 100. Five runs later Martin bowled Ward, whose stay of an hour and 25 minutes had produced much excellent play; his chief hits were seven fours, three threes and two twos. With Gunn in ten more were added before luncheon.

Hall, who was then not out 50, fell at 116 to a catch at third man. Among his contributions were five fours, three threes and six twos. Dr Grace and Martin had resumed bowling after the interval, and soon after Ulyett's arrival Gunn was missed at the wicket from the Gloucestershire captain. Then Gunn scored five (three by an overthrow) and four, the latter being a cut. Ulyett might have been caught by Mr Stoddart in the long-field, but he did not stay much longer, as at 147 Mr Ferris, who had resumed, dismissed him with a "yorker." A good catch at slip next sent back Gunn, while at 164 Attewell drove the ball into the hands of mid-on.

Mr Wright and Chatterton played carefully, and the attack was varied. The second 100 went up shortly before 5 o'clock, but 12 runs later, Chatterton fell to slip; he had been in 20 minutes for 28. The wicket had realized 48. Peel joined Mr Wright . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 September, page 7)

The second day of North v South furnished fine cricket, and with a continuation of fine weather the prospects of another successful festival were further enhanced. Although the North were able to gain a substantial advantage in the game there were various batting triumphs by the South. Dr Grace made a capital score, and Abel and Mr Walter Read well upheld Surrey's good name on the cricket field.

The North, who had lost six wickets for 227, resumed their innings at 20 minutes to 12, Mr Wright and Peel, the not-outs, being opposed by Lohmann and Martin. Peel scored steadily and the figures rapidly reached 244, when Mr Wright drove the ball hard back to Lohmann, who made a fine catch with his left hand. Peel and Flowers obtained runs at a fast rate, and their vigorous batting necessitated some alterations in the attack. Sharpe and Mr Ferris took up the bowling, but the record was 274 at the dismissal of Peel, caught at cover-point. Flowers soon afterwards left, and then came some lively hitting by Mr Kemble, and the third 100 had been passed before the innings

terminated at 1 o'clock. It had extended over five hours and three-quarters.

Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart began the Southern batting at half-past 1, facing Attewell and Pougher. Mr Stoddart at once fell to a catch at wicket. Excellent cricket by Dr Grace and Abel ensued. The former exercised great caution at starting, and took 20 minutes to get his first run. After the luncheon interval the Gloucestershire captain and Abel both scored with freedom. Against good bowling and fielding the batsmen played in fine style. Peel soon displaced Pougher, and after a couple of drives by Dr Grace Flowers took up the bowling at the opposite end. Amid loud applause Dr Grace reached his 50, but when Peel went on at the other wicket the South captain was bowled. Dr Grace was in an hour and a half, and hit five fours, six threes and two twos. Two for 87.

Mr Murdoch stayed until the 100 had gone up, and then came another stand by Mr W W Read and Abel. The former hit Peel thrice in succession for four, and the rapid scoring caused various bowling changes. Abel completed his 50, but when Attewell resumed the Surrey professional succumbed to a dextrous catch at slip. He had been in two hours and a quarter, and among his items were three fours, five threes and six twos. Mr Walter Read still batted with great power, and he had contributed 47 out of 68 added during his stay of 50 minutes when an easy piece of stumping sent him back. His figures were six fours, two threes and four twos.

Neither Mr Newham nor Lohmann gave much trouble, and seven men were out for 173 at the drawing of stumps. It may be noted that Dr Grace, Abel and Mr Read scored 151 of the runs. With three wickets to fall the South to-day want 49 to avert the follow-on.

The match will be condition to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 September, page 10)

More fine weather and much brilliant cricket were the characteristics of the concluding day of North v South at Hastings. There is always an unsatisfactory element in a drawn game, but the good form shown by the South in their uphill match on Saturday should have counteracted any feeling of disappointment that no definite issue was reached.

Friday evening had left the home side requiring 49 to avert the follow-on with three wickets to fall. Two more batsmen were rapidly disposed of, but Sharpe kept up his wicket while Martin hit, with the result that in a very brief time 37 were added, and then the bowling of Sharpe terminated the innings within a few minutes of 12 o'clock. Martin took out his bat for a vigorous 30. Attewell and Peel bowled uncommonly well on the good pitch; they shared the wickets, and those of Attewell averaged a dozen runs each.

