

THE TIMES REPORTS, 1894

Tuesday 2 January, page 9: CRICKET

“John Wisden’s Cricketer’s Almanack” has now reached its 31st edition, and the issue for 1894 numbers over 470 pages. It contains a faithful record of last season’s doings under the following headings: - The Leading Counties in 1893, the Australians in England and in America, M.C.C. and Ground, I Zingari, the Universities, Gentlemen v Players, North v South, Second Class and Minor Counties, Public Schools, Amateur and Professional Batting and Bowling Averages, Innings of 500 runs and upwards, Individual Scores of three figures, Lord Hawke’s Team in India and others.

“Five All-round Cricketers” forms the title of the frontispiece, which gives excellent likenesses of Mr F S Jackson, Mr G Giffen, Mr G H S Trott, Alec Hearne and E Wainwright. An interesting feature of the book is a chapter on the “Follow-on” – a question which is at present occupying the attention of cricketers generally. Mr S H Pardon, the editor, having invited the opinions of many well-known men on the point, remarks, in introducing these, that “little attention had been given to the matter in England until the occasion of the Oxford and Cambridge match in July, when Oxford’s attempt to secure a follow-on and Mr C M Wells’s successful endeavours to frustrate their intentions set all cricketing England talking on the subject.”

The majority of opinions (including that of Dr E M Grace) are in favour of the matter being left to the option of the side which has the lead of 80 runs. Others think that the rule should be abolished; and a few that the number should be increased to 100 or 120. The most original suggestion emanates from the Honourable Edward Lyttelton, who writes: - “For my opinion the 60 and 80 runs should be 100 and 150 to constitute the difference between two totals necessary for a ‘follow-on’ in a one-day’s and two (three) days’ match respectively. I should reserve the option to the side which lost the toss, both of following on and of making the enemy follow on.” This would have the effect of minimizing the value of winning the toss, the advantage of which is, in the opinion of many people, far too great. Marylebone exercise a wise conservatism in the matter of altering their laws, but the subject will be fully considered at their meeting next May.

The “Almanack” is published at 21, Cranbourn-street, Leicester-square.”

A complimentary dinner to the Yorkshire county cricket team was given at Sheffield on Saturday evening. Mr M J Ellison, president of the Yorkshire County Club, was in the chair, and amongst those present were Lord Hawke, Major Shepherd (Bradford), Mr Jackson, Mr Frank, the Mayor and Master Cutler of Sheffield, the Sheffield members of the Yorkshire committee, and almost all the professional members of the Yorkshire county team.

Responding to the toast of "The Yorkshire County Eleven of 1893," which was honoured with great enthusiasm, Lord Hawke said that during the past ten years the committee and the county team had been more maligned within their own borders than any other team that played, or professed to play, first-class cricket. Those who had maligned them had, he thought, forgotten the causes which led to the ill-success of the past. The success of 1893 was not the success of any particular individual, but the success of the whole.

He supposed that Sheffield had been maligned more than any other town in the world with regard to cricket. At the same time the people of that city had not in the least deserved it, but, on the other hand, were worthy of every consideration. Whatever the Sheffield committee had done had been for the good of county cricket.

Lord Hawke then addressed himself to the subject of the county championship. He expressed his dislike to the term "champion county," for the reason that he was strongly of opinion that the county classification must be altered. He did not see how the first-class counties could any longer consider themselves a select circle to which there was no entry when there were counties outside as good as four or five that were in it. They owed, no doubt, a great debt of gratitude to the Press for having started the very keen competition, but he maintained that if it went on it would not be to the benefit of cricket.

The main characteristic of the national game was that amateur and player, or professional, met together on the same side, went in together on the same field and were the best of friends, and that twice a year they met in friendly rivalry in the noblest game that England had ever seen. But, he maintained, if this high pressure was kept up they would no longer have amateurs and professionals playing on the same side, for the reason that the amateurs must in these go-ahead days attend to business. He could not play in 16 matches, and they knew perfectly well that it was useless to play a man one day and not the next. Amateurs must either play continuously or, unfortunately, disappear from the arena of first-class cricket. He did not think the players wished this; he thought there had always been a friendly feeling between players and amateurs, and that the players would be sorry to see such a state of things.

The resolution that their president brought forward at Lord's (and he might say that the resolution was more of less his and Mr Hewett's, the late captain of the Somersetshire team) proposed to enlarge the first-class averages and to admit within the inner circle all counties which could play six three-day matches with those nine counties and among themselves. It was simply ridiculous to keep men out who were as good cricketers as they were themselves. He maintained that if the change was made more interest would be created in cricket generally. If Yorkshire was playing Essex and people knew that the match was going to count more would go to see it. There would also be better cricket.

By increasing the number of counties to 13 or 14 they could at once do away with the championship. Some people had objected to the new arrangement on the ground that some of the

leading counties might choose the six weakest counties to play against. The argument was ridiculous. He did not believe that such childish actions would be practised by any county. He thought the change would tend to make young players stay at home and to stop that buying and selling which they saw practised now to such a large extent. They wanted to have such counties as Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Essex and perhaps Hampshire recognized.

He suggested that the proposal should be given a trial, and he believed it would work out successfully. At the end of the season there would be plenty of people ready with figures to show who was at the top and who was at the bottom of the list. Something must be done, and if Mr Ellison's proposal was not accepted in February some other remedy must be found.

Tuesday 16 January, page 5: CRICKET CLASSIFICATION

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - For some years nine of the older counties of England have arranged 72 matches amongst themselves, each county playing eight matches out and eight home.

For some reason or another a fashion or custom, without any authority, has sprung up of calling these nine counties "first class" and all other counties "second class," and of assigning the championship of England to the county which is at the head at the end of the season, and of confining the record of averages of the season to players in these nine counties.

I do not believe that one in ten of the bona-fide cricketers cares a straw about the championship and average business as a badge of honour; but a very large section of the best men in England, including not a few who have "run the gamut" and, commencing as boys, have passed through the public school, University, county, Gentlemen of England and All England elevens, do protest against nine or more counties being styled "first class" and the remainder "second class." The title cheapens a county to which it is applied.

I have authority for what I say, as by correspondence and personal interview I have pretty well gauged the feeling of very many of the most influential cricketers.

This subject was mooted some years ago in The Times, and you had a leader about it, I think in 1887, on September 5.

A writer in Baily's Magazine has renewed the question with so much energy that captains and secretaries have arranged to meet at Lord's this month on the subject. Yours, &c.,
Sandgate, Kent, January, 1894. F.G.

Friday 19 January, page 4: COUNTY CRICKET CLASSIFICATION

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - The statement of the well-known cricketer "F.G." in the letter to The Times that "for some reason or other a fashion or custom without any authority has sprung up" of calling the leading nine counties "first class" is not, as regards the words "without any authority," accurate.

Appended is a notice of a meeting, taken from "Wisden" of 1890 and reported briefly in The Times of December 11, 1889, which furnishes some authority: -

"On Tuesday, December 10 (1889), a private meeting of the (then) eight first-class counties – Surrey, Notts, Lancashire, Kent, Middlesex, Gloucestershire, Yorkshire and Sussex – was held at Lord's to discuss the method of deciding the county championship, and it was agreed that in future drawn games should be ignored altogether and only wins and losses counted. On the same day representatives of the following eight minor counties – Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Hampshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Durham and Essex – held a similar meeting in private and unanimously decided to adopt the same principle. In future, therefore, county competitions will be estimated by wins and losses alone, the defeats being deducted from the victories."

Again, the Cricket Council, at a meeting on August 11, 1890, devised a scheme of classification (eight of the present nine counties were termed "first class"), and it was in the discussion of this scheme in the following December at Lord's (on the Monday preceding the secretaries' meeting) that the council terminated its existence. Mr M J Ellison, of Yorkshire, the chairman, gave his casting vote for Mr A J Webbe's resolution that the council be adjourned sine die.

Mr M J Ellison, the Yorkshire president, who thus dealt the final blow to a body which might have made itself useful in the management of the counties, now talks about the "hated word championship" and wishes other sides to join the circle and assist, with Lord Hawke, in honouring the Yorkshire eleven at a banquet given to celebrate Yorkshire's position at the head of the leading cricket counties.

Your obedient servant,

P.Q.R.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I think your correspondent "F.G.," in discussing this question, leaves out a most important factor. It does not rest so much with cricketers as with the British public to say if there shall be first and second class cricket, and champion county and the rest. The Press, like other caterers, has to supply what the public demands. There are thousands of people quite ignorant of the game who are yet most keen on the relative position of the counties at the end of the season.

The M.C.C. is the supreme legislative and administrative body and should undertake this matter. It is said they do not recognize first and second class cricket, but they abandoned that ground over the Surrey v Scotland matches two seasons since.

Yours,

THOMAS PADWICK

Monday 22 January, page 14: CRICKET CLASSIFICATION

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - There is an aspect of this question which those who affect to despise the term "championship" cannot quite afford to pass by. Unless a county clean bowled is blessed with an unusually large membership or derives a substantial income from invested capital, the chief source whence it hopes to defray its expenses is unquestionably the "gates."

Now, it is beyond dispute that, since the championship competition has become a recognized institution, the public interest in county cricket has increased enormously. For example, when Surrey played Notts at the Oval in 1892 no fewer than 63,000 people paid for admission. And why? Because the premiership of the year practically depended upon the result. I might add that this was a record "attendance" in English cricket.

In 1873 no less a power than the Marylebone Club publicly offered a cup for competition by such counties as chose to enter for it, and I quite fail to see any more indignity in the shires being drawn out in an ascertained order of merit at the close of a season than in horses being "first, second and

third” in a race at Epsom. Abolish “first and second class” if you please, and let the various elevens stand on their merits only.

Further than this, no team need enter for a “championship” against its will; but how far the county clubs can afford to dispense with the stimulus which a tournament undoubtedly gives is a question they will do well to consider carefully.

Your obedient servant,
JOHN BERTRAM PAYNE

Holly-village, Highgate, Jan. 16.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - With reference to the correspondence in your columns on the classification of counties, it seems to me that the matter is largely a financial one. Many of us enjoy a good game whether it is between, say, numbers seven and eight on the list or between last year’s “champion” county and number two. But the vast majority of spectators (who pay at the gate) think far more of the latter than the former game, apart from the actual excellence of the play. No club, I would submit, can afford to ignore this popular, if slightly mistaken, feeling.

Yours faithfully,
Carlton Club, Pall-mall, S.W.

GUY REPTON.

Thursday 25 January, page 6: CRICKET

The annual meeting of the Nottinghamshire County Club was held yesterday at the George Hotel, Nottingham, under the presidency of Mr W E Denison. There was a large attendance of members.

The statement of accounts showed an income for the year of £2,776. Of this sum £1,188 came from subscriptions and £1,474 from match receipts. Most money was taken in the Surrey game at Trent Bridge – viz., £571. The expenditure was £2,506. A large amount is still due to the bank on the pavilion account.

Next season's programme was announced, the fixtures, in addition to the regular first-class county matches, embracing two contests with Warwickshire and one with Leicestershire. Barnes will receive as a benefit the receipts from Gentlemen of England v Nottinghamshire, while Sherwin has been generously granted by Middlesex the Lord's Whit Monday fixture – Middlesex v Somerset – for a benefit. The Arthur Shrewsbury fund received £190 from the Australian match and £160 from subscriptions. The report and balance-sheet were adopted.

Subsequently the chairman mentioned the attempt that was being made by Yorkshire to resuscitate the Cricket Council. This should be resisted, for the council was a failure during its brief existence. The new president of the club is Mr William Wright.

Tuesday 30 January, page 7: CRICKET

Yesterday, at Manchester, the Lancashire County Club annual meeting was held. A very satisfactory balance-sheet and report were submitted to the members. There was a balance of £2,278 from an income of £8,478, while the honorary secretary mentioned that the county cricket "gates" showed an improvement on the previous year. The attendances at matches were more than 150,000, an increase of 50,000.

Mr A N Hornby was elected president of the club in succession to Sir Humphrey de Trafford, and Mr S H Swire and Mr J M'Laren were again asked to fill the offices of honorary secretary and treasurer.

The committee decided to present Briggs with £50 towards his benefit fund next season, and they were also empowered by the meeting to erect a new pavilion on the Old Trafford Ground.

The honorary secretary in addressing the meeting mentioned the subject of the county championship – a name that Lancashire did not, like their neighbours (Yorkshire), despise. It was a curious action of Yorkshire to take, when it was remembered that the champion county last season kept Mr F S Jackson and Peel to play for them instead of allowing these cricketers to assist England against Australia at Manchester, although the counties at the meeting of secretaries had given their word that any players would be let off for the representative matches.

The revival of the Cricket Council was suggested; but the speaker wished to be neutral in the subject. The present system of first and second-class counties did my work with every success. It was a difficult question, yet there was scarcely room for more than nine first-class. Something might be done in the way of promoting the head of the second class to the place of the lowest in the first.

Tuesday 13 February, page 12: KENT COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Kent County Cricket Club was held yesterday afternoon at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing-cross, Mr Akers-Douglas, M.P., presiding. Among others present were Lord Throwley, Mr F S W Cornwallis, M.P., Mr George Marsham, Mr R S Mason, Rev C E Nepean, Sir Charles Oakeley, Major-General Denne, Captain G Austin, Mr W H Patterson, Mr F Marchant, Captain D'Aeth, Major Best, Major Fairfax Archer, Captain Lambert, Mr Leslie Wilson, Mr Sackville Cresswell, Rev C Randolph, Dr Manly, Mr K M'Alpine, Mr C S Hardy, Captain Denne, Mr C C Streatfeild, Mr G Andrew, Mr T H Oyler and Mr A J Lancaster.

The report and balance-sheet were submitted to the meeting and adopted. The committee were able to congratulate Kent on the attainment of fourth position among the counties of 1893. Financially the season was, with one exception (that of 1889), the most successful ever experienced. The increased interest taken in the county's cricket was shown by the rise in the amount of gate money, which was more than double that of any year except 1891. The profitable grounds were Catford, Tonbridge, Blackheath and Canterbury. The average cost of a home county match was given as £109. The club has some £1,200 invested in Consols.

Sir John Farnaby Lennard, the chairman of the Kent County Council, is the new president of the club. Major Spens succeeds Mr H Knatchbull-Hugessen, M.P., on the committee, the latter having resigned, while the following retired and were re-elected: - Messrs F Marchant, W H Patterson, F H Mackinnon and A Akers-Douglas, M.P., and Major-General Denne and Rev R T Thornton.

The report of the sub-committee on privileges of members was laid before the meeting. It found that the value of the privileges allowed by the club considerably exceeded the amount subscribed, and contained a scheme for the slight reduction in the number of free tickets to which members are entitled for Canterbury week. This part of the report was strongly opposed and was deleted from the recommendations which were left for the general committee to carry out.

Some little time since a sub-committee was also appointed to find young promising bowlers and to see what arrangements could be made for introducing them to the county through engagements on the various grounds. Five such players had been secured and the sub-committee were empowered to spend £150 in wages for them; but the whole question of importation was held over for discussion until the next annual general meeting. A vote of thanks to Mr A Akers-Douglas for presiding closed the meeting.

Tuesday 6 Match, page 7: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club was held at Sheffield yesterday, Mr M J Ellison in the chair. The committee in their report congratulated the members on the distinguished success which attended the efforts of the county team throughout last season.

The statement of accounts showed that the balance brought forward from the previous year was £491 15s 3d; the income from first-class matches was £2,754 14s; from second-class matches, £297 9s 9d; from other matches, £100 7s 3d, the total receipts for the year from all sources amounting to £3,957 7s 2d; the balance at the end of the year in favour of the club was £767 13s 7d. The report and accounts were adopted. Reference was made to the smallness of the receipts from second-class matches, and the opinion was expressed that were some of the second-class counties, who played as good cricket as many of the first-class, placed in the first class, better attendances would be secured and the change would tend generally to the benefit of county cricket.

Friday 23 March, page 10: THE COMING CRICKET SEASON

There will be a lull in the season of 1894, compared with that of last year, in the absence of a visit from the Australians. This will be regarded by many people as a pleasant relief from the excitement which naturally arises out of the contests with our colonial friends.

Yet the season will not be simply confined to matches among ourselves. For some years past the popularity of cricket has been steadily on the increase at Cape Colony. Two teams of English cricketers have already paid visits to South Africa. The first was under the direction of Major Wharton in 1888/89. It was captained by Mr C A Smith, of Sussex, and included many of our prominent county players. A second team was taken out in the winter of 1891/92 under the captaincy of Mr W W Read, when, although unable to cope with the strong players brought against them, the colonists showed cricket of considerable merit.

The outcome of these tours and the fact that several English cricketers have either remained behind or gone out there from health considerations (notably George Lohmann) is that a team from South Africa will visit us this summer. Great interest has been taken in the affair and among the subscribers towards a guarantee fund are Sir Henry Loch and the Honourable C J Rhodes. The 15 selected to come over are Messrs H H Castens (captain), G Cripps, D C Davey, G Glover, E Halliwell, G Kempis, D Parkin, T Routledge, G Rowe, A Seccull, C Sewell and V Van der Byl, with Johnston, Middleton and F Hearne.

The team will assemble at Cape Town on April 4 and a few trial matches will be played prior to the 11th prox., on which date they sail for England. It had originally been arranged to play their first match against Surrey at the Oval, but this is deferred and their opening engagement will be against Lord Sheffield's Eleven at Sheffield Park on May 24.

The Marylebone Club, at their anniversary meeting, will have an important question to decide – i.e., the amendment of Law 53, which the committee will move to be altered thus: - “The side which goes in second may be required by the other side to follow their innings if they have scored 80 runs less than the opposite side.” Although the incident at the close of the first day of Oxford and Cambridge directed public attention to the necessity for a change of some sort, the matter had been discussed by the M.C.C. so far back as February 3 of last year. Mr Portus, of the Australasian council (the governing body in the colony), wrote to Mr H Perkins saying that a change was desired by them, for on their hard grounds 80 was quite an inadequate number. They suggested that 150 should be substituted, but they would not do anything without consulting the M.C.C.

At various meetings the Marylebone Committee discussed the question and took the opinions of the county captains and leading cricketers. A very great majority were in favour of a change, and were with the M.C.C. Committee in thinking the follow-on should be left to the option of the leading side. Mr Perkins wrote to Mr Portus suggesting that the M.C.C. proposal be tried as a tentative measure in the colonies. These fell in with this idea and decided to recommend it for adoption in all the intercolonial matches, and will report to the M.C.C. the way in which the change worked. It may be noted that the plan was tried in the South Australia v Victoria match, when the former team, who led by 93, preferred to play their second innings rather than allow Victoria to follow on. It apparently worked out all right, as South Australia won the game.

Although the proposed change emanates from the committee of the M.C.C., that body may not be unanimous on the point. Many good cricketers are for abolishing the rule altogether, urging that, with the passing of the closure law, the necessity of saving time by the follow-on has disappeared,

and it is also thought that the application of the closure should be allowed on any day of the match. Cricketers may rest assured, however, that the matter will not be decided without careful deliberation.

The turf at headquarters is in capital order and, remembering all the fine, hard wickets of last summer, there seems no reason why this excellence should not be repeated. Grass is close and plentiful, and reflects great credit on Pearce, who had to provide so many pitches in 1893. The changes lately made in the ground have left small room for improvement, but the M.C.C. committee have further considered the comfort of spectators by enlarging the terraces in the south-east corner. Otherwise, the appearance of Lord's remains unaltered.

The programme of matches is of its usual comprehensive character. Last year the number reached 155, and this year these figures may even be exceeded. Lord's, apart from the Middlesex engagements, will be visited by the majority of the leading counties to play Marylebone, besides many of the less-important shires. Oxford v Cambridge will commence on Monday, July 2, and in the following week Gentlemen v Players is the fixture for the earlier part, while Eton v Harrow will be played on the Friday. The South Africans appear at Lord's on June 4, and on August 10 the Gentlemen of Holland, who are making a short tour, will meet a Marylebone team. The first four days of August will again be devoted to Rugby v Marlborough and Cheltenham v Haileybury.

There are yet some vacant dates in the programme through the abandonment of the Philadelphian tour, and here it may be suggested that in future before fixtures are absolutely made for a team it should be known for certainty that they are coming.

The success which attended the starting of the cricket last season on the first Wednesday in May, the invariable date of the M.C.C. anniversary meeting and dinner, has caused the same plan to be again adopted, and on May 2 Sussex meet the Marylebone Club. There are various additions to the ground staff. Tom Brown, of Bedfordshire, has secured a place by virtue of his fine play against the M.C.C. at headquarters last summer. W A J West, of Northamptonshire, returns, and Baguley, of Notts, is also added; while the wicket-keeping will be strengthened by the addition of Butt, of Sussex, and Russell, of Essex.

The list of "the ground" is now as follows: - Thomas Hearne, Farrands, Clayton, Rylott, W Mycroft, G G Hearne, Wheeler, Sherwin, T Mycroft, W Hearn, Flowers, Price, Barnes, Gunn, Hay, Tom Brown, Butt, Baguley, W Attewell, Burton, Pickett, Davenport, Pentecost, Titchmarsh, Chatterton, J E West, Martin, Pougher, Rawlin, A Hearne, Carlin, Davidson, Phillips, Russell, W A J West, Burns, Richardson, Whitehead, Whiteside, Bean, Moorhouse, Needham, J T Hearne, Geeson, Board, Mead, Carpenter, Mee, Storer, Moss and T Attewell.

The captaincy of Oxford University this year devolves on Mr C B Fry, of Wadham, who has gained so great a reputation on the running path and football field. There are also six other Blues in residence, five of whom took part in last year's match against Cambridge – viz., Mr L C V Bathurst, Trinity (the hon. secretary); Mr R C N Palairret, Oriel; Mr G J Mordaunt, University; Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Magdalen; and Mr R W Rice, Jesus. The sixth is Mr F A Phillips, Exeter, who played in the eleven in 1892, but went of his batting last season.

There are many likely Seniors, three of whom can keep wicket, Mr R P Lewis, University; Mr D MacLachan, New College; and Mr F A G Leveson-Gower, Magdalen. There are also two good bowlers in Mr R B Pearson, B.N.C. (slow right), and Mr H A Arkwright, Magdalen, the latter of

whom did so well against the Australians. Other likely Seniors from whom selection can be made, and who all went up last year with fine school reputations, are Mr G O Smith, Keble; Mr B N Bosworth-Smith, Magdalen; Mr F G H Clayton, University; Mr G B Raikes, Magdalen; Mr M Barlow, University; Mr H K Foster, Trinity; and Mr R H Baiss, B.N.C.

With such a fine lot of talent the chances of Freshmen are difficult. Among these are Mr Forbes, of Eton and Christ Church, a very fast, though erratic, bowler. Mr G R Bardswell, Oriel, is a good all-round player, bowling being his strong point. He was captain of Uppingham last year and took 35 wickets for 16 runs each. Mr F C Hartley, from Tonbridge, also did well in bowling (slow), his record for his school being 40 wickets for an average of 12. Mr J M Quinton (who captained Cheltenham in 1893), Mr A L Dowson and Mr P Lee, both Rugby; the Honourable F W Egerton and Mr R H Mitchell, Eton; Mr K A Woodward, Harrow; and Mr A S Jackson, Clifton, are among the fresh arrivals.

Cambridge University will greatly miss the splendid cricketer who captained them last year. Mr P H Latham succeeds Mr F S Jackson, while the only other members of the '93 team left are Messrs J Douglas, T N Perkins and A O Jones. The loss of Messrs C M Wells and E C Streatfeild in the bowling will be with difficulty filled, while another wicket-keeper has to be found for Mr L H Gay. There is sure to be plenty of competition for the seven vacancies.

Among the Seniors a dearth of good bowlers is noted; Messrs C G Pope and J Burrough, who were fairly successful in some of the trials last spring, are about the best, while Mr Pope, Mr W G Druce, Mr E Field and Mr Wilson are perhaps the most likely batsmen. Mr F Mitchell has by far the best reputation among the Freshmen for batting, otherwise the most known are Mr W G Grace, jun., of Clifton, who last year for his school obtained in batting 290 runs, average 29; and in bowling 51 wickets, average 11.47; and Mr W Mortimer, the best bat at Marlborough, who made 457 runs for the school, with an average of 30, while his biggest innings was his 98, at Lord's, against Rugby.

Other Freshmen include Messrs P W Cobbold, a good all-round player, and H F Meeking, from Eton; Messrs E H Bray and H Crabtree, each of whom averaged over 21 in batting, from Charterhouse; Mr R C M Munro, from Harrow; Mr J F Marshall, who averaged 24 in 14 innings, from Rugby; Mr L C N Powys, last year's captain at Sherborne, is a good batsman and will be in residence; and from the same school comes Mr E J Holberton, who took 46 wickets at a cost of 11 runs, a slow left-hand bowler with a good break. Messrs H Clarke and G M Hill both did well as batsmen at Tonbridge. Uppingham send up, among others, Messrs G S Clover and S A Sharp, both batsmen; but Mr C E M Wilson, whose average for his school was over 90 in nine innings and who took 38 wickets at a cost of nine runs each, remains at school as captain for the coming season. The University fixtures are much the same as last year.

By their agitation for the amendment of the classification and for the revival of the Cricket Council, Yorkshire's name and their possession of the championship honours have been kept well before the public during the winter months, especially as the position taken up by the county was not wholly consistent with the anxiety shown last year to win what the president of Yorkshire termed the "much hated word" championship. The success of the side in 1893 was not so much the work of a few as of the consistently hood cricket of the eleven in general. This fact must have been patent to almost every one, to say nothing of its confirmation by the evidence of the averages.

And will all last year's men reported well Yorkshire should have no fear for the coming summer. It

is expected that Mr F S Jackson, the ex-Cambridge captain and Old Harrovian, will be able to play through the season. Should this prove the case it will be a source of great strength to Yorkshire, for the county last summer had only the services of this splendid all-round cricketer in a third of the matches. Lord Hawke will no doubt play in a few of the fixtures, and so also will Mr Ernest Smith, the old Oxford Blue. George Ulyett's experience and judgment served the side well in various instances last year, and no doubt he will again play regularly, together with Peel, who receives as a benefit the Lancashire match at Bradford on August Bank Holiday.

What must be gratifying to Yorkshire is the knowledge that the large majority of the team include young men – Tunncliffe, Mr Sellers, Brown, G H Hirst, Wainwright, Moorhouse, Wardall and Hunter. Mounsey, a very stylish bat, is sure to receive a further trial, while Hayley and Luther Whitehead are good reserves.

There was a great outcry against the wickets at Sheffield last season, where the turf often afforded the bowlers considerable assistance; but the ground had been relaid in the previous winter and the dry spring gave it no chance of settling down. Thus in the second year it may have thoroughly recovered, and cricketers will hear again of the fine wickets which were formerly traditional at Bramall-lane. In so large a county the necessity of sharing the matches among the big towns has again been recognized, and the home cricket will be spread over an area that includes Bradford, Dewsbury, Sheffield, Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield and Harrogate. Outside the regular programme Yorkshire play Cambridge University at Cambridge, and Leicestershire, Essex, Derbyshire and Warwickshire twice each.

At a very appropriate time a book on Yorkshire cricket is published and has for its editor Mr J B Wostinholm, the secretary, who, in addition to dealing fully with the 1893 season, gives the full results of the county matches during the last 30 years and much other interesting information.

With all last year's men available Lancashire should do pretty well in the coming season. Mr A N Hornby, the club president, and Mr S M Crosfield will again undertake the direction of the team, and it is encouraging to note that Mr A C M'Laren is expected to be a regular member of it. The fine professionals, Albert Ward, Briggs, Mold and Sugg, will be a great power in the side, and Baker, Smith, Yates and Mr Kemble, the wicket-keeper, will also assist. Oakley, whose left-hand bowling came out fairly well during a batsman's year, may make much improvement; he has a good style and only wants a little more experience. G Wharmby, a Notts colt, is qualified and is thought something of as an all-round player, while one of the three wicket-keepers on "the ground" (Thomas of Werneth and Rishton and Bennett of Stalybridge) may give some relief to Mr Kemble.

Lancashire were always generous to their professionals, and they have now awarded to Briggs as a benefit the Whit Monday match at Old Trafford – Lancashire v Yorkshire. Most cricketers are familiar with the play of Briggs, both in batting and bowling; indeed, he is a favourite on all grounds.

The two fields at Old Trafford are in splendid condition, there being an abundant crop of grass, and the new addition will be quite fit for club matches, thus relieving the old ground of a good deal of wear and tear. Designs are already being sent in for the new pavilion, which is to be erected at the end of the season. The programme is on much the same lines as last year. Lancashire play Marylebone at Lord's in the second week of May.

Middlesex should look with every confidence to the forthcoming season. Mr A J Webbe will again captain the side which made a stout fight for championship honours during the greater part of last summer, although fortune forsook the county in some of the later matches. Still, the eleven secured third position in the table. J T Hearne, the only player who had an aggregate of over 200 wickets, and Rawlin are both in excellent health, and it is to these men that Mr Webbe will again have to look for most of his bowling.

Mr F G J Ford's professional duties will prevent his giving the county so much assistance as hitherto, and his bowling and batting will no doubt be much missed. Yet with Messrs A E Stoddart, T C O'Brien, C P Foley, R S Lucas, P J T Henery, S W Scott, E A Nepean and J Douglas to help him, the captain is unlikely to find difficulty in the selection of a team. In Mr M'Gregor, too, Middlesex has the best wicket-keeper of the day, to say nothing of his batting ability.

The programme has been arranged on the lines of 1893; only the first-class counties will be met, and it is questionable whether any fresh fixture can be arranged for July 19, the date originally set apart for the Gentlemen of Philadelphia. So far no match with the South African team seems to have been thought of; their visit was arranged subsequent to the secretaries' meeting.

Middlesex v Somerset at Lord's has become quite the permanent Whit Monday cricket attraction in London. As Marylebone found some difficulty in arranging for a suitable time and fixture for Sherwin's benefit, the Middlesex executive determined to give the Whit Monday "gate" to the famous Notts wicket-keeper. This was an act of great generosity, for Middlesex v Somerset was the most profitable of the county matches at Lord's last summer.

Middlesex are particularly wealthy just now, their Consols investment reaching about £2000. In these days of their prosperity it would be well to search the county for some fresh bowling talent. In all the club cricket played in the suburbs there must be some aspirants for county honours. The playing of a couple of second eleven matches will make an opening for a trial of some of these young players.

The fact that Nottinghamshire fell from second place occupied by them in 1892 to that of sixth in 1893 will naturally cause some considerable anxiety as to their cricket in the coming season. Almost the same professionals will be available – namely, Attewell, Barnes, Flowers, Gunn, Sherwin, Daft and Mee. Although Barnes and Sherwin are getting among the veterans, it is doubtful whether, for this year at any rate, they can be improved upon.

Shrewsbury's health has suffered considerably during the winter and may affect his playing with any regularity next season. Mr J A Dixon, Mr C W Wright and Mr J S Robinson are at liberty to give their services, whilst among the young players are Bagguley, S Hardy, Wilkinson and Mr A R Bennett. The last-named has a good reputation in the Notts castle Club.

The county will play the other first-class counties twice, home and home matches with Warwickshire, a match against Leicestershire at Leicester, and their usual engagement with the M.C.C. at Lord's. A most interesting contest on the Trent-bridge Ground is that between the Gentlemen of England and Notts, for the benefit of W Barnes. Mr A N Hornby will captain the eleven, which is expected to include Messrs A E Stoddart, L C H Palairt, F S Jackson and K S Ranjitsinhji.

As Shacklock is engaged with a Lancashire club, the county is on the look out for a fast bowler.

The twenty-two colts for the Easter Monday match include some rising players.

At Trent-bridge the turf is in good order, the ground having been cleared of the foot paraphernalia used by the Notts Club, who have migrated to the Castle Ground.

The Notts committee a short time ago expressed their disapproval of a proposition by Yorkshire to call the cricket council together, and objected to any revival of that body as it previously existed.

Kentish cricketers will be sorry that Mr W H Patterson will no longer take the captaincy of the team, which he usually did in the month of August. Although, on the other hand, many people urge that it is better for the well-being of an eleven that they should not be always under the control of the same captain. However that may be, Mr F Marchant, who hitherto occupied the position during the earlier half of the season, will now permanently fill it.

He will be supported by most of last year's men, Mr L Wilson, Mr J Le Fleming, Mr H C Stewart, Mr G J V Weigall, Mr E Malden, Mr C W Little, Mr W L Knowles and the Rev W Rashleigh. Mr J R Mason, the old Winchester captain, who made so favourable an impression on several occasions last season, especially at Canterbury, will, happily, be able to take part in nearly every match; but Mr M C Kemp cannot play until August. Before this date the duties of wicket-keeper will probably be carried out by Mr Malden and Mr Little.

In regard to bowling, it may be hoped Walter Hearne will enjoy better health than he did last year, when, after injuring his hand, he had an attack of influenza. Martin, Alec Hearne and Wright will again share the bowling with him, while Mr Mason will be useful as an occasional change.

The sub-committee which was appointed a twelvemonth ago to secure the services of young players reported to the annual meeting that five had been discovered, and £150 was voted for any expense that may arise. This sum, however, was only given owing to the sub-committee, to a certain extent, having made a sort of guarantee; but the members showed great disinclination for anything like preconceived importation, and the matter will be further discussed at a future meeting.

The Canterbury Week does not afford a very great attraction in its earlier stage, although Warwickshire may give a good account of themselves. The match which begins on the "Ladies' Day" (Thursday) is against Yorkshire, and should be productive of sterling cricket. In the absence of the Australians, room was found for the revival of the Warwickshire fixtures, with the first of which Kent open their season at Birmingham. It had been thought that matches would be played with Essex, but these do not appear on their programme. The county engage eight of the others in the front rank, and also pay their customary visit to Lord's to meet Marylebone.

Their home fixtures are spread over various grounds in the country. The St Lawrence, at Canterbury, will be the scene of the engagement with Somerset, the executive hoping to compensate the cathedral city for the comparatively weak opening of their annual festival. No match will be played at Gravesend nor at Beckenham, and, besides Canterbury, the other places are Maidstone, Tonbridge, Blackheath and Catford. It was on the last-named ground that Kent beat Surrey in 1893, and the same fixture will be devoted to the benefit of Wootton, whose name a few seasons back was closely associated with Kent cricket. He is now, by the way, cricket coach at Winchester.

It is scarcely likely that Surrey will remain so far down the list as they were left at the end of last season, when their fall from the first position was largely attributable to the breakdown of George

Lohmann's health. The county has such a fine band of cricketers that their failure was quite astonishing. Mr John Shuter will be assisted by Mr W W Read and Mr K J Key, and probably in August by Mr C M Wells, while the professionals at his command will include Maurice Read, Brockwell, Abel, Hayward, Baldwin, Lockwood, Henderson, Richardson, Street and Ayres. Most of the bowling will be done, no doubt, by Lockwood, Richardson and Brockwell, but what Surrey really want is a good slow bowler.

H Wood, the wicket-keeper, has been rather unfortunate in his health. Thus Marshall, who was tried in his place several times last season with a fair measure of success, will probably play more often this summer. The club are giving Wood a benefit, the match being North v South, at the Oval, on August 2, 3 and 4. Rumour has it that Sharpe, whose bowling has not been tried so much for Surrey in the last two seasons, is returning to Nottinghamshire, his native county.

The list of matches is the same as in 1893. Cambridge University have two fixtures with Surrey; but there is none between Surrey and Oxford University. Gentlemen v Players is arranged for the Thursday of the same week as Oxford and Cambridge, while the South Africans will increase the attraction of the Surrey season.

Last summer the Oval wickets, owing to the dry spring and the new turf, were often fiery and treacherous; but every care has been taken during this winter to restore the ground to its former excellence. No football has been played during the winter. The club has spent £1,300 on releveling and turfing; the terraces have been extended and the football pavilion has been put further back.

The improvement in Sussex cricket which characterized the first year of Mr W L Murdoch's captaincy has infused fresh enthusiasm into the county of the Lillywhites, and it will be satisfactory to their friends to know that the famous Australian, who has been on a visit to the colonies during the winter, will again lead the side. He will have the services of all last year's members, viz. – Messrs G Brann, G L Wilson, W Newham, C A Smith and W H Dudney, and W G Heasman, with Bean, Marlow, Butt, Lowe, Guttridge, Tate and Hilton. The side may be materially strengthened by the inclusion of Mr C B Fry, the Oxford captain, who is qualified for the county.

In addition to all the leading counties, Sussex will meet Hampshire, while both Oxford and Cambridge will visit Brighton. It has been decided to give Jesse Hide a benefit, and that player, who in the past worked hard for his side in batting and bowling, has chosen the Sussex v Notts game on July 23 and following days. There is never any anxiety about the Brighton wickets, and it need only be said that the ground is looking as well as ever.

Mr H T Hewett's permanent retirement from county cricket will be a serious loss to Somerset. His captaincy, coupled with great batting capabilities, had no small share in raising the county to the position it has occupied in recent years. He will be succeeded by Mr S M J Woods, who figured so well for Cambridge as a fast bowler and batsman, and also for his county. He virtually won the match against Surrey last season by his innings of 62 on a bad wicket.

There will be a few other changes in the constitution of the eleven. Mr F J Poynton will not be able to play so frequently as last season, but Dr J E Trask, a former member of the team, is returning from abroad and may again assist the eleven. With such players left on the side they should yet do well. Mr L C H Palaret, the old Oxford captain, Mr J B Challen, Mr R C N Palaret, Mr W N Roe,

Mr V T Hill, Mr G Fowler, Mr C E Dunlop, Mr R P Spurway, Mr T Robinson and the two excellent wicket-keepers, the Rev A P Wickham and Mr A E Newton, are a formidable array of amateur talent.

The bowling will, in the main, be intrusted to Tyler, Nichols and Mr Woods. Mr W C Hedley, who batted and bowled well, as stationed with his regiment at Gibraltar. The young players who are coming on are not available until 1895.

Improvements have been made both for members and the public on the county ground at Taunton, which is in excellent order, while the staff of bowlers has been increased. Besides the colts' match, to be played early in the season, the programme is the same as last year – namely, home and home matches against the other leading counties and a match against Oxford University at Oxford. They also meet the South African team at Taunton on June 25. Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane is again the president of the club.

Gloucestershire, with the harmony that now prevails in the county, will not probably be again relegated to the last position on the list. Besides the old members of the team the captain, Dr W G Grace, has at his disposal a lot of young talent, amongst whom may be mentioned Mr S A P Kitcat, Mr G S de Winton, Mr R W Rice and Mr W M Hemingway.

Mr J J Ferris (who has developed batting at great expense to his bowling), Mr H V Page, Mr O G Radcliffe, Dr E M Grace, Captain A H Luard, Painter, Murch, Roberts, Board and Atfield should [?] which leave no room for difficulty in the selection of a strong eleven. Mr W Troup and Mr A Newnham, who will be remembered as achieving some success a few seasons ago, have returned from India and may take part in some of the county matches.

Harry Wrathall will be given a trial for certain; he is Cheltenham born and is a very fair bat and field; he bowls with a medium-pace delivery. With Murch, he is engaged on the county ground for the whole of the season. In the later matches the county hope to have considerable aid from Mr C L Townsend, Clifton College, in bowling. Among other promising players is Mr Gilbert Jessop, who is reputed to be a fine field, a free bat and a fair right-hand bowler, while Mr E Henry is also looked upon as a likely batsman.

The county ground at Ashley-down is in good order and will be the scene of five of the home matches – namely, those with Somerset, Lancashire, Sussex, Yorkshire and the South African team. In all they play matches with the other leading counties, and the Warwickshire contests are revived. Two good fixtures have been arranged for the Cheltenham Week – those against Surrey and Kent. Painter, who has done good service for his county as a batsman, will have the match against Middlesex at Clifton College set apart for his benefit. The colts' match, which has been several times played on Easter Monday, has been deferred until May.

Although only Surrey, Yorkshire and Lancashire accepted Derbyshire's challenge for matches next season, the Midland county has yet a compact and interesting programme, and, besides the first-class teams mentioned, their fixtures include home and home matches with Hampshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire, while they visit Lord's to meet Marylebone, and at the end of July receive the South African team at Derby. Essex declined the invitation for matches, while the Cheshire fixtures were such a pecuniary loss that it was deemed advisable to drop them.

There are eligible for this year's team Messrs S H Evershed, G G Walker, J P Ward, L G Wright and W S Eadie, with Bagshaw, Chatterton, Davidson, Hulme, Malthouse, Porter, Storer, Sugg, Cupitt, W Hall, Bottom and F Mycroft. Joseph Brooks, a good left-hand medium-pace bowler, was found in the colts' match, also Mr George Marsden, who showed capital form with the bat and in the field. Widdowson, the ground man, promises the same splendid wickets which have been the characteristic of the Derbyshire headquarters for the last three seasons.

A capital programme has been arranged by Warwickshire. It includes two matches each with Nottinghamshire, Surrey, Yorkshire, Kent, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Essex, Leicestershire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, while the South Africans visit Birmingham late in July. In arranging home and home fixtures with five of the first-class counties Warwickshire have certainly made a stride towards the front rank.

Messrs H W Bainbridge, J E Hill, H G Hill, L C Docker, Pallett, Shilton, Diver, Quaife, Lilley, Law, Whitehead, Richards and Devey will be again able to play, whilst the new men include Mr A C S Glover, W G Quaife and Santall. Cresswell, who was taken ill towards the end of 1893, is now much better and it is hoped that he will again be of assistance to the team.

The membership of the Warwickshire club has reached 1,225, and the county ground at Edgbaston, Birmingham, is in excellent order.

Essex showed great improvement last year, especially in their home matches and the creditable draw made by them with the Australians. This seems to have aroused greater interest in the county and there was a decided improvement in the attendances. With the exception of Mr Taberer, who is a little doubtful, all the rest of last year's team will be available.

Mr A P Lucas again captains the eleven and hopes to play in nearly all the matches. This in itself will be a great advantage, and should Mr C J Kortright be in anything like his last year's form with the ball the prospects of the county are hopeful. Mead, who has been such a consistent bowler in the last two seasons, was greatly improved as a bat. Russell, last year's wicket-keeper, was a decided success; he is engaged at Lord's for the ensuing season. Carpenter will doubtless be as useful as before, and with reference to new talent Messrs C M'Gahey, C J Burrell, T L Nelson and A W Rammell will doubtless be tried.

The turf is in splendid condition and has been well nursed by the groundman, E C Freeman, while during the winter the practice wickets have been relaid.

Hampshire will be captain by Dr Russell Bencraft, and he will have the following players to assist him: - Mr A J L Hill, Mr C Robson, Mr L H Gay, Mr D A Steele, Mr A H Wood and Captain Quinton. It is also hoped that Mr F E Lacey, Mr H W Forster, M.P. and Captain Wynyard will play, while there are also five professionals, Cave, Baldwin, Soar, Barton and Light, the last three of these composing the ground staff.

The cricket field is about to be purchased at a cost of £5,400, as it would shortly have been available for building land, and during the winter the whole of the centre has been relaid. The county play the South Africans on May 31, and receive a visit from the M.C.C. on June 15. They also play home and home matches with Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Sussex and

Essex, while they meet Devonshire once at Exeter.

Leicestershire have a capital list of fixtures and, as all their old players are available, they are looking hopefully to carry it through.

Eton have five old choices left in Messrs G E Bromley-Martin (their last year's captain), C C Pilkington, F Cunliffe, H Kettlewell and A Gosling, while Winchester have six of last year's team left – namely, Messrs G B Stephens (captain), G H Gibson, K Wigram, H W Kaye, G H Rowe and F L Festing.

Harrow also have still six old members of the eleven – Messrs J H Bulloch, C D Williams, J H Stogdon, G P Gore, J A Halliday and R F Vibart.

The revised list of fixtures are as follows: -

[Note: the first-class fixture list for the 1894 season can be found at:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1894_f_Match_List.html]

(from a correspondent)

At the close of last season the Press, through whose untiring exertions cricketers can read at breakfast time the most important events in matches outside or inside England, to say nothing of the records of sayings and doings of all counties, clubs, colleges, schools &c., being tabulated and published at the end of the season, awarded the championship of England to Yorkshire, that county being the most successful of nine selected counties which the Press have dubbed "first-class." The particulars are set forth in the first page of "Wisden's Cricketers' Almanack for 1894," which, to the cricketer, is as necessary as "Hansard's Debates" are to members of Parliament.

To the surprise of those assembled at the annual meeting of captains of counties, held at Lord's last December, the veteran president of the Yorkshire County Club, Mr Ellison, repudiated the honour with much warmth, and expressed a wish "that the hateful title of championship should be abolished," and also the terms of "first" and "second" class counties, and was anxious to pass a resolution at once. Two counties, Notts and Surrey, through their representatives, took exception to any action being taken, as the meeting was called simply for the purpose of arranging matches; and it was understood that any further discussion would arise at a meeting at Lord's, to be held not far from the date of the December meeting.

At a banquet to the Yorkshire cricketers, given to them at Sheffield on January 13, Lord Hawke supported the president's views with an earnest wish that some rearrangement about inter-county matches should be made which shall remove anything like a stigma or "cheapening" title from counties which, owing to position or other inevitable circumstances, are unable to play more than a few matches or to contend against some of the stronger counties.

Up to this date no meeting of county representatives has been called and, possibly, as the calling a meeting appears to be "everybody's business and nobody's business in particular," the subject matter most in dispute – namely, "unauthorized classification" – may be allowed to drift until next December, unless some leading captains take it up.

The titles "championship," "champion averages," "first" and "second" class counties were all creations of the Press for the purpose of "marshalling" an entirely new set of facts for the information of their readers. The occasion was when the late Honourable Robert Grimston and Mr Frederick Burbidge – one of the last remaining members of the grand old Surrey eleven, who died last year – got together a large number of Surrey "colts," amateur and professional, and found out some fine young recruits for the Surrey eleven; and in order to "blood" them got the club to arrange a number of matches with some of the counties which did not appear in the London arena except at Lord's against M.C.C. The example was followed by Yorkshire, Lancashire and some other counties, and the Press found themselves with a sudden rush of work, and styled the old counties "first-class" and the newer "second-class." Moreover, the Press inaugurated a "rule of thumb" arrangement by which draws were to count as half a win, which has since been condemned by the M.C.C.

The old school of cricketers, who believed in cricket only as the grandest game in the world and have unshaken faith in the little bare-footed boys who play gutter cricket with a roughly hewn piece of board for a bat and a wooden ball as being "germs" and "bacilli" (as the doctors say) of the national sport far superior and more lasting than the ephemeral self glory of an average hunter, join issue with Mr Ellison and desire that cricket shall be divested of any spurious or fictitious – what

shall we say – “swagger” – yes, that is the word, and that in the arrangement of counties under any circumstances the term “second-class” shall be wiped out. The word was harmless enough in itself at first, but the public have adopted it as a term of depreciation.

The time has arrived when the captains of counties – all counties, great and small, and the Press, without any ebullition of temper and with fair give-and-take – ought to sit down and agree to some classification or no classification as they think best for cricket, and leave it to the public, when they see the names of the contending counties in print, to make up their minds whether any particular match is worth seeing or not. Many of the best judges of the game experience immense pleasure in witnessing a two-days’ match between some comparatively unknown county and the M.C.C. and Ground at Lord’s, as often superior excellence in any part of the game is developed by players whose names and faces are unknown.

And the M.C.C. have their eyes wide open, and the fact is evidenced by the number of players, amateur and professional, whose names appear in the best elevens of the club and who are selected from the so-called “second-class counties.”

On referring to “Wisden,” page 305, the second-class counties are enumerated as follows: Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Leicester, Essex, Cheshire, Hampshire, Staffordshire. The names of a few others appear as “minor counties.” We know what Mrs Malaprop says about comparisons, but at this moment unquestionably any heart-and-soul cricketer would much prefer occasionally seeing two of the best of these “second-class” play a match than a match between some of the “first-class,” who have played the same round for years. There is a sameness in seeing the same bowlers bowling to the same batsmen year after year, no matter how good the quality may be, and it is very trying when the self-evidenced facts crop up that a long and wearisome innings is made longer and more wearisome for the sake of the average; and a captain finds it impossible to get a certain section of cricketers to force the game in any way or make a bid for victory for fear of hurting the average, no matter if a whole side almost are at hand to follow the batsmen if he should lose his wicket.

Here is an extract from a letter from one of the finest amateur cricketers we have ever had. The letter is dated Vancouver, October 25, 1893: -

>I have read accounts only of modern cricket during the last few years. In former days it was carried on with spirit; no playing for the gallery and averages. Every one put his whole heart in the game and played for the side, not for their own selfish scoring. Averages and gate-money grabs appear to me to have deteriorated the noble game. Matches are spun out to a tedious length to suit the latter. With grounds like billiard tables and boundary ropes enormous scores are run up. Formerly two days even were often enough for a match, now they cannot finish a match in three very often.

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How well I remembered all the heroes of old. Many a mile of my solitary walks has been beguiled by thinking of them and playing over again the matches in which they figured.>

The letter was written on the correspondent’s 74th birthday and his name is William Pickering – “Bull Pickering” of Eton days, the finest field, ambidextrous, ever seen, and whose elder brother,

the Rev E H Pickering, was one of the mainstays of the "Gentlemen's Eleven" at Lord's again and again. And the letter is addressed to the writer of this paper, who is simply recording the opinions of very many of the best amateur and professional players in England, and what he has seen himself.

As regards averages and championships, a number of very good patrons of the game say they have no injurious consequences, provided a captain will not allow a batsman to throw away a win for the sake of his own average; and as there must always be a certain amount of parlour oratory and hero worship, it does not much matter on what subject it comes out, but the terms must not be engrafted on the grammar of the game. The title championship, unless each match is played to a finish, will carry no more weight than that of "Esquire" in a letter to the dustman from his "intended."

The expense of matches, especially in these days when amateurs' expenses as well as professionals' charges are paid, is so great that gate-money is a very important item, but it is very bad form when time is spun out for the sake of the gate. At Lord's the arrangements are admirable and time is kept to a moment. Things were so bad on some grounds at one time that the closure had to be brought in to avoid letting a county get a draw by waste of time; and that waste of time was on account of the championship chiefly. In fact, all difficulties about throwing vice bowling, using a pad as a second bat &c., and such like things, especially the absurdity of endless "trial" balls, cropped up since the championship and averages were considered matters of such immense importance.

If a classification is deemed absolutely necessary for arranging counties, probable the words "senior" and "junior" counties would not be considered offensive, or "outer" and "inner" circle, it being distinctly understood that the title was not considered in any way derogatory as regards rank, but simply used for the purposes of ear-marking minutes according to the length of their programme. The whole of this matter is not new. It was discussed some few years back in The Times when Nottingham county was accredited with the championship, on the strength of having won seven matches and drawn seven, not losing any; some of the draws were against them. Exception was taken to the ruling of the Press, and the M.C.C. settled the question by issuing a manifesto that a draw did not count either way.

The first and second class question was also threshed out, and the leader of the principal section of the cricket Press answered the letter, and a leading article followed in The Times. Later on the cricket council, which had been formed, passed a resolution that all classes should be abolished; and then the cricket council was adjourned sine die, and no one knows whether it is dead or can be set on its legs again.

The question has broken forth anew and the first stone was thrown in Baily's Magazine for November last, and the subject was taken up by the president of Yorkshire county. In any circumstances, captains of counties are expected to do something to settle the question, and anything like an adjournment sine die would be very disappointing.

During the autumn of last year Mr F P Fenner, who formerly kept "Fenner's Ground" at Cambridge and who has now retired from keeping the White Lion Hotel at Bath, of which he was landlord, being at the present time, though in his 83rd year, as hale and hearty a man as you will see in England, expressed himself very much after the manner of Mr Pickering as to present cricket. Of course, times are very much changed, and a professional player's object is to get his book full for the season, and very stale some of them become before the play ceases. The number of draws puzzles the old school of professionals, and these are, of course, occasioned to a great extent owing to boundary hits and men not getting pumped by running their runs.

There is one thing certain, which is, that when an eleven is selected by a captain who is heart and soul in the game and tries to put two men's work into his own share he infuses a "stamp and a go" into the match which makes it a great pleasure to the onlookers; and there is another thing equally cert, which is that a gallery player is a dead weight in the eleven, and this gallery play can generally be traced to averages or some vain-glory.

Mr Fenner was one of the very best all-round men of his own or any day, and the writer spend three long afternoons with him at Bath last September. He is by no means "laudatory temporis acti," giving modern men their full due, just as W G Grace did to Fuller Pilch, whom he met at Canterbury in the latter days of Pilch's life. "His star was set, mine was in the ascendant; but the light of battle was still in his face, and I could see what manner of man he must have been," writes the doctor in his book.

There is no doubt that in elevens where the majority of the players are amateurs the cricket is much more interesting than when it is the other way. Middlesex is a particularly nice county to see. Of course London residence being qualification the captain has an enormous number of amateurs to choose from the old University and public school me, and since the county has started it has been worked on the old Harrow lines, and you will never see a moment wasted or any unfair trick of any kind attempted. Their last match with Kent which they "lost on the post" in August, 1893, was a "chivalrous tournament." Individual examples are everything in an eleven. Mr Hornby by individual exertion "made" Lancashire, and the Lancashire players worship him almost; and Lord Harris revived Kent when the fortunes of the county were at zero.

Those who have been much behind the scenes on cricket grounds have not much faith in committees as regards management of an eleven in the field. A captain is either fit for his post or next to useless, and he ought to have a will of his won and accept responsibilities and act promptly. If the captains will consider the questions at issue we shall have a definite decision, but if things are no go back to the committees and to be talked out, it will end in a "Welch main," which is believed to have been pushing all the game cocks into the pit together to fight it out.

So now all that remains is to hope for the best. It is beyond all doubt that those who are so earnest in stripping all false colour and tinsel off cricket, and so anxious to keep it a pure English game, belong to the school who have supported by every means in their power for the benefit and amusement of their weaker and humbler brethren, especially in country villages and in the outskirts of crowded cities; and they have no personal object whatever in urging the carrying out of Mr Ellison's motion.

If any county objects to the average and championship business which another county insists on maintaining, there is no necessity for them to play against each other. There are plenty of counties between which matches can be made, and the best thing for cricket is to introduce as much new blood as possible, for there are quite as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it, and the universal desire is that those who appear in public elevens should think only of developing not their own but the glory of the noble old English game.

The Marylebone Club do not recognize classification and all counties are equal in their eyes.

26 March: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS MATCH

THE COLTS 70 (Mee 8/11, Flowers 7/16, A R Bennett 4/14) and 154 (M Chambers 48, A Pike 26, A J Hooton 21; A R Bennett 12/34). THE ELEVEN 143 (C W Wright 25, Bagguley 28, Sherwin 21*; Pykett 3/12) and 65/2 (Gunn 30*). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 March, page 5)

The Easter Monday traditions of the Notts County Club were fully observed yesterday at Trent-bridge, when the customary trial of Colts began. Mr Marshall captained 22 young players against the county eleven, and the day's cricket was watched with interest by a numerous company.

On a slow wicket the Colts showed no remarkable skill against the bowling of Mee, Flowers and Mr Bennett, and in two hours and three-quarters the 22 were dismissed for 70. Pykett, of Nottingham, and Pike, of Keyworth, both of whom reached double figures, did well; but, as a whole, the batting was disappointing. The bowling records of Mee, Flowers and Mr Bennett were very good.

When the eleven went in Mr C W Wright occupied an hour and a half in making 25, and Flowers and Bagguley also batted steadily. Pike kept wicket well, and Pykett and Heath met with success in bowling.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 March, page 5)

By their annual trial of colts at Trent Bridge, Nottinghamshire seem to have discovered at least one good cricketer in A Pike, of Keyworth. His form in the match, which came to an end yesterday, possessed a double merit – capacity as a wicket-keeper and sound defence in batting. An early trial will most likely be given him for the county, the Warwickshire match at Trent-bridge on the first Thursday in May being mentioned as the probable time.

Chambers, another young cricketer, also did well yesterday. In good free style he obtained 48 runs. The conditions for the second day of the game were more favourable, as the wicket played faster. The eleven, who overnight had made 100 for eight wickets against the colts' total of 70, took three-quarters of an hour to complete their innings, Sherwin and Mr Bennett batting freely.

With the "order" greatly varied the colts for along time fared ill in their second spell with the bat. Mr Bennett bowled very effectively, and 18 wickets fell for 90 runs. It was then that Pike and Chambers made a stand. The former's steady 28 occupied 90 minutes, while the latter's 48 were rapidly obtained and included six fours and five twos.

The innings ended at a quarter to five for 154. Mr Bennett had a capital analysis – viz., 12 wickets for 34 runs. When the eleven went in again Gunn met with success; but time did not permit of the game being finished, and the result was a drawn match.

Friday 30 March, page 14: CRICKET COUNTIES CLASSIFICATION

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - As you have published some lengthy remarks on the above subject from "A Correspondent," in your issue of March 24, I trust you will allow me space to say something on the other side, with, I think I may say, quite as much appreciation of and love for "the noble game" as he can have.

He objects to three things, namely – to the term "champion" as applied to the best cricket county of the year, to the division of counties into first and second class, and to the averages as generally made out. I have never been able to find out what possible objection there can be in calling the county that has the best record for the season "champion," for, in whatever way you arrive at the result, there must be one county that is the best of the year, and why not call it "champion," as well as best, first, or "cock" county (to use an old public school term for the best house at cricket or football)?

I am quite sure of one thing, that the yearly contest between the counties for first place (call it championship or what you will) excites the greatest possible interest among a large class of the public, who are just as much lovers of cricket as your correspondent, and what harm there is in that interest is quite beyond me to conceive.

Next as to the division of the counties into first and second class. Why not? There must always be different classes of merit in all sports. There are first-class tennis players, first-class racquet players, first-class football teams, and why not in cricket? Your correspondent seems to assume in one part of his letter that the older counties are ranked first-class and the newer second. In this I think he is wrong. It is because there is a distinct superiority in one county over another in the players they bring into the field that they are so ranked.

As to the exact classification of the counties, that has hitherto been left to the gentlemen of the Press, and, considering that they have the best opportunities of seeing and judging of the different elevens, I do not see how a better arrangement could be made. I may mention, to show that the division into first and second class counties is not a vain idea, that the players in all the representative matches are invariably chosen from the first-class counties. Thus, in the first match of England v Australia last year three of the England team were from Notts, three Yorkshire, two Surrey, two Middlesex, one Lancashire; in the second match, two from Notts, one Yorkshire, three Lancashire, two Surrey, two Middlesex, one Gloucestershire; in the third match, two from Notts, three Lancashire, two Middlesex, three Surrey, one Gloucestershire. Where would England have been had its eleven been chosen from the second-class counties?

Then as to averages. These have been taken for quite 50 years, and it has always been, I am sure, a source of the greatest interest to many cricketers to watch the contest for the first places throughout the season. But to arrive at a fair decision as to the actual merits of a batsman or a bowler you must take the averages of those who play in first-class matches separately, since it would not be fair to compute the average of a batsman who had played only in first-class matches, and consequently against first-class bowling, on equal terms with that of a batsman who had played in second-class matches also, and consequently against second-class bowling.

Yours faithfully,

BAT.

Friday 13 April, page 11: CRICKET

The annual meeting of subscribers of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club was held yesterday at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, Mr Harry Beloe presiding over a good attendance.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the accounts, said he was afraid he could not congratulate the club on the balance-sheet. He believed it was the least satisfactory that had ever been presented to them since he had had anything to do with the county. Whether it was that the county had suffered from the general depression which had influenced so many in trade he did not know, but the fact remained that the County Cricket Club, like so many businesses, found itself left with a very heavy loss on the year. Their income from the eight county matches fell something like £450 short of the previous year's receipts. Of course, he could only attribute that to their being "down on their luck." He sincerely hoped that there would be a change before long. Mr H C Vernon seconded the adoption of the accounts, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr Marshall asked whether the subscribers could be given any idea of the prospects of the county for the coming season. It appeared to him that unless they improved the finances would get into a deplorable state. The secretary (Dr E M Grace) said he was afraid that up to the present they had not discovered what they most particularly wanted – a bowler who was a little better than the common. As the subscribers knew, the county had been very unfortunate indeed. Mr Ferris, now one of the best bats in England, was not one of the best bowlers at present. Of course, he might come back to his bowling again, and then Gloucestershire would take a very great turn for the better.

At the general meeting of the Sussex County Club held at Brighton yesterday a satisfactory report and balance-sheet were presented and adopted. Reference was made to the improved cricket of the county under Mr W L Murdoch's captaincy, and the general tone of the proceedings was very hopeful for the future. Jesse Hide's benefit match is on July 23 – Sussex v Nottinghamshire.

Tuesday 1 May, page 11: ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

In their annual report the Essex committee mention with satisfaction the improvement in the county cricket last season, for which the side was much indebted to the bowling of Mr Kortright and Mead and the batting of Mr A P Lucas. The new railway will, it is hoped, improve the attendances at Leyton; but, while the football has been such a success and the subscribers number 936, the committee point out that the membership should reach 1,500 if the club is to maintain its prosperity.

The club has been greatly aided by Mr C M Tebbutt, the hon. treasurer, with a loan of £2,000, which was absorbed in paying off chiefly the bankers' debt. A capital programme has been arranged for this season.

The intentions expressed by the Yorkshire president in the winter that his county were determined not to leave the question of classification undealt with through another season were in some degree carried into effect yesterday at a meeting of secretaries and others interested in county cricket convened by Yorkshire at Lord's.

Mr Henry Perkins, secretary of the Marylebone Club, presided, and among others present were Mr A J Webbe, Middlesex; Lord Hawke and Mr M J Ellison, Yorkshire; Mr W L Murdoch and Mr W Newham, Sussex; Mr C W Alcock, Surrey; Mr A J Lancaster and Mr F Marchant, Kent; Mr C E Green and Mr O R Borrodaile, Essex; Mr A N Hornby, Lancashire; Mr W E Denison and Mr C W Wright, Nottinghamshire; Mr S M J Woods and Mr Murray-Anderton, Somerset; Mr H W Bainbridge and Mr W Ansell, Warwickshire; Dr Russell Bencraft, Hampshire; Mr T Burdett and Mr G W Hillyard, Leicestershire; and Mr Berkeley-Delacombe, Derbyshire.

The proceedings were private. There was no lengthy discussion. Mr Henry Perkins, the chairman, communicated the following official information: -

Mr M J Ellison, Yorkshire, proposed, "That for the purposes of classification, there should be no distinction drawn between counties who play out and home three-day matches with not less than six other counties." Mr G W Hillyard, Leicestershire, seconded the resolution.

Mr W E Denison moved as an amendment, "That the M.C.C. be requested to consider and advise upon the whole question of classification of counties." Mr Murray-Anderton seconded the amendment, which Yorkshire accepted, and the meeting adopted it unanimously.

The other part of the Yorkshire circular, which ran thus, "and also to discuss the present mode of selecting umpires, with a view to some arrangement which shall have a more satisfactory result than at present existing," was not proceeded with, and the meeting broke up.

ACTION BY THE COUNTY CAPTAINS

Lord Hawke, Yorkshire, has submitted the following memorandum to the Marylebone Club, and Mr H Perkins will lay it before his committee at their meeting this afternoon at Lord's: -

"That the matches played by the following four counties – Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Essex and Leicestershire – against the nine counties at present styled first-class, and also against one another and against the M.C.C. shall be regarded as first-class matches, and the records of the players engaged in these matches shall be included in the list of first-class averages."

This memorandum is signed by Lord Hawke (Yorkshire), Mr John Shuter (Surrey), Mr S M J Woods (Somerset), Mr J A Dixon (Nottinghamshire), Mr W L Murdoch (Sussex), Mr A J Webbe (Middlesex), Mr A N Hornby (Lancashire) and Dr W G Grace (Gloucestershire).

THE MARYLEBONE CLUB AND THE “FOLLOW-ON”

At the 107th anniversary meeting of the Marylebone Club at Lord's this afternoon the Committee will recommend the postponement of the proposed change in the follow-on law. This policy has been caused largely by the absence of information from the Australian Council as to the working of the new rule in the colonies, and, further, by the withdrawal of some of the opinions given by leading cricketers on the subject.

Thursday 3 May, page 7: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

The Earl of Dartmouth presided yesterday at the 107th anniversary meeting of the Marylebone Club, which was held in the great hall of the pavilion. The attendance was much larger than usual, the reason being the prospect of a discussion on the proposed change in the “follow-on” law of cricket. But the policy of the M.C.C. committee being known before hand – i.e., that the postponement of the question would be recommended – naturally led many to anticipate the decision. Still, the action of the committee was not endorsed without an understanding being arrived at that the subject should be reopened and definitely settled at a meeting to be called in July.

The Earl of Dartmouth moved the adoption of the report, which showed that in 1893 the club consisted of 3,941 members, of whom 3,496 paid, 217 were life members and 228 abroad. During the season 155 matches were played, of which 100 were won, 34 lost and 21 drawn. Sir Henry James, Mr E L Bateman, the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr J Robertson-Walker retired by rotation from the committee, their places being taken by the Earl of Dartmouth, Captain J St J Frederick, Mr Edward Rutter and Mr John Shuter. [Votes on thanks follow to the auditors, etc.] The Hon Alfred Lyttelton and Sir Edward Grey were the respective winners of the gold and silver tennis prizes.

The notice of the committee had been drawn to the fact that, on big match days, many persons not entitled to the privileges of the club obtained admittance to the pavilion, thereby causing considerable inconvenience and overcrowding. As it was quite impossible to effect any improvement in this direction without the cordial co-operation of the members of the club, the committee trusted that members would assist them by showing their passes when required.

The receipts for the year were £20,795; of this £11,192 was from subscriptions and £5,391 gate money. The disbursements included – buildings &c., £3,189; wages, £3,712; expenses of matches, £4,292; and repayments of loans, £4,354. The report was adopted.

THE “FOLLOW-ON” LAW

The meeting was made special, and Mr W E Denison, in accordance with the notice given, formally moved the following (at the same time intimating the desire of the committee in the interests of the game to postpone the question for further consideration during the ensuing year, as since that notice was issued great difference of opinion had arisen upon the subject among leaving cricketers): -

Law 53 of Cricket. – “The side which goes in second may be required to follow their innings, if they shall have scored 80 runs less than that other side.”

The Hon Alfred Lyttelton seconded the resolution, but argued strongly in favour of the proposed change being made at once.

The Earl of Lichfield appealed to the meeting to leave the matter in the hands of the committee for further consideration. The committee did not think that this optional rule quite met the case.

Mr A J Webbe spoke strongly against the optional clause, but did not want the matter shelved for a whole year. He was in favour of the entire abolition of the "follow-on" rule, and some amendment of that affecting the closure, so as to allow a side to close its innings before the last day of the match.

The meeting eventually consented to the postponement of the subject on the understanding that the committee would call another meeting for July, and that six weeks' notice would be given of the committee's proposal, so as to afford ample time for notice of amendment.

The full proposal by Mr Algernon Rutter was lost: - "That, inasmuch as the members have adopted the recommendation of the committee that candidates elected after the 1st of January, 1894, shall not be entitled to any reserved seats for their friends, the committee shall, without prejudice to the existing rules, have power to elect candidates, not exceeding 1,000, from the books in the order of priority."

The anniversary dinner was afterwards held in the members' dining hall, when the Earl of Jersey was nominated president for the ensuing year.

COUNTY CLASSIFICATION

Lord Hawke's memorandum, which was signed by the majority of the captains of the leading counties and the text of which is subjoined, was adopted by the M.C.C. committee at their meeting at Lord's yesterday: -

"That the matches played by the following four counties – Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Essex and Leicestershire – against the nine counties at present styled first-class, and also against one another and against the M.C.C. shall be regarded as first-class matches, and the records of the players engaged in these matches shall be included in the list of first-class averages."

Friday 4 May, page 11: THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

There was a good attendance of members at the annual general meeting held last evening at Kennington Oval under the presidency of Mr Wildman Cattley, the hon. treasurer. The committee in their report congratulated the club on the flourishing state of its finances, and point out the action taken by the committee in the renovation of the Oval turf, which had prevented the playing there of any football in the last season.

Last year's record was referred to with some regret, for seven wins and eight losses compared very unfavourably with the record of the summer of 1892. The counties to be met this season are Derbyshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Notts, Somerset, Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire. The Cambridge home match has been altered to June 4. The South African team will visit the Oval on May 31. Gentlemen v Players is announced for July 5, 6 and 7.

The committee recorded with much regret the death of Mr J B Scriven, one of their number; his place has been filled by the election of Colonel Farmer.

The balance-sheet showed a total income (including £9,537 in hand) of £23,578. The receipts at the gate, &c., for matches were £8,274. Of this amount the four occasions on which the Australians appeared at the Oval (England v Australia, South of England v Australians and the two Surrey matches) yielded £3,179, exclusive of stands, while the August Bank Holiday match with Notts produced £920. The heaviest item in the expenditure was, of course, for match expenses, this amounting to £5,770. The general expenses and grants amounted to £2,423. The club has a balance in hand of £9,666.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, dwelt upon the strong financial position of the club. He regretted that Surrey failed often last summer; but they could not expect to be champions every year. It was, perhaps, good for cricket that the same team should not be always first. But last year Surrey had a lot of bad luck. Richardson, Wood, Abel and Lockwood were at various times injured, and there was scarcely a match in which Surrey played its strongest eleven. Lohmann's loss was a great blow to the county, but the chairman was happy to be able to announce that Lohmann had so far improved in health that he hoped to return and play for Surrey in 1895.

The chairman paid a high tribute to the captain, Mr John Shuter, in whom the members had every confidence. The membership of the club had now reached 3,100, and there were many candidates still waiting for election.

The balance-sheet was much criticized, but eventually both it and the report were adopted.

The question of football on the Oval was raised and led to a warm discussion. The feeling of the meeting was strongly in favour of a proposal made by Mr Bourne, which was carried, and which read as follows: -

“That the general meeting of members of the Surrey Cricket Club strongly urge upon its committee the desirability of using a portion of the Oval for football during the next season and in future years.”

Lord Oxenbridge, president; Lord Bessborough, vice-president; and Mr Wildman Cattley, hon. treasurer, were re-elected officers for the year.

Monday 30 April, page 10: THE SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKET TEAM

The members of the team have arrived from Cape Town by the Union Company's steamer Tartar, which delivered the mails at Plymouth yesterday morning, and they proceeded on in the vessel to Southampton, landing at that port.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE SENIORS' MATCH

MR F A G LEVESON-GOWER'S SIDE 265 (B N Bosworth-Smith 101, H K Foster 34, T A Higson 39, D M'Lachlan 29) and 227 (F A G Leveson-Gower 31, M Y Barlow 67, C H Ransome 47, T A Higson 23; M Berkeley 7/74, F G H Clayton 3/65). MR G E FIELD'S SIDE 189 (P F Warner 53, W S Case 52, J Conway-Rees 21; H A Arkwright 6/65, A W F Ruty 3/25) and 43/4 (T A Higson 3/5). Match drawn.

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

Neither the weather nor the ground in the Parks was conducive to great excellence in cricket at Oxford yesterday; yet the cold wind, the clouded sky and the slow wicket did not prevent its being something of a batsman's day in the opening of the University season.

The most distinguished player was Mr B N Bosworth-Smith, who had a place in the Harrow eleven in 1891 and 1892; he offered a steady and sound defence and made few mistakes in getting his 101 in three hours and a half. Naturally the slow ground necessitated a good deal of watching of the ball, but the wicket, on the whole, although of some assistance to the attack, did not make the bowling very formidable. Mr Bosworth-Smith went in first and was the eighth out at 225, having made five fours, three threes, sixteen twos and 40 singles. Mr H K Foster, who went up to Oxford last year with a brilliant school reputation from Malvern, showed capital form in helping Mr Bosworth-Smith to put on 61 for the second wicket, and other good batsmen were Messrs Higson and M'Lachlan.

Play lasted altogether for four hours and Mr F A G Leveson-Gower's team had not finished their innings at the drawing of stumps. Mr G E Field captained the other side. Mr R P Lewis, who gained so much fame as a wicket-keeper at Winchester, was seen to considered advantage at his old post.

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

The conditions for cricket at Oxford yesterday were much brighter than on the opening day and, while there was no feat like that achieved by Mr Bosworth-Smith to notice, the play was very interesting. Mr Leveson-Gower's team soon completed their batting, the last wicket falling at 265, only an addition of two since Monday night.

With the ground faster and favouring the attack Mr Field's side were placed at a disadvantage, but apart from Mr Arkwright the bowlers did not make the most of their opportunity. Mr P F Warner, who was a wonderfully good schoolboy batsman in his last three years at Rugby, played excellently for his 53, going in first and being sixth out at 99, after a stay of 95 minutes. He contributed four fours, three threes and ten twos. Another sound innings was that of Mr W S Case, who in an hour and a quarter made 52 by three fours, 15 twos and singles.

In spite of this batting, it was left to the last man, the old Winchester wicket-keeper, to save the follow-on. Mr Lewis came in when 23 were yet wanted, but he promptly hit three fours and a six. The total reached 189 as the result of two and three-quarter hours' play. Mr Arkwright, who made his mark as a bowler last summer for Oxford against the Australians, had a good analysis – six wickets for 65 runs. Mr Ruty performed the "hat trick" by dismissing Messrs Conway-Rees, Case and Berkeley with successive balls.

When Mr Leveson-Gower's team went in again Mr Barlow, the Harrow captain in 1892, batted with considerable skill.

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

At Oxford yesterday the cricket in the Seniors' match had proceeded for only three hours when rain put a stop to the game. Mr Leveson-Gower's side, who had finished up with a considerable advantage, increased their score of 78 for three wickets to 227, the 149 having been added in two hours.

Mr Barlow and his captain added 66 for the fourth partnership. The former, who had made most of his runs on Tuesday evening, was fifth out at 130 for a capital 67, obtained in 90 minutes by a six, nine fours, five twos and singles. Mr Ransome played steadily for 47, in which were five fours, two threes and five twos. Good bowling had been shown by Mr Berkeley, whose seven wickets cost ten runs each in an innings of 227. The weather permitted only of one hour's play in the last venture of the match. The game was eventually drawn.

2 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4091.html)

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

The cricket season for the year may fairly be said to have opened yesterday with this match at Lord's. For the second time the plan of having a game on the same date as the anniversary meeting of the Marylebone Club was adopted, and on this occasion it furnished the rare event of a first-class fixture being decided in a day. The team placed in the field by the leading club was of exceptional strength, for it included the captains of five counties – viz., Lord Hawke, Yorkshire; Mr A N Hornby, Lancashire; Dr W G Grace, Gloucestershire; Mr C W Wright, Nottinghamshire; and Mr C E de Trafford, Leicestershire.

Unfortunately, in addition to the overcast sky and the bad light, the rain had rendered the ground so dead as to provide quite a bowler's wicket. Play began within a few minutes of noon, when Bean and Marlow went in and were opposed by J T Hearne and Martin. When only five had been made Marlow played on, and nine runs later Bean was bowled. Mr Murdoch, who had just escaped being stumped, was out at 25, while at 33 Love fell to a fine catch at forward short leg. Four for 33.

The next six wickets added only nine – Guttridge was caught at long-off and Mr Newham at mid-off. Parris was stumped, Lowe returned the ball, Tate was secured at mid-off and the first ball sent him beat Humphreys. Total 42; duration of innings, an hour and a quarter. Martin's seven wickets only cost a dozen runs.

Dr W G Grace and Mr Stoddart went in for Marylebone at 25 minutes to 2. Parris led off the attack from the nursery end. His second ball Mr Stoddart drove to the off for three; but his fourth quite beat Dr W G Grace and the fifth clean bowled him. Mr De Trafford came in, and Tate had charge of the bowling from the pavilion wicket. Mr Stoddart added a couple and a single, and then the Leicestershire captain was quite baffled by a ball which struck his last season. A catch at slip disposed of Mr Ferris a single late, and Lord Hawke joined Mr Stoddart. The Middlesex batsman played the correct game in hitting, although when he had made seven only he drove Parris hard to Guttridge, who stopped the ball at mid-off but could not hold it. Profiting by this escape he twice drove Tate (once over the ring) for four, and at the luncheon the score stood at 33 for three wickets.

On resuming, Lord Hawke also made eight with two successive square leg hits from Tate, but the next ball clean bowled him. Four for 42. Mr Wright assisted Mr Stoddart, who continued to force the play; so much so that 83 runs came from 50 minutes' batting. He was then unfortunate enough to obstruct his wicket, while, without alteration in the total, Mr Wright, who had made some good strokes, was caught at short leg. Mr Hornby was soon bowled, and a splendid one-handed catch high up by Marlow at mid-on dismissed Martin. Mead was bowled, and with the score at 103, which had only taken an hour and 20 minutes to obtain on the slow wicket, Hearne was bowled.

Sussex started their second innings with a deficiency of 61, in the same order as before, to the bowling of Martin and Mead. Their start was not reassuring, as in the first over a catch at slip disposed of Bean, Marlow was quickly stumped, and a splendid catch by Mr De Trafford (who was running under the ball and with it) at mid-on got rid of Mr Murdoch. Three for five. Mr Newham and Love made a little stand. The former made a capital drive to the on for four off Mead, but in the same over he was secured by point. Guttridge gave an unaccepted chance to Mr Weigall at long-on, but from the next ball he was caught low down at short leg. Half the wickets were now

down for 24.

Love, Butt and Parris were bowled, Tate was caught at long-on and Humphreys was also dismissed by Mead. The last-named is the Essex bowler who came into prominence last season at Leyton. From the complete score it will be seen that Marylebone won by an innings and two runs.

3 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4092.html)

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

The Warwickshire eleven have started the season excellently, and yesterday, at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, they were batting the whole of cricketing hours without finishing their innings. Mr J E Hill's three-figure and incomplete innings was the characteristic of the day's play.

Nottinghamshire were not fortunate in the constitution of their eleven. In addition to the leaving out of Sherwin and Barnes so as to afford the opportunity for the trial of new blood, they had to do without Shrewsbury and Gunn, both of whom were absent on account of bad health. Armstrong, of Keyworth, secured one vacancy, while Chambers, of Alsworth, was fresh to important cricket, and got his place through the ability displayed in the Colts' match; Sharpe, who a season or so ago rendered great service as a fast bowler to Surrey, returned to the county of his birth; while Mr J S Robinson kept wicket for the home side.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 May, page 15)

On the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, yesterday, the visiting county further improved the excellent position occupied by them at the close of Thursday's play. Then eight of their batsmen were out for 282.

Play was resumed at 11.35, when Mr Hill and Whitehead (the not-outs with 103 and 19 respectively) were opposed by Attewell and Sharpe. Without having added even a single Whitehead ran himself out. Shilton, however, proved of valuable assistance to Mr Hill, and it was not until the bowling and fielding had been several times changed that he fell to the wicket-keeper, the last partnership yielding 35 runs. Mr Hill, who went in when the score stood at 83 for four wickets, carried out his bat for 139, obtained in four hours and a half. His chief hits were 13 fours, five threes and 25 twos. Total, 351.

Notts did not begin promisingly and lost five of their batsmen (Mr Howitt, Armstrong, Flowers, Mr Dixon and Attewell) for 50 runs, Mr J E Hill making two fine catches, one at cover-point and the other at mid-off. Daft and Bagguley added 48 for the sixth wicket; the former batted an hour and a half for 54 runs, in which were seven fours. Mr Robinson also aided in improving matters and the total eventually reached 149. A feature of the day's play was the fine bowling of Whitehead.

Nottinghamshire, with the heavy balance of 202 against them, followed on . . .

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

Nottinghamshire played a losing game at the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, on Saturday, in a determined manner. At the close of Friday evening's play Notts had followed on with arrears of 202 and had lost two wickets for 57.

Flowers and Mr Dixon (the not-outs with 17 and 2) continued their batting. This pair offered such a determined resistance to the attack that 50 were put on before they were separated, when Flowers

was caught by Lilley; he had batted well for his 53, in which were seven fours, two threes and three twos. Daft, who had done so well in the previous innings, hit with considered freedom until he was run out; his principal figures were nine fours, a three and three twos. After his dismissal, Mee and Sharpe did excellently and put on 49 for the last wicket, the innings closing for 275.

Warwickshire now required 74 to win. These were soon obtained and Warwickshire were left the winners by six wickets.

3 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE FRESHMEN’S MATCH

MR C B FRY’S SIDE 61 (K A Woodward 23; J C Hartley 6 wkts, G R Bardswell 4 wkts) and 144 (J S Chinnock 20, K A Woodward 41, C D Compton 21; G R Bardswell 5 wkts, S L Watkinson 4 wkts). MR L C V BATHURST’S SIDE 125 (R H Mitchell 27; D H Forbes 8 wkts) and 81/7 (R H Mitchell 22, J B Henderson 32). Mr L C V Bathurst’s Side won by four wickets.

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

Yesterday the annual match among the Freshmen was played at Oxford.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 May, page 15)

On the first day of his annual match at Oxford an innings was completed by each side, and that captained by Mr L C V Bathurst, although not scoring very heavily, rather more than doubled the total with which Mr C B Fry’s was credited.

There was a keen wind yesterday when the latter team began their second innings. Mr Compton batted well and twice cut the ball for four in the same over. The start, indeed, was good, as the deficiency of 64 was made up just before the fall of the third wicket. Mr Woodward hit with considered freedom and in his 41 there were six fours. Mr Bardswell’s bowling made great havoc in the later stages of the innings and five wickets only realized nine runs. The innings lasted two hours and a quarter for 144.

Mr Bathurst’s side now required 81 to win. Mr Mitchell and Mr Henderson both did well, obtaining 54 of this number between them. The bowling, however, was pretty good. Mr Woodward took three wickets at the cost of two runs apiece, and it was not until seven had been lost that the winning hit was made at a quarter past 6. From the complete score it will be seen that Mr Bathurst’s side won by four wickets.

3 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – THE FRESHMEN’S MATCH

MR P H LATHAM’S SIDE 275 (N F Druce 64, E H Bray 38, H Gray 28*, P H Latham 51) and 277 (N F Druce 36, W Mortimer 29, J A Crocker 34, H Crabtree 43, K Clarke 52; P W Cobbold 6 wkts). MR J DOUGLAS’S SIDE 273 (F Mitchell 32, W G Grace jun 88, A S Farnfield 33, H T Wallis 46; J A Crocker 6 wkts) and 136 (F Mitchell 32, G M Hill 54, J Douglas 29*; H Gray 8 wkts). Mr Latham’s Side won by 138 runs.

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

Batting honours on the first day of the trial of Freshmen at Cambridge were shared yesterday by Mr N F Druce, who did well for Marlborough against Rugby at Lord’s last summer, and Mr P H Latham, the University captain.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 May, page 15)

A thoroughly good day’s play was witnessed at Cambridge yesterday in the continuation of the Freshmen’s trial. The scoring of the two sides was singularly even. Mr Douglas’s, who had lost three wickets for 78, completed their innings for 278, which gave them a lead of three runs.

Mr Grace and Mr Farnfield, the not-outs, made a wonderfully good beginning and put on 83 in an hour, while subsequently Mr Wallis and Mr Grace added 71. Undoubtedly the best thing in the batting was Mr Grace’s 88, which occupied two hours and a half and was characterized by sound judgment both in timing and placing the ball. His chief contributions were seven fours, eight threes and ten twos. The bowling of Mr Crocker, an old Etonian, was the best feature in the attack: he took six wickets for 66 runs.

When Mr Latham’s team began their second spell of batting Mr Druce again did well and with Mr Mortimer put on 50 in 25 minutes, while they scored altogether 66 for the first wicket. Subsequently Mr Crabtree, the old Carthusian, batted excellently and made five fours in an innings of 43.

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

Saturday’s cricket at Cambridge furnished several interesting features. The close of Friday had left the game much in favour of Mr Latham’s team, who, with five wickets to go down in the second innings, were 217 runs on.

Four of the remaining batsmen fell in seven overs to Mr Cobbold, the Old Etonian, at the cost of ten runs; but the Cambridge captain, as in the first innings, coming in last, again played well and, with Mr Clarke, the overnight not-out, added 40 runs. Mr Clarke, who was in last year’s Tonbridge eleven, was bowled for 52, a capital innings including five fours, four threes and three twos. The 57 runs made during the morning had occupied three-quarters of an hour.

Mr Douglas’s side wanted 275 to win. As Mr Sherring had injured his ankle they were a man short. Mr Gray’s fast bowling proved altogether too much for the majority of the batsmen, eight of whom he dismissed at a cost of only 60 runs. The merits of the batting rested with three members of the

side. Mr Mitchell maintained that consistent form which has characterized his game in college matches by making an excellent 32; but five men were out at the interval for 77 runs and Mr Gray dismissed five more afterwards for seven runs. Mr Douglas and Mr Hill, however, added 42. Mr Latham's side won by 138 runs. Mr Hill's vigorous innings included eight fours.

4 May: THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLTS' MATCH

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 438 (E M Grace 79, J J Ferris 73, H W Brown 55, Painter 66, W Troup 34, W G Grace 35, A H Newnham 30), TWENTY-TWO COLTS 129 and 64/8. Match drawn.

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

The trial of the Gloucestershire Colts took place on Friday and Saturday at the Ashley-Down Ground, Bristol. The match was drawn.

4 May: SOMERSET COLTS' MATCH

COLTS 105 and 88. SOMERSET CLUB AND GROUND 70 and 127/8 (Nichols 53). Somerset Club and Ground won by two wickets.

At Taunton, on Friday and Saturday, the Somerset Club and Ground played a match against 17 colts of the county, who were captained by Mr S M J Woods. The result was a victory for the Club and Ground by two wickets, Nichols playing a good innings of 53.

7 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4093.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 11)

The visit of a Notts team to Lord's is always regarded with great interest, and during the afternoon of yesterday there was a large company at St John's-wood. Unfortunately the county were unable to play their full strength. Even the hopes of Gunn's being well enough to take part in the match were dispelled, and Armstrong appeared in his stead.

Mr Hornby won the toss, and within a few minutes of noon he was accompanied to the wickets by A Hearne. Mee (pavilion) and Attewell were the bowlers. The start was poor, as eight runs only were made when Mr Hornby was very smartly caught by Daft running from third man, while when a dozen had been obtained Carpenter and A Hearne were both bowled. Although Chatterton and Mr de Trafford batted a little more freely, the first hour only yielded 39. Then Sharpe was tried for Attewell, and a few overs later Flowers relieved Mee. The latter change soon took effect, Mr de Trafford, who had made a few fine drives, being out to a well-timed catch in the deep field.

Storer came, and at 65 Attewell resumed. Each batsman sent him to the boundary, Storer with a leg hit and Chatterton with a cut. Three other variations in the attack were tried, and Daft, being out on at the nursery end, induced Storer to return him the ball. After lunch Moorhouse was also easily caught and bowled, while Chatterton, who had been batting an hour and 40 minutes for his 36, stepped out to play a ball of Attewell's, but missed it and was clean bowled.

Lord Hawke and Martin infused a little more spirit into the play. The 100 was reached at 3 o'clock. The Yorkshire captain drove the ball to the canvas and Martin sent it to the pavilion rails. Both batsmen followed these hits up with two other drives to the boundary. A double change in the attack was adopted, Mee and Daft taking charge of it. From the former Martin was caught at cover-point. Seven for 147. J T Hearne came, and Lord Hawke made eight in an over from Daft. But he could not get any one to stay in with him, and the innings closed at 10 minutes to 4 for 180.

Nottinghamshire began unpromisingly by losing Mr Howitt and Mr Wright for 15 runs. Flowers and Mr Dixon were then opposed by J T Hearne and Mead. Thirty-two runs were put on and then Mr Dixon was bowled. Flowers hit vigorously and obtained 50 runs in as many minutes, Daft having just previously returned J T Hearne the ball. Mead gave way to Martin at v76, who, in his first over and from successive balls, disposed of Mr Robinson and Attewell. The next to assist Flowers was Bagguley, and the interest now centred in the probability of the county's saving the follow on. Bagguley retired clean bowled. Seven for 92. Only nine were required to prevent Notts following their innings. For an addition couple Armstrong was also bowled, and Mee joined Flowers, but the first ball he received beat him. Sharpe remained while Flowers made a run and then he was bowled, the last three wickets having only added a single each.

Flowers, who had gone in first wicket down, carried out his bat for a well-played 67, in which were six fours, three threes and ten twos. Martin's average of five wickets for eight runs was remarkable. Total 95.

Being in a minority of 85, Notts followed on at 6 o'clock with Messrs Wright and Howitt, who were opposed by J T Hearne and Martin. The batsmen played with commendable caution and at 23 Mead went on for J T Hearne and Martin gave way to A Hearne. The latter in his first over found

the way to Mr Wright's wicket, and stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 May, page 11)

At one time yesterday, at Lord's, there seemed a probability that a single-innings defeat was in store for Notts. Daft and Armstrong, however, managed to avert this misfortune.

At 11.35 the county resumed batting. Overnight Marylebone had completed an innings for 180, while Notts had followed on with a deficit of 85 and had lost Mr Wright for 27. Mr Howitt (the not-out with four) had Mr Dixon for a companion. J T Hearne again bowled from the pavilion end and A Hearne from the nursery. A disheartening start was made, as, for an addition four, Mr Howitt was bowled, and 13 runs later Mr Dixon, in playing forward, was served a similar way. Flowers and Daft batted well for some overs, the former making a couple of boundary hits, to which his companion responded with seven by two off-drives. At 60 A Hearne gave way to Martin. This bowler was again in good form; he disposed of Flowers and Mr Robinson, and then he induced Attewell to send him back the fourth ball of an over and with the fifth upset Bagguley's wicket. Seven for 74.

Armstrong joined Daft, and with the aid of four byes the innings defeat was avoided at ten minutes to 1. Mead had relieved J T Hearne at 83, and Daft cut him in very crisp style to the boundary. The 100 was signalled through a single from Armstrong, and J T Hearne resumed bowling. Daft drove him to the off and Armstrong made a very fine cut, the ball in each case going to the ring. With the score at 111 Daft was easily stumped, while at 120 Mee retired, clean bowled, as did Sharpe, the last man, at 124. Time, 1.25.

Marylebone now required 40 to win, and sent in Mr de Trafford and A Hearne. Mee started the attack from the pavilion end and his opening over was noteworthy. With his first ball he bowled Mr de Trafford, nothing came from the second, the third Carpenter sent to the square-leg boundary, but with the fourth that batsman was also bowled. Chatterton gave a difficult chance to Mr Howitt at point, but no other wicket had fallen up to luncheon. Afterwards A Hearne made 11 by two cuts and an off-drive from Mee. The winning hit – a cut through the slips to the pavilion rails – was also made by the Kent batsman at ten minutes past 3. Thus Notts lost their second match of the season by eight wickets.

7 May: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4094.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 11)

The Warwickshire eleven, who played such good cricket at Trent-bridge last week, rendered an excellent account of themselves on the Oval yesterday, when, apart from the natural keenness at the opening of a season, there was noticeable a fresh interest in the game, which may perhaps be attributable to the recent action of the M.C.C. in regard to classification.

Warwickshire's first innings on a true wicket lasted the greater part of the day – namely, three hours and three-quarters – and in this time 242 runs were obtained. This large score against the strong Surrey bowling was no unworthy feat. Its chief merit rested with William Quaife (a younger brother of the ex-Sussex county player), whose early steadiness in defence preceded much freedom and made his game attracted to watch. He was in just over three hours and, beyond a chance to Abel at slip, when he was credited with 44, did not make a mistake; his 92 included one six (leg-hit), two fives, nine fours, two threes and six twos. With Mr Bainbridge he added 35, while Mr J E Hill helped him to put on 72 for the fifth wicket. Santall and Lilley also gave him considerable help, and when Quaife, the eighth to leave, was caught at wicket, the score had reached 234. Only eight more were made before the innings ended.

Richardson was the most effective bowler; but Lockwood met with much ill-fortune, several catches being missed from him. F Smith, left-hand medium pace, who did pretty well in some of Surrey's minor matches last summer, received a good trial, and although his pitch was a little uncertain he managed to get three wickets.

Surrey had a bad hour and a half at the end of the day. Abel, who went in first, played with something like his old skill for 32, in which there were seven fours. But, like several other members of the side, he was beaten by the slow bowling of Whitehead, who got his pitch after a couple of bad overs and then kept a fine length, with plenty of break on a good wicket. Altogether, he got out five men – three he clean bowled, while Maurice Read played on and Mr Walter Read was leg-before. With only four batsmen to lose and with arrears of 160, Surrey have a severe uphill game before them to-day. Warwickshire have, indeed, begun the season excellently.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 May, page 11)

The success of Warwickshire on the Oval yesterday, following immediately their victory over Notts, beings the side conspicuously to the front. To begin the season with defeats of both Nottinghamshire and Surrey is a brilliant start for the county within a week of its admission to the rank of first-class. But yesterday's was certainly the greater feat, for Warwickshire were meeting almost the full strength of Surrey – Mr John Shuter was the only absentee.

One of the chief causes of Surrey's discomfiture was the fine length and break of the Warwickshire slow bowler, Whitehead, who took 11 wickets in the match, his first spell extending right through Surrey's opening innings and producing such an analysis as eight for 49.

A large company visited the Oval yesterday to see Surrey's up-hill fight. They had been left overnight with arrears of 160 and six of the side out. In the course of half an hour the innings

finished for an addition of 16 runs.

In the second innings, after a few good hits by Hayward and Abel, Surrey fared so badly that the fifth wicket was lost at 43. Mr Walter Read was bowled by a fine off break ball from Whitehead, while the catch which got out Lockwood – first ball – was very cleverly made low down at mid-on from a hard drive. During the partnership of Mr Key and Maurice Read there was something like the old form of Surrey in the batting; but when 44 had been quickly added and the men were well set the professional was run out from a hit off which Mr Hill tried hard to catch Mr Key at mid-off.

But the cricket which followed furnished perhaps the best batting of the match. Mr Key cut splendidly and made some good drives and leg hits, while Brockwell also forced the game; but just before the Warwickshire figures were equalled Mr Key mis-timed a nice-length ball on the leg side, and it broke in and clean bowled him. His 60, made in an hour, was a brilliant display and included three fives (all cuts run out), seven fours and four twos. Brockwell, to whom Smith and Richardson gave much assistance, took out his bat for an excellent 49, in which were a five, four fours and eight twos. Santall had been the most successful bowler in this innings.

Warwickshire wanted 64 to win, and these they made in an hour, after losing three men for 25. Mr Bainbridge, in spite of a hard chance to Mr Read at point, again batted soundly, and both he and Law found Richardson and Lockwood difficult to play. Warwickshire won by seven wickets.

7 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – THE SENIORS' MATCH

MR C G POPE'S SIDE 260 (E C Osborne 31, C G Pope 45, C Wells 84; J Burrough 4/98, C J L Rudd 4/35) and 439 (H E Symes-Thompson 145, W G Druce 77, F E Brunner 22, C G Pope 29, G S Wilson 98*; J Burrough 7 wkts). MR J J ROBINSON'S SIDE 521 (E Field 53, J J Robinson 45, J A Healing 104, F L Crabtree 161, T T Phelps 30, R H Foy 58, R A Studd 31*) and 29/0. Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 11)

On good turf and in fine weather, except for a couple of showers, this match began yesterday at Cambridge. Mr Pope's team went in first at 10 past 12, but did not begin well, losing three wickets for 36. Messrs Osborne and Brunner improved matters.

The real feature of the innings, however, was the stand made by Messrs Pope and Wells. Between the fall of the sixth and seventh wickets they put on 96 runs. Mr Pope was then bowled for a carefully played 45. Mr Wells, who had been batting two hours for his 84, was caught at the wicket. His chief figures were ten fours, four threes and ten twos. The innings closed at 4.35 for 260.

Messrs Field and J J Robinson scored 100 runs in just under the hour for Mr Robinson's side. The first-named was caught at the wicket, having made 53 by eight fours, two threes, three twos &c. Mr Robinson was bowled; among his hits were a five, three fours and five threes. Messrs Healing and Crabtree both hit freely and played out time.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 May, page 11)

Batting was in the ascendant yesterday at Cambridge when the Seniors resumed their match. Mr Pope's side had run up the high total of 260 on Monday, but this was altogether eclipsed by the batting of their opponents.

Messrs Healing and Crabtree (the not-outs of Mr Robinson's side with 36 and 28) continued their batting to some purpose. Despite the varied tactics of their rivals they each made over the 100, while during their partnership no fewer than 183 runs were put on. Mr Healing then cut a ball into point's hands; he had been batting for two and a quarter hours and in his faultless 104 were 14 fours, six threes and five twos.

Excellent as this achievement was, Mr Crabtree surpassed it. He was at the wickets for four hours, when, with the total at 459, he was clean bowled. He had played a magnificent game and did not give a chance; among his hits were 11 fours, 12 threes and 11 twos. Mr Foy batted with determination for his 58, in which were a five and six fours. The innings closed for 521 at ten minutes to 5, it having commenced at almost the corresponding hour on the previous day.

Mr Pope's side began batting with 261 to make up. A brilliant catch at long-on disposed of Mr Osborne in the third over, but Messrs Symes-Thompson and Druce batted skilfully for an hour and a quarter and then had their wickets intact.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 May, page 11)

It does not often happen that three innings are played in the same match for an average of over 400 runs. Such was the case, however, in the engagement between the Seniors during the last three days at Cambridge, when an aggregate of 1,220 runs was obtained. At the drawing of stumps on Tuesday Mr Pope's side had scored 260 and Mr Robinson's 521, while the former had only lost a wicket in their second innings for 138.

Messrs Symes-Thompson and Druce (the not-outs with 59 and 66) continued their batting to the attacks of Messrs Burrough and Robinson at 11.40. The total was advanced to 165, and then Mr Druce fell to a catch at wicket. During his stay with Mr Symes-Thompson 157 had been put on, and he was batting an hour and 25 minutes for his 77, obtained in good style by 12 fours, a three and four twos. Mr Brunton quickly obstructed his wicket, but Mr Brunner added 22 out of 47 while he was in. Mr Pope then assisted Mr Symes-Thompson, and the arrears of 261 were got rid of at 1 o'clock.

Seventy were obtained for the fifth wicket, and then Mr Symes-Thompson's free innings was closed by a ball from Mr Candler. He had been in for two hours and 50 minutes, and his principal hits were two fives, 18 fours, seven threes and 12 twos. Messrs Wilson and Pope took the score to 300 at 20 minutes past 1, when the latter was bowled. Mr Wells did not remain long, but Messrs Wilson and Pelham added 71 for the eighth wicket, and the innings eventually closed for 439. Mr Wilson was rather unfortunate in not completing his 100, but his 98 was the result of good cricket and included 14 fours, four threes and ten twos.

Mr Robinson's side went in with 179 to get for victory. Nine overs produced 29 runs, and then rain stopped further play, the match being drawn . . .

7 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE ELEVEN v SIXTEEN FRENCHMEN

SIXTEEN FRESHMEN 147 (G R Bardswell 37*; L C V Bathurst 5/35, C B Fry 3/12) and 84/7 (T B Henderson 25, K A Woodward 21). THE ELEVEN 283 (G J Mordaunt 32, H K Foster 28, H D G Leveson-Gower 87, F A Phillips 80; D H Forbes 8 wkts). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 11)

Yesterday was something of a bowler's day in the Parks at Oxford, when another of the preliminary matches to aid in the formation of the eleven was begun. The vacancies in the University team were filled by Mr F A Phillips, who played against Cambridge at Lord's in 1892, Mr H K Foster, a Freshman from Malvern last year, Mr H A Arkwright, a good bowler who came off for Oxford in the Australian match, Mr Berkley, a bowler, and Mr R P Lewis, the famous Wykehamist wicket-keeper, who failed to get his blue in his first day at Oxford.

The only batting worthy of much notice in the Freshmen's innings was Mr Bardswell's 37; and the side (whose first nine men were out for 67) were all out for 147. Mr Lewis kept wicket well. The Eleven went in and made 68 for three batsmen. Mr Fry played on, but Mr Mordaunt showed capital form.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 May, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket at Oxford was noteworthy for the excellent batting of the Eleven. At the drawing of stumps on the previous evening the Freshmen had scored 147 for an innings, and three of the Eleven's wickets were lost for 68.

Messrs Mordaunt and Foster (not-outs 23 and seven) resumed their batting to the attacks of Messrs Hartley and Forbes. Runs came pretty freely until, at 96, Mr Mordaunt's leg stump was knocked out of the ground and, on the three figures being signalled, Mr Foster fell to a catch at slip. The feature of the innings was the determined stand made by Messrs Leveson-Gower and Phillips. Both batted brilliantly and remained together for an hour and a half, their partnership yielding 137. Mr Phillips hit with great freedom, his chief figures being 11 fours, a three and seven twos, while those of Mr Leveson-Gower's were 11 fours and five twos. The last wicket did not fall until the total had reached 283.

With arrears of 136 the Freshmen went in a second time, but lost seven wickets without having made up their deficiency when stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 May, page 11)

Rain fell so continuously at Oxford yesterday that further play in this match was impracticable, and it was left drawn.

Tuesday 8 May, page 11: THE SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM

Yesterday, on the ground of the Private Banks at Catford-bridge, the majority of the South African team began practice. The date of their first match is May 22, at Sheffield Park, against Lord Sheffield's Eleven.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4095.html)

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

The eleven which Mr C I Thornton got together for his annual match at Cambridge against the University was one quite capable of testing the ability of the Light Blues. In addition to Dr W G Grace, the side embraced such good cricketers as Mr A J Webbe, Mr F S Jackson, Mr H T Hewett and Mr J J Ferris, while the services of two professional bowlers were also secured – Humphreys, of Sussex, and Hirst, of Yorkshire. Cambridge had only three members of last year's eleven available, Messrs Latham, Douglas and Perkins, and the other places in the team were filled chiefly by Seniors.

It was not by any means cricket weather, and the side going in first had an advantage, for the wicket was wet and, although the ball bumped at times, the showers kept the pitch generally easy. The Cambridge team were in the field the whole of the hours during which play was practicable; but for the good score of 250, Mr Thornton's side depended on the efforts of a few men.

Cambridge began well enough by getting out Dr Grace and Mr Hewett by the time 20 runs were registered. The ex-Somerset captain was caught in the slips, while Dr Grace was bowled. Soon afterwards Mr Wright left; but then came some splendid batting by Messrs Jackson and Ferris. A heavy shower preceded this fruitful partnership, and there was later on another interruption. Altogether 83 runs were put on. Mr Jackson, beyond an escape in the slips, gave no chance; and the batting was characterized by all his well-known vigour and precision. Mr J J Ferris also showed excellent form, and his chief hits were six fours, two threes and nine twos. Messrs Webbe and Hill, by fine cricket, both greatly helped their side.

Eventually the innings was finished off quickly. Mr Robinson had a capital analysis for the University. From his fast right hand bowling the ball frequently bumped, and six of his wickets were secured by catches in the slips.