With arrears of 91 the South went in a second time at 12.25. The original "order" was maintained and Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart began the batting. Attewell and Peel were the bowlers. Runs came at a fast rate; Dr Grace made many fine cuts and drives, and Mr Stoddart, too, forced the game with great vigour. Mr Wright varied the attack at both ends, but some idea of the nature of the batting may be gleaned by the fact that in a little over 50 minutes the arrears of 91 were made up. The 100 was reached within the hour, and then came the separation, Dr Grace giving Attewell an easy return catch. This break to the spell of brilliant batting was taken by the spectators as an opportunity for giving the Gloucestershire captain an enthusiastic reception for his second good innings at Hastings.

Mr Stoddart did not very long survive his late partner. The luncheon score was 121, but with five

subsequently added Mr Stoddart was cleverly caught at cover-point. He had put together 71 during his stay of an hour and a half; he gave no chance, and his hits were nine fours, three threes and five twos. For a time the game turned in favour of the North, and when the sixth wicket fell the South were only 66 ahead. Messrs Murdoch and Ferris, however, were very successful partners. Both scored freely, and the 200 was reached shortly after 5 o'clock. The stand had produced 50 at a rapid rate when Mr Murdoch was caught low down at mid-off by Attewell, whose brilliant catch largely compensated for a previous error by him in that position. Mr Ferris continued his vigorous play, and bowling changes were unavailing. He contributed 67 out of the last 103 and, having gone in eighth at 157, was unconquered at the close of the innings.

The North were left with 170 to make for victory, but there was no time left for the playing out of the game, and the match was drawn. Gunn, in consequence of the intense heat, was unable to field on Saturday, and the North, by a similar cause, also lost the services of Flowers for a considerable time.

14 September: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/3/3765.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 September, page 4)

With the cricket full of interest the unwelcome change in the weather yesterday was not so much felt. The scene at the Hastings Recreation Ground furnished a marked contrast to that at the end of last week, when North v South was favoured by brilliant sunshine and a fast and true wicket. Yesterday there was one fall of rain which caused a delay, while the wicket afforded the bowlers some assistance.

From the ranks of the Gentlemen were missing such well-known cricketers as Messrs T C O'Brien, S M J Woods and G M'Gregor, but the Hastings executive may yet congratulate themselves upon getting together two remarkably good elevens. The Gentlemen won the toss, and shortly after 12 o'clock Mr Stoddart and Dr Grace began the innings to the bowling of Lohmann and Peel.

From the first ball Mr Stoddart fell to a catch at wicket. When Mr Newham came in rain stopped the play for nearly three-quarters of an hour. On the renewal of the contest the bowlers were not long in securing some aid from the turf, the ball getting up at each end. With the figures at 25 five wickets fell – Mr Newham, bowled; Dr Grace, caught at wicket; Mr E Smith, caught and bowled; Mr Read, caught at slip; and Mr Ferris, caught at point. The last-named was badly hit on the hand before he left.

After this quite sensational cricket Messrs Hill and Murdoch became partners. Eleven were added before an attempted second run cost the Australian his wicket; Bean and Phillips shared the credit of this dismissal. Mr Hill soon retired and at luncheon time eight men were out for 37 runs. Subsequently Messrs Pigg, C A Smith and Kemble improved matters by a little batting, which caused Martin and Attewell to bowl. Mr Smith played on at 54, but Peel missed both Mr Pigg and Mr Kemble, and when the latter was taken at long-on the total stood at 68. The innings had lasted an hour and three-quarters, and five of the side had failed to score.

Owing to his injury Mr Ferris was unable to bowl for the Gentlemen, and at the opening of the venture Mr C A Smith and Dr Grace shared the attack. Ulyett and Abel played well and scored rapidly until 39 were registered. Abel now fell to the wicket-keeper, but Gunn and Ulyett afterwards thoroughly mastered the bowling. In spite of the various changes Ulyett reached his 50 at 5 o'clock, and a few minutes later the 100 appeared. Mr W W Read's lobs were unavailing, and the batsmen had not been separated at the call of "time."

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 September, page 8)

At Hastings, yesterday, there was a great batting triumph by the Players, among whom Gunn stood out prominently by reason of his long innings of 169. The spectators saw Gunn in various styles; his early patience developed into a free way of scoring; and after he had made his 100 he played so vigorously that the last 69 runs were obtained at an average of about one a minute.