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

In the time during which play was practicable at Cambridge, yesterday, several of the members of the University team did so well as to secure something like general admiration. The chief batting honours were carried off by Mr F Mitchell, who has been seen to great advantage in college cricket this term, and Mr T N Perkins, whose University and Kent county play has already made him well known.

Thursday had been taken up by the innings of the England eleven. Cambridge began their innings at 20 minutes to 12, Messrs Douglas and Mitchell being the first batsmen. Mr Ferris, who started the bowling with Hirst, soon gave way to Humphreys, whose lobs were often puzzling. Mr Douglas fell to a catch at point at 40, while Mr Field was caught at cover-point at 60. The Cambridge captain, who followed in, played carefully and left Mr Mitchell to do most of the scoring. This was a very profitable partnership and yielded 70 runs. Mr Mitchell was then out leg before. He had played fine cricket and, although the lobs seemed to trouble him a little, he met the bowling with a vigour and precision that created a very favourable impression. His 67 occupied about two hours, and included eight fours, three threes and three twos.

Mr Latham lost his wicket soon afterwards, and Mr Druce's dismissal made five wickets down for 133. The feature of the play after luncheon was some fine free batting by Mr T N Perkins, who, going in at 131, was still not out when play was stopped by rain. His game was interesting to watch and he made his 63 in about 90 minutes. When it was found necessary to adjourn the match until to-day because of the weather, the University, with one wicket in hand, were only 20 runs behind. The pitch played better than on Thursday, but the various interruptions by rain greatly curtailed the game. To-day a start will be made at 11 o'clock.

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

It was very unfortunate that this match, the first innings of which had produced so much good cricket, could not be played out. On Saturday the weather at Cambridge was wet, and an early decision was arrived at to give up the game.

10 May: LANCASHIRE v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4096.html)

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

The cricket at Lord's yesterday was confined to a couple of overs. These were sent down during a spell of brightness which quickly gave way to a renewal of the heavy showers which had prevented any play until 1.25. After luncheon came a heavy downpour and, with the ground almost swamped, stumps were pulled up and an adjournment made until this morning.

Lancashire secured first innings, and Mr A N Hornby and Albert Ward scored 14 runs off J T Hearne and Martin. Each batsman made one very fine off-drive to the boundary. Lancashire are represented by a very good side. Mr Houldsworth, who played occasionally last year, is given another trial, while Wharmby, a colt known in connection with Notts cricket, appears for them. Marylebone also have a powerful eleven.

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

The hours of cricket at Lord's yesterday were rather limited, yet the players in the Marylebone and Lancashire match were more fortunate than they had been on Thursday. Then only two overs were bowled, whereas yesterday an innings was decided and a beginning made in a second.

After all the rain that had fallen the wicket, as might have been expected, was not in a condition favourable to batsmen, and the bowlers at both ends were able to get a wonderful amount of break on the ball. Martin's success in other matches at Lord's this season has been so pronounced that there was something of a novelty in his not coming off. The honours went to J T Hearne, the Middlesex professional, who only missed by one the somewhat rare feat of taking the whole of the wickets in an innings. Still, he bowled for two hours at a stretch, and nine men fell to him at a cost of only 43 runs.

Mr Hornby and Ward, who had scored 14 on Thursday, renewed the Lancashire batting at 11.35 with J T Hearne and Martin bowling. The county made a very bad beginning. Hearne cleverly held a return from Mr Hornby and also bowled Mr M'Laren before a run had been added, while at 22 he dismissed Sugg. Briggs stayed some time, and he and Ward by slow scoring gradually advanced the figures to 42. Briggs was then caught in the slips. Mr Houldsworth, who followed, played the game in hitting and his freedom had a refreshing influence on the game after all Ward's steadiness. The latter was at one time in half an hour for a single. Mr Houldsworth made 20 out of 22 added for the fifth wicket and was then very skilfully stumped by Mr Philipson, who had been keeping wicket in fine form throughout the morning. Wharmby found the pitch quite unsuited to his taste and, after playing feebly, he was bowled.

Then Ward was seventh to go at 66; his stay lasted an hour and three-quarters and the last three runs of his 23 had occupied him 40 minutes. J T Hearne, aided by a brilliant one-handed catch by Attewell at extra mid-off, soon finished off the innings, in which it will be noted that six of his wickets were bowled.

Marylebone began their batting before luncheon, but both Mr De Trafford and A Hearne found Briggs difficult to play. After the interval the rain prevented any cricket.

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

The wind blew freshly from the north-east at Lord's on Saturday and there was generally a great improvement in the weather. But the effect of Friday's heavy rains was not easily removed from the ground, which dried so slowly that, after waiting some three hours, the authorities determined to abandon the match . . .

10 May: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4097.html)

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

Most uncomfortable weather was experienced yesterday at Kennington Oval, the atmosphere being raw and sharp showers of rain falling at intervals. Derbyshire, one of the four counties raised to the dignity of first-class this season, then began their first match against Surrey.

The visitors, who had won the toss, started batting on a slow wicket at ten minutes past 12, Messrs S H Evershed and Wright facing the attacks of Richardson and Smith. The former's third ball Mr Evershed played into the hands of mid-on, but Bagshaw, who came in, cut the fifth for four. Mr Wright made 11 in three hits. He then lost the company of Bagshaw – caught by third man. Chatterton joined Mr Wright, who was credited with 20 out of the 26 runs recorded in half an hour. The same batsman cut Richardson finely for four, after which the scoring was feeble for a while. Brockwell relieved Richardson at 46, and two runs later the visitors lost four of their men – Mr Wright sent back the ball, Chatterton was bowled off his side, Davidson was caught by point at the second attempt, and Hulme was soon dismissed. Storer and Locker became partners until, at half-past 1, rain drove the players to shelter.

The game was not renewed for an hour and 20 minutes, during which the luncheon interval was taken. Afterwards the four outstanding wickets added 24 runs in half an hour, Storer batting well for a time until the top of his wicket was struck. Total, 85; time, 3.20. Rain now fell in torrents, and after waiting for an hour it was decided to postpone further play until to-day.

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

There was a great improvement in the weather during the morning at Kennington Oval yesterday; the light was better and the wicket played faster. In the two hours' batting on Thursday Derbyshire completed an innings for 85.

Surrey went in at 20 minutes to 12. Abel started well by cutting Davidson, who bowled from the pavilion end, for three, but in Hulme's opening over he was caught by extra point. Hayward was joined by Maurice Read, who drove Hulme to the off (Locker misfielding) and cut the ball in the same over, each for four runs. Hayward also made a very effective drive; the ball pitched on the terrace and bounded over the fence into the road. Maurice Read was clean bowled at 32 and gave way to his namesake, who soon hit Hulme to leg for four. Porter took Hulme's place at 39, and Hayward cut him through the slips to the boundary. The first hour's play yielded about a run a minute, and then Hayward had a difficult one-handed chance at slip. He did not long survive his escape, for at 75 he was caught at mid-on, having been in 70 minutes for his 35.

Henderson came in and Hulme at once resumed bowling. Mr Read sent him to leg for four, and in the same over gave a chance to Mr Eadie at deep mid-on. At 95 Chatterton went on for Davidson, but the separation came from the other end, Mr Read being clean bowled. Mr Key, the fresh arrival, cut Chatterton to the boundary, and at ten minutes past 1 the 100 was signalled, having occupied about an hour and a half. Davidson bowled again at 121, and in his second over Henderson was smartly caught at slip. Half the wickets were now down. Brockwell filled the vacancy, but Mr Key did nearly all the hitting until 139 was reached, when he got in front of his wicket. Mr Jephson

joined Brockwell, and at the interval Surrey were 64 runs on.

Rain, at almost the same time as on Thursday, now fell fast, and after waiting until 20 minutes to 5 stumps were drawn for the day.

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

Friday's rain and that which fell in the early morning of Saturday had not penetrated the turf at Kennington Oval so much as might have been expected, and at 20 minutes to 12 the match between these counties was continued. Derbyshire had then finished an innings for 85 and six of the home wickets were down for 149.

Brockwell and Mr Jephson were opposed by Davidson (pavilion end) and Hulme. The first-named started hitting freely and twice drove the ball to the ring. He then lost the company of Mr Jephson, who got in front of his wicket at 166, while four runs later he himself was caught at cover-point, having played well for his 27. The first ball sent to Richardson beat him, and at 188 Marshall was run out. Time, 12.20.

When Derbyshire began their second innings in a minority of 103 the light had become very indifferent and the wicket was growing more difficult every minute. The visitors observed the same order as in their previous innings, Messrs Wright and Evershed going in first. Richardson, who bowled from the pavilion, had only one fieldsman on the on side, and Smith two. When a dozen runs were recorded Mr Wright obstructed his wicket and Mr Evershed was clean bowled. Bagshaw and Chatterton only added three, when the former was given out to a catch by the wicket-keeper. Davidson made a couple of hits for four each, prior to having his stumps bowled down. Chatterton promised better things, making, in particular, a capital off drive to the boundary, but in the same over he was stumped. Five for 31.

Mr Jephson (under hand) was now put on for Smith. Richardson, however, clean bowled Hulme, and Storer, who made a very fine leg hit for four, fell to the amateur in the same way. Sugg quietly returned the ball and an easy piece of stumping soon disposed of Locker. Nine for 53. Porter remained while Mr Eadie batted well for a few overs, and then the latter was caught at wicket. Total, 63. From the final score it will be seen that Surrey won by an innings and 40 runs.

10 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – FIRST TWELVE v NEXT SIXTEEN

FIRST TWELVE 214 (R C N Palairet 34, H K Foster 64, L C V Bathurst 45*; G B Raikes 5/45).
NEXT SIXTEEN 161 (G O Smith 30, G B Raikes 28, R Raphael 25; L C V Bathurst 4/37, D H Forbes 8/72). Match drawn.

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

At Oxford yesterday the wet weather made the hours of cricket rather limited, but in the progress of the Twelve's first innings excellent play was shown by Mr H K Foster, who went up to Oxford last year from Malvern with a remarkable batting reputation. His contributions included five fours, a three and nine twos. Mr R C N Palairet played carefully for 34. There were seven old Blues in the Twelve, and the team was made up by the inclusion of Messrs Arkwright, Bardswell, Field, Forbes and Foster.

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

The rain at Oxford fell with such persistency yesterday that play had to be postponed until to-day. The Twelve, who started batting on Thursday, have lost six wickets for 160.

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

After the interference by rain on the first two days of this match at Oxford, there remained little chance of a definite issue to the game. However, the weather showed a great improvement on Saturday afternoon, and in the hours left for play good cricket was not scarce.

At the renewal of the contest the Twelve had scored 160 for six wickets. Mr H K Foster, of Malvern and Trinity, who had shown such fine form on Thursday, returned the ball without increasing his runs. His 64 included five fours, a three and nine twos. Mr Bathurst batted well and, after the dismissal of Mr Bardswell, found an able partner in Mr Forbes, the old Etonian, whose vigorous play was so far profitable that 200 went up before the ninth wicket fell. Mr Field did not give much trouble, and Mr Arkwright being absent, the innings ended for 214.

Mr Bathurst's 45 (not out) was an admirable display of batting. During the morning the last four wickets of the 12 had yielded 54 runs in an hour. Mr Raikes had bowled with considerable effect and his five wickets had cost only 45 runs.

The rest of the day was occupied with the innings of the Next Sixteen, of whom the most successful were Mr G O Smith, who went up to Oxford last year from Charterhouse with a great cricket reputation, Mr Raikes and Mr Raphael. But perhaps the feat of the day was the fast bowling of Mr D H Forbes, who took eight wickets (seven of them bowled) for 72 runs. Mr Bathurst, an old Blue, also met with success in the attack. The match was left drawn . . .

Friday 11 May, page 11: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Yesterday the Notts committee agreed upon the following 13 players from whom to choose their eleven for this match at Trent Bridge on Monday: -

Messrs J A Dixon, C W Wright, J S Robinson, A O Jones and A R Bennett, Barnes, Gunn, Flowers, Daft, Attewell, Mee, Bagguley and Armstrong. Shrewsbury cannot play until the weather becomes warmer, while Gunn's appearance is doubtful owing to recent illness.

The committee of the Marylebone Club, as promised at the anniversary meeting, have already taken action on the question of the amendment of law 53 of cricket – i.e., relating to the “follow-on.” The step adopted is the sending of circulars to the leading amateurs and professionals, setting out the three suggested courses of amendment and requesting opinions on the subject.

In the first place, the suggestion is the optional clause, which the M.C.C. committee held over at the annual meeting, giving the side which goes in first and holds a lead of 80 runs at the end of an innings each the option of placing their opponents in a second time. In the next case, there is the suggestion that the number necessitating the “follow-on” shall be increased from 80 to 120; while the third instance is the idea supported by Mr A J Webbe at the annual meeting, viz. – the abolition of the “follow-on” rule and the consequent amendment of the closure rule, providing an earlier time than the third day of a match when a side can declare its innings closed.

14 May: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4098.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 5)

The bowling triumphed in all directions yesterday at the Lyttelton ground, Leyton, when Essex and Leicestershire, with strong sides, began their first match of the season. But there was one noteworthy exception to this general failure of the batsmen – the innings of Mr D C De Trafford for Leicestershire.

As a batsman Mr De Trafford possesses the reputation of a great hitter. Yesterday, however, he ran no risks and played sound and excellent cricket. His fine play at a critical stage was thoroughly appreciated by the spectators. He went in first and completed his 50 in an hour and 25 minutes, while he was the eighth to leave at 122, caught at slip for 70, made in a couple of hours. It was a faultless innings and included five fours, a three and ten twos. The best stand of the day was for the sixth Leicestershire wicket between Mr De Trafford and Chapman, who in an hour carried the score from 37 to 121. Mead bowled excellently and his six wickets averaged eight runs each.

Essex fared even worse to begin with than Leicestershire. Carpenter played steadily and Mr Lucas showed some of his fine old defence in making his six in 25 minutes. But Essex were all out in an hour and a half, an only escaped the follow-on by six. Pougher and Randon achieved a fine performance in getting out the Essex side for such a small number. Pougher's six for 29 was of the better analysis, but Randon made a very successful first appearance for his county.

There was nothing in the state of the wicket to account for the great effect of the bowling. Early in the day the turf seemed a little slow, but the ground dried rapidly and became fast. There were four or five thousand spectators. In the last hour Leicestershire lost two wickets for 48 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 7)

Nearly all day yesterday the Leicestershire eleven, at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, were playing a winning game, and as the afternoon advanced the prospect that Essex might save the match became remote. Still, in the closing hours of the day the hopes of the home county revived as Mr Owen played a brilliant innings of 76, perhaps the best in the match.

Much of the merit for the fine position in which Leicestershire found themselves belonged to Pougher, whom although best known as a fine fast bowler, has often done creditable things with the bat. But in his career as a cricketer he has achieved few better feats than his fine innings of 109 made yesterday between 1 and 4 o'clock against Essex on the fast and true pitch at the Leyton ground. He went in at the fall of the fourth wicket at 104 and took out his bat. His chief figures were ten fours, six threes and 11 twos, while one of his singles was increased to six by two overthrows.

The foundation for the substantial Leicestershire score was in some degree laid by Holland, whose steadiness lasted two hours and 40 minutes. He went in first wicket down at 12 and was fifth out, bowled by a leg break from Burns at 149. He had made a five, three fours, three threes and three twos. The longest partnership and brightest Leicestershire cricket were noticed on Pougher and Whiteside scoring 50 in 25 minutes and 90 in an hour; but when the latter had been bowled, the

innings quickly ended for 267.

The home county were left with 342 to get for victory. The first 90 minutes of the innings furnished most brilliant batting by Mr Owen. He and Burns put on 95 for the second wicket in an hour. When Pougher, who was given a long rest in consequence of his spell of batting, went on a second time he bowled Mr Owen at 119. The last-mentioned had been in an hour and 20 minutes and had hit 13 fours, two threes and six twos. Essex subsequently did fairly well, and to-day, with six wickets to fall, they want 180 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 May, page 7)

Essex played a fine uphill game in this match at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, and yesterday, although they had gone in with 342 necessary for victory, they were beaten by only 68 runs. To score 273 in the fourth innings of a match is a feat of which any side might be proud, and the cricket of Essex in this instance will materially improve the reputation of the side.

The closing hours of Thursday had seen some excellent batting by the home eleven; but four of their best men were lost in making 162, so that 180 were still wanted yesterday for success. No one expected Essex to do so well. Every remaining member of the side, however, ran into double figures and, even when all seemed over, the last partnership yielded 31 runs. Mr Hailey, one of the overnight not-outs, remained until 199, when he was seventh to leave – caught at slip for 35. Messrs M'Gahey and Kortright made a capital stand for the eighth wicket, adding 40 runs, while Mead and Pickett put on 31 for the last.

Essex were beaten by 68 runs after making the highest total of the match in the fourth innings. Pougher's share in the victory of Leicestershire was remarkable. Besides playing a not-out innings of 109, he took 14 wickets at a cost of a fraction over six runs each.

14 May: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4099.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 5)

Yesterday's cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, was at times almost sensational in its character. The beginning of the Lancastrians' innings by the dismissal of four men without the scoring of even a run and the fluctuation of the Yorkshire batting were incidents in the day that greatly helped to rivet the attention of the 15,000 spectators on the ground.

Briggs, to whom the receipts of the match will be given as a benefit, has been associated with Lancashire cricket for some 15 years, and in the last few his bowling has made for him a great name. Fielding at cover-point and vigorous batting are also among his characteristics. In four of the English trips to Australia he has taken a part, while even now the invitation to make one of Mr Stoddart's team to the colonies has been extended to him.

The rain and the falling glass of Sunday were fortunately not followed by bad weather yesterday, and the play was enjoyed under very pleasant conditions. But the wicket was treacherous. On a pitch that had been protected last week from the rain Lord Hawke naturally declined to play, and a fresh strip of turf had to be measured out before a start was made.

Soon after midday Lancashire began their innings to the bowling of Peel and Hirst. Mr Hornby played the ball to cover-point and called Ward for a run, but the latter, starting slowly, lost his wicket, a good return being given by Mr Jackson. Then catches at mid-off, short slip and on the off-side disposed of Mr Hornby, Sugg and Mr M'Laren, making altogether four wickets down in 12 balls before a run had been scored.

Briggs failed to profit much by an escape at cover-point, Mr Houldsworth and Tinsley also quickly left, and seven men were out for 17 runs. Baker and Mr Kemble improved matters, but each gave a hard chance while putting on 28, after which the innings rapidly ended for 50, a total that had taken an hour and a half to obtain. Hirst had bowled wonderfully well, a statement that is borne out by the analysis.

Yorkshire soon lost Mr Jackson, but Wardall and Brown added runs steadily, in spite of the good Lancashire bowling and fielding. However, at 31, Brown fell to a catch at third man. Tunnicliffe arrived, and the Lancashire score was equalled with eight wickets in hand. But a change soon came over the scene. Mr Kemble stumped both Wardall and Tunnicliffe, while, after Peel and Wainwright had put on 23, three wickets fell at 76. Moorhouse and Mounsey added 39 for the eighth, while Hunter, after escaping a chance of stumping, batted vigorously, and with Mounsey scored 31 for the last partnership. Yorkshire completed their innings for 152, and to-day Lancashire have to face the heavy deficit of 102.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 7)

The home county's feeble efforts on Monday deprived this match, played at Old Trafford, Manchester, of much of its interest. Yet the company was again numerous yesterday and during the two days 20,000 people paid for admission, and a tribute was paid to Briggs, for whose benefit it was played.

Lancashire, in arrears of 102, started their second innings at 11.20 with Mr Hornby and Albert Ward. The attack was again intrusted to Peel and Hirst. When only six were made Ward was bowled in playing round to leg, and 11 runs later the Lancashire captain put the ball up to slip, Tunnicliffe falling over in catching it. Sugg and Mr M'Laren were now together and, although brief, their batting was brilliant. Sugg returned the ball at 38, and for an additional couple Mr M'Laren was easily secured at mid-off. Mr Houldsworth made eight out of ten runs and then succumbed to the dexterity of Hunter at wicket. Five for 50.

Baker and Briggs offered some resistance until at 71 the latter was bowled, middle stump. Tinsley batted carefully, but on Wainwright's relieving Hirst the innings was quickly finished off, the new bowler taking three of the wickets for eight runs. The game ended in a victory for Yorkshire by an innings and four runs.

14 May: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4100.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 5)

The rare spectacle of two important counties playing for the benefit of a cricketer who belongs to neither of them was witnessed at Lord's yesterday. Middlesex, with commendable generosity, resolved to devote their Whit Monday match with Somerset to the Nottinghamshire professional, Sherwin, since Marylebone could not find a fixture for him.

The weather was fine. By noon there were some eight thousand spectators, and a few minutes later Somerset, who had lost the toss, entered the field. In the absence of Mr H T Hewett, the visitors were captained by Mr S M J Woods. The home side were first represented by Messrs Stoddart and Webbe. Tyler led off the bowling from the nursery.

His second ball Mr Stoddart drove for three. Mr Woods had charge of the attack from the pavilion. The Middlesex captain was in excellent form, cutting Tyler well for four and driving the same bowler finely to the off boundary near Pearce's cottage. Thirty runs came in 20 minutes, and an idea of the evenness of the scoring may be formed from the fact that at 36 each batsman had made 18, while a further instance of this was furnished when the first 48 runs were divided between them. Mr Webbe had just made a remarkably fine leg hit right along the ground for four. Fifty-five resulted from 40 minutes' batting, and Mr Webbe was clean bowled. Mr Foley remained while Mr Stoddart made an off-drive for four, and was then beaten by Tyler. Mr Woods went on for Nichols at 59, and in his second over Mr Stoddart was smartly caught at mid-on, while in his fourth he caused Mr Douglas to be caught at the wicket, and bowled Mr M'Gregor with the second ball sent him. Five for 63, after an hour's play, and only nine runs added since the fall of the first wicket.

Mr Henery and Rawlin batted vigorously for a few overs. The former drove Mr Woods twice for four and the latter hit Tyler to square leg and drove him to the off, the ball in each case going among the spectators. Rawlin was out, caught and bowled at 86, and Mr Westhorp succeeded him. Mr Henery made nine (in which was a remarkably fine hit to the on for four) in an over from Tyler. This caused the 100 to be recorded after about an hour and a quarter's play. A two-fold change in the attack was then adopted, Mr Roe and Nicolson being instructed with it. The latter soon disposed of Mr Westhorp, and Mr Hayman joined Mr Henery. With the score at 117, Mr Woods resumed, and his second ball Mr Henery drove to the on and was out to a remarkably fine catch by Mr Dunlop, who backed on to the pavilion rails in making it. The luncheon interval was now taken with eight wickets down for 117.

On resuming, Mr Lucas went in with Mr Hayman, who hit a ball of Tyler's to leg for four. The former also made a couple of boundary hits from the same bowler, but was then stumped. Nine for 139. J T Hearne was soon caught by Nichols running in from point, and the innings, which lasted two hours and a quarter, was over for 142.

Messrs Palairet and Fowler opened the Somerset innings, and J T Hearne and Rawlin were the bowlers. A leg-hit for four by Mr Palairet promised well, but a ball in Hearne's second over proved disastrous to him. One for five. Messrs Challen and Fowler were in for over a quarter of an hour without scoring and then the latter was bowled, while four runs later Mr Challen was served in the same way. Messrs Poynton and Dunlop improved the prospect a little before the dismissal of the former at 23. Mr Woods, who was warmly cheered, made some hard drives, but the ball travelled

very slowly. He and Mr Dunlop seemed to be getting set until at 46 they were both disposed of – the latter bowled and Mr Woods well caught from a drive in front of the pavilion.

Messrs Roe and Robinson caused the 50 to be signalled as the result of an hour and five minutes' play. Mr Robinson was now clean bowled, and when Mr Gay appeared there were yet wanting 13 runs to save the follow on. With only a couple of these scored, Mr Gay fell to a smart catch at wicket, and for another couple Mr Roe was bowled. Tyler, the last man, cut Hearne for four, but from the [next?] ball he was well caught low down at wicket. Total 58, scored in 100 minutes. Rawlin's analysis of five for 16 runs was noteworthy.

Somerset went in a second time with an hour and a half left for play. Rawlin and Hearne again bowled. A very poor start was made. When only a couple were scored Mr Palairt was out, for another single Mr Challen fell to a catch at slip, and at 11 Mr Fowler succumbed. A further misfortune was in store for them at 16, when Mr Poynton was bowled. Mr Woods joined Mr Dunlop, who received hearty applause for making a couple of fours by a cut and off drive in an over from Hearne, and in his next he hit him finely to the off boundary. This brilliancy was stopped, however, by his playing under a ball, while slip secured. Half the wickets were now lost for 30 runs.

Mr Woods had an escape at the hands of Mr Foley in the long field. Mr Roe obtained a dozen runs by two drives and a cut from Hearne. Indeed, he and his captain quite aroused the enthusiasm of the spectators for a time. At 59 Hearne gave up the ball to Mr Westhorp, but as this change did not succeed he resumed, and in his first over clean bowled Mr Woods, 40 having been put on for the sixth wicket. The innings defeat was saved by three byes, after which Mr Robinson retired – clean bowled – and stumps were drawn. The wicket-keeping on both sides was good.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 7)

The result of the first day's play between these counties at Lord's left the matter pretty well a foregone conclusion for Middlesex. The home side had then completed an innings for 142, and Somerset, who were all out for 58, had made up the 84 deficiency at the cost of seven wickets.

Yesterday, at 20 minutes to 12, Mr Roe, the not out with 25, was accompanied to the wickets by Mr Gay. Mr Westhorpe completed an unfinished over of the previous evening, and then the bowling was taken up by Hearne and Rawlin. Mr M'Gregor, who had injured his finger on the opening day, did not appear for Middlesex and Mr Douglas kept wicket in his place, while Mr Fowler fielded as substitute.

Mr Roe cut Rawlin well for four, but at 96 Mr Gay was bowled and Nichols arrived. An off-drive to the boundary by the amateur caused the 100 to be passed at noon. A further hit to the ring was made by Mr Roe, who was out soon afterwards, a splendid ball from Hearne just striking the top of his wicket; he had batted excellently for 43, in which were seven fours and two threes. Tyler, the last man, added a single before he was bowled. The total score was 113.

Middlesex now required 30 to win and sent in Messrs Hayman and Lucas to get them. Tyler and Nichols bowled. Twenty came in six overs (four from a cut by Mr Hayman), when Mr Palairt relieved Tyler and Mr Fowler went on for Nichols at 24. No separation, however, could be effected. Mr Lucas sent the ball to the leg boundary, and Mr Hayman, with an on-drive for four, made the winning hit at five minutes to 1. Somerset thus lost their first match of the season by ten

wickets.

14 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4101.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 5)

The Bank Holiday matches between these counties have of late years possessed great attractions for cricketers. Yesterday the first of these began in fine weather at Nottingham. A large company visited Trent-bridge, there being over 5,000 present, and 4,625 of them paid for admission at the turnstiles.

Curiously enough, these powerful counties had been defeated by Warwickshire. The home team suffered from the absence of Shrewsbury and Gunn, both of whom have not sufficiently recovered from recent illnesses to justify their taking part in the match. Mr Shuter did not play for Surrey and Wood, rather unexpectedly, kept wicket in place of Marshall. Throughout the day the cricket was rather slow, and in the five hours and a half over which the actual play extended only 233 runs were registered.

Nottinghamshire won the toss and sent in Messrs Wright and Dixon at five minutes past 12. Richardson and Smith were the early bowlers. The state of the turf caused both batsmen to exercise the utmost care, and 40 minutes were occupied in getting 24 runs. Mr Dixon's leg stump was then knocked over by Richardson. Flowers was speedily caught at point, which was all the more cause for chagrin owing to the fact that he had batted so well at Lord's last week. Daft came, and the first hour's play only yielded 32. Mr Wright, who had been struck by a ball from Richardson, was bowled by him. Barnes, Mr Howitt and Attewell all batted so disappointingly that six wickets were captured for 45.

There now seemed every prospect of a most meagre total. Daft, who had gone in second wicket down, now had Bagguley for a partner, and these kept together and put on 29 runs before the interval – this, too, in spite of the fact that Lockwood had superseded Smith in the attack. Subsequently Bagguley was clean bowled for an additional three runs, and seven were out for 77. Eight only were added and Armstrong got in front of his wicket. Mee made a capital drive for four, but when he was credited with seven a very good catch by the wicket-keeper dismissed him, and at length Daft was bowled. The latter had played in excellent form on the difficult wicket and was an hour and 50 minutes getting his 25. The innings, which was over at half-past 3, realized 98. Richardson's bowling proved the most destructive, as he took six wickets for 32.

Hayward and Abel began Surrey's batting to the attacks of Mee and Bennett. Having made a couple of runs only, Hayward gave a one-handed chance to Daft at third man. The fieldsman failed, however, and the batsman turned his escape to good account. Abel showed his characteristic caution, but his companion played with greater freedom. Attewell was tried at 19, yet runs still came, so that Flowers went on at 39. The "50" was signalled soon after the first hour was completed. Seven runs later a separation was effected by Hayward being clean bowled. With the exception of the chance mentioned he had played a good innings.

Maurice Read went in for hitting and found that it paid. Out of the 43 runs recorded while he was batting he claimed 30 of them, and was then caught at extra-slip. Mr W W Read quickly sent the ball back to Barnes and Lockwood obstructed his wicket. Smith joined Abel, who was in two hours and three-quarters for his 38. Stumps were drawn without further mishap to the visitors.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 7)

The first day's play in this match at Nottingham pointed to a probable victory for the visitors, and in this Surrey were not disappointed. Richardson's superb bowling proved a most important factor in the match, as in the double innings he obtained 13 wickets for 99, seven of these in the second venture all being bowled. It may be noted that in this match last year Richardson was answerable for 14 of the wickets. When stumps were drawn on Monday Nottinghamshire were out for 98, and only four Surrey wickets had fallen for 125.

Yesterday the game was resumed at Trent-bridge before a large company. Abel and Smith (not-outs 38 and 0) continued their batting to the attacks of Attewell and Flowers. The start was hopeful for the home county, as Smith collapsed from the first ball. Mr Key arrived and soon the batting became in the ascendant. The 150 was telegraphed just before noon, and then Mr Bennett went on for Attewell. At 173 Mr Key hit the ball into mid-off's hands. Abel's valuable innings was brought to an end by a catch by the wicket-keeper with the total at 185. He had been in for three hours and three-quarters for his 63, in which were four fours, six threes and eight twos.

Brockwell and Mr Jephson batted well and the 200 was signalled at five minutes to 1. Many changes in the attack were adopted before a separation could be brought about. At length, when they had put on 43, Flowers bowled Mr Jephson. Eight for 228. Wood was driven on to his wicket and Richardson was dismissed l-b-w. Brockwell remained unbeaten for 29 runs, and he had been in while the score was advanced from 173 to the total of 242. Flowers bowled with great effect towards the close of the innings.

After luncheon Nottinghamshire went in a second time with the heavy burden of 144. Messrs Dixon and Wright again started the batting, while Richardson led off the attack from the pavilion, but soon crossed over to the other end, a tactic which had most disastrous results for the home team. Abel had bowled an over in which Mr Dixon secured eight in two hits. He should have been stumped when he had made 12, but his escape had little effect on the result, for without adding even a single he was bowled.

Flowers now aided Mr Wright and both played sterling cricket, so much so that the hopes of the home party somewhat revived. The total having been advanced to 49, Lockwood superseded Smith. Still the batsmen appeared to be pretty well set. When 67 were recorded, Mr Wright, who had been in a little more than an hour, was bowled. Daft went in and made two, and then fell a victim to the fast bowler, to whom Flowers gave a difficult return chance low down when he had scored 33. Barnes aided in taking the total to 94 before he was bowled, and Mr Howitt, without adding a run, also failed to stop a ball from Richardson. The Surrey bowler was at this point almost irresistible, and shortly after the 100 was telegraphed he struck Flowers's leg stump. A catch at extra slip disposed of Attewell with the score at 115, and two runs later Armstrong was bowled. Eight down.

The interest now centred in the question whether the innings defeat would be avoided or not. The fast bowler, however, soon found out the weak points in the defence of Mee and Mr Bennett. Bagguley had batted in a determined way for 15. Total 135. From the complete score it will be seen that Surrey were the victors by an innings and nine runs.

14 May: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4102.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 5)

At the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, Sussex made a promising start in their match with the western county. The weather was bright and between 4,000 and 5,000 spectators witnessed the game. Wrathall, a colt from Cheltenham, played for the first time for Gloucestershire, and Mr G H Arlington, who has showed well in local matches, was included in the Sussex team.

The home side were successful in the toss, and at five minutes past 12 they began their batting. Bean soon fell to the wicket-keeper, but Marlow and Mr Murdoch offered a most stubborn resistance, their partnership yielding 76 runs. Mr Newham, who was in an hour and 50 minutes, carried off the batting honours of the day, and among his hits were five fours, a three and nine twos. Mr Murdoch, who scored pretty freely, was batting for an hour and 35 minutes, making no fewer than seven fours. The innings lasted four and a half hours. Captain Newnham bowled exceptionally well, taking four wickets for 20 runs.

Dr W G Grace did capitally during the hour and 40 minutes that Gloucestershire had for batting. He was credited with 25 out of 40 runs for the first (Mr Ferris's) wicket, and with 45 of the 67 recorded at the close of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 7)

Dr W G Grace's brilliant batting and some fine bowling by Roberts for Gloucestershire furnished the characteristics of an interesting day's play at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, when the Western county finished up with victory almost within their grasp. The play varied considerably and, while the batting triumphed in the early hours of the day, there was a complete change when Sussex entered upon their second innings, in which Roberts met with so much success that his record came out seven wickets for 22 runs. This alteration in the condition of affairs can be easily traceable to the weather. After a beautiful morning rain fell and made the pitch favourable to the bowlers.

On Monday night the game was left in a pretty even state, as Gloucestershire, going in against a total of 218, had lost two wickets for 67. Dr W G Grace and Painter (the not-outs with 45 and 7) played so vigorously that in less than half an hour 66 runs were added. This invaluable partnership ended at 133, when Painter was bowled by Humphreys. He had been in while 93 were obtained, but he has often played better cricket. Dr W G Grace was fifth to leave at 149, caught at point for 88, made with much of his old brilliancy of hitting and placing in an hour and three-quarters. His chief figures were 12 fours, three threes and six twos.

Subsequently Gloucestershire's prospects were further improved by the careful cricket of Troup and Wrathall, who put on 58 in 70 minutes for the sixth wicket, while Troup and Brown added 52 more for the eighth. The former was batting two hours and a quarter for his 46. The last three batsmen were dismissed at 259, and Gloucestershire, having been in for four hours, left off with a lead of 41.

Sussex fared very badly in the second innings and were all out in 70 minutes for 73. Roberts bowled with wonderful success and Brown also did well. Seven wickets were down for 38, so that

at one time there was a prospect of an innings defeat for Sussex. However, several of the “tail” came off, and Gloucestershire were left with 33 to make for victory. On account of rain setting in the match was not played out last night.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 May, page 7)

An easy victory was secured by the western county yesterday at the Hove Ground, Brighton. Only 33 runs were required and they had an innings in hand with which to get them.

Mr Kitcat and Wrathall started batting at 11.40. Parris and Tate undertook the bowling. A quick catch at wicket disposed of the professional at 18, while five runs later Mr Kitcat was caught at mid-on. Mr Troup and Painter were next together, and these soon secured the runs necessary. From the complete score it will be seen that Gloucestershire won by eight wickets.

14 May: WARWICKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4103.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 5)

The Warwickshire eleven by beating Surrey and Nottinghamshire have already made their name quite famous in the present season, and this, no doubt, helped to increase the gate at the county ground, Edgbaston, beyond the average. Under favourable conditions the home supporters had the satisfaction of seeing their side fare well. But, while the weather was fine, the wicket greatly helped the bowlers, a couple of whom had remarkable analyses – Pallett for Warwickshire and Walter Hearne for Kent.

The first innings of the day was taken by Kent, but the team were dismissed in an hour and three-quarters for 58, only two of them reaching double figures. Most of the credit for the small score of the visitors belonged to the fine bowling of Pallett, who only secured a place in the side at the last minute. He was put on for Whitehead at 19 and took seven wickets for 13 runs.

After a very bad start, in which five wickets fell for 21 runs, Warwickshire did surprisingly well. Mr Bainbridge had much to do with this improvement in affairs. He went in first and took out his bat for 65, made in two hours by six fours, three threes, nine twos and singles. His first 46 were obtained without a chance, but he was subsequently let off by George Hearne and Mr Wilson. Mr Docker was the first to render his captain much aid and his 19 were invaluable. Warwickshire secured a lead of 55 on the innings. Walter Hearne bowled excellently and his seven wickets cost only 50 runs.

In the second innings Kent, despite good batting by Mr Mason, lost three men for 52 before the close of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 7)

Another victory has to be recorded for Warwickshire, which, following so closely upon their great successes over Nottinghamshire and Surrey, still further justifies their promotion to first-class county rank which they received a fortnight ago. It is certainly a feat of splendid merit for a side to beat three such counties in successive matches, and there was naturally a scene of high enthusiasm at the Edgbaston ground, Brim, late yesterday afternoon when Diver made the winning hit. Six thousand people were present.

Kent had a severe uphill game before them when play was resumed, as they were still three runs behind with three of their best men out. The start showed little improvement, for Mr Mason, the not-out with 22, fell to a catch at slip without increasing his score. George Hearne did not profit very much by a couple of escapes in the long field from Law and Mr Docker, and the fifth wicket went at 74. Mr Weigall was taken at short leg at 77.

Mr Marchant batted brilliantly, however, and, aided by Martin, put on 23 for the seventh wicket, while he himself remained until 120, when a fine piece of stumping by Lilley brought about his dismissal. Walter Wright, assisted by W Hearne and Nuttall, also met with some success, and it was not until after luncheon that the innings ended for 157. Pallett had again bowled well and his double analysis credited him with 13 wickets for 78 runs.

Warwickshire, who wanted 103 to win, started badly, losing Walter Quaife and Mr Bainbridge for 12 runs. Diver, however, played splendidly and, supported by the steadiness of William Quaife, got the other runs without mishap. In Diver's 68, made in an hour and 35 minutes, were seven fours, four threes and eight twos. Warwickshire won by eight wickets.

14 May: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128159.html)

Day 1 (no report found from Tuesday 15 May, page 5)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 7)

The match between these counties, which began on Monday at Southampton, was continued yesterday, when the day's cricket was remarkable for the fine batting of Mr Wright in the second innings of Derbyshire.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 May, page 7)

Some fine cricket was witnessed at Southampton yesterday, when this match was brought to a close. Mr L G Wright's innings of 171 for Derbyshire included 14 fours, 12 threes and 18 twos. Going in a second time to make 357 to win, Hampshire played a string uphill game and managed to draw the match . . .

Wednesday 16 May, page 7: Mr A E Stoddart had arranged to take a team of cricketers to Australia in the autumn. They will leave London by the Orient Line steamer Ophir on September 21.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4104.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 5)

The Middlesex captain took a very good side to Cambridge yesterday for the match with the University, and an admirable day's play was witnessed under favourable conditions. With the advantage of first innings the visitors did remarkably well, although they were largely dependent on three men for the good score of 250.

The foundation for this was laid by Mr F S Jackson, who threw vigour and brilliancy into his batting; he went in first and was third out at 119, caught in the long field for 72, made in an hour and a half by seven fours, four threes and three twos. Mr Bohlen, a Philadelphian, who met with great success when playing against the Australians in America last autumn, had helped Mr Jackson to put on 71 for the third partnership. Subsequently the chief honours of the innings were secured by Mr H T Hewett, who ran up 82 runs in 100 minutes; it was a fine display of batting and included 13 fours, three threes, six twos and nine singles. Mr Thornton was Mr Hewett's most valuable partner, their stand yielding 42 runs. Mr Webbe's side completed their innings shortly after 4 o'clock.

Cambridge, who were without the captain, Mr P H Latham, lost seven wickets for 119 runs. Their batting was characterized by the fine play of Mr E Field, who had made 55 in an hour and a quarter when he fell to a catch at slip; he hit seven fours and five threes. Mr Mitchell, the Caius freshman, also showed capital form; but several members of the side found Whitehead's bowling very difficult.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 15)

Yesterday was a batsman's day at Cambridge, and Mr A J Webbe's team scored very heavily. The honours were carried off by Lord Hawke, who made 157 out of 308. It was a splendid innings and lasted about two hours and three-quarters. Thrice he sent the ball out of the ground and he also obtained 16 fours, four threes and 12 twos. An opportunity to point when his figures were 53 seemed to be the only error of this fine display of free cricket.

Mr H Philipson stayed with Lord Hawke while 124 were put on in a little over an hour for the first wicket, and his 53 included five fours, two threes and eight twos. Mr F S Jackson's stay was brief but profitable, while Mr J S Robinson helped Lord Hawke to add 63 in 40 minutes. The latter left at 294, being fourth out, after which the ninth wicket fell at 325. Mr Leatham and Whitehead put on 77 for the last partnership, the total standing at 402. Cambridge were left with 479 to get to win . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 May, page 7)

As it was against all the probabilities of the game that the Cambridge Eleven would make the 479 necessary for victory in this match on Saturday at Cambridge, the interest turned to the batting ability likely to be shown by the University on a good wicket. From this point of view the play was satisfactory and, while no member of the side got more than 42 runs, the total of the fourth innings reached the substantial proportions of 269.

Messrs F Mitchell and J Douglas, the not-outs, were soon separated; but, after the former had been bowled, Mr Douglas ran to 38 and was then stumped. Mr E Field again did the best, and his 42 brought his aggregate in the match to 97. Subsequently Messrs Perkins and Druce rapidly put on 55 for the fifth wicket. Mr Perkins threw plenty of vigour into his game, making five fours (three of them in an over from Whitehead). Messrs Burrough and Robinson also fared well, and the former contributed 32 out of 56 put on for the ninth partnership, during which he made a drive for five and three fours. Finally Mr Webbe's side won by 209 runs. During the three days no fewer than 1,095 were made.

17 May: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4105.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 5)

A quiet day's cricket resulted from the meeting of these counties at Manchester yesterday, when about 7,000 people visited the Old Trafford Ground. Lancashire, winning the toss, went in on an improving pitch. Five of their wickets fell in 90 minutes for 58. Albert Ward batted well and with Baker added 19 runs before luncheon.

Afterwards the 100 was recorded for two and a half hours' play. With an addition four runs Ward was caught at short mid-on, 46 having been secured for the sixth wicket. Baker, who had remained unconquered in both innings of the Yorkshire match, again carried out his bat for 60, which had occupied him two hours and a quarter. It comprised five fours (in which were good drives), six threes and four twos. Total, 181.

Kent had an hour and a half's batting and, after Mr Mason had gone, A Hearne and Mr Leslie Wilson ran up 44 runs for the second wicket, the latter being then bowled. Mr Weigall joined A Hearne and these played out time.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 15)

An interesting day's play was witnessed at the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, yesterday, by about 7,000 people. Lancashire had on Thursday finished an innings for 181, while Kent had scored 69 for two wickets. Alec Hearne and Mr Weigall (not-outs 26 and 5) were opposed by Briggs and Mold. The 100 went up with only one more batsman (Mr Weigall) out. From this point the bowling was so effective that the last seven men went for 57, the total reaching 152. Briggs's analysis was good – viz., six wickets for 55.

Lancashire, after the interval, lost half-a-dozen of their batsmen for 80, but Ward, who was playing steadily, was joined by Tinsley. The former made 50 out of 100 in two hours and ten minutes. The score travelled to 166, when Tinsley, who had been in an hour and three-quarters, was caught at wicket. Ward batted three hours and 40 minutes for his 86 (not out) and did not give a chance. When play ceased for the day Lancashire were 215 runs ahead and had two wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 May, page 7)

In all its stages the match between Lancashire and Kent was wonderfully well fought. Fortune often varied her favours; but finally the victory was with Kent, whose success on the last day was closely allied with the earlier steadiness in batting on Alec Hearne and the brilliancy of Mr Marchant's batting. This match on Saturday was a great game to win, for no mean task presented itself when Kent had to go in and play the last innings of the match against Mold and Briggs with 225 required for victory. But the wicket at Old Trafford, Manchester, played excellently.

Friday night had left affairs in a condition that promised well for a good Saturday. Lancashire with two wickets in hand possessed a lead of 215. In the course of ten minutes Albert Ward and Oakley (the overnight not-outs) both fell to Walter Hearne's bowling, the former being beaten by a good

ball without increasing his figures, while a clever catch at extra mid-off disposed of Oakley. Ward played skilful and careful cricket for nearly four hours; he went in first and was ninth out at 192 for 86, in which were three fours, eight threes and ten twos.

Kent entered upon their task of getting 225 to win soon after 12 o'clock. A Hearne and Mr Mason made a bright beginning, and by many excellent hits the score was run up to 35 in half an hour. At this point Mr Mason was in difficulties with a ball from Briggs, at which he tried to play back but got outside it and was bowled. Mr Leslie Wilson's speedy dismissal – leg-before – did not lend much hope to the visitors. Mr Weigall, however, was a little more successful. Fifty went up at ten minutes to 1, and soon afterwards a serious blunder occupied in the Lancashire field. Baker going on for Mold at 62 ought to have secured A Hearne in his second over, but Oakley dropped a catch at short-slip; the batsman was at that point only 28, and this mistake proved irreparable.

Mr Weigall stayed until 77, when he was bowled by Briggs. George Hearne joined his brother and, playing with more than his customary freedom, sent the score rapidly on. Although some bowling changes had been made, the 100 went up at 20 minutes to 2; then came the completion of Alec Hearne's 50, and at luncheon Kent had just got inside the last 100 required. The total at 127, and seven wickets to fall, was a promising condition for the southerners.

In an over after luncheon the game changed favourably for Lancashire. Mold resumed, and got George Hearne caught at wicket and Walter Wright at slip without the addition of even a single. Five for 127 was vastly different to three for that number. Mr Marchant arrived at this stage; he settled down at once to play a brilliant game and did most of the scoring. Forty-five were added before the sixth wicket fell, and this proved to be A Hearne's turn of dismissal. He was bowled after a stay of three hours and, beyond the escape mentioned, his play was free from fault; he hit in his 60 six fours, three threes and seven twos, and only missed by three runs in scoring 100 in the match.

The bowling of the Rev Taylor-Jones left the game much in favour of Lancashire, for Kent, with only three men to lose, wanted 45 to win. But Martin, as he has often done, managed to keep his wicket up, although he occasionally narrowly escaped being bowled, while Mr Marchant played with more freedom than ever. He made his score 50 in 65 minutes, and after surviving an appeal for leg-before got the necessary runs, Kent winning by three wickets. Mr Marchant's grand innings of 72 was played without a mistake and was his share of 98 made after he went in; his cutting and on-driving were particularly brilliant. He hit six fours, four threes and eight twos. This ended a bad week for Lancashire, who had lost both to Yorkshire and Kent.

17 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4106.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 5)

Several thousand people visited the Aylestone-road Ground, Leicester, to witness the start of the match between these counties. Leicestershire were the first to bat on a wicket which did not play too true after the recent rains. They were in three hours for 136.

Mr De Trafford and Warren obtained 42 in half an hour for the first wicket. Tomlin went in when four had been dismissed for 53, and carried out his bat, having been in two hours and a quarter; his 43 included four fours, two threes and seven twos. Hassall also played well.

Yorkshire (who were without the services of Lord Hawke, Mr F S Jackson and Mr A Sellers) met with success for the first wicket, Tunnicliffe and Mounsey obtaining 40, but the next four batsmen only added 24. Affairs became more even as the day wore on, and when stumps were drawn the visitors had lost six wickets for 108.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 15)

Another of the leading counties was at Leicester yesterday vanquished by a shire recently admitted into the front rank, when Leicestershire beat Yorkshire. This result was mainly attributable to Mr De Trafford, who played a fine innings for 92, and to the bowling of Pougher, who in all took ten wickets for 88, while Mr Hillyard obtained ten for 118. Leicestershire were victorious, thus following up their win over Essex with a still greater performance.

Overnight Leicestershire had completed an innings for 136 and Yorkshire had lost six wickets for 108. The ground yesterday was still bumpy and the four outstanding wickets of the visitors only put on 38 runs, which gave them a lead of ten.

In Leicestershire's second innings only Mr De Trafford could do anything, and he made amends for the rest of his side. He scored 53 out of 70 in 55 minutes, and 92 out of 127 in two hours; he was the first in and the ninth to leave. His fine, dashing innings, in which no chance was given, included 11 fours, six threes and nine twos. The other ten batsmen only added 29 among them.

Yorkshire required 122 to win, but they lost six wickets in 40 minutes for 36 runs. Wainwright did well, but in an hour and 25 minutes they were all out for 74. Yorkshire were thus defeated by 47 runs. There was a good company.

17 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4107.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 5)

On a wicket by which they were aided the bowlers at Lord's yesterday had very much the better of the cricket. The outcome of the play was that Derbyshire secured a substantial advantage. The county had fared very well in the early part of the week against Hampshire, and they were again able to place a strong side in the field, whereas Marylebone, although the ranks possessed some first-class professionals, was scarcely up to the average strength of the teams which usually face the bigger shires.

Derbyshire had first innings, and so successful was the second partnership that a very good score seemed probable. But the ball required a great deal of watching – indeed, more so than could be judged from the defence of Chatterton, who is invariably a cautious batsman. Mr Evershed and Chatterton became partners at 16, and the score, aided by one or two errors in the ground fielding, advanced at a good pace. The second wicket yielded 67 in 50 minutes, and then the bowling of Mr Evershed by a good ball from Hearne started a more than steady decline of the innings.

Chatterton left at 85. Bagshaw, Davidson and Storer all played very carefully; but while 130 went up with only four men out, the whole side were dismissed for 167. This total had taken rather less than three hours to put together. The rapid end of the Derbyshire batting was largely the result of a fine piece of bowling by Rawlin from the nursery end; after luncheon his last spell yielded five wickets at the small cost of 14 runs.

The confident batting of Flowers and Barnes, who began the M.C.C. innings, presaged anything except to subsequent bowling triumphs of Davidson and Hulme. But after Flowers had played on (his was an excellent 25) the batsmen left rapidly. Two were out for 34 and the others added only 27 runs, the innings being all over in an hour and 20 minutes. Marylebone followed on with arrears of 106, and before the drawing of stumps lost two men for 53. The Club have a big uphill fight.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 15)

An improved wicket was naturally followed by better batting at Lord's yesterday than had been seen in this match on Thursday, especially in the case of Barnes, whose innings of 58 was played in his best form and was the batting of greatest merit in the two days.

The Club followed on with arrears of 106, and when the third wicket fell yesterday morning the deficit was 53. Mr E A Nepean gave Barnes much help, and while they were together the M.C.C. promised better things. But after an hour's play and an addition of 57 Mr Nepean was cleverly caught at wicket. And then another decline of the batting set in, which the plucky attempts of Messrs Gibbs and Heseltine could not stay, and in the end Derbyshire were left with only 64 to make for victory. Barnes's 58 were obtained in an hour and 40 minutes, and included three fours, three threes and six twos; he went in at 12 and was seventh out at 118 – caught in the long field.

Derbyshire were an hour and 25 minutes getting the 64 they wanted to win. Chatterton and Mr Marsden both played excellently, putting on 60 for the second stand in 70 minutes. Derbyshire won by seven wickets.