Following a slightly uncertain morning the weather became very fine, and the attendance was more numerous than on any previous day. It may be noted that the wicket had recovered from the wet of the previous day. On Monday evening the players had secured an advantage, and the game was

resumed with nine of their wickets to fall and a lead of 49 runs. Ulyett, 68, and Gunn, 24, went on with the batting at 11.45. Mr Ferris had sufficiently recovered to bowl, and with Mr C A Smith he shared the attack.

Only a single had been added when Ulyett cut the ball into the hands of point. His 68 had occupied an hour and three-quarters, and included seven fours, three threes and ten twos. Bean stayed long enough to complete his 1,000 runs for the season, and then at 133 he was taken at extra slip, Mr Ferris making a clever catch at the second attempt. Three for 133.

Now came the stand of the innings. Chatterton joined Gunn, and the resistance to the Gentlemen's bowling became brilliant. It was in vain that Dr Grace and Mr Ernest Smith took up the attack, and that, after the 200 had appeared at 1.5, Messrs Stoddart, Hill and Murdoch also tried to effect a separation. Prior to luncheon Chatterton had scored 50 and Gunn 100, while the total at the adjournment was 261. Subsequently the score advanced rapidly, and when Dr Grace went on to bowl Gunn, twice in one over, drove him out of the ring. Immediately afterwards Chatterton sent the ball into the hands of mid-on. Four for 299. In two and a quarter hours the partnership had yielded 165 runs; Chatterton's 58 was a fine innings and included seven fours, a three and seven twos.

Maurice Read came next and the 300 went up at 3.25, but the new man had not scored when at 309 he fell to a catch at extra mid-off. Peel joined Gunn, who drove a ball from Dr Grace out of the ground for six. At 3.44 a good catch low down in the long field disposed of Peel, and no sooner had Lohmann entered on his innings than Gunn was taken at the wicket. Gunn had put together 169 without a fault. This is his highest score of the season. He was batting four hours, and made a six (a drive), 22 fours, four threes and seventeen twos. He went in first wicket down at 39 and was seventh out at 344.

Lohmann and Attewell played freely until the former was caught at the wicket. Martin had an escape from Mr W W Read in the long field, but he was bowled soon after, and the dismissal of Phillips closed the innings for 390, the result of five and a quarter hours' play. The Gentlemen, who were 322 behind, went in a second time . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 September, page 10)

Before an enthusiastic company, who witnessed much excellent cricket, the Festival ended yesterday afternoon with an overwhelming victory by the Players of England. The result must have been easily foreseen from the state of the score on Tuesday night. There remained certainly the possibility of the Gentlemen holding out all day and thus drawing the match. But the amateurs were not equal to the attempt of saving the game against such odds as 322, and late in the afternoon the end was reached.

Play was resumed shortly after 12 o'clock, when the Gentlemen, with practically an innings in hand, were 320 behind. Mr Pigg, one of the overnight not-outs, was too unwell to go in, so Dr Grace joined Mr Smith. Martin and Attewell were the bowlers. With a single added Mr Smith was taken at the wicket, while at 20 Dr Grace played on. Mr Newham's stay was brief, but Messrs Read and Stoddart played freely. The latter, after an escape in the long field, stayed until 61, when he was taken at long-on for a brilliant 33. Mr Ernest Smith made 20 out of 37 and then fell to third man.

Now came the stand of the day by Messrs Read and Murdoch. The 100 went up at 1.20, and soon afterwards the Surrey batsman reached his 50, while the figures at luncheon time were 139. Subsequently Mr Read's brilliant innings was closed by a catch at wicket. He had gone in at 29 and was the sixth to leave at 160; his 77 occupied an hour and a half and he contributed ten fours, three threes and five twos. Afterwards Mr Murdoch could get no one to stay with him; the last four wickets added 34, and finally the Players won by an innings and 128 runs. In every way the Festival was a great success.

It has become customary to regard the Hastings Festival as the signal for the end of the cricket season. The weather during the summer months has been more than ordinarily variable. There have been no long spells of dry weather during which the wickets might have had time to recover from the heavy downpours. Thus the batsmen were, with rare exceptions, placed at a disadvantage.

The bowling feats were so many and frequent that the public began to look upon them with a certain amount of apathy, a feeling not altogether unnatural when the treacherous condition of the turf is considered. Batsmen, however, turned the few opportunities given them to good account, and the general averages come out far more favourably than could with reason have been expected.

Owing to the absence of a visit from the Australians and the falling through of the projected tour of American cricketers, the matches have been of a purely English nature. Dr W G Grace's frequent scoring failures were among the notable features of the season, and it seems almost incredible that he should not once have run up a three-figure score. But he had other difficulties to contend against than bad wickets. In Scotland he injured his knee, and before thoroughly recovering he strained himself while practising at Trent Bridge. Last summer the Gloucestershire captain was fifth among the amateurs with 1,476 runs and an average of 28. This year he scored scarcely half that number and falls to 10th place, with an average of 19.

The leading places in the batting averages are occupied by men with whose names cricketers are all familiar; but special attention may be drawn to the exceptionally fine form of Mr T C O'Brien, who played consistently well throughout the season. Nottinghamshire, although comparatively low down among the counties, furnishes the first two men in the batting list – Shrewsbury and Gunn. The first-named, after starting in a disappointing manner, has an average of 48, an improvement of seven on last year; Gunn is second and Abel third, similar positions to those occupied by these players in 1890. The players who have been named, together with Bean, are the only men who have made a thousand runs during the season. Ulyett retains much of his old dash and, although he misses four figures by only 30 runs, he has a better average than last year.

Middlesex have found a bowling acquisition in J T Hearne, who throughout showed great skill with the ball. He has the fine average of 11.30 for 129 wickets, and heads the bowling averages, having risen from 27th place last season. Lohmann in batting and bowling has improved his 1890 record. Other bowlers who have taken over 100 wickets are Attewell, Briggs, Mold, Martin and Sharpe. Peel has been far less successful than formerly.

It is not a little curious to see two prominent cricketers, whose names will always be identified with Australian cricket, playing in English matches – Messrs Murdoch and Ferris. The last-named heads the amateur bowlers, but perhaps the most conspicuous player in the list is Mr S M J Woods, whose 134 wickets cost only 16 runs each. Dr Grace also did well with the ball.

Lord's seemed to be more affected than most grounds by the bad weather, and the MCC had rather a variable season. University cricket well sustained its interest, and although Cambridge were in the end rather hard pressed, it needed no very keen observation to see how far their merit was in front of the Dark Blues. In a cricket season characterized by so much wet the record match for heavy scoring at Brighton between Cambridge and Sussex, and the brilliant game in the West Country, when Somerset beat Surrey, stand out in bold relief among the many small scoring games.

The following figures are compiled from all matches coming under the category of first-class, viz.: -

the MCC important fixtures, the nine leading counties, the Universities, Gentlemen v Players and North v South: -

[First-class averages follow.]

From the 'opinions' expressed by the executives of several of the leading county clubs, there seems to be great reluctance on their part to arrange matches (at any rate for the present) with an Australian team next season. At a recent meeting of the Kent County committee a letter was read from Mr C W Alcock, who has usually acted as delegate for the Australians at the county secretaries' annual meeting at Lord's, stating that he had received a formal intimation from Mr Victor Cohen, the treasurer of the New South Wales Association, announcing that another team of Australian cricketers could visit England next year, and that it would be a representative one. Mr Alcock proposed to arrange a programme for this eleven on the same lines as the last tour, and asked the Kent executive to assist in welcoming the visitors.

The secretary was instructed to reply that the Kent committee did not see their way clear to arrange fixtures with the Australians, on the ground that it was practically agreed upon two years ago that before the visit of the next colonial team the Marylebone club and the chief counties should be first consulted, and, therefore, until that was done any arrangements with the Australians would be premature.

The Somerset committee have also replied that: - "We think the counties should have been consulted before an Australian visit was arranged, and we think such frequent visits prejudicial to our English county cricket."

On Saturday a special meeting of the Nottinghamshire County Club was held at Nottingham, at which Mr W H C Oates, the hon. sec., stated that there was a very strong feeling throughout the counties that we had seen the Australians rather too often of late. Middlesex had asked them not to play the colonists, and a joint memorandum to the same effect had been received from Lancashire and Yorkshire. Sussex and Somerset were also against the tour. He remarked that the feeling of the Notts committee was almost unanimous against the Australian visit, and he proposed that Nottinghamshire should not play the Australians next year. This was seconded by Mr Dixon and unanimously carried.