17 May: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4108.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 5)

These counties entered on their first match of the season yesterday. There was a large company at the Oval to witness the start, which was made by Gloucestershire, who had won the toss, taking possession of the wickets within a few minutes of noon. Dr W G Grace and Mr Ferris were then opposed by Richardson and Smith.

The beginning did not prove hopeful. Mr Ferris was bowled when three byes and a single were recorded, while at 14 Mr Troup was served in the same way. Painter assisted Dr W G Grace, and then a piece of ill-fortune befell the visitors. The former played a ball and went for a run but slipped and, before the Gloucestershire captain, who had also started, could recover his ground, Richardson put the wicket down. Dr E M Grace was smartly caught by Wood, but Painter and Mr Kitcat batted prominently for a few overs, the latter twice cutting the ball through the slips to the ring before he got in front of his wickets.

Fifty runs were registered in little less than an hour. Then three wickets fell rapidly. Painter played on, and both Mr Brown and Murch were bowled scoreless. Captain Newnham and Roberts had a little good fortune in their batting. They put on no fewer than 26 runs before the former was bowled, as two runs later was Board. Total 82, after an hour and 35 minutes' play.

Surrey (represented by Abel and Hayward) had a few overs sent then before the interval, in which each batsman scored a single and Hayward cut the ball for four. Subsequently, with the total at 21, Abel hit the ball round to Dr W G Grace, who was fielding close in, yet, after two attempts, the chance was missed. In the same over, however, he was caught at short-leg. Mr Jephson had a narrow escape of being run out, but there was a bad return from mid-on. He had previously sent the ball to the leg boundary and now drove it for four. The bowling was changed at both ends, Murch and Dr W G Grace taking charge of it, and the latter beat Hayward. Two for 47.

Maurice Read sent the ball to the ring on the leg side from Murch. He then made a similar hit from the Gloucestershire captain – four runs came from it, but in attempting a fifth Mr Jephson lost his wicket. Mr W W Read came. The Gloucestershire total was reached at 4 o'clock and the home county had still seven wickets in hand. Murch gave way to Captain Newnham and Roberts went on at the pavilion end. A ball from the latter got up very quickly and from it Maurice Read was caught by the wicket-keeper.

Mr Key with a late cut caused the 100 to be completed after an hour and 40 minutes, and the same batsman drove Roberts well to the off boundary. This bowler crossed over at 109, Mr Brown coming on again. From the latter Mr Key made a remarkably fine leg hit, the ball travelling about 150 yards to the boundary nearest the gasometer, the wickets being pitched well on the Harleyford-road side. Mr Ferris was put on for the first time in the innings at 130, in lieu of Mr Brown. Still runs came, so that Roberts gave way to Murch. At this point Mr Key made some capital hits, cutting the ball with great brilliancy. The 150 was signalled at 5 o'clock. Mr W W Read completed his own 50 after an hour and a half's batting. Although Dr W G Grace at 171 came on for Mr Ferris and the latter crossed over, Mr Key finished his 50 after 70 minutes' batting. Mr Brown resumed, and at length Mr Read was bowled; he had been in two hours and his chief hits were six fours, five threes and three twos. The partnership had yielded 105.

As so frequently happens after a long stand, Mr Key was also soon dismissed through hitting the ball tamely round into the hands of the Gloucestershire captain close in at leg; he had been in an hour and 35 minutes and his 60 included 12 fours and two threes. Six for 205. Brockwell joined Lockwood, and twice drove the ball to the pavilion rails from Dr W G Grace, who at 228 retired in favour of Mr Brown, and soon afterwards Mr Kitcat superseded Roberts. This had no deterrent effect on the batsmen, so Dr E M Grace tried a few lobs, but even these failed to achieve the desired object . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 15)

Surrey's achievement at Kennington Oval during the past two days, following so closely upon their victory over Notts, will inspire their supporters with confidence. The excellence of the wicket also points to the fact that the large amount of money expended on reurfing is likely to prove a good investment.

Thursday's play left the home side with a distinct advantage, as they had disposed of Gloucestershire for 82 and were 179 runs on with four wickets to fall. There was a large muster of spectators yesterday by noon, a few minutes after which Lockwood and Brockwell (not outs 15 and 42) proceeded with their batting. Roberts and Mr Brown were the early bowlers.

Lockwood cut the latter finely for four, and at 274 Mr Ferris came on for him. Brockwell completed his 50 at the rate of a little less than a run a minute. A square-leg hit to the boundary by Lockwood gave his county a lead of more than 200 runs. Brockwell made two very fine drives to the pavilion rails from Mr Ferris, who handed the ball to his captain. The 300 was signalled at 12.15. Murch was tried for Roberts four runs later, and from successive balls in his opening over Lockwood scored eight, with a cut and a leg hit. This batsman also reached 50 at half-past 12. The bowling was so freely treated (Brockwell making two on-drives to the ring in an over) that a double variation was tried, Captain Newnham going on at the pavilion end and Dr E M Grace at the other. From the latter Brockwell made a leg hit for four, which took his individual score beyond Gloucestershire's completed innings. At a quartet to 1 the 350 was registered, and Dr W G Grace bowled an over to enable his brother and Captain Newnham to change end. The latter's first over was fruitful to Brockwell, who hit the ball to the square-leg boundary and drove it to the off for five, which sent his score past the 100. This is the first time, it should be mentioned, that this batsman has attained the dignity of three figures in an important match. Lockwood gave a chance of being stumped off the lobs, which was let pass, but Board soon compensated for this by whisking the bails off from the same bowler. Lockwood had been batting for two hours and ten minutes, and no fewer than 166 runs had been put on for the wicket.

Wood added a single, and at length Brockwell was caught in a most easy way by point. His 107 was the result of brilliant hitting, and comprised a five, 15 fours, 12 twos and 18 singles. Richardson managed to get double figures before getting in front of his wicket. Total 386. This number, which had taken five hours and a half to accumulate, was only once surpassed by Surrey last season, that being in the return with Warwickshire at Birmingham, when they scored 393.

Gloucestershire had now the forlorn task of getting 304 to save even an innings defeat. Their start was melancholy, for the first ball bowled by Richardson rose rapidly and went off the top of Dr W G Grace's bat into the hands of slip. Mr Troup arrived to the assistance of Mr Ferris and soon made three fours (two cuts and an off-drive) from Smith. His freedom was checked, however, by a catch

at wicket. Painter came and 30 were reached at luncheon time.

The attendance had increased considerably by the time the game was resumed, and great disappointment was felt at the collapse of the Gloucestershire batting. Painter played under a ball which was caught at slip, and Dr E M Grace joined Mr Ferris, who cut Smith capitally for five. At 45, however, both batsmen were dismissed – the former obstructed his wicket and the latter's middle stump was struck out of the ground. Ten runs later Mr Kitcat was in two minds about a ball from Smith which beat him, and Captain Newnham was bowled. Murch made nine in an over by a square-leg hit to the boundary and an off-drive for five, but at 80 he also was bowled. Mr Brown and Roberts were next together, a cut for four by the latter causing the 100 to be reached.

This batsman was then out in a curious way – he played the ball to Wood, who was standing a few yards back, and it glided to Abel, who held it at the second effort. Board was caught at mid-off and the innings realized 104. Surrey thus obtained a most decisive victory by an innings and 200 runs.

17 May: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4109.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 5)

The last few days at the Hove, Brighton, have furnished more bowling successes than are usually seen at this ground. Yesterday the average for the 21 wickets which fell was only a fraction above 12 runs each, a state of things that was largely attributable to the slowness of the turf and the excellent bowling of Tyler and Nichols for Somerset and of Killick for Sussex.

The home county were batting for two hours and a quarter for 129. Mr W L Murdoch went in first wicket down at 13 and was ninth to leave, caught at point, at 92. Butt and Humphreys did surprisingly well for the last partnership, which was the longest in the innings – namely, 37.

When Somerset went in Messrs Palairt and Fowler played brilliantly, but the prospect of a good score soon declined after they had made 43 for the first wicket. The cause of this alteration in the aspect of the game was considerably brought about by the fast right-hand bowling of Killick, a young Horsham player who was tried last year. He captured six of the side for 28 runs, a fine feat against the Somerset team. The scoring of the sides had been wonderfully even and, while each innings occupied about the same time, there was only a difference of seven between the totals in favour of Sussex, who began their second innings . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 15)

There was an exciting day's cricket at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, when Somerset just managed to beat Sussex by one wicket. Thursday's game had been even, and when the match was renewed yesterday morning Sussex had lost one wicket in the second innings and were 15 runs ahead.

Only 20 were recorded when the third batsman left, but Messrs Newham and Murdoch got together at this stage and by fine play greatly improved the home prospect. The partnership extended over an hour and yielded 61, when Mr Newham was dismissed. Subsequently Mr Woods bowled with great effect and the remaining batsmen added only 43. As in the first innings, Mr Murdoch had played excellently; he went in first and was last out after a stay of two and a half hours. Mr Woods's five wickets had been captured at a very small cost.

With the pitch still in capital order Somerset did not seem to have a particularly formidable task to get 132 for victory. Indeed, no one could have been prepared for the excitement which followed. At first the visitors appeared to be on an easy road for success, 50 going up with only one man out, and 110 being registered at a cost of four wickets. Guttridge, however, was put on again at 113, and Mr Woods, Mr Robinson and Nichols fell so quickly to him that at 114 seven of the side had gone. Eventually when the last man arrived three runs were wanted. Two of these were made by a bad return when the Rev A P Wickham ought almost to have been run out, after which the necessary single came and the victory was with Somerset. Guttridge bowled finely, taking seven wickets for 35 runs.

Saturday 19 May, page 15: RESIGNATION OF THE SURREY CAPTAIN

It is understood that Mr John Shuter has, owing to pressure of business, resigned the captaincy of the Surrey eleven.

“THE PAVILION AT LORD’S”

Under this title two large paintings are being executed by Messrs Dickinson and Foster, of 114, New Bond-street. These represent the pavilion at Lord’s in two sections. The portraits are faithful and will interest cricketers both past and present.

The first gives the southern side, and is a scene before the match Gentlemen v Players. In the foreground stand Mr G M’Gregor and Mr S M J Woods in cricketing costume, behind whom is the Hon Edward Chandos Leigh, Q.C., the president of the Marylebone Club in its centenary year, 1887. On his left are the Earl of Bessborough and his brother, Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane. Mr Harvey Fellows, a fast bowler of other days, is close by. Mr W E Denison is bending over the fence, while Mr H Perkins, the secretary, sits beside him, and in the doorway stands Mr J A Murdoch, the assistant-secretary, and towards the committee-room are Mr A W Ridley and Dr Wharton Hood, and looking out of the window is the Earl of Sefton.

The companion picture gives the northern aspect of the pavilion. In Knatchbull’s Corner are outlines of the Four-in-Hands. The three foremost figures are Dr W G Grace, Mr A G Steel and Mr J Shuter, grouped together. The Speaker of the House of Commons is one of the best of the portraits. A series of past presidents of the M.C.C. include the Earl of Dartmouth, the Earl of Lichfield and the Earl of Winterton.

Monday 21 May, page 7: At Cambridge on Saturday heavy scoring was witnessed in a match between the Crusaders and Christ’s. The former went in, and for the cost of two wickets obtained 392. Mr N F Druce, a Freshman from Marlborough, scored 223; and Mr K S Ranjitsinhji (who played for his University last year), 103; both batsmen were not out.

THE COUNTIES

The following positions of the leading nine counties who play each other twice are secured on the principle laid down by the counties themselves – viz., the deduction of losses from wins and the ignoring of drawn games: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	2	2	0	0	2
Middlesex	1	1	0	0	1
Yorkshire	1	1	0	0	1
Kent	1	1	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	2	1	1	0	0
Somerset	2	1	1	0	0
Notts	1	0	1	0	-1
Lancashire	2	0	2	0	-2
Sussex	2	0	2	0	-2

It may be mentioned that Warwickshire (who do not meet the whole of these counties) have beaten Nottinghamshire, Surrey and Kent; and Leicestershire have defeated Yorkshire and Essex.

21 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4110.html)

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

There was little to choose between the sides at the end of an innings each in this match at Cambridge yesterday. The University opened the batting, the chief feature of which was the free hitting of Mr F Mitchell. He went in first and was the ninth to leave – leg-before, having just previously given two hard chances. His principal figures were eight fours, six threes and seven twos. This feat was a continuation of the wonderful form he has shown at Cambridge; he has already obtained over a thousand runs this season.

Yorkshire, who were without the assistance of Lord Hawke, Mr F S Jackson, Mr A Sellers and Mr E Smith, came within eight of their rivals' total. Brown went in first wicket down and was seventh out – caught at slip; he was batting an hour for his 42, in which were six fours. Moorhouse had unfortunately hurt his knee while bowling. With the fall of the ninth wicket for 147 the innings closed. Stumps were now drawn for the day . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 7)

Play in this match at Cambridge yesterday was several times interfered with by the weather, and the wicket, while batting was practicable, proved easy. On Monday both sides had completed an innings, and at a quarter to twelve Messrs Douglas and Mitchell began the second innings of the University, who had the narrow margin of eight runs in their favour. Hirst and Peel took charge of the early bowling.

Runs came at a pretty steady rate and Mr Mitchell cut the ball twice for four. Nor was Mr Douglas idle, making, among lesser contributions, a drive to the off boundary. The score advanced at the pace of about one per minute for half an hour, and then Hirst handed the ball to Wainwright. The new bowling was pretty freely hit by Mr Douglas, who gained a dozen runs in an over from it. When 54 were recorded, however, he was clean bowled. Mr Field did little, but when Mr Latham joined Mr Mitchell the latter hit freely, and Wardall was tried for Peel. The total advanced to 92, when rain stopped play for a little more than half an hour.

On resuming, the Light Blue captain batted well for some time, while Mr Mitchell continued his determined hitting. The 100 was telegraphed at 25 minutes to 2, and nine runs later Brown relieved Wardall. No separation, however, had been effected at the interval, when the score had reached 139. Rain again delayed the game until 3.35.

Mr Mitchell then resumed his resolute batting and was soon credited with six fours from Hirst's bowling. After a further stoppage of 20 minutes for rain, Mr Latham was bowled, precisely 100 runs having been added while he was in. At length Mr Mitchell also retired – bowled. He was in for two hours and had not given a chance, and his 92 comprised no fewer than 14 fours, five threes and three twos. This batsman has now obtained 1,200 runs in 14 innings. His aggregate in the three matches which rank as first-class played this season at Cambridge is 278. Messrs Druce and Perkins batted until rain once more stopped play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 10)

Rain delayed the continuation of this match at Cambridge yesterday until 20 minutes to 1. On the previous day each side had finished an innings, and the University, who had the meagre lead of eight runs, had batted so well in their second venture that only four wickets were down for 186.

Messrs Druce and Perkins were opposed by Peel and Whitehead. The 200 was soon completed and, with an addition ten, Hirst went on for Whitehead. In the first over Mr Perkins scored 14 (three fours and a couple). With the total at 231 Wainwright relieved Peel, and his first ball found its way to Mr Perkins's wicket, while with the next he dismissed Mr Healing, who had followed in. Mr W G Druce came, and he and his brother soon added 21, when Hirst gave up the ball to Wardall. The separation, however, came from the other end, Mr N F Druce being clean bowled. Seven down. Mr Robinson joined Mr W G Druce, who ran up 66 runs in 80 minutes, this being the brightest feature of the day's play. His chief hits were nine fours, two threes and five twos. When they had reached 340 (which had occupied four hours) the University declared their innings closed, 154 runs having been put on for three more wickets.

Yorkshire went in with 349 set them to win and about three hours left of time. Although they had a hopeless task the early county players relaxed none of their vigour in batting. Wardall and Tunncliffe, indeed, hit so freely that they nearly got within the average required to win, for in 50 minutes they put together 81 runs. Wardall was then caught at cover-point and Tunncliffe left directly afterwards. After the dismissal of Brown, Wainwright and Peel made a stand. Several changes in bowling ensued, until the latter played under a ball which slip held, and thus left a vacancy for Mounsey. He filled it in an admirable manner and his fine cricket nearly saved the county the match. The total had been carried a little beyond the 200 when he returned the ball. He had two escapes and in his 54 were five fours, six threes and four twos. Mr Woodhead had helped him to put on 75 for the seventh wicket in an hour. The innings closed within ten minutes of time, Cambridge winning by 119 runs.

21 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4111.html)

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

The wind blew so strongly and keenly from the east yesterday as to destroy much of the enjoyment of the cricket at Lord's. The Kent eleven (who had done so well at Old Trafford last Saturday), with the exception of Mr J R Mason, the captain at Winchester last summer, cut a poor figure against the bowling of J T Hearne and Pougher.

Certainly when Kent went in Mr Mason and Alec Hearne started so well that in a little over half an hour 37 runs were recorded; Mr Mason had cut and driven brilliantly and 26 of the number belonged to him. The triumph of the bowlers was subsequently so complete that an hour saw the remainder of the innings through, the last nine wickets adding only 30 runs. J T Hearne and Pougher bowled unchanged, and the former's figures were seven for 32.

From the moment the Marylebone innings began Lord Hawke and Mr Stoddart played with easy and brilliant precision. The two men ran pretty level up to "33 all"; but then Mr Stoddart drew in front and made 35 of the next 40 runs. Sixty had been scored in the first half-hour of the partnership, the 100 went up in 55 minutes, and at the end of an hour the board registered 108. The first wicket had yielded 131, when Mr Stoddart was at last splendidly caught in the long field, the Rev E W Taylor-Jones running some dozen yards and taking the ball low down. Mr Stoddart, in a faultless innings, made ten fours, three threes and five twos. Lord Hawke survived his late partner by only ten runs and was then caught at long-on. In his 54, made in 85 minutes, were six fours, two threes and eight twos.

Mr de Trafford played freely for his 26, and after the fifth wicket had fallen for 187, Mr Key cut and drove with great vigour and, assisted by Davidson, put on 60 in the last 40 minutes of the day. With five wickets in hand Marylebone are already 180 runs ahead, so that Kent's prospect is not particularly hopeful.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 7)

Another cold morning at Lord's was experienced yesterday, when the attendance was not large. The game on Monday had left Marylebone with a very great advantage, for Kent had been disposed of for 67 and only five of the home wickets were down for 247.

Play was resumed at 11.35 by Mr Key and Davidson (not-outs, 41 and 15). The bowling was intrusted to Martin and W Hearne. The former's attacks were particularly destructive. When each batsman had made a single only, Mr Key fell to a catch at cover-point. Pougher was bowled first ball, and four runs later Storer was also bowled. Mr Heseltine made six by a couple of on-drives, but in the same over he also was bowled, while Davidson, who had batted steadily, hit the ball into the hands of mid-off. Martin's analysis in the morning was remarkable, as he took four wickets in four overs for nine runs. Total, 261.

Kent now had a most uphill game to play, as they wanted 194 to avoid even an innings defeat. A Hearne, who went in with Mr Mason, was soon struck on the hand and had to retire, so that the county's batting – feeble as it proved – was still further weakened. G Hearne took his place, but the

bowling of J T Hearne from the pavilion end was most difficult to play. Four batsmen were dismissed for 11 runs, but then Messrs Weigall and Marchant somewhat improved matters. The latter made a dozen by two leg hits and a cut, and 32 runs were put on before Mr Weigall was bowled. Five for 43.

The Rev Mr Taylor-Jones batted well for a few overs, but at 49 Martin was caught by third man. At 62 Mr Taylor-Jones was bowled and Nuttall played under the first ball he received, which slip secured. As A Hearne could not bat again, the innings, which had lasted only an hour and a half, closed with the fall of the ninth wicket. The full score will show that Marylebone won by an innings and 132 runs.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4112.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 22 May, page 12)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 7)

The spectators of the early part of yesterday's play in the Parks at Oxford saw a fine batting feat by Mr H T Hewett, the ex-Somerset captain. Going in first, he made 110 out of 201 in two hours, being the fifth to leave, and the vigour of his play, apart from the comparatively brief time of his innings, may be judged from the composition of his 110 – 18 fours, a three, eight twos and 19 singles.

Themselves performance of Mr Hewett rather dwarfed anything else done during the innings. But Mr Webbe, Mr Ferris and Mr Foley, whose respective partnerships with Mr Hewett yielded 41, 90 and 58, played well. It was a fast innings all through, and the whole side were out in two hours and three-quarters for 253. Mr Forbes, the Old Etonian fast bowler, had a very good analysis and was especially successful towards the close.

When Oxford went in a second time Messrs Foster and Fry put on 42 in 40 minutes for the second [?] wicket; but the chief honours of the latter part of the cricket belonged to Mr Foster, who made 59 out of 97 in an hour and a half. At the close of the day the Dark Blues were 121 ahead, with four wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 10)

Yesterday the weather was so wet at Oxford that after waiting until a quarter to 3, it was decided to give up all idea of further play in this match, which was left drawn . . .

21 May: WARWICKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4113.html)

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

The successful Warwickshire eleven began their return match with Nottinghamshire on the Edgbaston ground, Birmingham, yesterday. Increased interest was taken in the game owing to the way in which the first fixture had gone. Nottinghamshire was strengthened by the presence of Gunn, who appeared for the first time since the Easter Monday colts' match, while Pike, who made his mark as a cricketer on that occasion, at last received a trial. On the Warwickshire side Mr J E Hill's absence will no doubt be felt.

In an attracted day's play, of which there were about 3,000 spectators, there was a feature that eclipsed everything else – namely the 106 by Mr J A Dixon, the Nottinghamshire captain. He went in first and was batting three and a half hours, during which the only two mistakes were a possible return at 68 and a chance to mid-off at 82, both to Pallett. His most able partners were Gunn, who, prior to being bowled by a good ball from Whitehead, helped to raise the score from 19 to 81 for the second wicket, and Flowers, whose stay lasted while 67 were added. Mr Dixon was bowled – off stump. His innings included 11 fours, four threes and 11 twos.

Attewell and Pike both did well; but, notwithstanding all Mr Dixon's play, the total reached only 238. Another good bowling performance has to be recorded for Whitehead, who, on a hard and true pitch, took eight wickets for 95 runs. Warwickshire had a few minutes' batting before rain stopped the game.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 7)

Yesterday, at Edgbaston, Birmingham, the Warwickshire eleven played an excellent game, in which William Quaife once more took a prominent part. Mr Bainbridge, Walter Quaife and Diver were all out for 26. Then came the partnership of William Quaife and Law, who added 99 runs for the fourth wicket. The former was batting about two hours for a splendid 58, in which were five fours, five threes and five twos.

The subsequent misfortune of the Notts bowlers was considerably brought about by mistakes in the field, as Mr Docker, who made the highest score on the side, had four escaped before he reached 30: Attewell ought to have accepted a return chance, Mr Robinson and Gunn each missed him in the long field, while Pike should have stumped him. Mr Docker and Law put on 85 for the fifth wicket, and then it was the latter's turn to go. He was taken at short-leg for a careful 68, in which were five fours, six threes and eight twos. At 235 Mr Docker was eighth out, caught in the long field for 70, made in two hours by seven fours, two threes, nine twos and singles.

In the end Nottinghamshire were ten runs behind; but at the second attempt Mr Robinson and Pike fared well . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 10)

With the cricket day shortened by the rain, the Warwickshire eleven found the time insufficient for

their prospective win at Edgbaston last evening, and they had to be content with all the better of the draw. Still, the side played excellently.

On Tuesday night Notts had begun their second innings and were 55 without loss of wicket. Mr Robinson and Pike, the not-outs, scored quickly; but after they were separated the eleven were rapidly got out, and by 4.20 the last man had left for 146. Pike's superb 50 was made in an hour and three-quarters; he went in first and was fourth out at 103. His chief hits were five fours, two threes and four twos. His play in the match has quite justified the good opinion formed of him in the colts' trial at Easter. Shilton, although having a catch missed off him, came out with a fine analysis of seven wickets for 75 runs.

Warwickshire had only an hour and 50 minutes left in which to get 137 for victory. Although Diver played well for 57, in which were six fours, six threes and five twos, Warwickshire still wanted 40 to win when time was called. They, however, had six batsmen yet left.

22 May: LORD SHEFFIELD'S XI v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105710.html)

Tuesday 22 May, page 12

To-day the team from South Africa will open their programme with a match against an eleven selected by the Earl of Sheffield at Sheffield-park. The names of the sides are as follows: -

Earl of Sheffield's Eleven. – Messrs Bruce-Wentworth, M.P., W L Murdoch, W Newham, G Brann, A Blackman and A F Somerset, W Humphreys, W Briggs, Butt, Payne and Bailey.

South Africa (chosen from). – Mr G Glover, Kimberley; Mr T Parkin, Eastern Province; Mr H H Castens, Mr G Cripps, Mr A W Seccull, Mr C Rowe, Mr J Middleton, Mills and F Hearne, Western Province; Mr E Halliwell, Mr C L Johnson, Mr T Routledge and Mr S Kempis, Transvaal; Mr C Sewell and Mr D C Davey, Natal.

Day 1 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 7)

The essential point lacking in the success of the cricket at Sheffield-park yesterday was the absence of anything typical of African weather. North-east winds are not what cricketers like; but of these they had yesterday more than the average share. The fine stretch of turf was as hard and as true as a billiard table. This excellence of the pitch augured ill for the side that lost the toss.

The South Africans have come over with the reputation of good cricketers, but they have wisely refrained from arranging matches with the most powerful of the counties. The team contains men whose presence awakens old associations with the mother country. It is difficult to regard as strangers a side which includes Frank Hearne, once a prominent member of the Kent eleven; Charles Mills, who made a name in Surrey cricket; Mr H H Castens, a Rugby football "blue" at Oxford; and Mr Halliwell, a son of the Mr Halliwell-Bissett who stood up to the Middlesex fast bowlers on the old Cattle Market ground. Judging from his form yesterday, Mr Halliwell as a wicket-keeper seems quite capable of sustaining the fame gained by his father in this position.

The Colonials played their three professionals – Frank Hearne, Middleton and Mills – and left out Messrs Kempis, Davey, Glover and Parkin. It is early yet to form a general judgment of the side. Their bowlers had yesterday to play on a pitch favourable to heavy scoring, but they kept a capital length and at no time during the play did the batsmen obtain a complete mastery. The ground fielding, too, was clean and the returns were accurate.

Shortly after noon the innings of Lord Sheffield's team was begun by Mr Bruce Wentworth, M.P., and Payne, Middleton (left hand, rather fast) and Mr Seccull sharing the bowling. Mr Wentworth cut and drove with great success, but Payne was content to play carefully. The score rose steadily and at 28 Mr Johnson displaced Mr Seccull, while Mills took up the bowling at the other end at 40. Fifty were recorded as the result of an hour's cricket; but at 54 Mr Wentworth was beaten by a good ball from Mr Johnson, which kept low and struck the middle stump. The partnership for the first wicket lasted an hour and 5 minutes, and yielded 54 runs. Mr Wentworth had made the large proportion of 41 of these, and the chief hits of an admirable innings were six fours, a three and two twos.

Mr W L Murdoch, the Sussex captain, was warmly cheered as he came in. He started with a splendid cut from Mr Johnson, after which the play became quiet. Mr Rowe, a slow left-hand bowler, went on for Mills, and afterwards Mr Seccull resumed in lieu of Mr Johnson; but the play was very slow. The bowlers kept an excellent length and the fielding was close. Some good cuts and drives were recorded at each end; yet careful defence was the characteristic of both batsmen, and in the 50 minutes preceding the interval only 23 runs were put on. At the adjournment Payne was not out 24 and Mr Murdoch 12.

Rain began to fall shortly before the interval, and afterwards no play was possible until 10 minutes past four. Even when the sides renewed the game (with Messrs Rowe and Seccull bowling) the rain had not wholly ceased. Fourteen runs were added in ten minutes, and then Mr Murdoch, who had been in an hour, was splendidly stumped. Thirty-seven runs were added for the second wicket. Mr Brann came next, and Mills soon relieved Seccull. The new comer made some fine cuts and drives, and the 100 was reached at 4.35, after two hours and 20 minutes' play. Mills failed to accept a very difficult chance from Mr Brann at cover-point. Although making some fine drives, this batsman did not play with his customary freedom; but runs came steadily and Mills and Mr Sewell both went on at the southern wicket. At the end of three hours the score stood at 125. Mr Brann and Payne were soon afterwards bowled; the latter's 43 was a very patient display, as will be judged from the fact that it took over three hours. He hit three fours, three threes and six twos.

The fourth wicket fell at 129, and at 134 Mr Newham was caught at mid-on. Mr Blackham and Briggs played freely and the 150 went up at a quarter to 6 . . .

Day 2 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 10)

Our South African visitors cannot have formed a very good opinion of the English summer from their experiences at Sheffield Park during the last two days. They can scarcely be said to have received a fair trial in their first match.

The interest of the day's play naturally centred on the batting of the South Africans. Briggs and Walter Humphreys were the only first-class bowlers in the Earl of Sheffield's eleven, and these, assisted by Bailey (medium pace), twice got the side out. Generally the batsmen showed excellent style and, standing up well, most of them looked like fast scorers. With one prominent exception, however, they did not stay sufficiently long to make big scores. This was Mr Routledge, who played by far the best innings of the match. His cuts and drives were good, and while his game was free it possessed a good, sound defence. Mr Routledge divided the South African honours with young Mr Rowe, who took eight wickets for 52 runs; he went on at 69 on the first day and bowled for the rest of the innings. He displayed wonderful skill with his left-arm slows.

What was seen in the match will invest the South Africans' first appearance in London with interest, and the only things to be wished for next week, when they play Surrey at the Oval, are summer weather and a hard wicket.

Lord Sheffield's team, who had lost seven wickets for 198 runs, resumed their innings at 11.35, Mr Blackman and Humphreys being the not-outs, while Mr Rowe (slow left hand) and Mills were the bowlers. Fourteen runs were added in 20 minutes, and then Humphreys, in trying to hit, skied the ball and Mr Castens, at mid-off, had an easy catch. Mr Blackman for some time afterwards played freely, but at 22 he was caught at the wicket for 28. Bailey was eventually out in trying to drive, and the innings came to an end for 233.

Against the bowling of Briggs and Bailey the Africans started badly, losing Frank Hearne, who, in attempting to drive, was soon caught at mid-on. Messrs Johnson and Routledge kept together half an hour; the latter played by far the better cricket, driving vigorously and making sundry good leg-hits from Bailey. Mr Johnson was caught at short slip at 29. Then came some particularly free play by Mr Routledge, who had Mr Seccull for a partner. Fifty were reached in three-quarters of an hour, after which the former made three fine drives, almost straight, for four each.

Mr Seccull was completely beaten by Briggs at 70 and, with Mr Halliwell in, Humphreys's lobs were tried at Bailey's end, this being the first change in the bowling. At the outset Mr Routledge seemed a little puzzled by them, but he found that running in was the most successful way to meet them. Twice he got the ball away to square leg for four and, after losing the assistance of Mr Halliwell, he and Mills advanced the score to 85 before luncheon.

After an hour and a quarter's interval, Briggs and Humphreys soon got the rest of the side out. Mr Routledge's excellent innings was terminated by a lob from Humphreys, whom he ran in to play once too often and was stumped. He had made his 50 without a fault in an hour and a quarter, and his chief hits were seven fours, a three and five twos. The next 20 minutes were very disastrous to the visitors, as the addition of nine runs saw the dismissal of Mr Sewell, Mr Castens, Mills and Middleton. Mr Cripps and Mr Rowe, by some vigorous play, gave a little more substance to the total by adding 32 for the last wicket, and then the innings, which had extended a little more than two hours, closed for 127. Humphreys had bowled with marked success.

When they followed on with arrears of 106, the South Africans at first fared so badly against the bowling of Briggs and Bailey that Mr Routledge, Mr Johnson, Mr Cripps and Frank Hearne were all out in half an hour for 21. With six men only to go and 85 runs behind, and only an hour and a half left for play, there seemed a great probability of the Africans sustaining an innings defeat. Messrs Halliwell and Seccull, however, made an excellent stand and in half an hour added 38 runs. Rain, which had been slightly falling a long time, now became so heavy as to necessitate a retirement.

On resuming, both batsmen fell to Humphreys, who bowled Mr Halliwell and got Mr Seccull caught at mid-on, while at 67 Mills was easily stumped. Seven men were now out and Mr Castens soon followed. Vigorous play by Mr Sewell enabled the visitors to avert the single innings defeat; but in the end the Earl of Sheffield's team won by ten wickets. Briggs had bowled with great success in the first innings of the South Africans.

24 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4114.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 11)

The team sent from Lord's to Cambridge yesterday was sufficiently strong to test the capacity of the Light Blue eleven, and as the game went they quite held their own. In bright weather the University took first innings, but so good was the bowling of Martin and Mead that few of the batsmen met with any substantial success.

The score, however, was saved from mediocrity by the fine vigorous batting of Mr Perkins, who obtained 88 in an hour and a half, and whose solitary mistake was not made until he had run up 74, and even then it was a difficult catch to Davidson in the long field. His chief hits were one five, fourteen fours, four threes and four twos. Mr Field helped him to put on 43 for the fifth wicket, while Mr Crabtree, who was playing in place of Mr Healing, also did well and took out his bat for a careful 27. It will be noticed that Mr Mitchell for once in a way failed the reach double figures. Martin and Mead divided the wickets between them and both had good analyses.

When the M.C.C. went in young Mr Grace failed to score, but Dr W G Grace and Chatterton then met with great success and will still together at the drawing of stumps. The former was in excellent form.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 May, page 16)

Remarkable scoring was witnessed in this match yesterday at Cambridge. Dr W G Grace and Chatterton were batting for the M.C.C. on Thursday evening and had obtained 117 against a total of 189 on the part of the University.

The game was continued at 20 minutes to 12. Nine bowlers in all were tried; but, although Dr W G Grace narrowly escaped a run-out, the partnership was not severed until 262 was reached, when he skied the ball to mid-on. His 139 had occupied 4¼ hours; it was made without a chance and comprised ten fours, five threes and 24 twos. No fewer than 256 were put on for the wicket. Chatterton was out directly after luncheon through playing the ball on. He had been batting a quarter of an hour longer than Dr Grace for 113, in which were ten fours, eight threes and ten twos. Messrs Kemp and Hornsby added 47 while together, and ultimately, at a quarter to 5, the innings was over for 390.

The University, who were 201 behind, began their second innings. Messrs Douglas and Mitchell made 61 in 40 minutes, the former being bowled for 46, which included five fours and six threes. Mr Field came in, and both he and Mr Mitchell were missed. The latter at 109 obstructed his wicket . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 May, page 7)

Saturday found the weather unpleasantly changed from that of the preceding day, and cold winds and intermittent showers robbed the game of much enjoyment. The Light Blues on Friday night had been left with a severe up-hill fight before them, as, with eight wickets to fall, they were 92

behind.

Messrs Douglas and Mitchell, who had laid the foundation for a good score on the previous evening, had already been dismissed, and early on Saturday Mr Field fell to a catch at square-leg and Mr N F Druce to the wicket-keeper. These early losses to Cambridge augured badly for any prospect of saving the game; and the events which followed did not disturb the victorious course which Marylebone seemed [so steadily to] pursue.

Mr Latham, the Cambridge captain, scarcely bats so freely as he did two years since, although, perhaps, some of his care was necessary on Saturday with the game at such a stage. Mr Perkins as usual threw plenty of freedom into his game; but careful defence secured Mr Crabtree's 20. There was something of the old skill in Dr W G Grace's bowling, and altogether he secured six wickets at a cost of 82 runs. Cambridge managed to save the innings defeat, but in the end Marylebone won by eight wickets.

24 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4115.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 11)

Leicestershire, who beat Yorkshire last week, visited Lord's yesterday and began a match against a Marylebone side that was by no means up to the average strength of the teams usually pitted against the first-class counties. Leicestershire, on the other hand, had almost its full eleven.

Marylebone won the toss and against the bowling of Pougher and Walton they fared so badly that seven wickets fell in an hour for 50 runs. Brown, who had gone in first wicket down at ten, played very steadily and, aided by some good driving powers on the part of Mr Ramsay, put on 30 runs in as many minutes for the next wicket. Mee and Sherwin helped to get 44 for the last two partnerships, and the innings ended in two hours and ten minutes for 124. The feature of it had been the play of Brown, who is a new man at Lord's this year; he got his place through fine batting for Bedfordshire in 1893. His 64, not out, made in two hours, included plenty of good strokes, among which were two fives (both drives), seven fours, two threes and four twos. Pougher's bowling was wonderfully effective, and he followed up recent successes by taking seven wickets for 49 runs.

The rest of the day – namely, three hours and a quarter – was occupied by the batting of Leicestershire, and was so exceedingly fruitful as to produce 254 runs at a cost of seven wickets. Tomlin proved the hero of the day and his 140 was a fine display of vigorous cricket; he made one five, 21 fours, six threes and three twos. He went in second wicket down at 23 and was seventh out at 236, when he played on, after a stay of two hours and 40 minutes. The most lengthened partnerships were 90 by Tomlin and Warren, and 64 in 45 minutes by Tomlin and Pougher. From the score given below it will be seen that the county already possess a lead of 130 runs and have yet three wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 May, page 16)

The fine batting of Barnes and Mr Ramsay revived the interest in this match at Lord's yesterday, while the scores of Mr Bohlen and Mr Leatham also helped to give life to a losing game. But Marylebone had fallen so far behind in the first innings that even such a fine total as 254 at the second attempt did not prevent Leicestershire from gaining, late in the day, a pretty easy victory.

24 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4116.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 11)

In the Parks, at Oxford, yesterday the Dark Blues were represented by the same players as those who met Mr Webbe's team, save that the twelfth man stood out, there being only 11 a side. The weather, although a little boisterous, was fine.

Somerset opened the batting with Messrs L C H Palairet and Stanley. The bowling was undertaken by Messrs Forbes and Bathurst. Mr R C N Palairet caught his brother in the slips. Mr Spurway joined Mr Stanley and for a while did most of the batting, as he obtained 23 of the next 29 runs. Mr G Fowler also fared well, while Mr Stanley, who had gone in first wicket down, was the fifth to leave at 109, which had taken nearly two hours to secure. After the interval the pace of run-getting improved and 101 only occupied an hour, Mr Woods, Bolus and Tyler having batted well. The innings terminated at ten minutes to 4 for 210.

Oxford had almost two hours' batting, during which they obtained 152 at the cost of only three wickets. The attacking side were handicapped by Mr Woods's inability to bowl, owing to an injured foot. Mr Rice was soon out, but Messrs R C N Palairet and Foster put together 43 in half an hour, while the third wicket fell at 52. Messrs Mordaunt and Fry went in for hitting, and were still partners when stumps were drawn for the day . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 May, page 16)

The second day's play of this match, at Oxford, was full of interest. Oxford had done pretty well up to Thursday evening, having scored 152 for three wickets, against the Somerset total of 210.

The figures were more than doubled by the remainder of the side. Mr Fry, the captain, and Mr Mordaunt, who got his "blue" last year, carried off the batting honours. Their partnership began some time before the finish on Thursday night and in the course of an hour and three-quarters it yielded 145 runs. Mr Fry was caught in the slips for 75, a faultless innings in which were a five, eight fours, two threes and three twos. Mr Mordaunt was fifth out at 253 for a splendidly played 99, the chief hits of which were 13 fours, three threes and eight twos. His stay of two hours and three-quarters was characterized by his fine off-driving and cutting. Oxford were batting altogether 4½ hours for 341.

Mr L C H Palairet, who proved most successful in the attack, subsequently batted brilliantly and, aided by Mr Stanley, put a brighter aspect on the affairs of Somerset.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 May, page 7)

Mr L C H Palairet, who was captain of the Oxford Eleven in 1891 and 1892, batted so vigorously on Saturday at Oxford that he made a great change in the game. With only four men to go in, Somerset had been left with only 29 ahead.

Mr Palairet, who went in when two of the side were out for 18, was the eighth to leave at 332 for

181, made in three hours and three-quarters. His chief hits were 24 fours, five threes and 17 twos. Bolus played patiently and helped Mr Palairet to add 43; but the partnership of the day, and that which saved Somerset the match, was between Messrs Palairet and Gibbs, who in 70 minutes added 129 runs for the eighth wicket. Mr Gibbs went in at 203 and did not leave until 359, having batting an hour and 25 minutes for 75, in which were ten fours, three threes and seven twos. Somerset did not complete their innings until a quarter past 3. In two hours and ten minutes the last four wickets had added 234 runs.

Oxford were left with 264 to make for victory, but as it had been arranged to draw stumps at 5 o'clock there was no time to complete the task. As it was, rain stopped the game after Oxford had been in an hour and 20 minutes, during which time they lost three wickets for 115. Messrs Mordaunt and Foster both played excellently. The game, in which 1060 runs were recorded, was left drawn . . .

24 May: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4117.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 11)

There was a large company at Kennington Oval yesterday to witness the beginning of this match. Surrey lost the toss, and at five minutes past 12 Mr Key (the new captain) entered the field with his team. Messrs Stoddart and Webbe were the first Middlesex batsmen. Richardson (top end) and Smith (pavilion) opened the bowling.

Thirteen runs came from the first five balls. The scoring continued free for some overs until Mr Webbe gave a chance to slip from Richardson, but, escaping, he cut the ball in the same over to the boundary. This brought 50 on the board as the result of half an hour's play. Lockwood was soon tried for Richardson, and in his second over Mr Stoddart was caught from a lofty hit at point. One for 66. Mr Foley came and the run-getting slackened a little. Brockwell was tried for Smith. The Cambridge man fell to a catch by the wicket-keeper, who was standing back to Lockwood's bowling, and 79 were recorded in an hour.

Mr Hayman was dismissed scoreless, and Rawlin assisted Mr Webbe. The fielding at this point proved very fine and nothing beyond singles came for a few overs. The Middlesex captain then cut the ball high into the slips, but there was no one near and it went for four. Each batsman made long off-drives to the ring and the 100 was telegraphed at half-past 1. Richardson now bowled from the pavilion end, and Rawlin cut him twice for four in his first over. He then lost the company of Mr Webbe – clean bowled; he had batted nearly up to his old style for an hour and a half, and in his 52 were a five, six fours, eight threes and four twos. Four for 114. Mr Henery arrived, and an appeal for a catch by the wicket-keeper against Rawlin was negatived, after which he made three very fine hits, from which 11 were recorded. A catch at slip disposed of Mr Henery and half the wickets were down for 126. Mr M'Gregor joined Rawlin and at the interval the total had reached 149.

Smith and Lockwood then bowled, and the latter soon met with success, causing Rawlin to be caught at slip and bowling Mr Westhorp with the first ball sent him. Messrs M'Gregor and Lucas hit vigorously. The score rapidly reached 192, when a twofold change in the attack was resorted to, Richardson and Brockwell again taking charge of it. This did not prevent the 200 from being signalled at half-past 3. Mr Lucas gave a chance to third man and started for a run, but turned back again and Maurice Read threw his wicket down. The first ball sent to him proved disastrous to Phillips. J T Hearne brought up the rear, and the innings soon ended with a total of 221, obtained in a little under three hours.

Surrey began their batting at five minutes past 4, when the attendance had increased to about 10,000. Abel and Hayward faced the bowling of J T Hearne and Rawlin. The latter's fifth ball found its way to Hayward's wicket, and Maurice Read, who came in, was soon clean bowled. Two wickets for nine runs was by no means promising. Mr W W Read made a few good hits before being bowled by Hearne. Lockwood joined Abel. After a few hits, eight maiden overs in succession were bowled, and the 50 took 67 minutes to complete. Lockwood played the ball back to Hearne and four batsmen were out for 53.

Mr Key went in, but the bowling and fielding were too good to admit of either batsman doing much. Mr Westhorpe relieved Rawlin at 70. The 100 was telegraphed at five minutes to 6. Mr Stoddart now relieved Hearne; the Surrey captain hit him well for four, but in the same over he was bowled

middle stump; he had batted well for his 35. Brockwell next arrived. At the drawing of stumps Surrey were 82 runs behind with five wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 May, page 16)

The way in which the cricket ebbed and flowed yesterday at the Oval was remarkable. At one hand there seemed a likelihood of the totals being pretty level at the end of an innings each, but Surrey gained a lead of 79.

Then Middlesex batted so feebly that defeat (probably by an innings) stared them in the face. Again the fortunes changed, and now it may fairly be said that it is anybody's match.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 May, page 7)

The change which took place in the conditions of this match late on Friday so far revived the interest in the game as to leave a fine prospect for an exciting third day. How great was the influence of the last three men of the Middlesex side on the cricket will be gathered from the fact that when the contest seemed utterly lost the ninth and tenth wickets added 185 runs. But the wicket held true, and although Rawlin and Hearne bowled their best Surrey won substantially, their ultimate success being closely allied with the fine batting of Maurice Read.

On resuming on Saturday Middlesex still had a wicket in hand; but this was soon captured by Lockwood, who bowled Hearne after the latter had helped Phillips to put on 36 for the last wicket. Phillips, however, had not scored since Friday evening; his 67 was one of the best innings he has ever played in England, and included three fours, four threes and eleven twos.

Surrey entered upon their task of getting 18 to win soon after 12 o'clock. Hayward and Abel began with every caution, and as there was plenty of time in which to score the runs this patience was a wise course to adopt, for Hearne and Rawlin bowled excellently. The weather was so windy that in several instances the bails were blown off. A confident appeal by Mr M'Gregor for a catch at wicket against Hayward was not allowed, and then at 16, after 30 minutes' play, a shower delayed the game for a quarter of an hour.

Subsequently the cricket was very quiet and a few stolen singles were all that the spectators had to cheer. After Rawlin had crossed over he bowled Hayward's leg stump down with a ball that broke back; but Mr Jephson's quick dismissal was very unlucky for the batsman, who, in playing the ball into the slips, sent a big splinter from the shoulder of the bat into his wicket and it removed the leg bail, so that he retired hit-wicket.

Two for 45 was the record when Maurice Read and Abel became partners. Hearne was still bowling well, and after Read had made eight by two fine hits on the leg side, he nearly dismissed the new batsman. Both the Surrey players were in good form, and the score had reached 76 at the end of an hour and a half, when Mr Westhorp was given a trial for Rawlin and caused Abel to send the ball into his wicket. Abel had again played excellently, and his aggregate for the match was 173. Mr Walter Read rarely starts well, and this occasion furnished no exception. A ball that went for five byes nearly bowled him, and after a fine cut for four another ball from Rawlin almost took his leg stump. But he stayed for just under an hour, keeping up his wicket while his companion hit and securing only 15 of the 67 added for the partnership. Maurice Read was in splendid form and

he made one particularly fine square-leg hit to the boundary. Mr W W Read skied the ball and was caught at mid-off, while another from Hearne knocked the bail of Brockwell's wicket about 40 yards off. Five for 145.

Any doubts that were felt about Surrey's getting the remaining 43 were soon set at rest by the vigour of Maurice Read and Mr Key. The latter made three fours by cuts, a three by a drive and got a five through the slips, while the last six runs were obtained from drives by Maurice Read, and Surrey won the match by five wickets. The hits in M Read's fine not-out innings of 75, which occupied about an hour and 50 minutes, were eight fours, four threes and four twos.

24 May: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4118.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 11)

Hitherto Sussex have not done well this season, and there is small hope for their success in this match, which began yesterday at Hove, Brighton. They started fairly well, but Bean was injured (his finger being split by a ball from Hirst) when he was batting in good form, and he had to retire hurt at 29.

Marlow and Mr Murdoch were then partners to the bowling of Hirst and Peel. The wind was so strong as repeatedly to blow the bails off. Fifty runs resulted from an hour's play, and this, too, in spite of several bowling changes. With the total at 70 Mr Murdoch played the ball into slip's hands, and Marlow, who had been batting for nearly an hour and a half, was secured by the wicket-keeper. At the interval, with the score at 88 for the loss of three batsmen only, the home county's prospects were pretty good. On resuming, however, they proved unable to cope with the bowling of Peel and Hirst to any extent. In three-quarters of an hour the seven remaining wickets fell for an addition of 26. Time, 3.30.

Yorkshire went in and had all the better of the day's play. Lord Hawke and Mr Jackson ran up 80 for the first wicket, the former being then bowled. Wardall was soon out, and Tunnicliffe joined Mr Jackson. The old Cambridge captain hit in his best style and did not give a chance. He was the third out – bowled in trying to hit one of Humphreys's lobs to leg. His 131, which had taken him only two and a quarter hours to get, comprised 17 fours, eight threes and ten twos. Tunnicliffe, who was batting capitally, was joined by Brown, and these played out time, when Yorkshire were 133 on and seven wickets to fall.

The attendance was large. Mr E H Lulham, who has been playing with the Crystal Palace Club, made his first appearance for Sussex. Moorhouse, owing to his ankle having been injured at Cambridge, was unable to take part in the match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 May, page 16)

As might have been expected after the lead gained by Yorkshire on the opening day of this match at the Hove Ground, Brighton, the Sussex eleven were severely beaten last evening. In the end Yorkshire won by an innings and 36 runs. The weather was very fine and a large company visited the county ground.

25 May: HAMPSHIRE v SOUTH AFRICANS (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105711.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 26 May, page 16)

The Cape visitors entered on the second match of their tour yesterday at Southampton.

Day 2 (report from Monday 28 May, page 7)

After their long spell of fielding on the first day, the South African team came better out of this their second match than at one time seemed probable. Indeed, at Southampton, on Saturday, some of their batsmen showed admirable form. Overnight the visitors, with nine wickets in hand, wanted 303 to avert the follow-on.

When the match was resumed, in bright weather, the first four men of the side had gone by the time the figures reached 72. Mr Seccull and Mills, however, played splendid cricket. The 100 went up in 75 minutes and the partnership realized altogether 73. Mr Seccull showed great freedom and in his 42 were six fours, while Mills, taking three-quarters of an hour longer to get 64, contributed six fours, four threes and three twos. Subsequently Mr Sewell played well, while Mr Kempis made some good hits, and the innings, after rather more than four hours' duration, ended for 275.

In the follow-on Mr Rout, who was so successful at Sheffield-park, and Mr Cripps batted in admirable form, the game being drawn . . .

Saturday 26 May: ALFRED SHAW. – It is understood that the famous ex-Notts bowler will be available for Sussex in their matches in the north of England during the next fortnight.

28 May: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4119.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 11)

The remarkable successes of the Warwickshire eleven this season and the excellent cricket which has [?] to them lent addition interest to the match at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, when, except that Mr J E Hill was away from the visitors, both counties had their full strength. Bad weather was experienced and the bitter south-east wind kept many people away.

Essex, who went in first, scarcely did so well as might have been expected, and their innings, which extended over two hours and a half, produced only 133 runs. Carpenter played pretty well, but he was fortunate, inasmuch as Lilley should have stumped him, while another time he had an escape in the slips. In bowling the honours belonged to Pallett, who had a spell at each end and came out with the good record of nine wickets for 55 runs.

Warwickshire's innings was delayed by the rain; but when Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife began it runs came freely, and an hour and 20 minutes elapsed before the first wicket fell. By this time the score had reached 89. However, when Mead and Mr Kortright were given a second spell of bowling they quickly wrought a change in the game. Two fine balls by Mead sent back Walter Quaife and Diver, while Mr Kortright got Bainbridge caught at mid-on and also dismissed William Quaife and Santall.

Seven wickets ought to have fallen before the bad light stopped the game for the day, but Russell missed Lilley at the wicket, and so Warwickshire were able to lead at the close by 13 runs, with four wickets in hand.

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

It the second day's play between these counties at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, there was a fine piece of batting by Mr L C Docker, which helped Warwickshire to secure a substantial advantage on the first innings. At the close of the first day Warwickshire already had a lead, as, with four wickets in hand, they were 13 runs ahead.