Mr Oates stated that the committee proposed next season to play Somerset, in addition to the counties of Gloucestershire, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex and Yorkshire.

The text of the joint protest of Yorkshire and Lancashire is as follows: - "We the undersigned representatives of our respective counties, being of opinion that the visit of an eleven from Australia during the ensuing season is extremely undesirable, hereby intimate to you that, in the event of such visit taking place, it is not our intention to make any fixtures with the visitors, and further that the professionals of our several counties will not be available for any representative matches with them. - M J Ellison, president, Yorkshire County Cricket Club; J B Wostinholm, secretary, Yorkshire County Cricket Club; Richard Girton, chairman of committee, Lancashire County Cricket Club; S H Swire, hon. secretary, Lancashire County Cricket Club. To C W Alcock, Esq., Surrey County C.C."

The meeting of county secretaries will be held at Lord's on Tuesday, December 8, at noon.

Monday 7 December, page 7: THE MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

A special general meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club has been called for this afternoon at Lord's at 4 o'clock, when the subjoined business will be brought forward: -

The committee will propose to substitute for Rule VII the following: - "The election of candidates shall be vested in the committee, who shall hold ballots at their meetings called for the purpose in January, February, March, April, May and June, provided that the number of candidates elected in any one year shall not exceed 160. The ballots shall take place in the room in which the committee meeting is held, and shall be open from 3 to 6 p.m."

(2) The terms offered by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway will be submitted to the meeting.

(3) The question of the distribution of seats to members at the University and public school matches will be discussed.

A special general meeting of the members of the MCC was held last evening at the Pavilion, Lord's Cricket Ground, for the purpose of discussing the projected branch of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, and of the effects likely to follow from the terminus of the railway being built adjoining the ground. The president of the MCC committee, Mr V E Walker, occupied the chair. Among those present were the Hon Sir S Ponsonby-Fane (treasurer), the Earl of Bessborough, the Earl of Londesborough, Sir Henry James, Q.C., M.P., Lord Hawke, Lord Oxenbridge, the Hon E Chandos Leigh, Q.C., Viscount Anson, Mr Quilter, M.P., Mr C T Murdoch, M.P., Captain J St J Frederick, the Hon Randolph Stuart, the Hon Ivo Bligh, Mr E Rutter, Mr A Appleby, Mr A W Ridley, Mr E L Bateman, Mr J Robertson, Mr A J Webbe, Mr C K Francis, Mr F Lee, Mr G Marshall, Mr C I Thornton and Messrs J V and R D Walker. The meeting, which was densely crowded, was as usual held with closed doors.

Mr H Perkins, the secretary, on behalf of the committee, supplied particulars of the business done. It will be remembered that the committee of the MCC have, during the past 12 months or so, strenuously objected to the construction of a railway terminus abutting on the grounds, and before the Parliamentary Committee some months ago they failed to show that the ground would be in any way damaged, inasmuch as the proposed line would not pass through any of the cricket ground property. By the clause in the Bill, Lord's Cricket Ground would gain a distinct advantage, as the railway company would grant extensions on the south side of the ground now occupied by the Clergy Orphan Society.

At the meeting held yesterday it was stated that the railway company had now altered the site of the terminus to the Marylebone-road, and that thus the bone of contention was removed. The particular clause in the Bill to be introduced next Session, to which the committee of the MCC have raise opposition, is as follows: -

“We empower the company to purchase by compulsion or agreement certain lands and property in the parish of St Marylebone and county of London, adjoining the ground belonging to the Marylebone Cricket Club, and belonging or reputed to belong to the corporation known as the Clergy Orphan Society, incorporated by the Act 49, George III, cap. 18, and to empower and require that society to sell the said lands and property which are shown on the plans deposited as hereinafter mentioned, for such price or consideration as may be agreed, or as the intended Act may prescribe, and to enable the company to convey the same, or as much thereof as may not be required for the purpose of the undertaking of the company, to the trustees of the Marylebone Cricket Club, in exchange for a certain portion of land belonging or reputed to belong to that club, or for rights in, over or through such land required for the purposes of the intended railways, or one of them.”

The chairman briefly opened the proceedings and, having transacted some formal business, called upon Mr Denzil R Onslow to move the following resolution, of which he had previously given notice: -

“Believing that the parting of any portion of the freehold of Lord's Cricket Ground for the purposes of the construction of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway would be fraught with the greatest danger to the interests of cricket generally as well as to the interests of the MCC, this meeting respectfully requests the committee of the MCC to oppose the Bill with the utmost vigour at every stage of its progress before Parliament.”

Mr C T Murdoch, M.P., seconded the motion.

Sir Henry James, in speaking of the terms proposed by the railway company, said the company's proposals were very fair, and he failed to see how the committee of the MCC had any *locus standi* in opposing the passage of the Bill.

Mr H Fellows, Mr Bromley and Mr G A Fitzgerald having spoken in favour of the motion, Mr Quilter, M.P., advocated an adjournment for further information.

A division upon Mr Onslow's motion was then taken. There were 65 votes for and 96 votes against the resolution, which was therefore lost, and the proceedings terminated.

Monday 7 December, page 7: MEETING OF THE COUNTY SECRETARIES

To-day, at Lord's, the secretaries of the county clubs will meet to arrange the programme for next season. Their labours will be simplified by the abandonment of the visit of Australian cricketers which had at one time seemed probable.

Wednesday 9 December, page 7: MEETING OF COUNTY SECRETARIES

There was a large and representative meeting of county secretaries at Lord's yesterday, for the arrangement of next season's programme. As usual, the Marylebone Club placed the dining-hall at the disposal of the delegates, over whom Mr H Perkins, the secretary of the MCC, presided.

There were present Mr A J Webbe, Mr I D Walker and Mr J G Walker, Middlesex; Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr F Marchant, Kent; Lord Hawke and Mr J B Wostinholm, Yorkshire; Dr E M Grace, Gloucestershire; Mr W H Brain and Mr L C H Palaret, Oxford University; Mr W B Delacombe, Derbyshire; Mr C W Alcock and Mr K J Key, Surrey; Mr J M'Laren, Mr E B Rowley and Mr S H Swire, Lancashire; Mr W C Oates and Mr E Browne, Nottinghamshire; Mr H Murray Anderton, Mr H T Hewett and Mr J Spencer, Somerset; Mr W Newham and Mr G Goldsmith, Sussex; Dr Russell-Bencraft, Hampshire; Mr J Burdett, Leicestershire; Mr O R Borrodaile and Mr C D Buxton, Essex; Mr R H Mallett, Durham; Mr H Turner, Oxfordshire; Mr A Worsley, North-East Riding; Mr W Ansell, Warwickshire; Mr W E Hansell and Mr E G Buxton, Norfolk; Mr H Thornber, Cheshire; Mr T C Slaney, Staffordshire; Mr J P Kingston, Northamptonshire; Mr F Phillips, Monmouthshire; and Mr W L Yorath, Glamorganshire. Business began at noon, when the arrangement of fixtures was proceeded with until the adjournment for luncheon.

On the resumption of proceedings, Mr PERKINS said that he had received a memorial from umpires representing the following counties: - Derbyshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire. The memorial was as follows: -

“December 1, 1891.

“To the secretaries of the County Cricket Clubs of England.

“Gentlemen, - We, the county umpires of England, beg most respectfully to place before you the following petition for your esteemed and very best consideration. We believe, as a body of men filling a responsible position in the game of cricket, and at all times endeavouring to do our best, that possibly the season of 1891 has been more singularly free from complaints as to decisions than any which English cricket has gone through for some time past.

“Under the circumstances, and considering the constant strain, the long and arduous duties, during most matches without cessation, which are connected with our occupation as umpires, we take this as a most favourable opportunity of asking you most respectfully for an advance of our fee, and we sincerely hope that you will kindly look upon our appeal in the most favourable manner.

“1. That as most of the counties pay their players £6 for 'out' matches, we specially wish to point out to you that all our matches are 'out,' the arrangements connected with our engagements debarring us from ever having any 'home' matches, and although we have all 'out' journeys we

never have any extra remuneration allowed us, the same as allowed players to recoup them for their extra expenditure.