Mr Docker and Lilley were the not-outs; but the latter was soon bowled. Neither Pallett nor Whitehead gave much trouble and, with nine men out for 165, there seemed, after all, a prospect of only a small difference between the scores. But Mr Docker found an able partner in Shilton, who stayed while 43 were put on, and was then caught in the long-field. Mr Docker played excellently and took out his bat for 51, his chief figures being five fours, three threes and seven twos. Warwickshire's innings yielded 208, which placed Essex in a minority of 75.

Bad weather interfered with the match after luncheon. In the brief spells of play Essex lost one wicket for 41, so this morning they have still a deficit of 34 to face.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 6)

The weather befriended Essex at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, yesterday, and when defeat seemed

little less than inevitable for them the rain put a stop to the game. Essex, who overnight had made 41 for the loss of one wicket, took about two hours and a half to complete their innings.

From the outset the game went badly for them, and the dismissal of Burns, the not-out, before he had increased his score was followed by a series of disasters. Mr Owen was caught at mid-on, and Mr Lucas and Mr Gosling were bowled, while when the fifth wicket went there was still a single of the arrears remaining. Mr Hailey had Mid-West been batting with every care but, although he played the difficult bowling, he was unable to score frequently. Going in second wicket down at 41, he saw the whole of the remaining men dismissed and took out his bat for 20, the result of a two-hours' stay. The total reached 112, which left Warwickshire only 38 to make for victory. Pallett had again bowled with marked success.

[Note: a thunderstorm prevented Warwickshire from commencing their second innings.]

28 May: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4120.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 11)

A numerous company visited Lord's to witness this match. Middlesex (who did not play nearly their full strength) sent in Messrs Webbe and Stoddart at five minutes past 12. Murch and Roberts were the bowlers.

The first half-hour's play produced 31 runs, but then Mr Webbe sent the ball into Dr W G Grace's hands at forward short-leg. Mr Foley's stay was brief – clean bowled; and Rawlin assisted Mr Stoddart. The latter twice cut Murch for four, but having made 21 he gave a somewhat hard chance from that bowler to Dr W G Grace at mid-off. Fifty runs came in as many minutes, and the Gloucestershire captain relieved Murch, who at 76 crossed over. Mr Stoddart, who had twice hit the ball to leg and cut it to the boundary, was well caught from a lofty drive in front of the pavilion. Three for 89.

Mr W J Scott appeared for the first time in the county ranks. He was speedily bowled and Mr Henery arrived. The 100 was reached at 20 minutes to 2, and then Mr Ferris was tried. His first ball proved disastrous to Mr Henery – caught at wicket. After luncheon Rawlin and Mr Westthorp quickly added 24 runs, when heavy rain caused a stoppage for 50 minutes. On resuming the ball travelled very slowly and many good hits did not realized their full value.

Murch, who had been bowling at the nursery end, gave way to Roberts at 146. Mr Westthorp was then caught at wicket, and Mr Ford, who succeeded him, enlivened the game with three fine drives, but a capital catch at mid-off dismissed him. Seven for 188. West arrived, and with an on-drive caused the 200 to be passed after three hours and ten minutes' batting. A catch at wicket at length disposed of Rawlin, who had batted well for his 67, composed of five fours, two threes and five twos. Mr Hickson was quickly bowled. Hearne assisted West to put on 18, when the former fell to the wicket-keeper. Total, 223.

Gloucestershire had a little less than an hour's batting, during which they fared very badly. Their captain was caught first ball at mid-off, after which Messrs Ferris and Troup opposed J T Hearne (pavilion end) and Rawlin. Mr Troup was caught at short slip, while the first ball sent him bowled Painter. The light had become very bad when Mr Kitcat joined Mr Ferris, and the latter was soon out to a catch at short-leg, while without the addition of a single Dr E M Grace was beaten by Rawlin. Four and five for 18. Captain Luard began well by cutting a ball to the members' enclosure, and Mr Westthorp relieved Rawlin. Twelve runs came in his first over, and the total having been advanced to 52 without further mishap, stumps were drawn.

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

Half an hour proved sufficient at Lord's yesterday to bring the visitors' first innings to a close. At the drawing of stumps on the previous evening Middlesex had scored 223 and five Gloucestershire wickets were down for 52.

Mr Kitcat (15) and Captain Luard (25) faced the bowling of Hearne (pavilion) and Rawlin. Fourteen runs were added and two wickets fell in an over of Rawlin's – Captains Luard and

Newnham, both bowled. Without the addition of a single Mr Kitcat fell to Mr Hickson, who was keeping wicket standing back, and five runs later Roberts was served in the same way. Board, who brought up the rear, was caught by mid-on. Total, 72.

Dr W G Grace and Mr Ferris followed on for the western county with arrears of 151, but when six balls had been bowled for a single heavy rain stopped play at 12.25. Frequent downpours in the afternoon caused stumps to be drawn for the day at 5 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 6)

Although there was small hope of the western county being able to avoid disaster, few people were prepared for the utter collapse of their batsmen yesterday at Lord's. When play began at 20 minutes to 12, Gloucestershire, in their second innings, had still the whole of their ten wickets to fall and were 150 runs behind.

The innings needs little description, for it lasted only 70 minutes. Without adding to the single obtained by him overnight Dr W G Grace was caught by third man. Messrs Ferris and Troup improved the prospect slightly, but the former was caught at mid-on and Painter, who took his place, played under a ball which slip secured. Two and three for 20.

Mr Kitcat batted promisingly for a few overs. At 32 came Mr Troup's dismissal by a one-handed catch at wicket, and Mr Kitcat drove the ball into the hands of extra mid-off. Dr E M Grace was bowled; Captain Luard, in trying to hit a full-pitched ball to leg, was secured on the on-side; Captain Newnham was out to a right-handed catch high up at cover-slip, Murch fell to the wicket-keeper and Board returned the ball. Total, 47. Rawlin in all took 12 wickets for five runs apiece. From the full score it will be seen that Middlesex won by an innings and 104 runs.

28 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4121.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 11)

Nottinghamshire did not come out well from the first day's play in this match at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, and in spite of a vigorous innings by Flowers and a careful 23 by Mr Robinson, their score on the slow wicket was meagre. Hirst bowled with great success at the start, and in the first three-quarters of an hour four men were dismissed for 28 runs, while at half-past 1 five were out for 48.

Bad weather prevented any further cricket until 4 o'clock, and then, in the course of an hour, Wainwright and Peel dismissed the rest of the side for an addition 58. Flowers played well and was in an hour and a quarter for his 39, being sixth to leave at 72, while Mr Robinson was batting an hour for his 23 not out.

Mr Jackson played finely when Yorkshire went in, and 63 runs were made in an hour. Mr Mitchell, after being let off at six, showed steady defence. The weather was cold and the numbers who paid admission to the ground did not reach four figures.

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

At the close of yesterday at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, Yorkshire, with four of their best men gone, were left with 100 to make for victory. With nine men in hand, they wanted only 43 overnight to draw level with Notts, but the change in the condition of things was rapid.

Five more wickets actually fell for the addition of only seven runs, and this at once reduced the match to something like evenness. The other four were not so easily taken, but less than an hour and a quarter was required to complete the innings from the Monday night stage, and the total reached only 94. Hardstaff kept a fine length and his full analysis was seven for 44 runs, while his actual bowling yesterday morning was 14 overs, 16 runs, six wickets. The partnership of Messrs Mitchell and Jackson for the second Yorkshire wicket yielded 61 runs. Mr Mitchell was caught at cover-point and Mr Jackson at third man.

Nottinghamshire's second innings was at first interfered with by the bad light. Neither Mr Wright nor Mr Dixon stayed long; but Gunn played carefully and well, and after the dismissal of Flowers he was helped by Daft, the partnership producing 44 runs. Gunn was fifth out, bowled at 85; his 45 had taken him an hour and 40 minutes, but it was a fine innings. After nine men had gone for 103 Pike and Hardstaff put on 28, and then the innings endeavoured, after it had lasted three hours. Peel took seven wickets for 58 runs.

Yorkshire wanted 144 to win, and in an hour lost Lord Hawke, Mr Jackson, Wardall and Tunnicliffe, so that their task of getting 100 to-day is rather a formidable one.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 6)

This match, at Trent Bridge, passed through many exciting phases before Yorkshire won yesterday

afternoon. Yorkshire had been left with a formidable task on Tuesday night, as four of their men were out and 100 runs were yet necessary to secure the victory.

The beginning was not particularly hopeful for the visitors, as, after seven overs had been sent down by Attewell and Hardstaff for two singles, Mr F Mitchell was bowled. Half the side was thus out for 46 runs and, with 98 yet wanted, the game promised well for Notts. Brown and Peel became partners and, though Peel once narrowly escaped being run out when Daft from third man threw down the wicket, the umpire's decision was "Not out." The score stood at 50 an hour and a quarter after the opening of the innings. Then Brown was nearly "run out," the wicket being thrown down by Gunn, but again the batsman survived. Barnes was put on instead of Attewell, and at 65 a shower stopped the game for 20 minutes.

This was a piece of good fortune for Yorkshire, as when the match was renewed the out side found the turf very wet and the ball slippery. Some changes in the attack were tried and Brown was nearly caught at slip; but when at last a separation was effected the figures had reached 98. Fifty-two had been put on in 70 minutes, when Peel fell to a catch at third man, while at 110 Brown played on. Both men had shown fine cricket and were warmly cheered for their success. With Wainwright and Mounsey partners, the last 34 runs were quickly secured and a remarkable match ended in the victory of Yorkshire by three wickets.

28 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105712.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 11)

At one time at Oxford yesterday the South Africans seemed likely to run up a substantial score; but, after the innings had begun well and 90 had gone up with only one wicket down, there occurred quite a collapse of the defence, for which Mr Bathurst's bowling was largely responsible.

Messrs Routledge and Johnson both batted excellently and for the second partnership obtained 94 runs. Mr Routledge, who eventually played a fast ball from Mr Forbes on to his wicket, made 65 without a mistake; his chief hits were nine fours. Up to the interval 122 were recorded for the loss of four wickets. Subsequently Mr Bathurst did a fine piece of bowling, getting out five men in nine overs (six maidens) for five runs, while his full analysis was eight for 40. South Africa were all out for 145 by ten minutes to 4.

When the University went in the first three men on the side did little. Matters improved in the hands of Messrs Mordaunt and Fry, and at the close of the day Oxford, with six wickets in hand, were only 38 runs behind. The weather was dull and showery, and the attendance at the New College ground was scarcely up to the average.

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

In the hours available for cricket at Oxford yesterday the University established an advantage. On Monday night the African score had been approached within 38 runs and the home side had still six wickets in hand.

Messrs Mordaunt and H Leveson-Gower, the not-outs, added together 49 for the fifth wicket, after which Messrs Phillips and Bathurst were quickly dismissed. The batting honours of the innings belonged to Mr G J Mordaunt, who went in second wicket down and was eighth out, bowled by Mr Johnson. Fortune had favoured him and he had more than one escape, but his play was free and excellent, and included among his figures were 11 fours, three threes and seven twos. Oxford held a lead of 23 and had two wickets to fall when rain stopped the game and there was no further cricket during the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 6)

Mr T Routledge, who impressed cricketers with his fine batting for the South Africans in the match with Lord Sheffield's eleven, again played excellently yesterday. The weather at Oxford continued unsettled, and play was stopped by it after luncheon. On the previous evening the University had secured a lead of 23 and yesterday morning the two outstanding wickets added 21. The South Africans soon hit off the unfavourable balance and eventually the match was left drawn.

28 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – FIRST ELEVEN v NEXT SIXTEEN

FIRST ELEVEN 315 (J Douglas 97, H E Symes-Thompson 36, C G Pope 72, C Wells 25, E H Bray 28; F J S Moore 3/32). NEXT SIXTEEN 153 (R A Studd 30, F W Cobbold 26, S D Corbett 27*; J P Candler 4/34, H Gray 7/46) and 184/4 (F W Cobbold 22, S D Corbett 30, F L Hinde 27, C D Robinson 30, R A Studd 23, W M Hemingway 29*). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 11)

The usual match to test the relative merits of cricketers at the University began yesterday at Cambridge between these sides. Unfortunately many of those who are likely to appear against Oxford were unable, from examinations and other causes, to take part in the game. In the absence of Mr P H Latham the Eleven was captained by Mr Douglas. Rain stopped the game at five minutes past 3, and after waiting until 5 o'clock it was decided to postpone further play until to-day.

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

Although some progress was made with this match at Cambridge yesterday, the wet weather again greatly curtailed the hours of play. The Eleven, who had overnight made 180 for the loss of four batsmen, were once more fairly successful.

Mr W G Grace was soon dismissed, but Mr C G Pope batted splendidly and was ably assisted by Mr C Wells and Mr Bray. Mr Pope, who went in fourth wicket down, was the tenth out, caught at slip for 72, an innings that occupied two hours and three-quarters, and the chief hits of which were eight fours, four threes and three twos. The Next Sixteen had not proceeded far with their innings when rain stopped the game for the day . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 6)

Some interesting play was witnessed during the four hours in which cricket was practicable on the third day of this match at Cambridge. When the game was renewed yesterday morning the Sixteen, who had lost a wicket overnight, went on with the batting.

Mr Gray, the Jesus Freshman, bowled with marked success, and for a long time only Mr R A Studd seemed able to stay. His 30 was a well-played innings and extended over an hour and a half. Fourteen of the side went for 99; but Messrs Cobbold and Corbett made an excellent stand for the last wicket, putting on 54. Mr Gray's analysis credited him with the dismissal of seven batsmen for 46 runs.

When the Sixteen followed on, Messrs Cobbold and Corbett went in again, and for a second time their partnership was very fruitful, as they obtained 53 before they were separated. Subsequently the arrears were hit off, and when rain caused the abandonment of the match the score stood thus . . .

THE COUNTIES

Appended are the positions of the nine leading counties so far as matches among themselves are concerned: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	3	3	0	0	3
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	3
Kent	1	1	0	0	1
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	1
Somerset	2	1	1	0	0
Gloucestershire	3	1	2	0	-1
Lancashire	2	0	2	0	-2
Nottinghamshire	2	0	2	0	-2
Sussex	3	0	3	0	-3

31 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4122.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 June, page 11)

Great interest was taken in the meeting of these counties at Gloucester yesterday. Such had been the heaviness of the rainfall that no cricket was practicable until later in the afternoon. Notts won the toss and put their opponents in. These tactics, although attended with much risk, met yesterday with a marked degree of success, for Attewell bowled well and Gloucestershire were got out for a moderate score.

It was a slow innings and yielded 120 runs. Dr W G Grace and Mr Ferris put on 32 runs in 40 minutes for the first wicket, while the home captain was in over an hour for his 17. Mr Kitcat played with more freedom and obtained his 27 in three-quarters of an hour; but the brightest batting of the innings came from Dr E M Grace, who, going in fourth wicket down, made 32 of the 69 added during his stay of an hour and ten minutes.

Nottinghamshire in three-quarters of an hour scored 48. W Flowers was in excellent form and with Mr Wright put on 42 for the first wicket. Mr Dixon, Mr Robinson and Hardstaff are away from the Notts eleven.

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

Nottinghamshire's run of ill-fortune continues, and yesterday at Gloucester they lost to the Western county by 43 runs. From first to last the wicket helped the bowlers.

31 May: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4123.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 June, page 11)

At Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, the Sussex team entered upon the first of their out county matches. A novelty was furnished by the inclusion in their ranks of Alfred Shaw, the celebrated Nottinghamshire bowler. His qualification for the southern county is the fact of his residing at Sheffield Park, where he has been engaged for a long time past by Lord Sheffield.

Lancashire won the toss and elected to go in. Albert Ward and Mr M'Laren were the first to face the attacks of Shaw and Killick. In the last-named's first over Mr M'Laren was bowled, and Sugg arrived. Three maiden overs were sent in by Shaw, off whom A Ward should then have been stumped. As will be seen, he turned his escape to good account. The run-getting was slow and, the total having been steadily advanced to 38, Sugg was clean bowled. Brown batted with the utmost caution, and after being in a quarter of an hour without scoring he gradually put together seven runs and was bowled. Three wickets were now down for 52.

Baker assisted A Ward, and a most determined resistance to the attack was made. Baker's batting was characterized by fine driving. The 100 was telegraphed at 20 minutes to 2, in spite of many variations in the attack, and at the interval 127 were recorded. Up to this point Baker was credited with a dozen fours.

On resuming he and Ward kept triumphantly on until at length, when six were wanting of the 200 and Baker only required four to reach the three figures, he was capitally caught at long-on; his freely-hit innings, which had occupied a hundred minutes, comprised 18 fours, two threes and five twos. Since the fall of the third wicket no fewer than 142 runs had been put on. Ward, after batting for two hours and three-quarters, hit the ball hard round to deep square-leg, where it was secured; his 69 included eight fours, five threes and three twos.

Briggs and Tinsley now became partners and successfully defied all the strategies of which Sussex were masters until they had conducted the total to 301, when the former fell to the dexterity of the wicket-keeper; he had been in an hour and a quarter and his chief figures were eight fours, four threes and two twos. Tinsley ran up 53, in which were eight fours. The innings eventually closed at 6 o'clock for 355.

Sussex had ten minutes' batting, during which they were unfortunate enough to lose Bean through a fine catch in the slips.

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

Mr W Newham's not-out innings at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, was a great achievement against the Lancashire bowlers; but he was only feebly supported. The famous Surrey amateur was in two hours and three-quarters, and his 110 contained only two errors – a hard chance to cover-point and a difficult return catch when his figures were 39 and 85. Lancashire won by an innings and 143 runs.

31 May: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4124.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 June, page 11)

There was a large company at Lord's yesterday, in spite of the unsettled weather, when Yorkshire entered on the fourth of their engagements against the other eight counties which last year ranked as first-class. They had beaten Sussex, Lancashire and Nottinghamshire; but it should be noted that they succumbed to Leicester, one of the four counties recently advanced to first-class.

The visitors entered the field at 12.25 and Messrs Stoddart and Webbe proceeded to the wickets. Peel and Hirst were the early bowlers. The latter, however, gave way to Wainwright at 27, and for an additional single the Middlesex captain was bowled, he and Mr Stoddart having each scored half of the 28. Rawlin arrived and when 40 had been scored in 50 minutes rain stopped play for three hours.

Then three disasters quickly befell the home side. Without addition to the total Mr Stoddart was bowled and Mr Foley, who had taken his place, fell to the wicket-keeper, while the latter's fate soon overtook Rawlin and Mr Hayman. Five batsmen were now out for 55. Mr Lucas was joined by Mr Henery, who gave a somewhat difficult running chance to cover-point to Mounsey, but the fieldsman made up for this by catching him in the next over. Mr Lucas also had an escape at mid-on fielding very deep. However, he did not long survive, a good catch in the long field dismissing him at 75. Seven down. The last three wickets added 17 runs – Mr M'Gregor and Phillips were both leg before and Mr Westhorp was stumped. Total 92.

Yorkshire had a little less than half an hour's batting. Lord Hawke and Mr Jackson opposed the attacks of Hearne (pavilion) and Rawlin. A capital hit to the square-leg boundary by Mr Jackson was the principal item out of 15 runs, when Lord Hawke, who had given a hard chance to the wicket-keeper low down on the leg side, was well caught at slip. Brown assisted Mr Jackson to play out time . . .

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

The Middlesex and Yorkshire match at Lord's was concluded yesterday in the presence of a large and enthusiastic crowd. The position of the game on Thursday night pointed to an advantage for Yorkshire, who, having got Middlesex out for 92, had made 22 for the loss of Lord Hawke.

In three-quarters of an hour yesterday morning J T Hearne wrought a great change in the match, and such was the triumph of the ball that the fall of Yorkshire's seventh wicket saw the figures at only 38. Hearne, who had dismissed Mr Smith and Wainwright with successive balls, almost performed the "hat trick"; but a ball that completely beat Mounsey just escaped the wicket. Then Mounsey played a forcing game on the bad wicket. He and Peel added 42 for the eighth partnership; but the last two wickets went for a single.

Middlesex had an advantage of 11 runs with which to enter on their second spell of batting. Wainwright and Peel, however, got out the home men with great rapidity, and the match seemed lost when the ninth wicket went at 32. J T Hearne and Mr M'Gregor made a great effort to save the game; the amateur played splendidly and Hearne hit at everything. In their endeavour to urge on

the score several risky singles were secured, and it was one of these that at last brought the batsmen misfortune – both were found about the middle of the pitch and Mr M'Gregor was run out after the last wicket had put on 31.

Yorkshire wanted 75 to win, but Lord Hawke and Mr Smith were sent back before a run was scored. Then Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe played so well that Yorkshire again took command of the match, and 40 went up with only three men out. However, Tunnicliffe left a single later, while at 48 three wickets fell without any scoring. Again Middlesex had a good chance of winning, for 27 were yet wanted. Wainwright and Mounsey, however, obtained the rest of the runs, the time being extended to finish the game, and Yorkshire won by three wickets.

Some idea of the kind of bowler's day it was will be gleaned from the fact that the 26 wickets which fell yesterday averaged only a fraction over seven runs each.

31 May: SURREY v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105713.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 June, page 11)

Drenching showers and a hail storm rather severely tested the capacity of the Oval as a quick-drying ground; but the prospect of play yesterday, though for a long time unpromising, brightened about 4 o'clock and an hour later a start was made. This could not be effected, however, before a pitch, other than that originally prepared for the match, had been marked out. The ground even then was very soft, while the ball at one end frequently got up a good deal. Nor did the turf improve under the influence of the sun.

Thus there was some excuse for the poor display of the South Africans. Street and Brockwell were the bowlers to begin with, and the latter got Mr Routledge caught at point, and the former disposed of Mr Castens for only 11 runs. But the lobs of Mr Jephson, who went on for Brockwell at 25, had much to do with the ill-fortune of South Africa. In his third over he bowled Mr Sewell, while Mr Cripps soon played on and Mills was bowled.

Mr Cripps had so far played the best cricket of the side; his 18 had taken him three-quarters of an hour to put together and he made several fine drives. Neither Mr Davey nor Middleton gave much trouble, and with the latter's retirement Mr Jephson had taken four wickets for 15 runs. Mr Halliwell made one fine straight drive from Hayward, but the end was near, and just before half-past 6 the innings was over. Although the wicket was very bad the visitors ought to have done better, and the secret of some of their misfortunes seemed to be in their incapacity to play lob bowling. Mr Jephson came out with a fine analysis – viz., five for 18 in an innings which in an hour and a half yielded only 52 runs.

The visitors included in their side Messrs Davey and Glover, who had not played in any of the three previous matches. Mr Key captained a good Surrey team, although the full county eleven was not put in the field, Mr W W Read, Lockwood, Richardson, Smith, Abel and Maurice Read being away.

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

The eleven representing Surrey in this match on the Oval would seem to be more than sufficiently strong to test the capacity of the South Africans, at least on the slow and false wicket left by the rain. Indeed, at one time yesterday Surrey had the game so well in hand that with only two wickets to fall their opponents wanted nearly 100 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

But at the close of the day, when eight of the visitors' wickets had gone for 57, Messrs Castens and Glover made a splendid stand and kept up their wickets for the next 75 minutes, during which 76 runs were added. The unfavourable balance was thus reduced to 19, and at this stage stumps were drawn. The spectators grew quite enthusiastic over this piece of batting.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 June, page 11)

Saturday's cricket at the Oval in the last stage of this match was brief. On Friday evening the game had gone too far against the South Africans to be recovered without some remarkable feat, but a

little interest lingered in the play because of the stand made by Messrs Castens and Glover for the ninth wicket, and then there was the question as to the ability of the visitors to save the innings defeat.

But the partnership of the African captain and Mr Glover soon ended, only a dozen more runs being added to the 76 which the batsmen had already put on, while the innings did not realized a sufficient number to cause Surrey to go in again. Mr Castens was caught at wicket, after a stay of two hours, for a well-played 53, in which were two fours, four threes and eight twos, while Mr Glover was last out, taken at long-on for 41, in which were two fours, two threes and four twos. Street had a very good bowling analysis – namely, seven wickets for 40 runs. Surrey won by an innings and six runs.

To-day, the South Africans play Marylebone, at Lord's, the match being limited to two days.

Friday 1 June, page 11: GENTLEMEN OF THE SOUTH v PLAYERS OF THE SOUTH

This contest has been arranged to be played at Lord's on September 17, 18 and 19, and will be a match for the benefit of G F Hearne, who has been engaged for many years in the pavilion at Lord's.

M.C.C. AND GROUND v SOUTH AFRICA. – For this two-days' match, which begins on Monday next, at Lord's, the following will represent the M.C.C.: - Dr W G Grace, Dr G Thornton, Captain A H Luard, Mr F H Bohlen, Mr G A Gibbs, Mr C Heseltine, Mr T C O'Brien, Mr J S Russel, Mr H Philipson, J T Hearne and Mead.

The three county matches decided yesterday leave the results of the tournament as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	4	4	0	0	4
Surrey	3	3	0	0	3
Kent	1	1	0	0	1
Middlesex	4	2	2	0	0
Somerset	2	1	1	0	0
Gloucestershire	4	2	2	0	0
Lancashire	3	1	2	0	-1
Nottinghamshire	3	0	3	0	-3
Sussex	4	0	4	0	-4

4 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4125.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

Rain fell heavily at Trent-bridge ground, Nottingham, yesterday, and this match was postponed until to-day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 11)

At Trent-bridge yesterday no cricket was possible owing to the wet weather, and the start was deferred until this morning.

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

Yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, was made remarkable by the bowling of the veteran Alfred Shaw. The match had been delayed two whole days through rain, and it lost some of its interest by the probability of there only being a drawn game on the third. And such was the result.

Sussex took first innings and, after losing two men for nine runs, Mr Arlington and Mr Newham made a stand, adding 49 for the third wicket. Mr Arlington played very good cricket before returning the ball at 76. Up to luncheon Sussex in a couple of hours had made 112 for five wickets. Subsequently the innings was finished off in three-quarters of an hour for 29 more runs. Attewell and Hardstaff both bowled effectively.

When Notts went in Messrs Dixon and Howitt batted well; but most of the others could do little with Shaw. Parris, however, got Attewell and Flowers out in his first over, but seven of the other eight wickets went to Shaw, whose analysis was seven for 34. With the end of the Notts batting play ceased and the match was left drawn. Sussex had a lead of 52 on the innings.

4 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4126.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

The rain at Oxford yesterday morning having completely saturated the turf in the Parks, it was decided at 2.309 to postpone the start of this match until to-day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 11)

After wholly preventing cricket on Monday at Ox the weather yesterday limited play to between three and four hours, during which Lancashire, on a wicket kept easy for a while by the showers, ran up the very good score of 195.

At one period of the day the innings promised to reach a much greater total, for Albert Ward and Mr A C M'Laren put together 113 runs for the first wicket in an hour and 35 minutes. Both men played excellently and both were out at the same score, Mr M'Laren being bowled and Ward caught in the long-field. Mr M'Laren hit seven fours, two threes and five twos. Ward made a bad stroke in the slips when his figures were 19, but otherwise his play was faultless. Five of the team were out for 123, while after luncheon the Lancastrians were rapidly dismissed, although Baker and Mr Benton did fairly well.

Mr Bardswell's bowling was a feature of the cricket, which attracted a good muster of spectators to the Parks. Oxford went in for a little while . . .

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

The Oxford team yesterday were opposed to Briggs's bowling on a soft wicket, and the result, as might almost have been foreseen, was disastrous for the Dark Blues. After Lancashire's good score on Tuesday Oxford certainly had a formidable task before them to avoid defeat; but yesterday, although the failures of batsmen greatly preponderated, there was one very fine piece of cricket by Mr R C N Palairet in the second innings, and this and Briggs's bowling analyses furnished the features of the day's play.

Oxford had just started their innings on Tuesday night, and yesterday Messrs Palairet and Bathurst raised the score to 31 for the first wicket. The subsequent triumphs with the ball were remarkable. The defence was cautious; Mr H K Foster made the longest stay and, going in first wicket down at 31, took out his bat for 11, the result of an hour and ten minutes' play. Oxford in an hour and three-quarters added altogether 47 runs to the overnight score.

Following on with arrears of 134, the Dark Blues fared ill, in spite of Mr Palairet. While his side were being steadily got out the last-named threw great brilliancy into his batting, making 70 out of 94 in a little over an hour, and hitting eight fours, three threes and six twos. Mr H Leveson-Gower played well, but when there seemed a probability that Oxford would save the innings defeat the batting collapsed. Seven wickets were down for 129, and then Briggs got Mr H Leveson-Gower caught at long-off, Mr Raikes at point and Mr Forbes at cover-point, and the last man was out at 133. Thus Lancashire won by an innings and one run. Briggs took 12 wickets in the match for 61

runs.

4 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4127.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

After a dull and rainy morning, a pleasant afternoon's cricket was enjoyed by yesterday's visitors to the Oval, play lasting until 7, the usual hour for drawing of stumps on the Oval and Lord's in June and July. The extremely soft wicket led, as might have been expected, to small scores.

On the day, however, Surrey secured an advantage, and for this they were indebted to some fine bowling by Richardson and to a capital stand for their first wicket by Abel and Hayward. Cambridge seem this year to be even worse off for bowlers than Oxford, but yesterday Mr F Mitchell met with marked success, for five of the Sussex wickets fell to his medium-pace right-hand bowling. One of the best points of the cricket was the excellent Cambridge fielding. It will be noted that, while Surrey have almost their strongest eleven, Cambridge are without the services of Mr J Douglas.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 11)

The Cambridge eleven felt the disadvantage of batting on the soft wicket much more than Surrey, because of the latter's great strength of attack, and yesterday afternoon at the Oval the Light Blues had to submit to a very substantial defeat. Nothing occurred to disturb the impressions of Monday as to the weakness of the Cambridge bowling, which was treated on the second morning of the game in a very free manner by the last few Surrey batsmen.

On Monday night the county had already secured a lead of 38 with three wickets in hand. In an hour and a half these three wickets added 110 runs, while the innings lasted altogether three hours and three-quarters for 222. Smith (who was not out with Brockwell, when the game was resumed) stayed while 42 runs were put on, but it was the last wicket that gave most trouble, Brockwell and Marshall obtaining 75 in three-quarters of an hour. Brockwell took out his bat for 51, a vigorous innings, included in which were a five, five fours and five twos. Mr Mitchell had bowled by far the best, and his five wickets averaged only 11 runs each in a long innings.

The spectators were again to be disappointed by the Cambridge batting. With two exceptions the side played Lockwood and Richardson very badly and were out in two hours for 85, an improvement of 11 on the first innings. Mr Mitchell played carefully for an hour, making 25; but Mr Perkins threw more spirit into the game with 30 out of 49 put on while he was in, and he gained his runs by thoroughly good batting. Lockwood had been the most successful bowler in the second innings; but Richardson's double analysis showed the fine record of 12 wickets for 59 runs. From the score given below it will be seen that Surrey won by an innings and 63 runs.

4 June: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4128.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

Warwickshire were unable to begin their match with Leicestershire, at Birmingham, yesterday owing to the heavy rains.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 11)

The heavy rain at Birmingham yesterday made cricket impracticable, and the start was postponed until to-day.

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

After the wet weather of the past few days it was found advisable at Birmingham yesterday to give up this game without any play whatever.

4 June: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4129.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

The bad weather prevented any play in this match at Bradford yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 11)

Bad weather yesterday again prevented any play in this game at Bradford.

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

The rains had so affected the wicket at Park-avenue, Bradford, that yesterday it was decided to abandon this match, in which not a ball was bowled on any of the three days fixed for play.

4 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105714.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

The ill-fortune which has pursued the South Africans in the matter of weather still persistently clings to them. Their matches in May were all more or less spoiled by the cold winds or the heavy wickets, and now their latest fixture with Marylebone, limited to two days because of the Derby, has had its start deferred in consequence of the heavy rains of yesterday morning. The turf at Lord's was reduced to such a condition that, although the weather became quite fine, no cricket could be played. It is hoped that a beginning will be practicable at 11 o'clock to-day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 11)

The first victory of the South African team has been gained in a quarter least expected. Those who had already seen them play on soft and false wickets little thought of their success at Lord's over a fairly good side of Marylebone, made strong by the presence in it of such cricketers as Dr Grace, Mr O'Brien, Mr Philipson, Chatterton and Mead. But there were many failures in the club eleven, and last night just before a quarter past 7, the colonials won by 11 runs.

It was a long day's cricket, for after a blank Monday the sides made an early start – i.e., at 11.15 – and for once there were no delays on account of weather. The match was played out on a bowler's wicket from beginning to end and had a most exciting finish. There was no lack of variety in the changes which the game underwent, but the most striking of them occurred in the last half-hour, during which the colonists, playing up with wonderful courage, transformed what appeared to be certain defeat into a victory. At 20 minutes to 7 the M.C.C. with seven men to lose wanted only 21 runs to win, but these seven men grew nervous amid all the keenness and excellence of the fielding side, and actually only nine runs came from the last seven wickets.

Good points in the day's play were numerous. Perhaps the greatest credit belonged to Dr W G Grace, who, in addition to making 47 and 10 by fine batting, took 12 wickets for 93 runs. He bowled with all his old skill, and more than one batsman fell into the trap of hitting the tempting ball that came up on the leg side; the catch which got Mr Seccull out in the first innings was dextrously made by Chatterton at deep square leg. Dr Grace's 47 occupied 75 minutes and included six fours and seven twos.

Frank Hearne, for the visitors, made the highest score of the match, going in second wicket down at seven and remaining until 120, when he was stumped. The early part of his innings was vigorous, but later on it grew very careful. Among his figures were three fours, three threes and seven twos.

Dr Grace had won the toss and put the South Africans in, and they were not out until half-past 1, their score being 126 as the result of two and a quarter hours' play. Marylebone did well to begin with, but the last five wickets added only 19 runs, and they were left in a minority of 23. In the second spell of batting by the South Africans Dr Grace and Mead got the whole ten wickets down in an hour for 60 runs, and left the M.C.C. with 84 to make to win with an hour to play.

And then came the cricket of the day. Dr Grace and Mr Philipson began well and 32 were made before Dr Grace left, while the subsequent play of Mr Heseltine and Mr Philipson left only 21 to be

scored in the last 20 minutes with seven wickets to fall. But the colonists fielded and bowled splendidly and, with time extended beyond 7 to finish, got these seven wickets in half an hour for nine runs. Three wickets fell at 68 and three more at 71, and these disasters culminated in the defeat of Marylebone by 11 runs. In the double innings Middleton took 12 wickets for 83 runs and Mr Rowe (who was not put on until 80 in the first innings) seven for 47.

In this extraordinary day's play attention should be drawn to the brilliant wicket-keeping of Messrs Philipson and Halliwell. The visitors were warmly cheered by the spectators.

Wednesday 6 June, page 11: The death is announced of James Ricketts, a cricketer who made his mark for Lancashire years ago, in 1867, by scoring 195 on the Oval against Surrey. [Note: his first-class debut.] The figures in the match were heavy and the result was a draw. Ricketts was born in February, 1843.

7 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4130.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

So far as this game (12 a side) has progressed at Cambridge there seems a prospect of a better fight than resulted from the first meeting of these teams on the Oval at the beginning of the week. The wicket was almost as slow as in the first match; but Mr P H Latham, the Cambridge captain, on winning the toss, decided to run no risks and took first innings.

The start was unsatisfactory, for Messrs Douglas, Mitchell and Field were out for 20 runs. The affairs of the side improved, however, in the hands of Messrs de Brunton, Latham and Druce. The last-named went in sixth wicket down at 73 and took out his bat for 56, the result of excellent cricket for 80 minutes, during which time he made nine fours, two threes and a two. The total of the innings was 148.

Surrey went in at ten minutes past 4. Lockwood was soon out; but Hayward and Maurice Read did well. However, the match was again reduced to evenness by Mr Gray getting three wickets in four balls, Street, Mr W W Read and Brockwell being the men to go. Six wickets were down for 77; but subsequently Mr Key and Maurice Read made a stand and Surrey finished up only two runs behind with four wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 15)

For the second time within a week Surrey has severely beaten Cambridge. After Thursday's play a good fight had been hoped for; but yesterday the Cambridge men showed no capacity for playing the bowling of Richardson and Lockwood. The wicket, although drier, certainly still helped the bowlers and bumped a good deal after luncheon. Surrey's four outstanding wickets produced 74 in an hour and a quarter. Mr Key's excellent 41 included five fours, two threes and four twos. Marshall, Richardson and Mr Jephson all met with success.

When Cambridge, who were 72 behind, went in again, Mr Douglas did well, but in three-quarters of an hour four men were got out for 45 runs. The shower extended the luncheon interval, and afterwards the batting collapsed. Richardson bowled with great effect, the analysis of his last 12 overs being 12 runs and seven wickets; while in the match he took 12 wickets for 108. Surrey wanted only 26 to win, and they secured the victory by eleven wickets.

7 June: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4131.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

The action of Mr S M Crosfield, the Lancashire captain, who won the toss at Liverpool yesterday, in putting his opponents in first proved very disastrous to the home county. Any hope of the wicket recovering from its condition, made false by the rains of the early part of the week, was dispelled by the sunshine at the Aigburth ground, and the pitch, instead of getting better, grew more difficult every hour.

The result of the day's play was that Middlesex ran up a very respectable score, while Lancashire fared so badly as to find themselves at the close fighting a severe uphill game. Middlesex began excellently. Mr Webbe, the captain, played brilliantly, and, although Mr Stoddart was not so certain in his stroke as usual, the first wicket in 35 minutes yielded 56 runs, while at luncheon time the record was three for 121. Mr Webbe, who was third out at 78 for 44, hit seven fours.

Messrs Foley and Lucas raised the score from 80 to 121 for the fourth wicket, and another good partnership was that of Mr Hayman and Mr M'Gregor, who put on 32. After luncheon, however, the last seven wickets went for 85, Mr Hayman taking out his bat for an admirable 34. Mold had bowled effectively and his six wickets averaged a dozen runs each.

Lancashire started successfully, Ward and Mr M'Laren making 41 for the first wicket. Signalling also met with success, and shortly before 6 o'clock the score board showed 70 for one wicket. But in the next 40 minutes the Middlesex men bowled and fielded so well that six more of the home side were got out for an additional 15 runs, and at the close Lancashire, with three wickets to fall, wanted 42 to avert the follow on.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 15)

The game fluctuated strangely at the Aigburth ground, Liverpool, yesterday, and, finally, at the drawing of stumps, left the advantage rather with Lancashire. Thursday had seen Middlesex secure a substantial lead, for, profiting by an unsuccessful experiment of Mr Crosfield in putting them in first, they played an innings of 206 and then got seven of their opponents out for 85.

In half an hour yesterday morning Lancashire's last three men were disposed of for 14 runs, and the county were compelled to follow on, the arrears reaching the large proportion of 107. The Lancastrians' second innings was far more successful, at least in its earlier stages. Albert Ward and Mr M'Laren scored 36 for the first wicket in 35 minutes, while Sugg and Ward in the next 70 minutes added 77. The deficit was actually cleared off with the score showing only one man out. However, at 113, Sugg was dismissed for a splendid 46 and Ward left at 123. The latter batted two hours for his runs.

Briggs and Baker both played admirably and, as their partnership progressed, the prospect of a big score became bright. However, with an increase of 54 in 40 minutes recorded, the fourth wicket fell. Then the game underwent a change and the last six batsmen added only 49 runs, the innings, of three hours and a half's duration, yielding 226.

Middlesex, who wanted 120 to win, had a disastrous hour at the end. Mold bowled with wonderful effect and five times struck the wicket; he clean bowled both Mr Stoddart and Mr Webbe. In his first ten overs he took four wickets for six runs. Five of the side went for 38, but a slight improvement was then shown in the batting and, at the drawing of stumps, Middlesex wanted 67 to win, with five wickets to fall.

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

The Middlesex eleven managed to win their match at the Aigburth Ground, at Liverpool, on Saturday, after a game made remarkable by its fluctuations and an exciting finish. Friday night had left the position of the visitors rather desperate, for Mold had bowled with such effect on the bad wicket that five of the best batsmen (including Mr Stoddart and Mr Webbe) had been lost and 67 runs were still wanted of the 120 Middlesex had to win.

Fortune was unkind to Lancashire on Saturday, for the heavy rain made the wicket easier than it had been, and it was a disadvantage to bowlers and field alike. It was ten minutes past 12 when Rawlin and Mr M'Gregor, who had already added 15, continued the innings to the bowling of Briggs and Mold. The batsmen forced the game, but Mr M'Gregor's figures were only 12 when he skied the ball to mid-off and Briggs missed an easy catch. Lancashire paid dearly for this mistake. Mr M'Gregor played with more vigour than ever, and Baker and Mr Crosfield eventually took up the bowling. The latter was effective in his first over, as he dismissed Rawlin for a capital 23. Mr M'Gregor and Rawlin had become partners when five men were out for 38, and so successful was their stay of 55 minutes that 55 runs were added.

With four wickets to fall and 27 runs to win Mr Henery arrived. He stayed five overs, during which 15 runs were obtained, and then both he and Mr M'Gregor were dismissed, and it was again anybody's game. Mr M'Gregor played wonderfully well on the bad wicket. West made three and four, and Phillips a single, and with these eight runs added the ninth wicket went, West being caught at third man. Four runs were necessary to win when Hearne, the last man, arrived. Phillips scored a single, and then Hearne made a fine square-leg hit over the boundary. The ball passed dangerously close to Tinsley, and it was well for Middlesex that Hearne hit it so well as he did. Middlesex thus won by one wicket amid great excitement. Mold took 13 wickets in the match at a cost of 114 runs.

7 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4132.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

The first of the season's matches between the Marylebone Club and Oxford University opened yesterday in the Parks at Oxford in better weather than was experienced in the early part of the week. Marylebone took down a pretty good side, and with the probability of a slow and difficult wicket the attack was very strong. Each team mustered 12 men, but only 11 fielded. Several of the players who appeared against Cambridge at Lord's last year were engaged in the schools, and Mr Fry completed his 12 with Messrs Barlow, Rice, Arkwright and Lewis.

Marylebone had first innings, which lasted two hours and 40 minutes. Mr Hewett and Mr Bohlen were the most successful of the batsmen, but the defence generally furnished nothing very striking. Mr Hewett and Captain Quinton, and Mr Bohlen and Davidson, made 29 and 44 respectively for the second and seventh partnerships, which were the best of the innings. Mr Bardswell met with considerable success as a bowler.

Oxford fared badly against Hearne, Martin and Davidson; Mr Rice alone seemed able to do anything with the attack. He played with great care and took an hour and three-quarters to score his 29. Two hours and a half were occupied by Oxford in obtaining 78, and at the close they were 62 behind with a wicket to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 15)

There were some interesting points in yesterday's cricket at Oxford, although in the end the University team were decisively beaten. On Thursday evening, Marylebone, having made 140, had dismissed ten of their rivals for 78. The University completed their innings for three more runs, which left the M.C.C. 50 to the good.

In their second innings Marylebone did very well, a large proportion of the credit for their capital score belonging to A Hearne, who, going in first, was not out until 186 after a stay of two hours and 40 minutes. His 78 was an excellent specimen of sound cricket; the chief hits were eight fours, two threes and ten twos. Mr Warner played in good form, while Davidson helped Hearne to obtain 63 for the fourth wicket. Mr Bardswell bowled pretty well for Oxford, but Mr Raikes's three wickets were very cheap.

Marylebone were all out for 193, and Oxford went in with 253 to make to win. With the wicket still helping the bowlers their prospect of success was small, and finally they were beaten by 109 runs. Mr Mordaunt scored 40 out of the 72 made between the second and seventh wickets. Martin in the double innings secured eight wickets for 48 runs.

7 June: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4133.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

It was quite natural that the wicket on the ground at Dewsbury yesterday should favour the bowlers after all the rain of Monday and Tuesday in this part of the country, and small scores were to be expected. As was often the case last season, some of the Yorkshire batsmen who were late on the "order" were invaluable to the side by transforming a probable meagre total into one of respectability.

Going in first, the home eleven began well enough, and a vigorous 18 by Lord Hawke and a capital 22 by Mr F S Jackson went far to raising the score to 50 in an hour at the cost of two wickets. But then came a change, and without any increase in the figures four men were out – Mr Sellers, Mr Jackson, Brown and Peel. At 57 Wainwright left, so that with seven wickets down Yorkshire's prospect was not particularly bright. The remaining batsmen did so well, however, that no fewer than 76 were added. Mounsey and Moorhouse put on 20 for the eighth partnership; after luncheon Hirst (who hit four fours) and Moorhouse added 39 for the ninth, and Moorhouse and Hunter 17 for the last. Shaw bowled throughout the Yorkshire innings and secured an excellent analysis.

The visitors showed such feeble form against Peel and Wainwright, who took every advantage of the false turf, that they were all out for 55 in 80 minutes, the follow-on being just avoided. Bean made double figures and Mr Newham was in 40 minutes for nine. Wainwright had a remarkable analysis.

The last hour of the day saw Yorkshire gain a substantial advantage, for after three wickets (including those of Mr Jackson and Lord Hawke) had gone for 15, the score was raised to 57 for four, and stumps were drawn with Yorkshire 135 ahead and still six batsmen to go in. The weather kept fine and there was a large attendance.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 15)

Yorkshire's victorious career in their first-class matches continues and, with their easy success over Sussex at Dewsbury yesterday, they secured the fifth consecutive win. Thursday's play furnished a pretty fair indication of what would probably happen and, with the wicket still favourable to the attack, yesterday's cricket more than confirmed expectations, while the play itself was rendered remarkable by a wonderful piece of bowling by Wainwright.

At the resumption yesterday Yorkshire, with six wickets to fall in the second innings, were 135 runs ahead, no mean advantage on a false pitch. The remaining batsmen studied the bowling with every care, and more than two hours were consumed by the balance of the innings. Eighty-two runs were added, and Sussex were left to obtain 218 to win. Mr Sellers, the overnight not-out, played excellently and was sixth to leave at 81, after a stay of 80 minutes for 41. Subsequently Mounsey and Wainwright put on 36 for the seventh partnership; the former's 21 in an hour and a quarter was invaluable. Alfred Shaw had again bowled well but Lowe had the best analysis.

Sussex began the last innings of the match after luncheon, and Mr Arlington and Bean started brightly enough by scoring 26 for the first wicket. This presaged nothing like the disasters which

befell the visitors. Such was the breakdown in the batting that in an hour and a quarter the whole side was out for 51. There had been a 20 minutes' delay owing to the bad light.

Wainwright's bowling was remarkable; the last five wickets were taken by him in seven balls. He performed the "hat trick" by getting out Guttridge, Killick and Butt, while in his next over he dismissed Parris and Shaw. His full analysis was seven for 20, while in the double innings he took 13 wickets for 38 runs. He bowled unchanged in both innings. Yorkshire won by 166 runs.

Saturday 9 June, page 15: Mr Latham has given Mr W G Druce and Mr F Mitchell their "Blues" for the match with Oxford, at Lord's.

The positions of the leading nine counties are now as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	5	5	0	0	5
Surrey	3	3	0	0	3
Kent	1	1	0	0	1
Middlesex	5	3	2	0	1
Somerset	2	1	1	0	0
Gloucestershire	4	2	2	0	0
Lancashire	4	1	3	0	-2
Nottinghamshire	4	0	3	1	-3
Sussex	6	0	5	1	-5

11 June: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4134.html)

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

Remarkable bowling records were the characteristic of the cricket at Derby yesterday, when such was the progress of the match that three completed innings were played for an aggregate of 171 runs.

Lancashire, who put a good side in the field, were batting only an hour and a quarter to begin with. But against Mold and Briggs Derbyshire for a long time did no better. After seven wickets had fallen, however, Hulme made some vigorous drives and the home team were able to lead on the first innings by 24 runs.

In their second innings Lancashire seemed likely to do very well. This was during the partnership of Sugg and Ward; but when 30 were added Mr Walker was tried in lieu of Hulme – the first bowling change in the match – and so successful was this variation that Lancashire were all out for 77, leaving Derbyshire with 54 to make to win in the last innings to-day. The bowling figures speak for themselves.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

After a match full of remarkable bowling Derbyshire beat Lancashire at Derby yesterday. The home county were left with 54 to make for victory in the last innings. Vigorous batting by Mr Evershed laid the foundation of the task, which was not finished until five men had succumbed to the splendid bowling of Mold and Briggs. Derbyshire, therefore, won by five wickets.

The county ground has undergone considerable improvement by the making of a fine new entrance in the Nottingham-road and by the addition of a scoring board similar to those at Lord's and the Oval. The board was presented to the club by the past president, Mr G H Strutt.

11 June: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4135.html)

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

The Kent executive, in arranging for a match at Canterbury on a date other than during the time-honoured festival in August, had a double object in view. In the first place, the original idea was to make amends to Canterbury for any weakness in the beginning of the Week, and, secondly, the Royal Counties Agricultural Show days were thought opportune for a county game.

Both sides were pretty strong, although there were some notable absentees from each, more particularly from Somerset, who out of three fine wicket-keepers (Mr Newton, Rev A P Wickham and Mr Gay) possessed by them could not command the services of even one. So the difficult duties were filled yesterday at different times by Mr L C H Palairet, Mr Woods and Mr Bartlett. The weather was not very favourable for the game; the wind blew keenly from the north-west and there were a few showers.

Taking first innings, Kent did excellently for a long while, and with three men out and 125 runs on the board a big total seemed likely to be made. Mr Woods, however, bowled with such fine effect that the other seven wickets were got down for an additional 63. The innings lasted three hours and a quarter. Mr Woods had taken eight wickets at an average of a little over 12 runs each. The best partnerships had been those of Mr Wilson with A Hearne and Mr Weigall, which yielded 55 and 46. Mr Wilson, who was seventh out at 176, played excellently and hit seven fours, five threes and five twos.

Somerset lost four men in 30 minutes for 32; but Mr Palairet, by fine cricket, rescued his side, to a great extent, from the bad position, and he was greatly aided by Mr Hill.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

Somerset gained an excellent victory at Canterbury yesterday over the Kent eleven after a thoroughly interesting game. Two features in the visitors' cricket stood out very conspicuously as being the leading causes of their success. These were the splendid batting of Mr L C H Palairet, the old Oxford captain, and the fine bowling of Mr S M J Woods, the old Cambridge captain.

When the game was continued yesterday morning Somerset, who had lost five wickets for 102, finished their innings in an hour for 159, a stand for 35 by Tyler and Nichols checking the bowling of Walter Hearne. Martin, owing to a sprain, was absent from the field, and his loss was very severely felt by the home side. Walter Hearne had a fine analysis. Mr Palairet's 60 included eight fours, two threes and five twos.

Apart from a bright 39 by Mr Marchant the Kent batting was very feeble in the second innings and Somerset were left with 151 to get for victory. After three wickets had fallen for ten runs Mr Palairet batted brilliantly and was ably assisted by Mr Spurway and Mr Hill. Somerset won by three wickets. Mr Palairet's 61 included seven fours, four threes and four twos.

11 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4136.html)

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

Bad weather curtailed the hours of cricket at Lord's yesterday to such an extent that the game was in progress only about 80 minutes. The wicket was soft and difficult, and Notts, taking the first innings, could make but little headway against the bowling of J T Hearne and Rawlin.

Mr Dixon endeavoured to force the play and scored 13 out of the 19 recorded for the first wicket. Subsequently the dismissal of the batsmen reached almost a measured regularity, though Mr Wright occupied 50 minutes in making 12. Four men were out for 26, and when rain finally put a stop to the game before luncheon eight wickets were down for 53. The decision to abandon the play for the day was arrived at about half-past 4.

Middlesex are without the services of Mr M'Gregor, but include on their side Messrs J Douglas and T C O'Brien. Gunn is again absent from the Notts eleven, in which Pike and Hardstaff are making their first appearance at Lord's for the county.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

There was every reason for the general feebleness of the batting at Lord's yesterday, owing to the soft and false wicket. But amid the series of bowling triumphs one performance stood out prominently – the beautiful innings of Mr J Douglas (Middlesex), who met the difficult attack for 80 minutes with so much success that he remained not out for 36, a faultless and a big score as the day's game went.

The pitch was so wet yesterday morning that it was considered advisable to defer the renewal of the match, in which Notts had lost eight men for 53, until ten minutes to 1. The visitors' outstanding wickets quickly fell for an additional eight runs.

Middlesex did slightly better than their rivals. Mr Douglas came in when three men were out for 10 and saw the rest of the side dismissed for 66 more runs. After six were down for 23 Phillips stayed while 18 were put on, and Middlesex were batting an hour and a half for their 76. Mr Dixon made four good catches, especially one by which he got out Mr Henery, when he took the ball running sideways in the long field.

Nottinghamshire's second innings was slow; it lasted nearly two hours and a quarter and yielded 61 runs, 22 of which were credited to Barnes, who, however, was rather fortunate. Hearne in the match took 12 wickets for 53 runs. Middlesex are to-day left with 47 to make to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 June, page 6)

The ill-fortune that has pursued the Nottinghamshire eleven in the cricket fields this season shows no sign of deserting them, and yesterday they lost their fourth match in the championship, which gives them almost as poor a position as Sussex, who are ninth in the table of results.

From first to last the wicket for the game at Lord's was false, and yesterday Middlesex had no little trouble in securing the 47 necessary to win. Hardstaff and William Attewell bowled very well. Mr Webbe was caught at third man after making the first four runs of the day, but Messrs O'Brien and Stoddart had a brief and fairly profitable partnerships, during the ten minutes of which 19 runs were added. Then at 23 Mr O'Brien was bowled, and Mr Douglas, failing to repeat his excellent performance of the previous day, fell to a good piece of stumping.

Mr Stoddart batted carefully and was not out until the match was virtually won; Attewell bowled him at 45. His 24 was an invaluable innings. Five wickets had been lost when Mr Henery, with a drive for two, won the match for Middlesex.

11 June: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4137.html)

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

The return match between these counties should have begun yesterday at Birmingham, but owing to rain the start was deferred until to-day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

At Birmingham yesterday the wicket was slow and difficult and, with few exceptions, the bowlers had matters all their own way. Essex began fairly well; but Pallett and Shilton were kept on unchanged, and when once the first partnership was severed the dismissal of the side was rapid.

Mr H W Bainbridge, the Warwickshire captain, illustrated in a marked manner the excellent cricket he is playing this year, and his 42 enabled the home side to claim a lead of 36 on the innings. Mr Kortright, of Essex, was put on rather late to bowl, but he obtained four wickets for five runs in six overs, and his final figures were five for 12.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 June, page 6)

Warwickshire gained another victory yesterday, beating Essex on this occasion by nine wickets. The pitch at the County Ground, Edgbaston, Birmingham, continued to favour the bowlers, and Essex found the greatest difficulty in getting runs. The play was slow and cautious, and the visitors, who had made five in the second innings overnight for one wicket, took from 11.35 to 1.40 to complete the venture for 64.

Four of the side were out before the arrears of 36 were hit off, and it was only the careful cricket of Mr Hailey and Mr Owen that prevented a worse score than was actually recorded. Warwickshire easily obtained the 29 necessary for victory. In the double innings Pallett obtained 11 wickets for 69 runs.

Warwickshire have played six first-class matches this season; four of these have been won, while the other two have been left drawn much in their favour.

11 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4138.html)

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

The fact that neither of these counties has lost a match that could affect their position in the championship, together with the fine cricket hitherto shown by the sides, increased the interest in the meeting at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday to a wonderful extent. This was borne out by the large crowd which gathered to see the first day's play; 16,816 paid for admission and the full numbers of the spectators could not have been short of 18,000.

Each county played a strong side, and all that was necessary to make the match a success in every way was a good hard wicket. This was not only denied the cricketers, but the pitch was really ruined by Sunday's rain; from the beginning of the day it was false and each hour it seemed to get worse. So the bowlers had a large share of the day's honours.

Mr Key, for the first time since he became captain of the Surrey Eleven, won the toss, and at a time when this success was of the utmost value, some proof of which may be gleaned from the way the game went. Peel and Wainwright bowled well; but Lockwood and Richardson were almost unplayable, the ball breaking back and rising in a way that puzzled the most courageous and skilful of cricketers.

Lockwood and Abel made a very bright beginning to Surrey's innings, but with the dismissal of Abel at 30 a course of disasters set in, and when the fifth wicket fell the figures were only 59. Lockwood, who was in an hour and a half for 31, had been the fourth to go in; he played capital cricket but should have been caught by Lord Hawke when only six. Mr Key and Mr Walter Read for the sixth partnership played so well as to give to the game a different aspect, and before they were separated 46 were added. Mr Read's 38 was certainly the best innings of the day; he was in an hour and 40 minutes and was seventh out at 126. The other three wickets soon went and the innings ended for 143. Wainwright bowled very well, and he often beat the batsman without striking the wicket, so that his analysis deserved to be even better.

With only two hours left for play it was not expected that Yorkshire would complete their innings last night. But such was the nature of the collapse that eight wickets fell for 33 runs. The follow-on seemed almost inevitable. But Peel (profiting by an escape at the hands of Smith), Hirst and Hunter batted with plenty of courage at a critical time, and when the innings closed Yorkshire had just escaped having to play the next innings. Surrey hold a lead of 79 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

The advantage of 79 gained by Surrey on the first innings proved invaluable, for yesterday the difference between the totals was small. Surrey, however, triumphed over their opponents by 88 runs, which represents a pretty substantial victory on a wicket that was false from beginning to end. Indeed, the pitch at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, made the skilled bowling possessed by these two elevens almost unplayable. Yorkshire have now met with their first important reverse this season.

Lockwood and Abel yesterday began well. But the partnership of 36 in 40 minutes was only the prelude to something like a collapse. Wainwright, who had gone on after Abel had been missed,

bowled out Abel, got Lockwood leg-before and then bowled the two Reads, neither of whom scored. Four for 45. Hayward failed to profit much by an escape at the hands of Lord Hawke, and Brockwell was dismissed at 56. In this crisis Mr Key once more demonstrated his courage and skill, and he found a fairly good partner in Mr Jephson. The latter was out at 69 and, when Smith had been in a little time, Mr Key had the misfortune to be run out. The end then soon came, the innings, which lasted a little over two hours, yielding 88. Wainwright's bowling figures came out well, while his two analyses gave him a record of 12 wickets at a cost of nine runs each.

To get 168 against the Surrey bowlers was a pretty severe task for Yorkshire. Mr F S Jackson opened brilliantly and played the correct forcing game for such a wicket. Among his hits was a five to leg; but at 19 Lord Hawke left, and his dismissal was followed by disaster. Tunncliffe and Mr Sellers went, and at 40 Mr Jackson's capital game was stopped by his "playing on" to Richardson. Four for 40. The spectators seemed very pleased with the stand by Mounsey and Moorhouse for the fifth wicket; but at the end of half an hour, during which 30 runs were added, the collapse came and, while 70 went up with only four men out, the whole side were dismissed for 79 and Surrey won by 88 runs.

Richardson had again bowled splendidly and in the match he secured ten wickets for 70. Lockwood also contributed greatly to the success of his side.

11 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105715.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 12 June, page 10)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

Yesterday, at Leicester, the South Africans gained their second victory of their tour.

The present record of the nine counties is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	4	4	0	0	4
Yorkshire	6	5	1	0	4
Middlesex	5	3	2	0	1
Somerset	3	2	1	0	1
Kent	2	1	1	0	0
Gloucestershire	4	2	2	0	0
Lancashire	4	1	3	0	-2
Nottinghamshire	4	0	3	1	-3
Sussex	6	0	5	1	-5

14 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4139.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 7)

There was an interesting day's cricket at the county ground, Bristol, yesterday, in the opening of the match between these elevens. At one time, too, the game appeared likely to be particularly even; but in the last hour a brilliant stand by the old Oxonian, Mr V T Hill, and Mr Spurway left the advantage in the hands of Somerset.

Gloucestershire had gone in first on an improving wicket, and their innings extended from noon until just after 3 o'clock. Runs were not easily made against the Somerset bowlers and the score was small. Dr W G Grace going in first was fifth out, at 61, after an hour and a quarter for a fairly good innings. The longest stand was by Dr E M Grace and his nephew, Mr W G Grace, jun., who put on 39 for the sixth wicket. After luncheon Gloucestershire's last four men added only 23 runs.

Somerset began in a way that promised small difference between the innings; 48 for four wickets in an hour was recorded; but after the fifth wicket had gone for 82 came the splendid batting of Messrs Hill and Spurway, who added 93 in an hour. Somerset at the close were 52 ahead with half their wickets in hand. The weather was fine and a large company visited the ground.

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

Somerset played a winning game all day yesterday at Ashley-down, Bristol, and last night had approached so near victory that it was general thought the game would be finished. However, although the company dissented from the course taken in drawing stumps with only seven runs wanted, the match was adjourned until this morning.

Already on Thursday evening had Somerset secured a substantial advantage, for they were 52 ahead with five wickets to fall. Messrs Spurway and V T Hill, who had made the stand for the sixth wicket, were separated after adding altogether 100. Mr Hill took an hour and a half to score his 58, in which were seven fours, two threes and seven twos. Mr Spurway carried his bat for a splendid innings of 108, played without giving a real chance in four hours; his chief hits were nine fours, thirteen threes and seven twos.

Gloucestershire, who were 130 behind, went in a second time at 1 o'clock. Dr W G Grace was quickly out, while after Messrs Ferris and Kitcat had put on 40 the fourth wicket fell at 60. Dr E M Grace and Mr Ferris batted very successfully and enabled Gloucestershire to make a much better fight. Mr Ferris stayed an hour and three-quarters for his runs, being fifth out; his chief figures were four fours, three threes and seven twos. Dr E M Grace was in an hour and a half for 41.

Eventually Somerset were left with 82 to get for victory. Seventy-five of these had been obtained in an hour for three wickets, when stumps were drawn.

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

Somerset gained their second victory of the week at Bristol on Saturday, when they decisively beat

the Gloucestershire eleven by six wickets. The match was a foregone conclusion on Friday evening, for Somerset had seven wickets in hand and wanted only seven runs to win.

The full number was secured at the cost of another batsman. Mr Spurway's fine innings and the bowling of Mr Woods and Tyler were the chief sources from which this Somerset success came.

14 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4140.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 7)

The friends of Surrey will feel pretty confident of success after the first stage of the match at Manchester, yesterday, when the southern eleven managed to head the Lancashire score by 67 with five wickets to fall. Surrey played the same side as beat Yorkshire at the beginning of the week.

The choice of first innings on a pretty good wicket ought to have been an advantage to Lancashire; but once again Richardson's fine bowling triumphed, and he was well backed up by the new bowler F Smith. Lancashire never gave the impression of making a good score, and two hours and a quarter sufficed for their dismissal for 120. Richardson bowled out Albert Ward and, after a vigorous 21 by Sugg, he sent down that batsman's off stump with a "break back." Mr MacLaren played fairly well, as also did Baker and Tinsley.

Surrey went in at half-past 3, and in three hours ran up 187 for the loss of five wickets. Mr Key's idea of putting in Lockwood first has of late proved very profitable. Both he and Abel played attractive cricket and the opening partnership yielded 66 in an hour. Abel, whose leg stump was bowled down, had a successor in Hayward, but Briggs, resuming, quickly wrought a change in the game, and the cheap dismissal of Hayward and the two Reads made four men out for 98. Brockwell and Lockwood raised the score to 124, and then the latter's fine innings was closed by a good catch low down at extra slip. Lockwood scored his 57 in two hours and a quarter, and hit five fours, four threes and six twos. Mr Key followed and showed fine form.

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

Surrey's advantage on the first innings in this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, did not reach the proportions which the state of the game on Thursday evening led people to expect. The outstanding five wickets went for another 27 runs, a meagre number, considering the calibre of the batsmen left to get out, and Surrey led by 94.

Mr Key, at the renewal of the game yesterday morning, soon fell to a brilliant catch at cover-point (Mr Crosfield took the ball high up with his left hand), while Brockwell's fine innings ended with an l-b-w decision at 204. His 59 occupied him an hour and three-quarters, and included among his figures were five fours, seven threes and three twos. Smith, Marshall and Richardson gave no trouble and by 12.20 the Surrey batting ended – total, 214. As 187 of these had been made the day before, the last few wickets had scarcely realized expectations. The cheap dismissal was attributable to the fine bowling of Briggs, whose four wickets during the morning cost only 11 runs. Still, 94 was a deficit quite formidable enough to face against the Surrey bowlers.

Lancashire began their second innings in a manner very unlikely to make their friends confident of a good fight. Richardson and Lockwood got out Albert Ward, Sugg and Baker for 40 runs; while at 44 Mr MacLaren was caught at cover-point. With things going so badly against his side, Briggs batted in a very courageous manner and, aided by Tinsley, made a capital stand. A blunder by Abel in the slips enabled Briggs to escape off Richardson. Tinsley stayed until the arrears had been cleared off and then he fell to a catch at point. Mr Ainscough joined Briggs, and when rain stopped the cricket for the day Lancashire, with half their side gone, were only ten runs ahead. To-day the

game will probably have to be finished on a bowler's wicket, for the effect of the wet on the turf is sure to be felt.

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

Surrey won this match on Saturday by the substantial margin of six wickets, and finished up a week of brilliant success which included victories over the two powerful northern shires. Lancashire, who were ten runs ahead with five wickets to fall, went on with their innings at 11.40, Briggs and Mr Ainscough being the not-outs.

The former, who had done so much to put a better complexion on the game for his side, stayed sufficiently long to get to 51, and then Richardson, who shared the bowling with Smith, reached his leg stump. His vigorous innings comprised seven fours, two twos and singles. Mr Crosfield was soon out, and Mr Kemble, after a few good hits, drove the ball loftily to Brockwell at long-off. Mr Ainscough's patient display was ended by a catch at slip, and the bowling of Mold completed the innings for 135. During the morning the last five Lancashire wickets had fallen for 31 runs in three-quarters of an hour. Richardson had taken three of them for 16 runs, and the part the famous Surrey fast bowler played in the match will be understood from the fact that he secured 12 wickets for 114 runs.

With a powerful sun on the soft turf the wicket grew rapidly difficult, and Surrey were fortunate in having only 42 to get to win. More than half of these were made by Abel and Lockwood, and then Mold caused the latter to play on, while the former hit the ball into the hands of extra mid-off. Soon afterwards Briggs finished up a grand piece of fielding at mid-off by throwing Mr Jephson's wicket down, and at 40 Brockwell was bowled. The Surrey captain and Hayward then hit off the runs. Surrey, since Mr K J Key's appointment to the captaincy, have won all their matches.

14 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4141.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 7)

The large company at Lord's yesterday were able to watch the play under happier conditions than have generally prevailed at cricket matches this summer. Bright, warm weather, a little good batting and a remarkable bowling feat by a Yorkshire player making his first appearance at Lord's kept the spectators on good terms with themselves all the day.

The turf at Lord's, although much improved since the beginning of the week, had not wholly recovered from the effects of all the rain, and its spongy state early in the day caused Mr Wright, the Marylebone captain, to resort to the risky tactics of putting his opponents in first. This action turned out successful, so far as concerned the cheap dismissal of the Yorkshire eleven; but on a drier pitch the Marylebone team did little better in batting than the visitors and were bowled out in an astonishing manner by Foster, who took nine wickets for 59 runs.

Yorkshire's innings lasted two hours and ten minutes and produced 115. Tunnicliffe and Mounsey played excellently when things were going badly for their side. Indeed, there was little other brightness in the visitors' defence; they added 58 for the third wicket in three-quarters of an hour and were out within a few runs of each other, Tunnicliffe being the first to go at 65, caught at slip. Moorhouse, who was fifth on the order, helped to give a little respectability to the total and played steadily for an hour.

Marylebone's disasters fell thick upon them from Foster's bowling skill, and in less than an hour no fewer than six of the side were out for 35. The game seemed to turn when Wainwright, owing to an injured hand, asked his captain to relieve him from bowling; and, with Hirst on, the batting of Mr Weigall and Pougher became free and very invigorating to watch. In three-quarters of an hour they put together 60 runs for the seventh partnership; but, Foster going on again at 83, this time at the pavilion end, bowled out the last four men, the innings, which lasted about two hours, closing for 125.

Foster was warmly cheered for the feat he had achieved; the pitch helped him a little, but he kept a fine length and got on a good off-break, while his pace, which is a little above medium, was often varied with a very fast and effective ball. Eight of his wickets were bowled. Except that he was tried against Warwickshire last year and Leicestershire this year, Foster is quite new to important matches. He now takes a place among those who have made remarkable first appearances at Lord's. Foster is attached to the Dewsbury and Savile Club.

Yorkshire had an hour's play in the second innings at the end of the day, and now, with seven wickets in hand, they are 53 runs ahead.

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

The bowlers' triumphs on Thursday were to a very large extent repeated yesterday at Lord's, and well on in the afternoon Marylebone won a small scoring match. The position of affairs at the end of the first day pointed to a pretty good game, for Yorkshire, with seven wickets in hand, had made 63 in the second innings.

Yesterday morning the match progressed steadily until 95, when the fifth wicket fell; then, four runs later, Mr Wright gave Mead another trial and an astonishing change was wrought by him. Keeping a fine length and getting on a clever break, he captured the last five batsmen in five overs at a cost of five runs, while his full analysis gave him a record of six for 25. Mead was warmly cheered for this feat, which once more demonstrates the skill of the young Essex cricketer.

The balance of Yorkshire's innings was got through between 11.40 and 12.35, and, as the score reached only 109, Marylebone, who were ten ahead on the first innings, were left with precisely 100 to get for victory. Although the condition of the pitch still imposed some slight handicap on the batsmen, the task did not seem particularly heavy, and when Messrs Wright and Ranjitsinhji went from 25 to 68 for the third wicket the game seemed well in hand.

But after luncheon Marylebone had a bad quarter of an hour. Peel and Wainwright bowled with wonderful skill and three more wickets went for the addition of four runs. Six for 72 showed the match in a vastly different light; but subsequently Peel and Wainwright, if as difficult as ever to play, failed to get any one else out, although the batsmen were repeatedly beaten. Brown and Davidson slowly obtained the runs; but the former gave a difficult chance to Tunncliffe at slip early in his innings.

Tunncliffe carried off the batting honours on each day for Yorkshire, and his 34 yesterday contained many good strokes. He was eventually out to a fine catch in the long field. Foster in the double innings took ten wickets for 84 runs. From the score given below it will be seen that Marylebone won by four wickets.

14 June: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 7)

After a good day's cricket at the Hove Ground, Brighton, Middlesex last evening found themselves within 89 runs on the Sussex score, and the whole of their wickets in hand. Earlier, Sussex, who have had a series of misfortunes earlier this season, seemed set for a capital score, and at one period their score had reached the respectable proportions of 132 for four wickets. The last five men on the side, however, obtained between them only four runs.

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

A bad accident to Mr A J Webbe, the Middlesex captain, while practising at the nets before the game began at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, took some enjoyment out of the second day's play in this match. Mr Webbe was struck by the ball on the cheek bone from the full force of a square-leg hit, the ball passing through an old net which separated the batsmen. Mr Webbe was severely hurt and left for London in the afternoon for special treatment.

The best points in the rest of the long Middlesex innings were the scores of Mr Stoddart and Mr R S Lucas, the latter of whom is playing consistently well this season. Mr Stoddart seemed well set for three figures, when a clever catch low down at slip dismissed him. He had scored 70 in an hour and three-quarters by eight fours, two threes, seven twos and singles. Mr R S Lucas went in first wicket down and was seventh out at 307. His two and a quarter hours' stay yielded 99 runs and he hit a five (to leg), 11 fours, three threes and ten twos. It was a fine, vigorous innings. Middlesex, after having 300 up with only five men lost, were all out for 314.

Sussex had arrears of 133. They lost Mr Murdoch and Bean for nine, but then Dr Heasman and Mr Newham made a stand of two hours' duration and put on 118 runs by splendid cricket. Mr Newham hit six fours, three threes and four twos. At the close Sussex were two runs behind and had six wickets to fall.

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

The capacity to play an uphill game used often to be a characteristic of the Sussex eleven, and the match with Middlesex proved that Sussex have not lost their old power. Friday night had left the home side at Brighton with only two of the large sum of arrears to clear off and with six wickets in hand.

A little rain had endangered the trueness of the pitch, but the good Middlesex bowlers were, nevertheless, more than two hours in getting down those last six Sussex wickets, and in this time 94 runs were put on. Mr C A Smith played sound cricket and, after three more batsmen had gone for 40 runs, he found at last an able partner in Butt, who stayed while 40 were added. Mr Smith was in an hour and 35 minutes, and Dr Heasman's 64, the greater part of which had been played on Friday, occupied two hours and 40 minutes; his chief figures were five fours, three threes and 11 twos. Alfred Shaw, to whom Middlesex were very generous inasmuch as he was thrice missed, took out his bat for 10. Sussex finished their innings at ten minutes to 2.

Middlesex began their task of getting 93 to win after luncheon. The first hour of the last innings was not marked by anything remarkable either in batting or fielding. Mr Stoddart, who has often played better, gave a chance of stumping with his figures at two, while Mr M'Gregor, while 18, offered an easy catch to Guttridge at mid-off which the latter failed to take. The score reached 49 at the end of an hour. Then the spectators were startled by a sudden change in the game. Mr Stoddart, Mr M'Gregor and Mr Lucas were all dismissed at 49, and seven runs later Mr Hayman was bowled by a lob.

As Mr Webbe and Mr Foley were both hurt, Middlesex had practically only four wickets to go and wanted 37 to win. Mr T C O'Brien and Rawlin, however, threw plenty of freedom into their batting, although it was not without fault, and in the course of 20 minutes the last 37 were made, and victory rested with Middlesex by six wickets.

MR A J WEBBE. – The Middlesex captain, who met with a bad accident at Brighton on Friday, passed a bad night, but on Saturday he was so much better as to think of playing against Surrey at Lord's next Thursday.

Monday 18 June, page 7: THE COUNTIES

The past week saw Surrey, Middlesex and Somerset each win two matches, and the first-named now head the record with five played and won. Surrey v Middlesex, at Lord's next Thursday, and Surrey v Yorkshire, at the Oval on Monday, the 25th inst., will be particularly interesting fixtures. Results: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	5	5	0	0	5
Yorkshire	5	5	1	0	4
Middlesex	7	5	2	0	3
Somerset	4	3	1	0	2
Kent	2	1	1	0	0
Gloucestershire	5	2	3	0	-1
Lancashire	5	1	4	0	-3
Nottinghamshire	5	0	4	1	-4
Sussex	7	0	6	1	-6

Warwickshire, whose figures are reckoned in the first-class averages along with those of Derbyshire, Essex and Leicestershire, have won four matches and drawn two, and have not been beaten.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4143.html)

Monday 18 June, page 7

William Barnes, who for so many years has been a distinguished member of the Nottinghamshire eleven and whose cricketing abilities are familiar to most people interested in the game, takes his benefit match at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, to-day.

Barnes is in his 43rd year, but his long and brilliant career, in which he has served Nottinghamshire and his country equally well, makes one think of him as something of a veteran. He was a member of several of the teams that went out to Australia, and some of his best batting feats have been achieved in matches with Australia in this country.

The Gentlemen of England will include Messrs A E Stoddart, S M J Woods, H T Hewett, F S Jackson, A T Kemble, K S Ranjitsinhji, G W Hillyard, G F Berkeley, C E De Trafford and another. Nottinghamshire will have their full county side with the exception of Shrewsbury, who is not in sufficiently good health to play.

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

Mr A E Stoddart, the distinguished Middlesex amateur, carried off the honours at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, with a brilliant innings of 148, which he made in three hours and a half without giving a single chance. There was a bigger attendance at Trent-bridge than has been seen since the Surrey match on Whit Monday, and in dull weather the 3,000 or 4,000 spectators were roused to a high state of enthusiasm by Mr Stoddart's vigorous game.

William Barnes, for whose benefit fund the match is being played, has rendered his county excellent service for nearly 20 years and his name will always occupy a prominent place among the greatest of the cricketers who have come from Nottinghamshire. His aggregate of runs for the county reaches 8,548, as the result of 397 innings, and he has taken 441 wickets at an average of 18 runs each. He is a very able servant, too, of the Marylebone Club.

Messrs Stoddart and Hewett began the Gentlemen's innings to the bowling of Hardstaff and Attewell. The former of these had bad luck in not getting Mr Hewett out for five, the batsman being missed at mid-on by Mr Wright, who also subsequently let off Mr R C N Palaret when he had made seven. Mr Hewett was caught at the wicket at 36, and then began the long stand by Messrs Stoddart and Palaret, who at the end of the hour had raised the score to 89. Mr Stoddart played splendidly all round, and when rain delayed the game at 1.40 the record stood at 131, of which Mr Stoddart's share was 83.

The weather underwent a considerable change for the better during luncheon. Play being resumed, Mr Stoddart reached his 100 with the figures at 164. All the regular bowlers having been tried in vain, Daft and Gunn were put on and the former met with success. The partnership for the second wicket had lasted two hours and a half and had yielded 208, when Mr Palaret was caught at mid-on for 86 – a well-played innings, the good points of which were likely to be forgotten in the midst of the other batsman's brilliant forcing game. Mr Palaret hit three fours, six threes and 16 twos.

Mr Stoddart was third to leave at 264, caught and bowled for a faultless 148, made in three and a half hours by 14 fours, six threes, 17 twos and singles. After the fall of this wicket the Notts bowlers steadily got the rest of the side out, the only other player to give much trouble being Mr S M J Woods, who made many good hits in his 34. The Gentlemen were in altogether four and three-quarter hours for 340. Daft and Attewell both bowled very well.

Nottinghamshire had ten minutes' play in a bad light and lost their captain. The wicket was covered up at the close of play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 June, page 11)

The Notts county eleven have not before this season distinguished themselves as they did yesterday at Trent-bridge ground against the Gentlemen of England. The wicket, which had been protected from the uncertain weather, played excellently, and when at last the second innings of the match ended the Gentlemen were a solitary run to the good.

After the dismissal of Pike yesterday, Daft and Gunn played fine cricket and in the course of an hour's partnership put on 65 runs, Gunn being then caught at the wicket. Daft played on at 116, being fourth to leave, and up to this point there seemed little prospect of the big score which Nottinghamshire eventually secured. But Flowers was in his best form and, aided by Barnes, who, however, had a couple of escapes, added 65 in an hour. Flowers left at 174 for a brilliant 50, in which were five fours, two threes and four twos. The sixth wicket went when the record stood at 194, and then came another fine spell of batting by Messrs Wright and Robinson, whose cricket was so free that 97 were obtained in an hour. The bowling had lost some of its sting and the fielding, too, had deteriorated.

Mr Wright scored his 50 in 70 minutes, and when the last man arrived he wanted 19 to get to his 100; he strove to force the game but was at last caught in the long-field. In a remarkably fine innings Mr Wright had made 12 fours, five threes and nine twos, and had never before played so well on the Trent-bridge ground. Notts were not dismissed until within ten minutes of "Time," their innings occupying five hours and a quarter and realizing 339. The Gentlemen had a severe handicap imposed on them by an accident to Mr Kemble, who hurt his foot on Monday, and in his absence the wicket-keeping was shared at different times by Mr Ranjitsinhji and Mr Woods.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 June, page 7)

After three excellent days' cricket the match between the Gentlemen of England and Nottinghamshire was left drawn at Trent-bridge Ground last evening. There was a fair attendance to see the closing stage of the play; but Barnes, whose benefit fund, of course, largely depended on the match, must look to the subscription lists if the amount obtained for him is to be as substantial as his long and invaluable services to his county merit.

At one period yesterday there seemed a probability that Nottinghamshire would win. However, this calculation was upset by the vigorous batting of Mr A N Hornby and Mr S M J Woods.

At the beginning of the day the Gentlemen, who held a balance of a single on the first innings, showed fine form. Mr Stoddart followed up his performance of Monday with a superb 42. Mr Jackson, his first partner, was cleverly caught at extra mid-off, and he himself fell to the wicket-

keeper at 55, the runs having been scored in 40 minutes. When three men were out the score stood at 59; but Mr Hewett played splendidly and was only dismissed by a wonderful catch at deep square-leg by Mr Howitt, who held the ball after a long run.

Things went badly for the Gentlemen, six of whom were out at the interval for 100, so that Notts looked to have a good chance of winning. As Mr Kemble was absent, injured, the visitors had only three wickets to fall. Messrs Woods and Hornby played a fine free game after luncheon, and with so much success that in an hour's partnership they advanced the figures from 100 to 172. The pitch, owing to the rain, had played queerly during the morning, but it had since rapidly recovered. Mr Woods's driving was particularly good and Mr Hornby did equally well. Various bowling changes were tried before Mr Woods fell to cover-point, while nine runs later Mr Hornby drove the ball to mid-off. Messrs Berkeley and Hillyard put on 27, and then the innings, which had lasted three and a quarter hours, closed for 208.

As several of the visitors wanted to get away to other parts of the country it had been arranged to draw stumps earlier than usual. Nottinghamshire wanted 210 to win, and in the 50 minutes left for play Messrs Dixon and Howitt obtained 52 of these. A dull morning had been followed by a bright and pleasant afternoon.

18 June: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4144.html)

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

The taking of all the ten wickets in an innings by one bowler is a feat of such rare occurrence that its achievement creates quite a stir in the cricket community. Richardson, the young Surrey fast bowler, not only furnished yesterday the eighth notable instance of this feat in a quarter of a century of important cricket, but he bowled eight of the ten wickets, leaving only the first and the ninth to the mercies of the field. This is only Richardson's second full season, but his aggregate of wickets reached yesterday 101 – the first three-figure aggregate of the season.

The cricket at the Oval yesterday was considerably curtailed by the bad weather, and in the time available Essex played a disastrous first innings on the soft wicket. Richardson began by sending back Carpenter without a run, and at the end of half an hour five of Essex were gone for 33 runs. Mr R J Burrell made some very good hits and was the only batsman that seemed to meet Richardson with vigour and courage. But he, too, at last succumbed to a good ball that sent his middle stump out of the ground. He, however, had contributed 31 of the 40 added in three-quarters of an hour between the falls of the third and seventh wickets.

Up to 1.15, when rain stopped the game with the score at 55, Richardson had taken eight wickets in 13 overs for 32 runs, and when the match was resumed at 3.25 he bowled Mead and got Mr Kortright taken by Maurice Read, who brought off a very skilful catch, running under the ball from third man. The Essex innings occupied altogether an hour and a quarter.

In view of the two severer matches at the end of this and beginning of next week with Middlesex and Yorkshire, Mr K J Key, Mr Walter Read and Lockwood are standing out of the Surrey eleven and their places are filled by Henderson, Street and Ayres. It was not until 5.30 that all idea of any play in the Surrey innings was given up.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 June, page 11)

A more striking contrast between the cricket of two successive days could not well be furnished than that afforded by Monday and yesterday on the Oval. Going in first on Monday on the soft pitch, Essex were got out by Richardson for 72 runs. Then the rain came and there was no further play until yesterday, when, on a wicket that steadily dried and became true, Surrey played an innings that lasted five hours and three-quarters and realized 438 runs.

Abel and Maurice Read laid the foundation of this substantial total by making 92 for the first wicket in 70 minutes. Read, who was then bowled, played admirably, and his 59 were got at a time when the turf was slightly helping the bowlers. Among his figures were a five, six fours and three twos. Hayward hit vigorously and contributed 35 of 44 put on for the second partnership, while Abel was third to leave – caught by mid-off at 202 – with 65 made in two hours and a half by a five, six fours, four threes, three twos and singles.

But the best innings of the day was undeniably played by Brockwell, who cut and drove with great brilliancy, and made 108 in two hours and a quarter, without giving a chance. He went in second wicket down at 136 and was fourth out at 322, when in playing back to Burns he hit the wicket.

The chief items of his score were 12 fours, four threes and 14 twos. Mr Jephson went in when Abel left at 3 o'clock and he took his bat out for 94. His thoroughly sound innings extended over three and a quarter hours and, beyond a difficult chance in the slips, he made no mistake. He hit two fives, seven fours, five threes and six twos.

During Surrey's long spell of batting, which did not end until a quarter past 6, the Essex fielding was very good and the only chance missed was that which enabled Mr Jephson to escape when he had made 87. Essex had half an hour's play before 7 o'clock, and in that time they lost three wickets for 25 and are now 341 behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 June, page 7)

Two days' play in this match at the Oval had left Essex in a situation devoid of hope. They had begun their second innings and had lost three wickets for 24, while the arrears were still 341; and in an hour yesterday morning the end was reached.

Richardson started bowling with great effect and three wickets were soon gained by him – those of Mr Burrell, Mr Lucas and Carpenter. The last-named had played very well; but the score was only 46 when the sixth wicket fell. Russell was run out at 53. Then came perhaps the brightest piece of batting in either of the Essex innings. It took Messrs M'Gahey and Kortright only some 30 minutes to put on 52 runs, and the bowling was twice changed before Mr Jephson bowled Mr M'Gahey with a lob. Richardson now resumed and got Mr Kortright well caught in the long-field.

With Mr Hailey absent through illness, the Essex batting ended and Surrey won by an innings and 261 runs. Richardson's bowling average for the match was 15 wickets at a cost of a fraction over six runs each, bringing his aggregate for the season to 106.

18 June: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4145.html)

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

Lord Hawke and Mr F S Jackson were notable absentees from the Yorkshire eleven that took the field at the Edgbaston Ground, Birmingham, yesterday, against Warwickshire, who have done so well since the Marylebone Club decided that with Derbyshire, Essex and Leicestershire their matches should rank as first-class.

Warwickshire were so far fortunate yesterday as to have a good spell of batting after the turf had been made easy by the first effects of heavy rain. Messrs Bainbridge and Hill scored 26 in the opening 40 minutes of cricket, which began at 1.20 and was stopped from 3.25 until 5.40 owing to the wet. Mr Hill was bowled at 43 and, in spite of the sound batting of Mr Bainbridge, two more wickets had gone by the time that the record stood at 66.

After an interval prolonged owing to the weather Messrs Bainbridge and Docker scored freely and the 100 went up at the end of an hour and 40 minutes. At 105 Mr Bainbridge was bowled by a good ball from Wainwright. His capital 52 included five fours, two threes and nine twos. Mr Docker continued to play well . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 June, page 11)

A company some 6,000 strong assembled at the Edgbaston ground, Birmingham, yesterday, to see the second day's play in Yorkshire v Warwickshire. As the latter on Monday had made 122 for four wickets, with the prospect of the turf growing false from the effects of the rain, they had rather an advantage; but yesterday Yorkshire did remarkably well and a big innings by Wainwright went a long way towards securing for the visitors the lead before the close.

Warwickshire's last six men were dismissed in an hour and a quarter for an addition of 91, a brilliant 50 by Devey, made in less than an hour, being the best point in the latter part of the innings; Devey gave no chance and hit 5 fours, 3 threes and 8 twos.

Yorkshire went in at 10 minutes past 1. Mounsey and Tunnicliffe scored 78 for the first wicket, while Wainwright and Moorhouse put on 108 for the fourth. Mounsey hit 3 fours, 4 threes and 7 twos. At one time the Yorkshire score seemed likely to be extremely heavy; but after four wickets had produced 227 the last six went for 67. Peel, who had strained himself, went in last, when Wainwright had made 98, so as to give the latter a chance of getting his 100; and Wainwright ran his score to 107 before being caught in the long field. He was missed by Pallett at 26 and by Mr Docker at 37, and for these errors Warwickshire paid dearly. Wainwright was batting two hours and a half and hit 12 fours, 7 threes and 8 twos. To-day Warwickshire have to face arrears of 81.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 June, page 7)

The Warwickshire eleven were seen to great advantage at Birmingham yesterday, and their batting successes against the Yorkshire bowlers show again how good was the claim of the county to be included among the first-class shires. At the close yesterday Yorkshire were left with 238 to make

in the fourth innings – no mean task for any side.

Tuesday night found Yorkshire in a position that offered a fair prospect of victory, and up to a certain point yesterday the visitors seemed to be playing a winning game. Going in against arrears of 81 Warwickshire were only 53 ahead when half of their side were out. Mr Bainbridge, the captain, once more played fine cricket, scoring 51 of 95 before a catch in the long field dismissed him. He made his runs without a fault in rather less than two hours, and his figures included three fours, four threes and eight twos.

Dive played very well and helped his captain to add 54 for the second wicket, but the stand of the match occurred when Mr L C Docker was joined by Lilley. There had been a sharp shower that was a disadvantage to the fielding side, and on an easier wicket the batsmen played a splendid game, putting on 127 in an hour and a half. Lilley gave a chance in the long-field just before he was bowled, but this was the sole error in his 74, which consisted of seven fours, six threes, six twos and singles. Mr Docker was batting rather more than three hours for his excellent 85 (not out), in which were seven fours, four threes and ten twos. Foster, who made such a successful appearance at Lord's last week, proved by far the most effective of the nine Yorkshire bowlers. At the close of the Warwickshire innings the match was left unfinished . . .

18 June: CHATHAM v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105716.html)

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

At the Maidstone-road ground, Chatham, yesterday, the South Africans began a match with a side representing Chatham and District. Bad weather spoiled the first day's play.

The South Africans, going in first, had an hour and 35 minutes' batting before luncheon and scored 106 at a cost of six wickets. Mr Davey played with great steadiness and in an hour and ten minutes made 28; he went in first and was the fourth to leave at 81. His most useful partner was Frank Hearne, who helped him to add 36 for the third wicket. After the sixth had gone at 83 Messrs Castens and Glover added 23 before rain put an end to play for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 June, page 11)

Late yesterday afternoon at the Maidstone-road Ground, Chatham, a very exciting finish was witnessed to the match between the South Africans and Chatham and District. Having at one time had the game well in hand the home side were beaten by five runs.

The visitors at the close of Monday had lost six wickets for 106, and yesterday this innings was completed for an addition of 16. Chatham finished 18 behind, but in the end were left only 106 to get for victory. Of this number 75 were secured with only five wickets down, but then Middleton and Mills got the rest of the team out for 25; when the last man arrived 15 runs were wanted.

The best points in the day's play were the batting and bowling of Mr Northcote for Chatham and the fine vigorous cricket of Mr Routledge for South Africa. Mr Northcote, who bowls left hand medium pace, took 12 wickets for 81 runs, while his 42 not out was a well-played innings and included a six, four fours and two threes. Mr Routledge on the bad wicket made 52 out of the 82 added in an hour after the fall of the second-wicket; he hit seven fours. This is the third victory of the South Africans in England.

Wednesday 20 June, page 11: MR STODDART'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Melbourne, June 19.

The full programme of first-class matches has now been arranged by the Australian Cricket Council between Mr A E Stoddart's English team, which will visit the colonies in the autumn, and the Australian cricketers.

The Englishmen will open their tour with a match against South Australia at Adelaide on November 9. They will then proceed to Melbourne, where they will play Victoria on November 16 and following days. A match with New South Wales has been arranged to take place on November 23, and one with Queensland at Brisbane on December 7.

The visitors will play against a team representing the combined Australian colonies at Sydney on December 14, at Melbourne on December 29, at Adelaide on January 11, and again at Sydney on February 1; at Brisbane on February 15 and at Melbourne on March 1. The final match of the tour will be played against South Australia at Adelaide on March 22. – Dalziel (The Times Special).

DEATH OF A DERBYSHIRE CRICKETER

William Mycroft, the Derbyshire professional cricketer, died yesterday at Derby. For some years past he had not enjoyed good health, and this had necessitated his retirement from any active part in the game. He was a fine bowler in his day, and his play in 1874 and 1875 had much to do with raising Derbyshire to an important position in the cricket world. He made his first appearance at Lord's in 1876, playing for the All England Eleven against the United South, nine of whose wickets he secured. He was then 35 years of age.

With his fast left-hand bowling, in which a "yorker" was a characteristic, he served his county so well that he was chosen for the Players v Gentlemen at Lord's and at Prince's in 1877. Mycroft was at one time engaged by Lord Sheffield to help Alfred Shaw in the training of young Sussex players, and was also for some years on the ground staff at Lord's. He was born at Brimington, near Chesterfield, in February, 1841.

Thursday 21 June, page 7: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

The return match between these counties will be commenced to-day at Lord's. Both sides will be strong, and as they have done excellently this season the meeting arouses more than the average amount of interest. Mr Webbe has so far recovered from the effects of his accident last Friday at Brighton that he has determined to captain the Middlesex eleven, which will also include . . . [list of teams follows.]

21 June: LANCASHIRE v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4146.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 8)

The return match between these teams began yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester, there being 12 players aside. Lancashire secured a considerable advantage on the day. An innings each was completed in the day and Lancashire secured a lead of 74.

Oxford fielded and bowled pretty well but, with one notable exception, their batting was feeble. Mr Mordaunt's capital batting, however, made amends for much of his companions' weakness. He went in first wicket down at 12 and was fifth out at 86; his 55 occupied an hour and a half and included four fours, three threes and six twos. Mr Leveson-Gower helped him to put on 30 for the third partnership, while Mr Rice and Mr Mordaunt added 56 for the fifth. After luncheon Briggs and Mold got down the last six Oxford wickets for 23.

Profiting by an escape, Mr Houldsworth helped Albert Ward to score 42 for the first Lancashire wicket. The best innings was that of Briggs, who made 59 out of 80 in 65 minutes, and hit 11 fours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 15)

Up to a certain point in the game yesterday at Manchester the Oxford team did remarkably well. They had been left overnight with a deficit of 74 on the first innings; but yesterday morning Messrs Palaret, Mordaunt and Foster all batted brilliantly, and at luncheon time the Oxford score was 162 for three wickets. But such was the subsequent collapse that the last eight went for an additional 43, six of them falling to Mold for 19 runs in 18 overs.

Mr Palaret made his 42 out of 55 in 40 minutes, while Messrs Foster and Mordaunt added 91 in an hour and a quarter. Mr Mordaunt batted extremely well again, scoring 50 out of 87 in 70 minutes, and 71 out of 121 in two hours. He gave a couple of chances, but his batting was strong and he hit 6 fours, 3 threes and 11 twos.

Lancashire wanted 132 for victory, and a fine innings by Mr M'Laren, who made 11 fours, 2 threes and 9 twos, enabled them to win by five wickets.

21 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4147.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 8)

Several thousand people visited the Leicester ground yesterday to see the beginning of this match. The close of the day found Leicestershire still wanting 33 runs to save the follow on and only one wicket to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 15)

Warwickshire gained another victory yesterday, when, at Leicester, they defeated Leicestershire by nine wickets. The home county were in a bad position on Thursday night, when they wanted 33 to save the “follow-on” and had only one wicket to fall.

Pallett, Shilton and Whitehead bowled excellently again, and Warwickshire were left with only 40 to make in the last innings, and this number cost them one wicket.

21 June: LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4148.html)

No mention of this match could be found in The Times.

21 June: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4149.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 8)

It is doubtful whether a match between Middlesex and Surrey ever aroused so much interest as was shown yesterday in the return of this season, which is being played at Lord's. The grand stand and enclosures were completely filled and late comers in the afternoon found it a matter of extreme difficulty to get any view at all of the play. The game was watched under the most favourable conditions by this great company, of whom 10,361 paid for admission.

The only thing to be regretted was the absence of a good fast wicket. Lord's does not easily recover from heavy rain and the beginning of the match found the wicket spongy. Winning the toss was, in the circumstances, a disadvantage. Mr Key did not feel justified, even with the glass settled for fine weather, in running the risk of putting his opponents in first, although, as it turned out, unhappily for Surrey, the pitch went in improving rapidly through the afternoon.

Surrey played the eleven which has done so well for them in their other matches, but Middlesex were deprived of the services of their captain. Mr A J Webbe had hoped to be able to take part in the game, but when he went to the nets yesterday morning the effects of his Brighton accident were still apparent and his sight troubled him so much that he decided to withdraw. His place was filled by Mr E C Mordaunt, who had figured before for the county.

Surrey started batting at ten minutes past 12; but they began badly, for Abel ran himself out, Mr MacGregor taking a bad return and cleverly putting the wicket down. Against the bowling of J T Hearne and Rawlin the affairs of Surrey for a time showed no inclination to mend. Lockwood and Hayward were both easily caught at mid-on and a shooter took Mr Walter Read's middle stump. At 22 Maurice Read gave Mr Stoddart a tolerably easy chance in the long field, but afterwards, together with Brockwell, played good cricket.

There was a hearty cheer when the 50 went up, although this number was completed from a ball that nearly bowled Brockwell and went to the boundary for byes. Mr O'Brien changed his bowling twice at Rawlin's end, putting on Mr Stoddart and Mr Pawling; but the change which turned out most effectual was Phillips's with his slows at the pavilion wicket. These ought to have been profitable at once, for Maurice Read was missed by J T Hearne near the boundary in front of square-leg. At 89, however, Brockwell, in trying to drive, played on. He and Read had been together an hour and their partnership had yielded 67 runs, the result of courageous batting under difficulties. Maurice Read's rather fortunate innings soon afterwards came to an end through an easy return catch, and the sixth wicket fell at 90. Mr Key was beaten once or twice to begin with, but he made a pretty cut for two and a splendid leg-hit for four, and the luncheon adjournment found the score at 108.

Afterwards Mr Key made two splendid boundary drives, and was then bowled by a fine ball from Hearne at 118. The other three wickets were taken in 20 minutes, the total reaching 131 as the result of two and a quarter hours' play. Phillips had bowled excellently, for, going on at 75 for four, he took five of the last six wickets at the small cost of 32 runs. The Middlesex fielding was below the average, but Mr MacGregor at wicket was quite himself.

Mr MacGregor went in first with Mr Stoddart for Middlesex and, after playing two good overs from

Richardson, he was clean bowled, while Smith got rid of Mr Lucas at 29. Meanwhile, Mr Stoddart had been playing fine cricket, and some of his drives from Richardson were loudly applauded, as also was a clever stroke on the leg side. Mr Stoddart did so well against Richardson that Lockwood was put on at 49, and in his second over he completely beat Mr Stoddart, who had played in his best form, at 53. Rawlin's stay was brief and lively, and he left at 73.

Mr O'Brien went in fourth wicket down and played splendidly. He started with a sharp single that nearly ran Mr Hayman out, and followed with a couple of fine fours on the leg side and some hard drives. Mr Hayman stayed until 120, when he was bowled, but Phillips displayed every caution and was content to keep up his wicket while his partner hit. The Surrey score was passed with five wickets in hand, and after Mr O'Brien had reached his 50 in a little over an hour the play became very quiet. Mr O'Brien was sixth out, caught at the wicket, at 157, for 53 (a fine innings), made in 80 minutes by six fours, two threes, five twos and singles, and Middlesex at the finish held a lead of 37 runs with two wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 15)

The defeat of the Surrey eleven at Lord's, yesterday, is a severe check to the victorious career which the side have been pursuing since they lost their first match on the Oval this year to Warwickshire. Middlesex accomplished the feat of beating their old rivals mainly through very fine bowling by Phillips and Hearne, whom the Surrey batsmen from the first could not play with any confidence. Phillips was especially successful and his full record for the match came out thus – 11 wickets for 75 runs.

From the time that the second Surrey wicket fell yesterday morning Middlesex played a winning game. Thursday evening had not left the match in an uninteresting state, for Surrey people thought that their eleven were capable of fighting a good uphill game. In the quarter of an hour which it took Middlesex to complete the first innings their last two wickets increased the lead to 54, Phillips taking out his bat for 16 after a stay of nearly an hour and a half.

The Surrey second innings began disastrously, and Hearne and Phillips each got a wicket in the first half hour, Abel and Lockwood being out for 25. Hayward, profiting by an easy escape from Mr Westhorp in the long field, and Maurice Read managed to clear off the arrears before the third wicket fell. Neither did much more, and at 61 the fourth partnership ended. Brockwell infused some brightness into the game and made one particularly good drive to the boundary. However after luncheon both he and Mr Read were bowled in playing back to Hearne, and subsequently there was an entire absence of merit in the batting. Mr Key in apparently trying to get Phillips round to leg was bowled, Mr Jephson put a ball tamely up to point, Smith and Richardson were easily bowled, and Marshall, though being badly missed at mid-off by Hearne, was enabled to take out his bat for ten. The innings lasted two hours and 40 minutes. Phillips's bowling figures in this instance came out thus – six for 43.

With the wicket playing pretty well Middlesex could not have had much fear about getting the 73 necessary for victory. But there was some little consternation when Mr Stoddart at the very outset gave Richardson an easy return catch. Mr MacGregor, however, played excellently, and any danger of a collapse was soon forgotten. Before Mr Lucas (the second wicket) went the score stood at 39, while when Mr MacGregor's excellent innings ended, through a catch at extra mid-off, only 14 runs were wanted and there were six men to go in. Rawlin and Mr O'Brien then won the match for Middlesex by six wickets. The company numbered about 10,000.

21 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4150.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 8)

On the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, the county team secured a considerable advantage in this match. As the turf had not recovered from the recent rains and showed signs of improving, Mr Murdoch, on winning the toss, put Cambridge in. This action turned out very successful. At the close of the day Sussex were 97 ahead with two wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 15)

Mr J Douglas, by a fine innings of 119, aided by an excellent 83 by Mr Field, extricated Cambridge from the bad position in which they had been left on Thursday in this match at the Hove Ground, Brighton.

Mr Douglas played beautiful cricket during his stay of two hours and a half, and beyond a return catch to Mr Smith when his score was 49 he made no mistake; he hit 14 fours, nine threes and eight twos. Mr Field, who was fourth out at 276, should have been caught at wicket when he had made ten. His chief figures were six fours and three threes. There was little else of note in the innings and Sussex were left with 202 to make for victory.

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

Sussex gained a brilliant victory over the Light Blues at the Hove ground, Brighton, on Saturday. The turf at Hove when it is fast and true is not of the kind which bowlers like, and the weakness of the Cambridge attack was shown during the two hours and three-quarters over which the cricket lasted.

Sussex at the finish of Friday had gone in to get 202 and had made 18 without loss of wicket. Marlow and Bean put together 43 for the first partnership, after which Bean and Mr Murdoch played good cricket and added 68 runs in an hour before the former was caught at extra-slip. His faultless 53 had taken him an hour and three-quarters to make; the chief figures were four fours, a three and seven twos.

Mr Newham came next, and such was the vigour of the play that the other 91 were obtained in an hour and a quarter, and Sussex won by eight wickets. Mr Newham's 65 included nine fours and four twos, while Mr Murdoch, although suffering from an injured wrist, showed good steady defence and in two hours and a quarter scored 52 by a three, nine twos and singles. This is the first victory of Sussex this season.

21 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v DUBLIN UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/131/131774.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 8)

Play in this match at Dublin yesterday was watched with interest by a large company. The University innings was characterized by the fine free cricket of Mr Comyn. When the county went in Dr Grace was fortunate in being missed, but he was eventually leg-before for 44. Wrathall showed excellent form.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 15)

Yesterday at Dublin the Gloucestershire eleven followed up the advantage possessed by them on Thursday evening and beat Dublin University by nine wickets. Wrathall batted excellently for the county.