“2. The long journeys we have in many instances to undertake for some matches, often leaving home the night before a match and as often not getting home again until the morning after, thereby incurring extra expenses, which at the present rate of remuneration, in many cases, leaves us but little the gainers. We therefore respectfully ask that you will grant and agree to pay us an extra £1 per match for all future matches.”

Some discussion arose over this memorial, which was brought forward by Dr E M GRACE on behalf of the umpires. LORD HAWKE suggested that if the counties were to increase the payment, matches completed in two days should be paid for at the rate of £4. Eventually, Mr OATES proposed that all counties that nominated umpires to the Marylebone Club for three-day matches should send an answer to the memorial to the MCC, and that the majority should decide the question. Dr RUSSELL BENCRAFT seconded the proposal, which was adopted.

As had been expected, the question of the Australians' visits to England did not pass unnoticed.

Mr C W ALCOCK introduced the subject by suggesting that the feeling of the meeting should be taken as to the desirability of a colonial tour in 1893. The facts are already known as to the projected visit of 1892 having been abandoned because of the strong opposition offered by many of the leading counties, and a year later had been suggested for the next team.

Mr OATES referred to the feeling against the frequency of Australian visits by Nottinghamshire, a county which was by no means alone in its idea of the inadvisability of colonials' tours in alternate years. Were the Australians to come in 1894, he thought that their reception would be much more cordial than in 1893. He moved that the Australians be invited to come in 1894.

LORD HAWKE seconded the motion, and mentioned that county cricket had become far too important to be molested by the additional fixtures thrown upon them by the Australians. Besides, the latter had not of late sent their best teams, and he incidentally noticed the absence of Mr G Giffen. Indeed, these tours savoured of a money-making concern. Four years would be an interval none too brief between the visits.

Mr A J WEBBE said that, of course, Australian cricketers had done much good in England, but he thought the upsetting of the counties' engagements far too high a price to pay for these advantages. The counties could not be expected to give up their men for the extraneous contests necessitated by the Australian programme. All would be pleased to welcome the Colonials in 1894, and would then cheerfully give up their cricketers for the big matches. He therefore supported Mr Oates's motion.

Mr PERKINS then put it to the meeting that the Australians be invited to come in 1894, and the motion was declared to be carried unanimously.

The meeting now resumed the fixtures, and finally an exhaustive list was announced. All the nine leading counties have home and home engagements with each other, and there are several excellent new matches among the less important clubs. Oxford v Cambridge is fixed for a Thursday, a departure from the custom of many years during which the University matches have begun on a Monday. Eton v Harrow follows in the succeeding week. There are the usual contests between Gentlemen and Players, while Surrey v Scotland is among the interesting additions to the new programme.

From the subjoined list it will be gathered that there are two benefit matches at Lord's – one to the veteran MCC professional Clayton, and that given to Burton by Middlesex in the latter's return with Surrey.

[A full fixture list follows.]

Friday 11 December, page 11: LORD'S CRICKET GROUND AND THE PROPOSED RAILWAY
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - Will you be kind enough to correct the report of the meeting of the Marylebone Club in The Times of to-day, in which it is stated that I spoke "in favour" of Mr Onslow's motion? I spoke and voted against it, and in favour of making terms with the railway company. Your faithful servant,

HARVEY W FELLOWS

Riverside, Rickmansworth, Dec. 8.

Monday 28 December, page 10: LORD'S CRICKET GROUND

The Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company have inserted in their Bill for power to extend their system to London the following clause for the protection of the trustees of the Marylebone Cricket Club: -

"The company, before entering upon, taking, using, or otherwise interfering with, either temporarily or permanently, any lands or property of the club shall – (a) convey to the club for an estate of fee simple in possession, free from encumbrances, the land coloured blue on the plan signed by Sir Theodore Martin, K.C.B., on behalf of the company, and by Samuel Bircham on behalf of the club; (b) clear the said land of all buildings and other erections, and re-lay the whole of the same with best turf, on soil spread to a depth of 18in, in a manner fit for and adapted to the purposes of the club, to the reasonable satisfaction of the engineer of the club, and shall maintain the same and make good any subsidence for a period of 12 months from the date of completion of such relaying, as certified by the said engineer, and to the like satisfaction, provided that the company shall not be called upon to maintain any defects in the surface or turf, due merely to the use thereof by the club for cricket or lawn-tennis practice purposes."