22 June: GLAMORGAN v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/86/86520.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 15)

In this match at Cardiff, yesterday, the South Africans showed fine batting form and had the better of the day's cricket . . .

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

At Cardiff, on Saturday, the county did not do as well as had been expected from their play on Friday. In spite of a fine innings of 50, not out, by Mr R B Sweet-Escott, Glamorganshire followed on with arrears of 99, and in the end South Africa won by ten wickets. Mr Rowe bowled well in both innings and had an aggregate of 12 wickets for 106.

The success of Middlesex at Lord's yesterday has had the effect of reducing to a level, so far as regards points, the records of Surrey, Yorkshire and Middlesex. Results: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	6	5	1	0	4
Surrey	6	5	1	0	4
Middlesex	8	6	2	0	4
Somerset	4	3	1	0	2
Kent	2	1	1	0	0
Gloucestershire	5	2	3	0	-1
Lancashire	5	1	4	0	-3
Nottinghamshire	5	0	4	1	-4
Sussex	7	0	6	1	-5

Warwickshire, whose figures are reckoned in the first-class averages along with those of Derbyshire, Essex and Leicestershire, have won five matches and drawn three, and have not been beaten.

THE OXFORD ELEVEN

The Oxford team to play at Lord's against Cambridge on July 2 has been definitely settled as follows: -

Mr C B Fry (captain), Mr G J Mordaunt, Mr H K Foster, Mr R C N Palairt, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Mr F A Phillips, Mr L C V Bathurst, Mr R P Lewis, Mr D H Forbes, Mr G R Bardswell and Mr G B Raikes.

Monday 25 June, page 7 [extracts]

MIDDLESEX v KENT. – To-day at Tonbridge the Middlesex team will differ in two instances from the side which beat Surrey. Mr A J Webbe, the captain, and Mr F G J Ford will play in place of Messrs E C Mordaunt and J Westhorp.

SURREY v YORKSHIRE. – The return match between these counties will be commenced to-day at the Oval. So far this season the championship records of the teams are the same – five wins and one loss . . . [Team lists follow.]

25 June: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4151.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 10)

The Warwickshire eleven were kept in the field the whole of yesterday at Derby, when good steady batting was shown by the home county, who had not completed their innings when stumps were drawn. Chatterton and Davidson, who put on 89 in rather less than two hours, made the best stand of the day. Chatterton was in three hours and three-quarters for his runs.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 27 June, page 11)

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 12)

Warwickshire sustained their first defeat of the season yesterday at Derby, when the home county, as the result of excellent bowling and fielding, succeeded in winning by ten wickets.

25 June: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4152.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 10)

Middlesex and Kent furnished the first match of the Tonbridge week, which opened yesterday with the most pleasing surroundings. Mr A J Webbe, the Middlesex captain, again thought it best to stand out of the Middlesex team.

Kent had rather the better of the day's cricket. Going in first, they were batting for three hours and a quarter and made 250. At one time the score promised to be much larger, as 156 went up when the third wicket fell. The Rev W Rashleigh and Mr J R Mason, last year's captain at Winchester, played perhaps the best cricket on the side. During their partnership for the second wicket they added 114 runs. Mr Mason's faultless 55 were scored in 80 minutes by seven fours, three threes, six twos and singles. In Mr Rashleigh's brilliant innings of 76, the characteristic of which was the fine cutting, were 11 fours, a three and six twos, and he took only 90 minutes to make his runs.

In the hour and three-quarters left for play Middlesex lost five good wickets. Rawlin helped to improve their position by particularly good batting.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 11)

The Angel Ground at Tonbridge was visited yesterday by a record cricket crowd for the town. At the close of the first day Kent had secured an advantage; as against their own total of 250 they had dismissed five of their opponents for 98.

However, Rawlin, Phillips and Mr Ford all did so well that at the end of an innings each the difference was only 38. Mr Ford's 60 was made in an hour and it included ten fours. Phillips took two hours to get his 23.

In their second innings Kent scored 233 for three wickets. A Hearne batted steadily and has now been in four hours. Mr Mason played excellently, and was out through treading on his wicket after he had hit a ball to the leg boundary, while Mr Rashleigh made eight fours and eight twos in a brilliant 65.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 12)

Late yesterday afternoon at Tonbridge the first match of the Week ended in a brilliant victory for Kent over Middlesex by 191 runs. If anything the position of affairs on Tuesday night pointed to an unfinished match, but all day yesterday the Kent side played a fine winning game.

They began in the morning with an advantage of 271 and seven wickets in hand. Three of these were lost in increasing the record to 327 by a quarter-past 1, and then Mr Marchant declared his innings closed, leaving Middlesex with four hours and a quarter to bat and 366 to make for victory. A Hearne was batting over four hours for his 85, in which were seven fours, a three and six twos, while Mr Weigall in a brilliant 70 (not out) hit seven fours, two threes and eight twos.

When Middlesex started the fourth innings of the match Mr Stoddart seemed likely to make a lot of runs, but after he had contributed 32 out of 39 he was dismissed by a wonderful catch close to the ground at extra mid-off. Subsequently Messrs Lucas and MacGregor both played well, and with 113 on the board and only four wickets down the prospect seemed to indicate a draw. However, the game turned steadily against Middlesex; the bowling and fielding were excellent, and when the seventh wicket went the score was 149. Phillips played with every care to try and keep off defeat, but in the end Kent won with 40 minutes to spare.

25 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4153.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 10)

After the long series of bowlers' wickets at Lord's furnished by the bad weather, it was a pleasing change to find the turf yesterday hard and true. It was the last opportunity of seeing the Light Blues before the University match next Monday, and the fact that Mr Latham had not completed his side gave the game additional importance. Messrs C G Pope, W G Grace, jun., and Mr R A Studd, all of whom are available, received another chance of winning their colours by appearing for Marylebone against their University.

The club was not particularly strong in bowling, but, getting first innings, they ran up a tolerably big score. Dr W G Grace, who began the innings with Lord Hawke, although he had a life from Mr Mitchell at extra slip, was caught in the slips at 43. Lord Hawke, however, in about an hour and a half obtained 64 by sound and vigorous play, hitting seven fours, two threes and six twos. He was third out at 34, caught at short slip. Young Mr Grace was dismissed by the third ball he received; but Mr Philipson, the old Oxford captain, went in fifth wicket down at 135 and stayed a little more than an hour, scoring 58 out of the 98 added in this time and making eight fours – mostly fine drives – and three twos, while a single of his was increased to five by an overthrow.

Marylebone at one time seemed likely to make a larger total than 258, but Mr Douglas's slow left-hand bowling was very effective when it was tried a second time at 207, and it secured the dismissal of the last four men. The Cambridge fielding was moderate. Mr Mitchell missed a couple of catches in the slips and the returns were often bad.

Cambridge had nearly two and a half hours' play. They began very disastrously to young Mead's bowling and four wickets fell for 35 runs; Mr Mitchell was caught at the wicket first ball and Mr Douglas was out at 28. A brilliant display of batting within the next hour rather altered matters. Mr Perkins scored 52 out of 76 in 50 minutes by fine play, hitting nine fours, a three and three twos. Mr Latham batted steadily and Mr Wells, although a little uncertain, helped his captain to add 58 before stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 11)

A great innings by Dr W G Grace, whose 196 is the highest score of the year, was the incident that eclipsed everything else at Lord's yesterday. On the beautifully true wicket Dr Grace completely exposed the weakness of the Cambridge bowling; from the time he went in his batting was brilliant and his driving and cutting were finely precise and hard. The large hand of spectators seemed much delighted with the cricket of the champion, who, in spite of the fact that his innings began at a quarter-past 1, ran a four out quite freshly at 6.30 when his score was 182.

Monday night had left the game in a pretty even state, for Cambridge, with five wickets to fall, were only 89 behind their opponents' score of 258. The balance of the innings yesterday morning extended from 11.35 to 1 o'clock, and was remarkable for the fine, free cricket of the Cambridge captain. In contrast to his early batting, Mr Latham played with more of those forcing powers which used to be his characteristic. Of the 93 added yesterday morning he made 68, and he was the last out – clean bowled in trying to drive – for 116. He gave no chance during his stay of three

hours and a quarter, and hit 12 fours, seven threes and nine twos. Dr Grace's son came out with an excellent analysis: he took all five wickets yesterday morning at a pretty cheap rate and altogether his figures were six for 79. He kept a capital length and has eventually modelled himself on Woof, the old Gloucestershire professional. Cambridge had done very well in getting four beyond the Marylebone score, but it will be noted that the credit of the performance rested chiefly with Mr Latham and Mr Perkins.

When the Club entered upon the third innings of the match at a quarter-past 1, Lord Hawke made a few vigorous hits before being caught at mid-off, and Brown played a good and vigorous game for 39 of the 69 put on for the second wicket. But it was in the subsequent two hours that the poor Cambridge bowling was so terribly punished by Dr Grace and Mr Ranjitsinhji; 200 were added to the score as the result of brilliant hitting. Mr Ranjitsinhji was out at this point for 94, made, without a chance, by 13 fours, four threes, seven twos and singles.

For an hour and a quarter afterwards Dr Grace continued his innings in company with Mr Philipson, and then, when everyone was hoping that he would get to 200, he was bowled by a fast ball from Mr Robinson in a light quite bad enough to have justified an adjournment. Beyond a difficult chance to the wicket-keeper just before he was out, Dr Grace had played faultlessly, and from beginning to end there was a thoroughness in his play worthy of his best days. During his stay of four hours and 35 minutes for 196 he contributed 20 fours, 13 threes and 13 twos. The fourth wicket had yielded 115. Mr W G Grace, jun., and Mr Philipson then advanced the score to the following position . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 12)

The heavy scoring match between Marylebone and Cambridge, which ended last evening shortly before 6 o'clock in the decisive victory of the M.C.C., furnished the third best aggregate on record for a first-class game in England; the other two were by Sussex and Cambridge in 1890 and 1891 at Brighton, when the runs made were 1,339 and 1,402, while the figures at Lord's during the first three days of this week were 1,332.

Another point worthy of note was that Dr W G Grace in his wonderful career had never played such a big innings on Lord's Ground as 196, his previous best being 189 for Single v Married in 1871, when he was not out.

Marylebone with an advantage of 415 and six wickets to fall were yesterday in a position that scarcely permitted of defeat. However, Dr W G Grace, before adopting the "closure," gave his side about two and a quarter hours' more play, during which the Cambridge bowlers were again severely treated, and only three more wickets fell in the accumulation of another 176. Mr Philipson increased his not out 48 to 60 before being caught in the long field, after a stay of two hours; he hit seven fours, two threes and three twos. Mr C W Wright then contributed a vigorous 71 to the 102 added in the next 75 minutes, and he, too, fell to a catch in the long field; he hit ten fours, one three and nine twos. Young Mr Grace's 54 was not a good innings; his game on the fast wicket lacked precision, he made various false hits and was twice missed. At a quarter to 2 Dr Grace closed his innings, the score then being 595 for seven wickets. It had lasted roughly seven hours, so that the average rate of run-getting was heavy.

The Light Blues were left with four hours and a quarter to play on a wicket that showed signs of crumbling. The start was not promising, and Messrs Mitchell, Field and Brunton went for 33, the

first-named paying the penalty for treating the bowling too cheaply and beginning to hit immediately he got in. Mr Douglas played well for his 28; but it was after the fourth wicket had gone for 52 that the best batting of the day was shown. Mr Perkins, who had been the first on the opening afternoon to give some brightness to the Cambridge innings, repeated his brilliancy and made 66 out of 100 put on in 50 minutes for the fifth partnership; his batting was clean and well-timed, and he hit 12 fours, a three and five twos.

The Cambridge captain played a finished game, and during his stay of two hours he contributed four fours, three threes and eight twos. Mr Druce profited by a couple of mistakes in the field, but Dr W G Grace and Mead soon completed the dismissal of the side, and the M.C.C. won by 374 runs.

25 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4154.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 10)

Yesterday at Trent-bridge in the first innings of Nottinghamshire Daft and Gunn played particularly well. Notts were batting four hours and 40 minutes for their score of 244. Lancashire lost the services of Mold, their fast bowler, early in the day owing to his slightly spraining his ankle.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 11)

Some fine bowling by Flowers did much to help Nottinghamshire to win their first victory of the season at Trent-bridge yesterday. Flowers found a spot in the pitch; he took the last two wickets of the first innings and the first two of the second without having a run scored from him, his first six wickets cost only five runs, and his record for the match was eight for 21.

Lancashire had been unfortunate on the first day in losing the services of Mold through a sprained ankle, and yesterday they had to bat one short in each innings. Nottinghamshire supported their bowlers with fine fielding, and they twice got Lancashire out so cheaply as to be able to win by an innings and 51 runs.

25 June: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4155.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 10)

The crowd at Kennington Oval yesterday to see the opening of this match numbered about 20,000; no fewer than 17,248 actually paid for admission. Naturally a large proportion of the company were on the side of Surrey, and the triumph of that county in batting aroused a wonderful amount of enthusiasm.

In this triumph two men stood out with special prominence – Walter Read and Brockwell, the latter of whom scored his third hundred this season. His was the best innings of the day, although not the longest. Surrey's great score was almost wholly dependent on these two men, while late in the day the Yorkshiremen, after their long spell of fatigue in the field under a hot sun, had a bad three-quarters of an hour of Lockwood's bowling, which left them in a position that calls for an uphill fight.

When the wicket at the first match at Bramall-lane turned out so false everyone hoped for a good pitch for the return. The wicket yesterday was worthy of the best traditions of the Oval, and Surrey had the turn of fortune's favours in getting first innings on it.

At first the Surrey batting in no way presaged anything extraordinary in the score. It progressed steadily against the fast bowling of Hirst and Foster, and after the former had sent back Abel at 22 Hayward and Lockwood took the score to 61. At the end of 70 minutes the scoring board marked 89 for three wickets. But at this stage began the partnership of Mr W W Read and Brockwell. For an hour and three-quarters they defied the best efforts of the Yorkshire bowlers. From the time he came in Brockwell settled down and played brilliantly, his drives being particularly hard and clean; but Mr Read's first 50 runs were not obtained in his best form. Mr Read rarely starts well, and this was so yesterday, for although he gave no chance he was occasionally beaten by the ball. However, eventually he got thoroughly set, and then the ball travelled at a great pace from his bat. His game on the leg side was as good as ever and he also cut well. The spectators had only fours to cheer, and to note the changes in the bowling and the landmarks in the score – viz., the fifties and the hundreds. When at last Brockwell was caught at the wicket he had without a fault made 103 out of 200 added in two hours and five minutes between the fall of the second and fourth wickets. His and Mr Read's partnership had yielded 172 runs. Brockwell's chief hits were 13 fours, eight threes and six twos.

After Baldwin had failed, Mr Key and Mr W W Read put on 87 in an hour. Mr Read was seventh out at 385, when he played a ball from Hirst into his wicket. His 161 was a contribution to 296 put on during his stay of three hours and a quarter, and he hit 25 fours, six threes and 11 twos. After his dismissal the end of the Surrey batting was quickly reached, the total being 401, and the innings, which had been started about noon, closed at half-past 5. Hirst came out best from the severe ordeal through which Yorkshire's bowlers had passed.

Yorkshire went in at 10 minutes to 6, when the sky had become clouded. Lockwood bowled at a great pace and the score shows how badly the batsmen fared. It will be noticed that Richardson and Maurice Read were absent from the Surrey team and that Peel is away from Yorkshire, all three being on the injured list.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 11)

Although the great advantage gained by Surrey on the first day of this match naturally diminished the interest, there was yet a company numbering about 12,000 at the Oval yesterday to see the finish, when Surrey were brilliantly victorious by ten wickets. At one time Yorkshire seemed to be going hopelessly to pieces, but a change was wrought by Mr Ernest Smith, the old Oxford "blue," Mounsey, Wainwright and Moorhouse. After the follow on, the last six Yorkshire wickets in the course of two hours and a half added no fewer than 251 runs.

The visitors, who overnight had lost five wickets for 43 runs, did so badly against Lockwood and Smith that seven fell for 59; but Mr Smith and Wainwright added 45 in 35 minutes for the eighth, and the completion of the innings was not reached until 91 had been made during the morning in an hour and a quarter. Lockwood's bowling had been particularly good and his seven wickets cost 94 runs.

In the "follow-on" Yorkshire began again so disastrously that four wickets went in an hour for 43 runs. But such was the vigour of the next two batsmen – Mr Smith and Mounsey – that in 47 minutes 109 runs were added. Mounsey, who had been in a little over an hour, was then caught at mid-on for 53, in which were eight fours, a three and six twos. Mr Smith was soon afterwards bowled for 68, obtained in less than an hour by ten fours, two threes, six twos and singles. Six for 168.

Wainwright and Moorhouse stayed together 65 minutes, during which 91 runs were obtained. Wainwright, who had given a couple of chances at 21 and 48, was then taken at mid-off by a fine catch; he hit a five, six fours and six twos. Moorhouse followed him out, caught at point, at 276; he had gone in at 152 for five wickets and should have been caught by Wood when his figures were 37. Among his hits were six fours, a three and three twos. Eventually Yorkshire's innings closed in three hours and a half for 294. Mr E Smith never played better for his side than he did yesterday, and in the double innings he made 112 runs.

Surrey wanted only 36 runs to win, and these were got without the loss of a wicket.

25 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4156.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 10)

The Oxford eleven which is to play at Lord's next Monday appeared at Brighton yesterday and had rather the better of the opening day's cricket in their match with Sussex.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 11)

At the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, the excellent play of Mr W Newham and Guttridge enabled Sussex to secure a considered advantage on the first innings; but when Oxford went in a second time, although they did badly to begin with, Mr Mordaunt, assisted by his captain, put an even appearance on the game. Mr Mordaunt has of late been playing particularly well.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 12)

The feature of yesterday's cricket on the Hove Ground, Brighton, was the splendid batting of Messrs Mordaunt and Fry for Oxford. They became partners on Tuesday, when the position of the Dark Blues pointed to defeat; but altogether they added 153 for the fourth wicket, carrying the score from 56 to 209.

Mr Mordaunt, who was then out, made 100 in two hours and a quarter, playing fine, free cricket and hitting nine fours, four threes and 19 twos. Mr Fry was sixth to leave at 309; he had taken three hours and a half for his 119, in which were 16 fours, six threes and nine twos. The last four wickets went for an addition of 34. Humphreys's lob bowling had been pretty effective.

As only two and a half hours remained for play there was not sufficient time for Sussex to get the 275 necessary for victory. However, they scored quickly and were within 102 of success and had five batsmen in hand when the match ended in a draw.

25 June: SOMERSET v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105717.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 10)

This match began yesterday at Taunton on a good, fast wicket, and in fine weather. Somerset's innings lasted three hours and three-quarters; but the South Africans showed rather feeble form and lost six good men for 83.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket in this match at Taunton was made remarkable by the fine innings of Mr Sewell for the South Africans. The visitors are now 179 on, with three wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 12)

More than 1,110 runs were scored in the three days of this match at Taunton, and yesterday Somerset won by nine wickets. The county achieved a great feat in getting the 238 necessary for victory at the cost of one batsman. The credit for the performance belonged to Mr Palairet, Mr Stanley and Clapp.

Wednesday 27 June, page 11: THE COUNTIES

Surrey's victory over Yorkshire yesterday again places them first on the championship list, the results up to date being as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	7	6	1	0	5
Middlesex	8	6	2	0	4
Yorkshire	7	5	2	0	3
Somerset	4	1	1	0	2
Kent	2	1	1	0	0
Gloucestershire	5	2	3	0	-1
Nottinghamshire	6	1	4	1	-3
Lancashire	6	1	5	0	-4
Sussex	7	0	6	1	-6

Warwickshire, whose figures are reckoned in the first-class averages along with those of Derbyshire, Essex and Leicestershire, have won five matches and drawn three, and have not been beaten.

[Note: this table was not updated the following day after the results of two more matches.]

Thursday 28 June, page 12: THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

Mr P H Latham, the Cambridge captain, gave Messrs Pope, Robinson and Brunton their blues at the end of the match at Lord's yesterday, and there is now only one place left to be filled up. The 11th man will be decided upon to-day.

28 June: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4157.html)

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

At the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, yesterday, the match between last year's champion team and Essex aroused much interest and produced an excellent and even day's cricket.

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

An extraordinary day's cricket was witnessed at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, when Essex, after appearing to be in a hopeless position, played up courageously and, aided by various mistakes in the Yorkshire field, put the visitors in to make 216 to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 July, page 7)

Yorkshire had made so much progress towards victory at Leyton on Friday that little doubt remained as to the result. Mr Sellers, Brown, Mounsey and Moorhouse all batted excellently, and the 216 which Essex had left the visitors to make were hit off at the cost of only four wickets.

So vigorous was the play at one time on Saturday that Brown and Mounsey added 67 in 40 minutes before the fourth wicket fell. Mounsey hit seven fours, a three and eight twos, and Brown nine fours, two threes and two twos.

28 June: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4158.html)

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

On the Angel Ground at Tonbridge yesterday Mr J R Mason, last year's captain at Winchester, scored his first 100 in important cricket, and so helped Kent to secure a very substantial total. But for Messrs Mason and Weigall Kent would have fared badly, for these two batsmen contributed no fewer than 167 to the 251.

Mr Mason went in first and was seventh out at 218 after two and three-quarter hours' batting. He cut and drove finely, and made 13 fours, a three and seven twos; the Lancashire slip let him escape when he had scored five, and subsequently he had a life at the hands of mid-on. Mr Weigall helped to add 119 for the fourth partnership; he too had an escape in the slips, but his 65 was a brilliant innings and included eight fours, a three and seven twos. Mold and Briggs bowled well, and had the fielding been better would have got out Kent for fewer runs.

After Lancashire had lost three wickets for 46 Briggs and Baker did something to mend matters and the score was left at 109. Wharmby injured his hand while fielding and Mr Marchant, the Kent captain, allowed Lancashire to complete their side with Goodwin.

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

At Tonbridge yesterday there was a repetition of Thursday's fine weather, but the wicket showed signs of giving and the bowlers were thus helped.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 July, page 7)

Saturday saw the end of a fine week's cricket at Tonbridge, made remarkable by the successes which attended Kent, who defeated such powerful antagonists as Middlesex and Lancashire. At the close of Friday it was virtually anybody's game, as Lancashire, with six wickets in hand, wanted 100 to win.

The play lasted about an hour and a quarter, during which the balance of the innings realized only 69 runs, and Kent won by 30. Mr Benton was bowled at 79, but 40 were added while Mr MacLaren and Briggs were together. Martin, who bowled very finely, got out Briggs at 119 and Mr MacLaren at 120. In the latter's 55 were eight fours, two threes and three twos. Martin's analysis during the morning was 18 overs (eight maidens), 25 runs, five wickets; while his full return was eight for 45.

28 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4159.html)

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

The comparative merits of the Universities' teams can rarely be well measured from their last trials at Lord's, for the reason that the sides placed in the field at Marylebone are usually of a marked difference in calibre. At the beginning of the week there was a dearth of good bowling against Cambridge; but yesterday the Club for the usual two-day match with Oxford had the services of the skilled Middlesex men J T Hearne and Rawlin, who, with the wicket inclined to be dusty, made short work of the Oxford first innings. Oxford are playing the side that will meet Cambridge on Monday.

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

Two days proved sufficient for the decision of this match at Lord's, chiefly because the wicket was worn and bare, and gave the bowlers much aid. The club going in to get only 70 in the fourth innings had by no means a good time.

In the morning Oxford were nearly two hours completing their second spell of batting. Scoring on such a wicket was quite a laborious task; but up to a certain point the Dark Blues did pretty well. Mr Mordaunt, who has been so successful in recent matches, played steadily for his 30, a really good innings, while Messrs Fry and Phillips added 29 during their partnership. The 100 went up with only five men out; but at this stage Messrs Jackson and Stoddart took up the bowling, and with such effect that three Dark Blues were dismissed at 114 and, although Mr Bardswell made a few good hits, the innings was all over for 140 at half-past 1. The bowling figures speak for themselves.

Marylebone had 70 to score for victory, but they did not begin their task until after luncheon. The turf was in a very treacherous state, and the little piece of batting with which Mr Stoddart and Lord Hawke began the innings no doubt won the game. So vigorous was the play that 30 were made in a quarter of an hour from Messrs Bardswell and Fry.

A great change came over the game when Mr Forbes, the fast bowler, was put on at the pavilion end. Mr Stoddart skied the ball to third man at 31 and the fifth wicket fell at 53. Sixteen of the other 17 were got by Messrs Ranjitsinhji and Wright, and finally Marylebone won by four wickets. Mr Forbes had a remarkable analysis, while the general play of the Oxford men created a good impression.

28 June: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4160.html)

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

Another batting triumph has to be recorded for Surrey, in which Brockwell again played a prominent part, missing his fourth hundred of the season by only seven runs. The long Surrey innings occupied the greater part of the day – from noon until half-past 5.

Brockwell's batting did not reach the same standard of excellence as in the Yorkshire match, the general character of his innings being marred by some bad strokes in the slips, and he was occasionally at fault in timing the ball. He gave no actual chance, and going in second wicket down at 77 he was fifth to leave, having made 93 out of the 190 scored during his stay of two and a half hours. He hit a five (an off-drive), nine fours, five threes and eight twos. In his thirties there was some question of a return catch off the lob bowling, and when Humphreys threw up the ball everyone seemed to think he was out. But the umpires gave him the benefit of the doubt.

The foundation for the good score was really laid by Lockwood and Maurice Read, who scored 75 in three-quarters of an hour for the second partnership; but Brockwell and Mr Jephson made the longest stand of the innings when they added 108 in 75 minutes for the fourth wicket, taking the score from 97 to 205. Mr Jephson played pretty well for his 49, though he was badly missed by Alfred Shaw at short slip when his fig were 49, and Mr W W Read batted in his own vigorous style, in which the pull frequently occurred; his 44 were scored in about 65 minutes.

As 300 went up with only six men out the score promised to be much larger than it was ultimately. Alfred Shaw, however, going on for a third time at 316, got out the last four men in seven overs and one ball (three maidens) for 12 runs. This fine piece of work was only part of the excellent analysis of seven for 69. It was interesting to watch how Shaw's length kept down the runs.

Sussex had three-quarters of an hour's batting and, aided by some errors in the field, made 50 without the loss of a wicket. Beautiful weather prevailed and there were about 6,000 or 7,000 spectators. Richardson's strained thigh still keeps him out of the Surrey eleven.

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

Some of the best traditions of Sussex cricket were revived by their fine uphill fight on the Oval yesterday. It was no mean task for their men to attempt to reduce a game to evenness after their opponents had played a first innings of 356; but the county has so often done well in fighting against heavy odds that a big company visited the Oval in anticipation of a good day's cricket. And the spectators were not disappointed.

Sussex started badly enough, but their later batsmen gave some respectability to the first total, while in the follow-on the early men on the order did so well that, although the deficit reached the substantial proportions of 158, Sussex, at the end of the day, were 60 runs on with seven wickets to fall, a position that holds out every promise of an interesting Saturday's cricket – a thing quite uncommon in recent London seasons. About 3,000 people were present.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 July, page 7)

There were about 10,000 spectators of Saturday's cricket at the Oval. The balance of the Sussex innings lasted until after luncheon, and the overnight score of 218, which gave them a lead of 60 with seven wickets in hand, was increased to 333.

The early play was notable for the excellent batting of Mr W L Murdoch, whose finished game was greatly admired. At 269, however, in trying to cut a ball from Abel, he was caught at short slip. His first hit on Friday night was bad, but this was his sole mistake in an innings of 80, played in two hours and three-quarters, in which were seven fours, six threes and three twos. Before Mr Heasman was caught at the wicket Sussex were doing wonderfully well, and 260 went up while as yet only three men were out. Abel, however, went on to bowl, and in the course of half an hour he got out Mr Heasman, Mr Murdoch, Mr Arlington and Guttridge, while Mr Smith's dismissal at 294 made eight wickets down. Butt and Humphreys played steadily and the Surrey captain showed a strange reluctance to alter his attack. Before he put one of his best bowlers on the men had been together 35 minutes and were well set, and it was not until 330, when Abel had resumed, that Butt was caught at slip.

When Surrey went in to get 176 to win they began badly, Abel, in hitting round at a "long hop," being bowled off his legs. Lockwood and Maurice Read, however, scored rapidly. The former gave three chances; Mr Murdoch misjudged a difficult ball at long-on, Humphreys failed to take a hard return and Butt missed him at the wicket. When the partnership had realized 74 in an hour Read was cleverly taken with one hand by Shaw at short slip. Lockwood was easily caught and bowled, and Bean brought off a wonderful catch at leg that got rid of Brockwell. Four for 95. Mr Walter Read and Jephson got the other 82 in 80 minutes. At the outset their cricket was poor, but afterwards they made a number of good hits and Surrey won by six wickets.

28 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105718.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

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

Dr W G Grace followed up his fine bowling on the first day of this match at Bristol with some excellent hitting yesterday, when he carried out his bat for 129. To take nine wickets and catch the other man out and score over 100 runs will remind cricketers of some of Dr Grace's other great feats.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 July, page 7)

The South Africans played well in a losing game with Gloucestershire at Bristol, and although 116 behind on the first innings they put the county in on Saturday to make 147 for victory. Gloucestershire eventually won by five wickets, their task being accomplished in two hours and three-quarters. The batting of Hearne and Mr Halliwell for the South Africans, though not faultless, was of great merit.

Surrey and Kent each won two matches last week, and the positions are now as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	8	7	1	0	6
Yorkshire	7	5	2	0	3
Middlesex	9	6	3	0	3
Somerset	4	3	1	0	2
Kent	4	3	1	0	2
Gloucestershire	5	2	3	0	-1
Nottinghamshire	6	1	4	1	-3
Lancashire	7	1	6	0	-5
Sussex	8	0	7	1	-7

2 July: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4161.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 12)

This match began yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester, when Lancashire were batting the greater part of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 11)

Yesterday's play in this match at Manchester was very interesting. Lancashire eventually left Derbyshire with 187 to make for victory.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 July, page 6)

There was an exciting finish to this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday. Derbyshire had gone in on Tuesday night with 187 to make to win, and scored 13 for the loss of one wicket.

Evans and Mr Wright yesterday morning put on 41 for the second partnership, but then the game changed and five wickets were down for an additional 16 runs. Chatterton played steadily and, aided by Storer and Hulme, raised the figures to 120 before the seventh wicket went. Then Malthouse helped to put on 37 with him. However, Chatterton was soon afterwards out, after a stay of two hours and 20 minutes, and in the end Lancashire won by 14 runs.

2 July: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4162.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 12)

The traditional interest in Oxford v Cambridge at Lord's was threatened this year with some reduction, not only by the dearth of bowling talent at the Universities, but by the general feebleness of the preparatory cricket of the elevens. The batting, too, was so very much better than the bowling that whichever side got in first on the hard wicket might be expected to score heavily.

Oxford won the toss and these expectations were realized. Yesterday in a crowd of 16,000 or 17,000 people there was certainly wanting some of the old-fashioned enthusiasm. A day's cricket in which over 400 runs are made ought scarcely to lay itself open to the charge of slowness; yet at times there was a tameness in the game for which all the brilliant batting of Mr Mordaunt and Mr Phillips could not wholly make up. This was due, no doubt, to the poverty of the Cambridge bowling, a little lack of energy in some of the fielding and the fact that the majority of the Oxford batsmen were content with steadiness.

Mr Fry achieved the feat of scoring 100 not out, and his name now goes down to cricket history as one of the 17 men who have made a three-figure innings in Oxford v Cambridge. His cricket was often excessively cautious against the poor bowling on the good wicket, but it had the great merit of soundness. The best innings of the day was that of Mr Phillips, who last year failed to keep his place in the eleven; but earlier in the day Mr Mordaunt made a beautiful 41. Mr W G Druce kept wicket excellently for Cambridge and made three fine catches.

In the Oxford team there are six old blues, the new men being Messrs Foster, Raikes, Bardswell, Forbes and Lewis; while for Cambridge only Messrs Douglas, Latham and Perkins played last year. Mr Latham had kept the eleventh place open a long time in the hope that Mr C M Wells, who bowled excellently last year, would consent to play again, although he had gone down. Mr N F Druce, however, was eventually given the place.

The match began quietly enough at a quarter past 12, and the enthusiasm was scarcely so marked as usual, either in the reception of the players or the early play. In the latter there was certainly nothing much to call for cheering. Palaret and Leveson-Gower began the Oxford innings, and the field was arranged as follows: - W G Druce, wicket-keeper; Field, point; Latham, cover-point; Brunton, extra mid-off; Mitchell, mid-off; for Gray (fast) Pope took short slip, N F Druce extra slip, Perkins third man, Douglas long-off and Robinson mid-on; while for Pope (medium) N F Druce went to short slip, Robinson to extra slip, Douglas to third man, Gray to mid-on and Perkins to long-on.

The first few overs were devoid of incident. Oxford's score was opened by four byes, which showed pretty well the pace of the ground, a fast ball on the leg side from Gray reaching the boundary very quickly. Palaret played with easy confidence and certainly made the two best hits in the first 20 minutes; he got Gray well away to the leg boundary and drove Pope to the off. A good piece of fielding by Douglas near the boundary saved to Cambridge a couple of runs and was deservedly applauded; but inside the first half-hour came the fall of the first Oxford wicket. Palaret by a weak drive gave Mitchell a catch close to the ground and the ball was cleverly held. One for 31.

Before the next wicket fell the spectators had something to cheer in the good fielding of Brunton on the off side. Foster started well with a fine off-drive; but both batsmen were afterwards twice beaten by Pope, who, from the nursery end, kept an excellent length and seemed to get on a slight break. Leveson-Gower cut the ball sharply into the hands of point – a good catch – at 44.

After this somewhat dull start Mordaunt came in, and under the influence of his bright and excellent cricket the crowd rapidly grew enthusiastic. Mordaunt impressed everyone by his fine forward play, and Foster was not far behind him either in form or in speed of scoring. The variety of the Cambridge bowling was quickly exhausted. Robinson's long run and erratic length were not profitable, and an appeal for a catch at the wicket off him by Druce, standing back, was given in favour of the batsman. Douglas went on at 71 – the end of the first hour – and Mitchell, who got the wickets against Surrey at the Oval, took Robinson's place at 86. Mordaunt played Mitchell's first over very badly; he nearly gave a catch to Robinson at mid-off, for which the latter delayed starting to run in, while another ball got through his defence, though it did not hit the wicket. Cambridge made mistakes in the field soon afterwards, and Foster ought to have been caught, on the off side, by Brunton, who altogether misjudged a ball which was skied to him and missed an easy catch. Foster, however, was caught at the wicket soon after he had added two to his score. Mordaunt and he had put on 54 runs in a little less than 40 minutes for the third wicket. Three for 98.

Fry, the captain, came in, and Mordaunt, with a good off-drive from Douglas, soon sent up the 100, which had occupied about 80 minutes; but at 108 Mordaunt's fine innings of over 50 minutes was ended with a good catch at the wicket off Mitchell. In the ten minutes preceding luncheon Fry adopted cautious tactics and did not score. Pope and Gray were again bowling and the score at the adjournment stood at 117.

Fifty minutes were taken for the interval, and at the renewal the bowlers were Pope and Mitchell. A fine drive for four by Phillips, and the Oxford captain's first run in half an hour – a sharp single – drew cheers from the spectators. Fry scored a four from a cut that was not far from being a catch to Field at point, and then the game assumed its early steadiness. The fielding was good and the batsmen seemed disinclined to take any liberties with the bowling. They had not long to wait, however, for something to hit; some loose balls from Mitchell, who occasionally bowled short, were promptly cut to the boundary, and at 142 he was superseded by Gray. Phillips was thoroughly set now and his game on both sides of the wicket was precise and powerful. Fours grew plentiful and in 25 minutes after luncheon the total showed an increase of 42, while the substitution of Robinson for Gray did not reduce the speed of run-getting. Nor was Douglas at the nursery end more successful in his efforts to keep the runs down. One stroke by Phillips was worthy of remark – viz., a fine drive off Douglas, the ball going at a great pace past Field at long-off.

Fry's game grew more vigorous and 50 runs were added in the first 50 minutes after luncheon. A good piece of fielding by N F Druce, who was now taking point at the pavilion end, and some more bowling changes occurred before Phillips with a four completed his 50 in a little over the hour and sent up 200 at a quarter to 4. Mitchell and Pope were now bowling at different ends from those at which they had tried before the interval. Another new bowler, Perkins, was put on at 210; but Phillips made eight off the first over, including a four to square-leg from a ball that pitched little more than half-way. More fours and a good piece of fielding (by Douglas at third man) were received with cheers, and then Gray, who had resumed, got Phillips caught at point. He made his 78 in a fine and faultless innings of an hour and 40 minutes' duration, his figures being 14 fours, two threes, four twos and singles. The partnership for the fifth wicket had yielded 137 runs, and this long stand had, of course, put a vastly different complexion on the state of the match in the last

hour and a half. Five for 245.

Bathurst came in next; but his stay was brief, as Robinson, going on instead of Perkins at 258, got him out with a wonderful return catch, the ball coming back fast and low and being held by the bowler with his left hand. Six for 258. Fry, who had taken two hours to reach 50, was now joined by Raikes, who made a few vigorous hits, while Fry was pretty quiet, his hard hits being few and far between. The 300 went up after four and a quarter hours' play, with Douglas and Robinson bowling. From a hit off which he should have been caught at mid-off by Gray, to whom the ball went straight but hard, the Oxford captain passed Phillips's score, and then Mitchell went on instead of Douglas and got Raikes caught at the wicket. Seven for 318. Bardswell's stay furnished nothing worthy of note, and in trying to cut a ball he was easily caught at extra slip, fielding deep, while Forbes was out first ball, Robinson sending the stump flying. Eight and nine for 321.

Fry's chance of getting his 100 had visibly decreased, and when Lewis came in he still wanted 17. Fortunately he had the next over to play, and this was from Mitchell. In three drives he made 11 runs, and left Lewis to take a ball which just missed the wicket. Getting to the other end Fry scored two by an on-drive, and then Robinson gave him an easy ball and he got it right away to the on boundary, thus completing his 100 amid great cheers. He did well in not waiting longer, for in the next over Lewis was bowled and the innings ended for 338. Fry's 100 not out was made in three hours and a half; the greater part of his innings was characterized by extreme caution, but during the final five minutes, in which he made 17 runs in five hits, his play was brilliant; his figures were 11 fours, four threes and ten twos. Oxford's innings lasted five hours.

Cambridge went in for 40 minutes at 6.20. Mitchell and Douglas were the batsmen. Forbes opened the bowling from the pavilion end with his field thus: - Lewis, wicket; Bardswell, slip; Palairret, extra slip; Leveson-Gower, third man; Fry, point; Foster, cover-point; Bathurst, mid-off; Raikes, mid-on; Mordaunt, deep slip; and Phillips, long-off. The first over was lengthened by two no-balls and a wide, after which Bathurst (medium left) went on at the other end, with Phillips at third man, Forbes at mid-off, Leveson-Gower at mid-on; Mordaunt at long-off and Raikes at deep cover-point. Bathurst in his first over met with great success, as with successive balls he got Mitchell out leg-before and bowled Field. Two for five.

Brunton now joined Douglas and the batting quickly brightened. Forbes could get no length at all, and after he had sent down two more no-balls he gave way to Bardswell. Meanwhile both men made several good hits, though they ran some risk in scoring behind the wicket from the fast bowling of Forbes. Lewis kept wicket well. Fry went on himself at 54 and Forbes had another over; but the batting held out till the drawing of stumps at 7 o'clock, when 67 had been made in 40 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 11)

There was little in the uphill game in which Cambridge were engaged the whole of yesterday at Lord's to arouse much enthusiasm among the company, which must have numbered about 20,000 – a material increase on the first day. Mr Brunton did well in both innings and there was some vigour in Mr Perkins's play, but the defence generally lacked freedom and brilliance, and there was no big innings on the Cambridge side to reduce the match to evenness. For the most part the Oxford fielding was excellent and Mr Bardswell's bowling was very effective.

The heavy rain in the early hours of the morning aroused some fear for the condition of the turf, and

at the very start yesterday the wicket kicked in a way that promised ill for Cambridge. They began in disastrous fashion, losing their best bat from the second ball of the morning, a good one from Bathurst beating Douglas, who, in playing back, was clean bowled. Three wickets for 67 was certainly not a promising score.

Brunton played very well until he was caught at mid-off for 47. Four for 106 bore a strong resemblance to the Oxford record for four wickets; but here the likeness ended, as at 108 Bardswell went on in place of Forbes and quickly got the Cambridge captain caught at short-slip. Five wickets had gone for 114 and Perkins was the sole remaining batsman of any repute, so that the prospects of the Light Blues were not bright. Perkins and N F Druce improved the position of affairs, but after a bright start their game grew dull. The Oxford captain showed no reluctance to change his bowling, and after he had scored 18 Druce gave a difficult chance to Foster at cover-point. Perkins played Fry badly, and by forsaking his usual freedom for a cautious game did not increase the attractions of his cricket. After 52 had been put on in 50 minutes, Perkins was well caught by Forbes running from mid-on. His 23 had taken an hour to obtain. Six for 166.

W G Druce, who followed, survived an appeal for leg-before from Fry, after which runs came steadily, N F Druce showing good form and proving every additional run the seriousness of Foster's mistake. It was not until Forbes was put on that W G Druce was bowled at 193, while in the next over from Bathurst a good catch at the wicket sent back N F Druce, whose 39 were admirably made in an hour and 20 minutes. Any prospect which the Cambridge men had of saving the follow-on had rapidly disappeared and, with eight men out, 64 were still wanted. Pope and Robinson, the former profiting by a couple of chances, reduced this number to 38 before the interval, and afterwards the innings quickly ended. Pope ran himself out, Gray was bowled, and the score only reached the total of 222.

Cambridge followed on at 3.25 with 116 runs to rub off and, as the wicket had recovered from the effects of the morning rain, there seemed no reason why a really good score should not be put together. The original order was adhered to, and Douglas and Mitchell began the batting. Bardswell and Fry were the bowlers. Douglas started well, cutting the Oxford captain several times, while Mitchell also played freely. Fry soon gave up the ball to Bathurst, and at the end of half an hour Douglas was well caught at third man by Fry. One for 29.

Field came in and the score advanced quietly. Indeed, the fielding was the best point in the play for some time to come and the batting continued to be uninteresting. At last, at 4.20, the 50 went up, and a little later the cricket was enlivened by an off-drive to the boundary by Mitchell – so far the best stroke of his innings. Bardswell, who had been troubling the batsmen for a long time, got Field in two minds at 61 and clean bowled him for a very poor 16. Two for 61. Brunton arrived, only to see the immediate dismissal of Mitchell, who was caught off Leveson-Gower at mid-off for 28 after a stay of a little over an hour; in this time he had shown none of the splendid form which had characterized his form in Cambridge local cricket. Three for 61.

With Latham and Brunton together the batting became quieter than ever. Bardswell, after bowling for an hour and 40 minutes at a stretch, gave up the ball to Forbes at 85. Brunton had escaped the loss of his wicket for a run-out through a bad return by Leveson-Gower. Another mistake in the Oxford field occurred just before the 100 went up, Palaret, at extra-slip, missing Latham off Forbes, while in the two which sent the score to 101 Raikes ought to have run out Brunton, but he took the ball badly from a splendid return by Leveson-Gower. These errors proved very costly to the Oxford team, but after the partnership had lasted an hour and had yielded 45, Latham played a ball from Forbes into his wicket. Four for 106.

Perkins came next and began vigorously; in his first over from the fast bowler he scored 14 runs – three fours and a two – and not only rubbed off the arrears but started briskly putting on runs for Cambridge. From both ends the score rose rapidly, and in less than half an hour 51 runs were added by the brightest cricket of the day. Presently, however, Perkins was cleverly caught at slip. Five for 157. N F Druce was soon caught in the double figures (six for 165), and W G Druce came in.

Another mistake in the Oxford field was made when Brunton was 58 – he was badly missed by Leveson-Gower at point; while Bardswell nearly caught and bowled him next ball. But very soon a change came over the game. Brunton, who had been in for an hour and three-quarters, was caught at mid-off for 66 – an innings full of good strokes, but also containing a certain number of errors. His chief hits were eight fours, five threes and five twos. Pope was leg-before first ball at 190, and directly afterwards a catch low down at short slip got rid of Druce. Seven, eight and nine for 190.

Robinson and Gray stayed together for a couple of overs, increasing the score to 200, and then, at 18 minutes to 7, the catching of Gray at mid-off closed the innings. Bardswell had bowled particularly well, keeping an excellent length and varying his pace. His analysis showed six for 76. Stumps were drawn for the day at the end of the Cambridge innings, and this morning at 11.30 Oxford will start to get the 85 necessary to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 July, page 6)

Memories of “Fry’s year” (for as such, by virtue of his 100, will the match of 1894 be known to cricket posterity) are not likely to be revived in connection with thoughts of brilliance or brightness. The 60th inter-University match, which was won easily by Oxford yesterday morning, failed, for reasons that have already been explained, to command the interest generally aroused by its predecessors. There was a dullness from beginning to end which, from a glance at the Oxford score, would seem almost incredible. But the Oxford captain’s excessive caution on Monday somewhat lessened the effect of the fine batting of Messrs Mordaunt and Phillips.

On Tuesday Cambridge in their uphill game threw little spirit into the fight, and yesterday morning only a small score was required to furnish Oxford with a very substantial win. The closing scenes of the match took place in fine summer weather, and the wicket remained hard and true to the end.

Oxford began their task of getting 85 at 11.35, Palairret and Leveson-Gower starting the batting, while the bowlers were Robinson and Gray. The opening two overs yielded only a wide, and then Palairret scored a single from a stroke that was almost a catch to Field at point, while in Robinson’s next over he would have been run out had Brunton, fielding at third man, returned the ball to the proper end. Two good strokes by Leveson-Gower – a cut for three and a leg hit for four – were recorded, and at 23 Pope took the place of Robinson. Runs came during the first half-hour at the rate of one a minute. An off-drive for four by Palairret off Gray resulted in the latter’s giving way to Mitchell at 32. The batsmen still made runs steadily, and Palairret gained four by a very fine off-drive to the boundary off Pope. Leveson-Gower had a narrow escape of a run-out with his score at 15, after which Palairret made two fours off successive balls from Pope, an almost straight drive and a square-leg hit. Douglas’s slows were tried at 46, but at first they only tended to increase the prospect of an early finish, for Palairret drove and cut him to the boundary. In the same over, however, a fine catch at short-slip, low down, by Pope got rid of Leveson-Gower, while, off Mitchell, Palairret was easily taken at extra-slip. One and two for 55 after three-quarters of an hour’s play.

Foster and Mordaunt were next partners. The latter got Mitchell away to the leg boundary and Foster drove Douglas to the off for four. Oxford were now within 20 of victory, and a wide, some singles and a cut by Mordaunt for four took the score to 71, after play had lasted an hour. Robinson bowled at the Nursery end and Pope came on again, but the score rose to a tie by a four, singles and an overthrow, and then Foster with an off-drive for four off Robinson won the game for Oxford by eight wickets at a quartet to 1. There was a little cheering at the finish, but the match ebbed out very quietly. After the winning hit the spectators, who were only 2,000 or 3,000 in number, promenaded the ground for some little time.

Of the 60 matches now played Cambridge have won 30, Oxford 27, and three were drawn (1827, 1844 and 1888) owing to rain.

2 July: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4163.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 12)

There were about 10,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket on the Headingley Ground, Leeds. Yorkshire did particularly well to begin with, and before the rain came and affected the pitch 187 were up with only four men out. Subsequently the end of the innings was so rapidly reached that the total was only 209.

Brown played splendidly, making 72 in two hours by seven fours, six threes, seven twos and singles. Tunncliffe and Brown put on 89 in a little over an hour for the fourth partnership. Nottinghamshire went in for a few minutes before the close . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 11)

The cricket at Leeds yesterday was made remarkable in the closing hours of the day by a brilliant innings by Mr F S Jackson, the old Cambridge captain, whose batting roused the 10,000 spectators to great enthusiasm. He made 136 out of 233 and has not yet finished his innings.

Early in the day things went very badly with Notts, who lost half their side for 59, but subsequently Attewell and Mr Wright added 107 for the sixth wicket. In Attewell's freely-played 61 were five fours, six threes and five twos. Mr Wright was batting two and a half hours for his runs. Yorkshire, who held a lead of 22, scored 233 in their second innings for the loss of two wickets, these runs being made in two hours and a half.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 July, page 6)

Mr F S Jackson, the Old Harrovian and late Cambridge University captain, added to his previous performances in this match at Leeds a fine piece of bowling yesterday, which did much [decisively to] terminate the game and enable Yorkshire to win. His brilliant batting extended over some three hours and his 145 included two fives, 13 fours, 12 threes and ten twos, while he was the third to leave at 240. Then, when Notts were playing hard to save the match, he went on and got five of the last seven wickets at a cost of 37 runs.

The partnership of Mr Jackson and Brown yielded 170 runs in an hour and three-quarters, and Brown hit a five, six fours, nine threes and four twos. Afterwards, seven men were out for 268, but Wainwright and Hirst put on 62 in 35 minutes before Yorkshire's innings was declared closed.

Notts were 352 behind and had four hours and a quarter to play, so that their only game was to try and draw the match. Gunn, Daft and Mr Howitt all showed extreme caution. The separation of Gunn and daft, however, was followed by the steady dismissal of the side, and by 5.25 Yorkshire had gained a brilliant victory by 201 runs.

2 July: SUSSEX v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105719.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 12)

Yesterday at Brighton the South Africans were kept in the field nearly the whole day . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 11)

After a bad first innings the South Africans at Brighton yesterday show great improvement; but in the end, Sussex won by nine wickets. Humphreys's lob bowling was very effective.

An important meeting of the members of the Kent County Club was held yesterday at Willis's Restaurant, King-street, St James's, for the discussion of this subject. There were present Sir John Farnaby Lennard, the president, in the chair, the Earl of Darnley, Lord Throwley, Sir Charles Oakeley, Mr F S W Cornwallis, M.P., Mr Akers-Douglas, M.P., Mr R S mason, the Hon Ivo Bligh, Mr George Marsham, Mr F A Mackinnon, Mr Sackville Cresswell, Mr F Marchant, the Rev R T Thornton, the Rev C Randolph, the Rev C E Nepean, Major Spens, Mr A J Lancaster and others.

Mr Akers-Douglas moved: - "That the present system of importing and qualifying cricketers from other counties is opposed to the best interests of county cricket; and that the committee be requested to communicate with the authorities of other county clubs in order that some joint action may be taken to amend the existing law of county qualification, either by extending the period of residence or by such other means as may be deemed expedient."

Mr Stanley Christopherson seconded the resolution, which was supported by the Earl of Darnley, Mr Marsham and the Rev C E Nepean.

The Rev R T Thornton moved the following amendment: - "Though while it is undesirable in the best interests of county cricket that professionals who are playing for other counties should be induced by the definite offer of pecuniary and other advantages to leave their own counties, this meeting recognizes the necessity of maintaining Kent as a first-class county, and empowers the committee to expend such sums as may be deemed advisable to secure the services of young players who are not representing their counties."

Sir Charles Oakley seconded the amendment, which on being put to the vote as carried by 38 to 30.

5 July: ESSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4164.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 July, page 10)

In this match at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, Mr C B Fry was unable to secure the services of the whole of the eleven who had won the game with Cambridge. Indeed, only five "Blues" were playing for the University.

With first innings Oxford were batting until a quarter-past 3 for a score of 155, their men for the most part finding Mead's bowling very difficult. Half the side went for 63, but Messrs Pearson and H Leveson-Gower played fine cricket, adding 53 in 40 minutes for the sixth wicket. Mr Pearson, who was then bowled, hit four fours, four threes and five twos. Mr H Leveson-Gower left last, caught at slip, for 51, in which were seven fours, two threes and six twos. Mead's bowling figures came out well – seven for 66.

The chief feature of the Essex batting was the excellent play of Mr Owen.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 July, page 12)

Of the several batting triumphs in this match at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, the most striking was that by the Essex player, Mr H G Owen. As the result of the two days' play, Essex are left with 161 to make for victory.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 July, page 7)

The Essex eleven gained a brilliant victory at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, on Saturday, over the Oxford eleven. On Friday Oxford fought gallantly in an uphill game and, while their deficiency at the end of an innings was 103, they yet put Essex in a last time to make 161 to win.

Burns was soon out on Saturday morning, after which came some fine cricket from Mr Owen and Carpenter, who got the last 153 runs in two hours and a quarter. Carpenter was missed when his score was 45, 51 and 52, but Mr Owen played splendidly, and his 86 brought his aggregate in the match to 195 for once out. His chief hits were a five, seven fours, seven threes and four twos, while Carpenter made nine fours, a three and three twos. Essex won by nine wickets.

5 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4165.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 July, page 10)

There were some 9,000 spectators of the first of the annual tests of skill between professionals and amateurs at the Oval yesterday. There were four men missing from the Gentlemen's side whose names came immediately to mind in glancing at the score – Messrs Stoddart, M'Gregor, Ernest Smith and S M J Woods – and in these days of dearth of amateur bowlers Mr Forbes or Mr Bardswell, of the Oxford eleven, might have been included, or even Mr Kortright, who, however, is not so successful this year as last, and as, further, playing for Essex. The Players in no way suffered from lack of thorough representation; at least nine of them had indisputable qualifications for their places.

The wicket was scarcely as true as might have been expected, and its defects apparently arose from over-watering early in the week. It certainly bumped a good deal at the upper end, and this was especially noticeable when Mold and Wainwright and, later in the day, Mr G G Walker were bowling.

The Gentlemen, who had first innings, were batting until a quarter to five for 244, by no means the substantial score that was promised by the early play. Indeed, nearly the whole of the good play was seen before luncheon, especially when Dr W G Grace and Mr F S Jackson were together. Briggs and Mold bowled extremely well, but each batsman cut and drove brilliantly, and there were two very fine strokes for four each by Dr Grace off Briggs. After the score had reached 38 in half an hour, Abel, the Players' captain, put on his two next bowlers – J T Hearne and Lockwood; but even these failed to keep down the runs, although backed up by some clean and accurate fielding. The board showed each player's score 37 and the total 81 after a little over an hour. Wainwright now came on at Hearne's end and Mold was tried at the opposite wicket, and soon afterwards the separation was effected. Mr Jackson cut the ball to Briggs at cover-point and started for a single. Dr W G Grace sent him back after they had nearly reached the crossing point, and the result was that Hunter took a good return from Briggs and Mr Jackson was out. One for 94.

Messrs Mason and Mordaunt were bowled by very good balls from Wainwright. After luncheon Dr W G Grace was clean bowled for 71, made in his own brilliant way by eight fours, four threes, nine twos and singles. A clever catch at the wicket soon disposed of Mr Bainbridge, and Mr Perkins, after being missed in the slips, was bowled for 22 at 177. Meantime Mr W W Read had been playing well, showing great strength as usual on the leg sides, and when Mr Jephson came in a long stand took place. Mr Jephson, however, played with wonderful patience and left nearly all the run-making to his partner, who had an escape at third man (Wainwright) and then completed his 50. Mr Read did not, however, long survive this number, and at 238, after a stay of an hour and three-quarters, he was caught at the wicket. In his 60 were 11 fours and six twos. This wicket had yielded 61. The other three were soon got down, Mr Jephson being the last to leave, caught at slip for 18, made in 70 minutes.

The Players entered in at five minutes past 5 and started badly. Mr Jackson got Gunn taken by third man at nine, and Ward at 14 was out to a wonderful catch at short slip by Mr Mason, who took a fast ball with his right hand high up. Brockwell and Abel both had to exercise great care in playing Mr Walker, who kept a capital length. Eventually the batsmen became set and scored freely and well. The Gentlemen's variety of attack was soon exhausted; Mr Jephson (with lobs) and Dr Grace

both went on, but it was not until Mr Walker was tried at the gasometer end that Brockwell cut the ball into the hands of point. Messrs Mordaunt and Bainbridge had greatly distinguished themselves in the deep field during the hour's partnership of Abel and Brockwell, who added 75 runs. At the drawing of stumps the Players were 155 behind, with seven wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 July, page 12)

The day's cricket at the Oval yesterday was made remarkable by the innings of Robert Abel, the Surrey professional, and, in the present instance, the captain of the Players, who carried his bat for 168 – certainly one of the best things he has ever done in first-class cricket. Steadiness and caution marked his play at first and he took three hours and a half to complete his 100, but his later hitting was of some freedom until he saw an opportunity of remaining not out, when he grew cautious again, his full innings occupying five hours and a quarter.

Beyond a difficult chance at the wicket when near his 100 he made no bad mistake, and his chief hits were one five, seven four, seven threes and 26 twos. This is the second instance this season in which Abel has carried his bat through an innings, the previous one having been in the Middlesex match at the Oval, when he scored 136. Briggs played with much vigour, and in the 75 minutes of his partnership with Abel made 62 of the 95 added; he gave a chance of stumping when he had made 39. He hit seven fours, a three and seven twos. It was this stand by Briggs and Abel that introduced the first unevenness into the game.

Overnight three men had gone for 89, and yesterday when Lockwood was out for a careful 11, which took three-quarters of an hour, the Players, with six wickets in hand, were 120 behind. Even at the fall of the seventh wicket the figures were only 240, but during the first hour after luncheon J T Hearne and Abel hit the bowling all over the field and put on over 100. The partnership lasted a little longer, and then J T Hearne, who had been trying some sharp running, lost his wicket. Previous to luncheon the fielding, with the exception of a catch missed by Mr Jephson, who let off Lockwood at mid-on, had been almost faultless; but the men, eventually fatigued by the intense heat, grew a little lax afterwards. Hunter and Mold were soon disposed of, and the innings closed at 20 minutes past 4. Mr G G Walker, the Derbyshire amateur fast bowler, did wonderfully well and was the only player able to take any advantage of some defects in the wicket which existed at the far end. Seven for 108 was in every way a performance of much merit.

The weather during the morning and afternoon had been wonderfully fine, but when the Gentlemen, who had had to face the formidable deficit of 119, went in a storm rapidly came up from the south, the light grew bad, and before rain set in the Gentlemen had 40 minutes' batting, with disastrous results. It was actually the bad light which stopped the play. Mold, bowling from the pavilion end, soon showed plainly that the wicket had several bad places in it from which the ball got up and broke back, while Hunter, the wicket-keeper, stood some yards behind the stumps.

Dr Grace and Mr Jackson began the innings; but the latter was soon stumped and Mold bowled out Mr Mason. Mr Mordaunt left at 15, and at 26 Mold completely beat Mr Read. Then Dr W G Grace, in trying to cut Briggs, was caught at point, having scored 20 out of 30. Mr Perkins was also bowled, and then came the interruption, the Gentlemen, with four wickets in hand, wanting 88 to save the innings defeat. Rain continued to fall, and at 6.15 stumps were drawn for the day. During the afternoon there were about 7,000 people present.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 July, page 7)

The last 40 minutes' cricket on Friday night had eliminated all interest in this match except what attached to the actual figures of the Players' victory. Mold's fine bowling on a faulty wicket and in a bad light, and the tempting nature of Briggs's off-bowling had secured the dismissal of six Gentlemen for a meagre 31, a total that left 88 still to be got for the avoidance of an innings defeat. Thus it was that a mere handful of spectators watched the balance of the Gentlemen's second innings for something less than an hour on Saturday morning, when the turf looked fresh and green after the few heavy showers of Friday night.

For about a quarter of an hour there was a prospect of the Players having to go in again. Messrs Bainbridge and Jephson played good cricket, although the latter, to begin with, made one bad stroke off Mold that went dangerously near to Abel in the slips. Subsequently he hit freely, getting Briggs and Mold each away to leg for four, and also driving Mold to the boundary. But, having obtained 22 out of 26 in 20 minutes, Mr Jephson, playing forward, was altogether beaten by a ball from Mold. Another brief stand by Messrs Bathurst and Bainbridge, who added 22, preceded a rapid break up of the batting, Messrs Bainbridge and Walker and the Rev A P Wickham being all out in the next quarter of an hour, and the innings closed, after an hour and a half, for 92, leaving the victory with the Players by an innings and 27 runs. Mold and Briggs had splendid analyses.

5 July: WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128155.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 July, page 10)

Warwickshire scored heavily at Birmingham yesterday in this match. Mr Hill and Walter Quaife began by making 100 for the first wicket in an hour and a half, and later in the innings Mr Docker and Lilley met with great success. The form got his 64 in three-quarters of an hour, hitting nine fours, two threes and seven twos. The home side were batting about four hours and a half for their runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 July, page 12)

Heavy scoring has so far characterized this match at Birmingham. Yesterday Hampshire played so well that they were able get within 35 of the big home total of 347.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 July, page 7)

Up to a certain point in Saturday's play at Birmingham there seemed a probability that Hampshire might win, for, having gone in to make 288, they had 150 up with only three men out. But then came a collapse, and Shilton and Santall got down the other seven wickets for 49 runs.

In the final innings of the match Messrs Hill and Robson scored 93 for Hampshire in an hour and ten minutes for the first wicket, and Barton stayed while 32 more were added. Mr Hill was third to leave at 150 for 61, in which were 5 fours, 3 threes and 6 twos, while in Mr Robson's 56 were a five, a four, 2 threes and 13 twos. Warwickshire won a heavy scoring match by 88 runs.

5 July: C W WRIGHT'S XI v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105720.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 July, page 10)

Yesterday on the United Services' Ground at Portsmouth a good eleven, got together under the captaincy of Mr C W Wright, entered the lists against the South Africans. With the advantage of first innings the home side put together 241 in three and a quarter hours. Mr Ranjitsinhji, Mr N F Druce and Mr Henry all batted with great energy and made many fours.

The feature of the day was seen towards the close, when Mr Routledge, who did well for the Africans at Sheffield-park, played a splendid three-figure innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 July, page 12)

Yesterday this match was brought to an end at Portsmouth. The game was left drawn . . .

9 July: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4166.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 July, page 11)

In this match at Derby, yesterday, the home county did remarkably well. Most of the credit of their substantial score belongs to Davidson, who went in third wicket down at 51 and was seventh out at 221 for 81, an almost faultless innings in which were five fours, ten threes and five twos.

Yorkshire had not their full strength, and in the absence of Mr Jackson, Mr Sellers, Mr E Smith, Hunter and Wainwright, were trying some fresh young players – Charlesworth (Hull), Milligan (Lowmoor) and Earnshaw (Morley), a wicket-keeper. Derbyshire had Mr S H Evershed, Storer and Chatterton away.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 July, page 11)

The closing figures in this match at Derby yesterday left the probability of a draw. Yorkshire's innings extended over four hours and a quarter of actual cricket. Lord Hawke and Tunnicliffe, without giving a chance, scored 132 in two hours for the second partnership; the former's chief hits were seven fours, five threes and nine twos. Moorhouse played excellently, and in the hour and three-quarters that he was batting made four fours, four threes and six twos. Eventually Yorkshire managed to secure a lead of 48 on the first innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 July, page 6)

This contest ended yesterday at Derby. After a fine finish last evening Yorkshire won by three wickets.

Going in a second time, with arrears of 48, Derbyshire, in the end, did remarkably well. At first things went badly for them, and the total was only 129 when rain stopped play just before the luncheon interval. Subsequently Davidson, profiting by errors in the field, and Mr G G Walker met with some success, adding 59 in 40 minutes, and Yorkshire were left with 144 to make for victory. Davidson took out his bat for 72 – a vigorous, if not a faultless innings of two and a quarter hours' duration; he hit eight fours, five threes and five twos.

Yorkshire did so badly that the early part of their innings promised success for Derbyshire. Six wickets were down for 75, after which Brown and Peel put together 21, when the former, who early in his innings had played a ball that passed between the stumps without disturbing the bails, was out. With only three men to go and 48 still necessary, Yorkshire's task presented anything but a prospect of victory. Peel and Hirst, however, batted steadily, and the balance of the runs was secured without further loss. Peel was missed before scoring, and again at 14 by Davidson. Indeed, faults in the field were plentiful on both sides.

9 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4167.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 July, page 11)

The intermittent rain of Saturday night and yesterday morning promised conditions for the great match at Lord's very different from those experienced on the Oval in the closing days of last week; the prospect pointed to a slow and false pitch and to a triumph of the bowlers. There was a downpour in St John's-wood about 11 o'clock, and this actually delayed the start until after 1.

If Dr Grace, who won the toss, had any hesitation about going in, a glance at the weather quarter must have soon caused him to decide to bat. The wind seemed inclined to veer round to the south-west and there were rain clouds hovering about. So the Gentlemen went in and their policy turned out very profitable.

The only game on the soft turf was a vigorous one, and this was splendidly exemplified by Dr Grace and Mr Jackson in the first instance, and in a lesser degree by Messrs Stoddart and Mordaunt. While these men were in, the hitting made the bowling look less difficult than it was; but subsequently came a collapse (relieved slightly by the vigour of Mr Woods), and the breakdown was largely brought about by the slow bowling of Flowers – the seventh to go on at 175. The Gentlemen's innings lasted until late in the afternoon, so the Players had little time for batting.

The constitution of the sides differed materially from those assembled by Surrey. With such men as Messrs Stoddart, Hewett, Woods and M'Gregor playing, the Gentlemen were far more representative; but the bowling might easily have been strengthened, and it was perhaps well for the amateurs that the wicket was not of that hard and fast nature seen in the Oxford v Cambridge match last week. Messrs Jackson, Woods, Grace and Stoddart were the only bowlers of note on the side, excepting Mr Douglas who bowls left-hand slows. Chatterton came into the Players' eleven, in which one vainly looked for Abel.

After the threatening morning, the weather turned out gloriously fine and the attendance numbered about 10,000. Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart commenced the innings at 1.5 and started brightly against Martin and J T Hearne. Mr Stoddart, in his inimitable manner, got some difficult balls from Hearne round to leg. That bowler made a big effort to catch a hard return from Dr Grace, who, however, next drove him twice to the boundary. The fast scoring continued; both men made many fine hits and the bowling as twice changed in 35 minutes before the 50 went up. But the end of the first partnership was near, for Mr Stoddart, after making a false stroke at each wicket, was cleverly stumped by Storer. One for 56 in 40 minutes was a very good start for the Gentlemen. Mr Hewett's innings was characterized by vigorous brevity; he made 12 out of 14 and was then caught from a big hit at long-on. The adjournment for lunch now took place, the score standing at 70 for two wickets, so that the cricketers had been pretty busy during the 50 minutes' play.

After the interval Mr Jackson came in with Dr Grace and, although a little uncomfortable at starting, soon played himself in and, with Dr Grace also in a hitting humour, the cricket became very bright. J T Hearne bowled again, but the 100 went up at 3.10, and there was a cheer when Dr Grace completed his 50 in 75 minutes. Lockwood went on at 115, and in his second over got out Dr Grace, who skied the ball and was caught by the wicket-keeper. His 56 was a fine, free innings, made in 85 minutes by eight fours, four twos and singles.

There was almost a repetition of this good batting with Messrs Mordaunt and Jackson together. Cutting and driving were frequent and brilliant, and Gunn changed his bowling several times without keeping down the runs. However, when Brockwell was tried at 150, Mr Mordaunt was out in his first over, for, after cutting and driving the ball for four, he played on. In the 35 minutes of the partnership 48 had been added.

With Mr MacLaren in Flowers was sent to the Pavilion end; his bowling at first seemed well suited to the batsmen and Mr Jackson at once ran to 50, having so far been in an hour and a half. He continued his fine, free cricket for some time longer, and the public cheered him loudly as he passed "W.G.'s" score. At last, after batting for an hour and three-quarters and by his splendid cricket reviving memories of his big innings against the Australians last year on the same ground, Mr Jackson, in playing back to Flowers, was bowled. In his 63 were seven fours, three threes and five twos.

Half the side had now gone for 195; but any probabilities of a big score were destroyed by the events of the next few overs. Flowers bowled wonderfully well and the other five wickets fell in three-quarters of an hour for 59 runs. Mr Woods was responsible for nearly half that number, for although only going in eighth wicket down at 216, he took out his bat for 27. His fours and his sharp singles roused the spectators to great enthusiasm. He paid particular attention to Flowers, from whom, however, he should have been caught by Wainwright on the boundary, but the fieldsman, with the sun in his eyes, lost sight of the ball. The Gentlemen were in altogether three hours and a quarter for their 254, and the rapidity of this scoring showed in itself that the play had been pretty interesting.

The Players had a bad three-quarters of an hour before the indifferent light and the rain combined put an end to the game at 20 minutes past 6. Some good bowling by Messrs Jackson and Woods and a couple of fine catches, one at slip by Mr Mason and the other at mid-off by Mr Hewett, brought about the dismissal of four batsmen for 49 runs. Thus the Gentlemen finished up the day with all the best of the match and, as much rain fell after the drawing of stumps, there does not seem much chance of the wicket improving.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 July, page 11)

Mr F S Jackson and Mr S M J Woods distinguished themselves in a remarkable manner at Lord's yesterday, when, making the most of the false condition of the pitch, they bowled splendidly and were chiefly responsible for the decisive victory of the Gentlemen over the Players. The fact that Messrs Woods and Jackson bowled throughout the match is very remarkable in a contest of so much importance, although it is not unprecedented as regards the Gentlemen, for Sir F Bathurst and Mr Kempson bowled unchanged through the two Players' innings at Lord's in 1853, as also did Messrs A H Evans and A G Steel at the Oval, in 1879. To Mr Jackson certainly belonged the chief honours, for, besides making the top score, he took 12 of the 20 wickets for an average of a fraction over six runs each.

The Players had a bad three-quarters of an hour on Monday night, and finished up with four wickets down in their first innings for 49. This record grew worse in the first few overs yesterday morning, when Mr Jackson, at 50, got out both Gunn and Lockwood. Flowers and Wainwright made a stand of half an hour's duration, which yielded 34 runs; but the Gentlemen fielded splendidly, Mr Mordaunt being especially good at long-off. It was a splendid return by Mr Mordaunt that brought about the dismissal of Wainwright, who, with Storer, was trying for a second run. Subsequently the

end came rapidly, the arrears being left at 146.

In the 50 minutes remaining for cricket before luncheon the Players did badly. The order of batting was altered to begin with, but without success, for Lockwood was quickly beaten by a fine ball from Mr Jackson; then Chatterton ran himself out, failing for the second time to score; while Brockwell and Ward, each of whom made several good cuts and drives, were dismissed in playing back to fine length bowling. Four for 35. Briggs hit freely for a few overs and the luncheon score was 48.

Things did not mend afterwards for the professionals. Mr Jackson bowled better than ever and, after Briggs and Flowers had gone, he got out Gunn with a beautiful ball which kept very low and which the batsman just touched. Seven for 78. The other three men did not give much trouble. A fine catch low down at the wicket sent back Storer; Wainwright, after some vigorous play, turned a ball from Mr Jackson into his wicket, and a slow one from Mr Woods got rid of Hearne. Eventually the Gentlemen won by an innings and 39 runs.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128154.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 July, page 11)

The Hove Ground, Brighton, was yesterday in a condition favourable to bowlers and the scoring was small. The Oxford captain's appearance for Sussex was worthy of remark.

With the idea that the wicket would improve Mr Murdoch decided to put his opponents in, and he was so far successful in the matter of getting them out cheaply that the innings of Hampshire closed in less than two and a quarter hours for 136. Humphreys's lobs were very effective, for, going on at 94 for four wickets, he took five of the last six for 24 runs.

Sussex did not do so well as the visitors, the reason being the capital bowling of Baldwin, who was put on at 69 and secured five of the last eight wickets for 27 runs. Going in a second time with an advantage of five runs, Hampshire lost two men for nine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 July, page 11)

A brilliant ninth-wicket victory was gained by Sussex over Hampshire on the Hove ground at Brighton yesterday. When play was resumed the visitors, with two men out in the second innings, were 14 runs ahead. Beyond some vigorous batting by Baldwin there was little to note in the Hampshire innings, and the lobs of Humphreys were again very effective.

Going in to get 123 to win, Sussex lost Marlow at 41; but Bean, profiting by escapes at points and in the long field, and Mr Murdoch got the remainder of the runs. Bean hit nine fours, a three and eight twos.

9 July: WARWICKSHIRE v SOUTH AFRICANS (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105721.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 July, page 11)

There were some 4,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket at Edgbaston. Warwickshire were not all out until half-past 5. William Quaife and Lilley put on 72 for the fourth wicket. Lilley, who was seventh out at 192, hit six fours, four threes and two twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 July, page 11)

Rain interrupted to some extent the hours of cricket at Edgbaston yesterday, which were occupied with the batting of the South Africans. Before the bad weather stopped the game in the first instance the score was 118 for five wickets, but the rest of the innings yielded only 29. Following on with arrears of 105, the South Africans at the close of the day had advanced the game to the position given below . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 July, page 6)

Very little cricket was possible at the Edgbaston Ground, Birmingham, yesterday; but in all probability the rain befriended the South Africans, who were still 17 runs behind with four men out when the match had to be abandoned owing to heavy rain.

Tuesday 10 July, page 11: THE CRICKETERS' FUND

The annual meeting of the members of this fund was held last night at Lord's, under the presidency of Mr W E Denison, of the Marylebone Club. The balance-sheet showed funds invested to the amount of £5,200, while the income for last year was £1,105; of this there remained a balance of £730, against £574 in the previous season. The chairman addressed the meeting on the subject of the duties of umpires.

Wednesday 11 July, page 11: THE AMENDMENT OF THE “FOLLOW-ON” LAW

A special general meeting of the members of the Marylebone Club was held yesterday evening in the pavilion at Lord's to consider the amendment of law 53 of cricket, which relates to the follow-on. The proceedings were private, but the following information as officially furnished: -

Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, the honorary treasurer of the Marylebone Club, presided, and moved the adoption of the alteration, which increased the number which a side must be behind to necessitate a follow-on from 80 to 120 runs in the three days' match. The number remains at 80 for a two-days' match. Lord Dartmouth seconded the proposal, which was carried unanimously.

There was practically no discussion, and the business, which included also a change in the club rules of no public interest, occupied altogether less than a quarter of an hour.

12 July: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4168.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

Both counties were pretty well represented at the Rectory Field, Blackheath, yesterday, but the cricket was brief owing to the heavy rain, which delayed the start until a quarter-past 1 and prolonged the luncheon interval to such an extent that there was no play between 2 o'clock and ten minutes to 5. The pitch was soft and difficult.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 13)

Between the showers (there were five delays through rain) at Blackheath yesterday the Kent eleven managed to gain a great advantage over Gloucestershire. The latter in the morning finished off their innings for another 29, the last four wickets falling to Walter Hearne's bowling in five overs and a ball for 13 runs.

Fortune was afterwards very kind to Kent. Sharp rain made the wicket easy before the innings commenced, and it was prevented from getting difficult by the other showers, besides which four or five catches were dropped in the field. Messrs Weigall and Wilson made the first stand of the day, getting together at 32 for two wickets and adding 87 in 75 minutes. Mr Wilson, whom Murch missed when he had scored six, hit four fours, five threes and five twos. Mr Weigall escaped at deep square-leg (Mr Kitcat) and received some aid from Mr Marchant and Easby, so that before the seventh wicket went Kent were already 58 ahead.

Then came some vigorous play by Mr Atkins, who helped to put on 47 in the last three-quarters of an hour, increasing Kent's lead to over 100. There were many spectators of an interesting day's play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 July, page 7)

Kent had already secured a big advantage in this match on Friday night, so that their easy victory of Saturday at the Rectory-field created no surprise, for they possess some fine bowlers who were likely to make the most of the false turf.

The balance of their innings, in which four wickets remained, yielded 66 runs in the course of an hour. Mr Weigall was seventh out at 250, having been in four hours and played the best innings he has ever made for Kent. His only mistake in his long stay was at 38, when Mr Kitcat failed to bring off a difficult catch at square leg. His chief hits were six fours, nine threes and ten twos. Mr Atkins hit with more freedom. Roberts's bowling figures were worthy of special mention.

Gloucestershire's case was very bad, for they had to face Martin and Walter Hearne on a pitch getting worse every minute and with arrears of 171. Such was the triumph of the ball that after four wickets had fallen for 18 Walter Hearne took the last six at a cost to himself of 12 runs, while his record for the match was 13 for 61. From the score given below it will be seen that Kent won by an innings and 101 runs.

12 July: LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4169.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

On the Aigburth Ground, Liverpool, yesterday, Cambridge began a match with a team representing the club and district. Rain caused several interruptions, but late in the afternoon Mr Gray's fast bowling was very effective, and the home side was got out at a small cost. Cambridge, in the last hour of the day, secured a considerable lead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 13)

An easy victory was gained by Cambridge University at the Aigburth ground, Liverpool, yesterday. Liverpool did better in their second innings, but Cambridge eventually won by nine wickets, Messrs Ranjitsinhji and Mitchell getting the last 81 in brilliant style.

12 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4170.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

There was a good wicket at the beginning of this match at Trent-bridge yesterday, but some showers and the hot sun soon gave an advantage to the bowlers. Under the circumstances the home county, getting the best of the pitch, scarcely did so well as was expected.

In 75 minutes before luncheon they scored 96 for four men, but in about an hour afterwards the balance of the innings yielded only 53. Gunn played splendid cricket, hitting seven fours, two threes and three twos, while he and Mr Wright in 55 minutes added 64 for the third wicket. Tyler's bowling was excellent.

After beginning badly on the false turf and losing half their side for 56 Somerset improved, and the result was an even position at the end of the day. Flowers is not able to assist his county, and Barnes, too, is away.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 13)

William Gunn played a splendid innings against Somerset on Trent-bridge Ground yesterday. He went in first wicket down and his batting was not completed when rain stopped the day's play. Finished cutting and driving characterized his innings, which had so far lasted slightly more than three hours, and the solitary mistake in his play was a chance to cover-point when his figures were 79.

There was little else of note in the Nottingham batting, except, perhaps, Mr Dixon's, who helped Gunn to add 67 in three-quarters of an hour for the fourth wicket. The Rev A P Wickham kept wicket excellently and the Somerset bowling was good.

Arthur Wilkinson, a right-hand medium-pace bowler, did well in the attack for Notts. Wilkinson has an engagement with the Nelson, a Lancashire club.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 July, page 7)

Mr L C H Palaret, the old Oxford captain, made a brilliant attempt to win this match for Somerset at Trent-bridge on Saturday and, while the majority of his side could do little with the Notts bowling on a bad wicket, he played a brilliant innings of 119 in a score of 202. Long ago Mr Palaret built up a great reputation as a batsman, but in his career he has achieved few feats of greater excellence than this.

The position of the match on Friday night left Notts with the advantage, as with the prospect of a treacherous pitch for the last innings they were already 211 ahead with a wicket in hand. Their defence ended for another 12 runs, leaving Somerset with 224 to make for victory. Gunn took out his bat for 121 – an almost faultless and finished display, in which were a five, nine fours, nine threes and 17 twos.

After the way in which the early play of the last innings went Somerset seemed to have a severe defeat in store for them. Mr R Palairet, Clapp and Mr Spurway went in 25 minutes for 11 runs, and at 34 the fourth wicket fell. Mr Lionel Palairet, who had gone in second wicket down at 9, played splendidly from the outset. After six men had been lost for 66, Nichols and Tyler both stayed a little while with him, the respective stands each yielding over 30, yet when Mr Evans was ninth to leave the score stood at only 152.

But then came the last partnership, bringing with it much exciting cricket and reviving all the interest in the game. Mr Wickham's studied defence and the finely judged running gave Mr Palairet most of the batting, and the latter forced the hitting in a wonderful way, and when 200 entered up the prospect of a win for Somerset became bright. However, a couple of runs later Mr Palairet in trying to place a ball was out leg-before for 119. The last wickets had put on 50 runs in three-quarters of an hour, and of this number Mr Wickham's share was only four. Mr Palairet was rather more than three hours getting his runs, and fine precision characterized his faultless innings from the start; he hit 12 fours, five threes and 15 twos. Nottinghamshire won a remarkable match by 21 runs.

12 July: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4171.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

After threatening at one time to prevent any play whatever at the Oval yesterday, the weather cleared sufficiently soon for the turf to be in a condition practicable for cricket about 4 o'clock. Soon after that hour Leicestershire went in. The wicket was, of course, very soft and the bowlers could not easily get a firm foothold.

Up to a certain point the visitors fared pretty well; the feature of the batting was Mr C E de Trafford's 47, which ended at 74, when the sixth wicket fell. But when Richardson took up the bowling at 53, at which stage only two men were out, such was the change in the complexion of the game that six more of the side were dismissed for an additional 24 runs. Richardson's four wickets were secured at a very trifling cost and Leicestershire were all out within two hours.

It will be noted that Surrey have pretty well their best side. Ayres, a fine field and a good bat, succeeds Hayward, who has not been very fortunate of late, while Marshall relieves Wood at the wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 13)

At Tonbridge, yesterday, Surrey did not do well, and when the rain finally stopped the game they had lost four men for a few runs. Abel was caught at point.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 July, page 7)

The wicket at the Oval on Saturday was in a very treacherous state, owing to the rain of Friday, and batting took place under great difficulties. Surrey had six men out for 41, but Brockwell and Maurice Read played splendidly and put on 68 in a little over an hour. Read left at 109, having scored his runs without making a bad stroke. When the rain came Brockwell was not out 43, but he gave a chance in the slips with his figures at 30.

The bad weather left the ground quite unfit for further play and, after waiting until 20 minutes to 5, the stumps were pulled up and the match abandoned. The small band of spectators made themselves very disagreeable, being abusive to the Surrey officials and threatening at one time to trample the wicket down.

12 July: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

Each county had one or two of its best men away from this match at Halifax yesterday. The bowlers were helped by the condition of the wicket and the scoring was comparatively small.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 13)

This match at Halifax proved an excellent one to watch from beginning to end, and late yesterday afternoon Yorkshire gained a seventh-wickets victory, the finish being characterized by brilliant batting by Brown and several other Yorkshiremen.

The Essex second innings was rather curious. When things were going badly Mr Owen and Burns put on 55 in three-quarters of an hour for the fifth wicket, and subsequently Messrs Kortright and Higgins added 59 in 35 minutes, while after luncheon the last two Essex wickets increased the score by 50. Yorkshire got the 144 they wanted to win in an hour and 25 minutes.

The positions of the leading counties up to the present are as follows:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	8	7	1	0	6
Yorkshire	8	6	2	0	4
Kent	5	4	1	0	3
Middlesex	9	6	3	0	3
Somerset	5	3	2	0	1
Gloucestershire	6	2	4	0	-2
Nottinghamshire	8	2	5	1	-3
Lancashire	7	1	6	0	-5
Sussex	8	0	7	1	-7

16 July: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4173.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 July, page 11)

Bad weather prevented a start being made with this match at Derby yesterday, and play was postponed until to-day. Mr Key and Lockwood are absent from the Surrey eleven.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 July, page 5)

Another fine innings by Robert Abel and some excellent play of Maurice Read pretty well monopolized the five hours during which cricket lasted at Derby yesterday. Hulme's place in the home eleven was filled by Widdowson, who has been very successful in local cricket this season.

The rain on Monday had left the wicket slow, and before luncheon only 83 runs ere made and Ayres and Mr Jephson were dismissed. Brockwell was in an hour and a half for his runs, and he and Abel added altogether 55. Abel was missed at slip when he had made 15.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 July, page 7)

Another delay through wet weather occurred yesterday morning at Derby, and the game was not resumed until 1 o'clock. Surrey, who had lost three wickets, took two hours to complete their innings for an additional 89.

The partnership of Abel and Maurice Read did not last more than another quarter of an hour. It yielded altogether 149, of which Read's share was 84. He contributed seven fours, four threes and nine twos. After a stay of five hours and a half Abel was dismissed at 269 for 122; he gave chances at 15 and 77, but otherwise made few mistakes, while his chief hits were ten fours, six threes and 11 twos.

Smith and Richardson got the home side out in a couple of hours, at the end of which the game was drawn.

16 July: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4174.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 July, page 11)

There was no play possible in this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, owing to the rain.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 July, page 5)

Yesterday, at Old Trafford, Manchester, there was that rare occurrence of a first-class match being begun and finished in one day. There were four important contributions to Lancashire's success – Frank Sugg, A Smith, Mold and Briggs – and the result was a victory for Lancashire by an innings and 68 runs.

16 July: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4175.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 July, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket at Lord's was made brief by the weather. Even when the match began, and Sussex having won the toss had gone in, the wind was blowing up for rain, so that it was not wholly surprising to see only a little over an hour's play.

Bean and Marlow started pretty well on the soft wicket to the bowling of Hearne and Rawlin, and 25 were scored before Marlow gave Hearne an easy return catch. Bean made a few very fine drives, one notably to the boundary from Rawlin, but when Mr Bathurst went on he was caught from the new bowler's first ball at mid-off. Messrs Newham and Murdoch raised the score to 73 before rain set in and stopped the game for the day.

Mr A J Webbe was welcomed back to the Middlesex eleven after his serious accident at Brighton. Of this no signs are now visible. Mr Bathurst, the Oxford bowler, plays for the county for the first time, and Mr Webbe is also trying Mr A L Kemp, of Southgate, and Mr W E Holdship, of the Hampstead Club. The eleven is further strengthened by the presence of Mr F G J Ford.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 July, page 5)

The wicket at Lord's, slow at the beginning of the match, was completely spoiled by Monday's rain, and during the whole of yesterday the batsmen played under a severe handicap; the bowlers triumphed in almost every direction, showing how badly even two fine batting sides such as are Middlesex and Sussex will fail under the trying conditions of a false pitch.

Mr Bathurst, the Oxford left-hand medium-pace bowler, playing for the first time for Middlesex, was splendidly successful, and his two analyses gave him a record of 12 wickets for a little more than five runs each. It was he who began the early discomfiture of Sussex, whose eight wickets left from Monday in the first innings were got down in an hour and a half for an additional 48 runs.

When Middlesex went in, Mr Stoddart was soon out, but Messrs Ford and Webbe played in a way that promised a pretty substantial score. Their partnership yielded 53, after which came a collapse, and the innings was all over in an hour and three-quarters.

With a lead of 30 Sussex had rather the better of the match, but in the second innings their batting broke down in such a way that half the side went for 15 runs, and seven were out for 28. Had Mr Arlington not been missed the Sussex total would scarcely have reached 65 in an hour and ten minutes. Middlesex were left with 96 to get to win, and at the end of the day were well on their way to victory.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 July, page 7)

With eight wickets in hand Middlesex had only 46 more runs to get, so that yesterday morning's play in this match at Lord's was rather brief. Mr Webbe and Mr M'Gregor resumed the innings at 11.40 to the bowling of Shaw and Mr Kentfield.

Six runs were added and then the Middlesex captain left; but Rawlin came next and the score was steadily advanced. Eventually the professional, with a straight drive for four, won the match for Middlesex by seven wickets.

16 July: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4176.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 July, page 11)

As Warwickshire have done so well this season the return with Yorkshire aroused great interest at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday. But rain shortened the hours of cricket to such an extent that little more than a small-scoring innings was got through.

Play did not begin until ten minutes to 4 and stumps were drawn at half-past 6. The Warwickshire batting of some two and a quarter hours' duration yielded a few runs over the 100 and furnished a bowling triumph for Foster and Peel. Diver threw plenty of vigour into his game, making 30 out of 46 in three-quarters of an hour; while later Lilley's defence helped to give some respectability to the score. William Quaife was in 90 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 July, page 5)

The hours of cricket at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday were considerably shortened by the rain; but in the three hours over which play extended Yorkshire managed to establish a very substantial lead on the first innings. Warwickshire's fielding scarcely reached the average of important county cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 July, page 7)

There was more wet weather at Sheffield yesterday morning and the wicket at Bramall-lane became so heavy that it was nearly 4 o'clock when the sides renewed the match. With about two hours and a half to play and the big deficit of 113, Warwickshire were in a bad position, but they just managed to escape defeat.

At one time Yorkshire seemed to be winning easily and, in spite of Mr Bainbridge's stay of an hour and a half, eight men were out for 53, with more than 40 minutes left for cricket. But Shilton and Pallett, who then became partners, exercised every caution and managed to keep in, thus saving the match. When stumps were pulled up and the game left drawn Warwickshire, with two wickets to fall, were still 35 behind.

Wednesday 18 July, page 5: Mr STODDART'S AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Mr Stoddart has definitely arranged with the following nine to accompany him in the tour to Australia at the end of the present summer: - Mr H Philipson, Mr L H Gay, Mr F G J Ford, Albert Ward, Briggs, Peel, Richardson, Lockwood and Walter Humphreys. There are three more places to be filled and these will be given to batsmen. The side will sail on September 21 in the Orient boat Ophir.

Middlesex by their success at Lord's yesterday still keep a prominent place in the returns of the leading counties. The positions are now as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	8	7	1	0	6
Yorkshire	8	6	2	0	4
Middlesex	10	7	3	0	4
Kent	5	4	1	0	3
Somerset	6	3	3	0	0
Gloucestershire	6	2	4	0	-2
Nottinghamshire	8	2	5	1	-3
Lancashire	8	2	6	0	-4
Sussex	9	0	8	1	-6

19 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4177.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

On a slow wicket at Ashley Down, Bristol, yesterday, Lancashire secured first innings, the two best partnerships in which were one of 40 by Mr M'Laren and Ward for the first and one of 49 by Briggs and Baker for the sixth. Captain Newnham bowled excellently.

Dr W G Grace played fine cricket for Gloucestershire before being fourth out at 62. The drawing of stumps left the position fairly even

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 13)

At Bristol, yesterday morning, Gloucestershire's last four wickets fell in half an hour, and the visitors went in a second time with a lead of 55.

In Lancashire's second innings a great variety of batting was seen. Albert Ward was occupied for three hours and three-quarters in getting his 109 and Mr M'Laren in a forward and free style obtained 68 out of 96 for the first wicket in 90 minutes; but the climax was reached when Frank Sugg ran up 50 out of 68 in half an hour by 11 fours, a three and three singles. Ward's was for the most part a cautious and faultless display, and he hit a five, six fours, 12 threes and 12 twos. Board again kept wicket well.

Gloucestershire were left with the task of making 336 to win and they started badly.

Day 3 (Monday 23 July, page 11)

Gloucestershire had at Bristol on Friday started so badly their severe task of making 336 to win that their defeat on Saturday will afford little surprise. With three of their best men gone, including Dr W G Grace, they still wanted 284 runs.

The third morning's cricket lasted 80 minutes, during which time the balance of the Gloucestershire innings yielded little attractive play, and Mold and Briggs bowled with great success. Mr Ferris failed to increase his overnight figures and, beyond a few good hits by Messrs Francis and Brown, there was nothing of spirit in the batting. Mold's full bowling record for the match was 12 wickets for 91 runs, while during the whole week he took 25 wickets at an average cost of six each. Lancashire won by 243 runs.

19 July: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4178.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

With two or three exceptions the bowlers got the upper hand in this match at Mote-park, Maidstone, yesterday, the reason being that the wicket was made treacherous by heavy rain before noon, which prevented any cricket whatever until after 1 o'clock.

With first innings Nottinghamshire did not do so well as might have been expected. By careful cricket before luncheon 33 runs ere made for the loss of two wickets in 50 minutes; but such was the nature of the collapse after the interval that the last eight went down in three and a quarter hours for 14 runs.

Kent did remarkably well to begin with, and in a little over half an hour they passed the Notts score with only two men out. Mr Perkins threw plenty of life into the game, making 45 out [of] 75 in 75 minutes, and hitting four fours, two threes and eight twos. Kent in the end secured a lead of 63 on the innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 13)

There was a wonderful reversal of fortune at Mote Park, Maidstone, yesterday, when Kent, after playing a winning game until the beginning of the fourth innings, were beaten in a manner verging on the sensational.

With the wicket helping the bowlers all day on Thursday and little prospect of its improving to any great extent, Kent were considered to hold a very good position when they had secured a lead of 63 on the first innings. Yesterday the causes of their disaster were to be found in a dropped catch and a break down of the batting in an attempt to get only 66.

Nottinghamshire, in a fairly good innings under the conditions existing, were mostly indebted to Gunn, to whom fortune was kind. Mr Weigall badly missed him in the long field when his score was only seven, and he subsequently ought to have been both run out and stumped. He made substantial use of his escapes and, having gone in at "two for 27," stayed until 125, when he was ninth to leave; he had secured precisely half the runs recorded during his stay of two hours and three-quarters; he hit four fours, two threes and five twos. The best partnerships were one of 27 by Messrs Howitt and Dixon, and another of 22 by Gunn and Pike. Nottinghamshire were batting from a little after 11 until a quarter-past 3. Walter Hearne again bowled finely, bringing up his double analysis to 12 wickets for 72 runs.

Even with the pitch untrue it was fully believed that Kent would manage to get the 66 necessary for success. But once again was the uncertainty of cricket demonstrated. Messrs Wilson, Mason and Perkins were all out for 18, while the steady play of A Hearne ended at 35, when he was seventh to leave. Mr Marchant made some good hits but no one stayed with him, and in an hour and a half the innings was over and Nottinghamshire won, amid much excitement, by 13 runs. Flowers and Attewell bowled splendidly, the former's fine pitch and break contributing greatly to the downfall of Kent. The Notts fielding was also excellent.

19 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4179.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

Mr K J Key, the Surrey captain, took his place in the eleven at Leicester yesterday, and by his splendid batting late in the afternoon secured for his side a big advantage on the day's cricket. He went in when Surrey were not doing well, but after the seventh wicket had gone at 101 he found an able partner in Hayward. Mr Key's cutting and driving were very brilliant.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 13)

After the advantage gained on the first innings, Surrey's defeat at Leicester yesterday afternoon came as a great surprise. Their batsmen completely failed before some capital bowling and fielding. Although the wicket was a little difficult, few doubted the capacity of the Surrey team to get 70 in the last innings; but Mr Key changed his "order," Maurice Read was injured and the great southern eleven broke up badly, being out in an hour for 35.

At the beginning of the day the balance of Surrey's first spell of batting realized only 15 more runs. Mr Key and Hayward's full partnership produced 95 runs in 90 minutes, and the former's brilliant innings included ten fours and six threes.

Leicestershire's second venture was played through in three hours, but they were helped to their capital score through Tomlin being missed. The arrears of 105 were cleared off with six men in hand. Lockwood, who did not bowl between 46 and 101, took five of the last six wickets for 23 runs in 14 overs. Tomlin played fine cricket on the off-side and hit 11 fours. The score subjoined will show that Leicestershire won by 34 runs.

19 July: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4180.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

For the second time within the week Somerset had yesterday to submit to the misfortune of being beaten in a match for the decision of which a single day sufficed. This time their loss was at Huddersfield, where Yorkshire's strongest eleven played remarkably fine cricket. Their men bowled splendidly on a wicket that was unfavourable to batsmen and the fielding was extremely brilliant.

In these points and the successful batting of Lord Hawke, Peel and Hirst is found the cause of Somerset's severe defeat. The visitors were out a first time in 80 minutes, while their second spell lasted an hour and a half; Hirst and Wainwright both came out with fine analyses. Lord Hawke got his runs in an hour and a quarter, hitting eight fours, two threes and five twos, and being fifth out at 101. Yorkshire won by an innings and five runs.

Friday 20 July, page 11: SURREY v KENT

Surrey will be represented by the following in this match at Catford Bridge to-day: - [team list given].

The gate-money will be devoted to the benefit of J Wootton, who some years ago rendered Kent good service as a bowler. At present Wootton is cricket-coach at Winchester.

THE COUNTIES

The three matches decided in the latter part of last week have advanced the positions as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	8	7	1	0	6
Yorkshire	9	7	2	0	5
Middlesex	10	7	3	0	4
Kent	6	4	2	0	2
Somerset	7	3	4	0	-1
Nottinghamshire	9	3	5	1	-2
Gloucestershire	7	2	5	0	-3
Lancashire	9	3	6	0	-3
Sussex	9	0	8	1	-8

23 July: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4181.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 10)

The heavy rain in the early hours of yesterday morning augured bad times for batsmen in the first of the season's matches between Surrey and Kent, at Catford-bridge. So far as the weather allowed the cricket to proceed, run-getting against the Surrey bowlers in a bad light and on a slow and false pitch proved as difficult as was expected.

In the wet weather, too, there was subject for regret outside the actual cricket. The proceeds of the "gate" are for the benefit of J Wootton, the old Kent Slow left-hand bowler, who between 1880 and 1889 played pretty regularly and did many fine pieces of work in the eleven, so that good weather and a fast wicket were essential for the fixture to be a great success to the Wootton fund.

But in spite of the bad conditions the attraction of the match was such that some 4,000 people visited the Private Banks Ground. Both counties were well represented. Maurice Read was absent from Surrey through the accident sustained by him at Leicester last Friday and Henderson took his place. Messrs W H Patterson and M C Kemp and the Rev W Rashleigh would, of course, have strengthened Kent had they been available.

It was past 1 o'clock before the umpires decided that play could proceed, and then at 1.20 Kent, having won the toss, took first innings. The wicket was very heavy; but, with small chances of its getting any better, Kent had a slight advantage in opening the batting. In the dull light Richardson and Lockwood's fast bowling increased the severity of the handicap imposed by the state of the turf. Mr Mason and A Hearne began the innings, and the former made one clever stroke on the leg side for four in Richardson's second over. He was soon bowled, while at 23 A Hearne, in attempting to cut, got under the ball, which went as an easy catch to slip. In the ten minutes preceding lunch Messrs Perkins and Wilson played very bright cricket, and by each man there was one particularly fine drive to the boundary.

For some time after the interval the game went badly for Kent; the wicket had grown more difficult and Richardson and Lockwood were bowling at their best. Messrs Perkins, Weigall, Knowles and Marchant were all out by the time the figures reached 62. Meanwhile Mr Wilson had been playing well and one of his drives – a boundary from Richardson – was warmly cheered. However, this batsman's career of an hour and 40 minutes was ended through an attempted short run, Lockwood cleverly throwing the wicket down from extra mid-off. Afterwards Mr Atkins and Martin went in for hard hitting, and when rain stopped play at 4.35 Kent, with a wicket in hand, were beyond the 100. Soon after 5 o'clock stumps were pulled up.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 11)

The fight at Catford-bridge yesterday was keen and close, and, with the wicket helping the bowlers to a very great extent throughout the day, runs were only obtained with much difficulty and with some good fortune.

Kent's score on Monday possessed more merit than was generally allowed. The home cricketers were able yesterday to gain on the first innings a lead which, if apparently small, was of immense

value, and the day itself furnished a variety of excellent cricket. The conditions of weather were similar to those of Monday in all save the drizzling rain of the latter afternoon.

When the cricket began the Kent innings was rapidly ended for an addition of five runs; the score of 113 had been made in two and a half hours. Richardson and Lockwood had bowled extremely well.

The public generally associates steadiness with Abel's batting, so that the crowd was quite startled by the way Abel, who began Surrey's innings with Lockwood, opened. It was chiefly by his efforts that the score went to 30 in 20 minutes, before Walter Hearne sent back Lockwood. Abel soon forsook his freedom for caution, a change that brought him only nine runs in 35 minutes, whereas his first 21 were obtained in 20 minutes. The Kent ground fielding, which at the outset left something to be desired, underwent a rapid improvement and became excellent. Abel was the fourth out, caught at mid-off at 50, while Walter Read, in trying to hit a tempting slow ball from Walter Hearne, was well taken in the long-field at 56.

After Mr Key had been caught at point, Hayward and Henderson brightened the Surrey prospect; but at 77 the innings collapsed, the last four wickets going without a run being scored. Hayward and Henderson were both well caught in the deep field, Smith was bowled first ball and Wood gave cover-point an easy catch, the innings, which had occupied a couple of hours, yielding only 77. Walter Hearne's medium-pace bowling had been wonderfully effective and his seven wickets averaged a fraction over six runs each.

Kent held a lead of 36 and, going in again just before 4 o'clock, they made a bright beginning of the second innings. Mr Mason played a fine free game and from three overs 19 runs were scored in six minutes; but this fast pace did not last. Lockwood got rid of A Hearne with a "bailer" at 22, and at 33 Mr Mason, in trying to cut, put the ball up in the slips, where Brockwell held an easy catch. His 26 on the bad turf was invaluable.

When four wickets were down for 48 Surrey seemed to have the better command of the game. The courageous batting of Messrs Wilson and Knowles which followed again turned the course of the match. Mr Key varied his bowling, putting Smith and Brockwell on and then changing the ends for Lockwood and Richardson. Still an hour was taken to sever the fifth partnership, which produced 53 runs. Four other wickets went for ten in the course of 40 minutes and, when a shower put an end to play, Kent, with a wicket in hand, were 147 runs ahead. Lockwood has taken eight wickets for 34 runs. Some 6,000 people visited the Private Banks Ground.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 6)

The weather, which played no inconsiderable part in this match, was on the side of Kent to the end. Its kindness to the home team reached a climax yesterday, when, following two days of dullness, came one of sunshine, destroying whatever chance Surrey had of winning the game, baking the surface of the pitch and making it a matter of impossibility to time the ball. So that late in the afternoon of yesterday the match went the way of last year's – viz., a victory for Kent.

There had been heavy rain in the night and the softness of the ground delayed the start until half-past 1. Walter Hearne and Martin then came in to play out Kent's innings. Lockwood completed his over, and then Smith from the other end finished the innings by getting Hearne caught at the wicket. The score was 112, which left Surrey 149 to make in the last innings. Lockwood had a splendid bowling record, his second analysis increasing his aggregate in the match to 13 wickets for

83 runs.

In a few minutes before luncheon Lockwood and Abel made five runs, and subsequently the latter, for the second time adopting a vigorous game, sent the score up rapidly, although in one instance he nearly lost his wicket through going for a short run. But then came a disastrous quarter of an hour for Surrey. Lockwood, in trying to drive, played over a ball from Walter Hearne that kept low and took the off stump at 24, and after Abel had got a short one from Martin well away to the boundary, both he and Mr Jephson were out; the latter gave the bowler an easy return and a bumping ball went off the shoulder of Abel's bat into the hands of point. Three wickets for 28.

A little rain did something to ease the wicket and caused a delay of ten minutes while Mr Walter Read and Brockwell were together. Brockwell made two fine boundary drives and Mr Read one, but the score had only reached 51 in the hour, when the amateur in playing forward was clean bowled. The next half hour was occupied by the partnership of Henderson and Brockwell. The former played steadily, while Brockwell made a few good hits; but, under the influence of a hot sun, the wicket got worse than ever and the ball repeatedly beat the bat. Twenty-three were added and then Henderson was leg-before, while at 77 Brockwell found a "yorker" too much for him.

Hayward and Mr Key were the last Surrey batsmen of repute, so that the outlook was still not encouraging. Every single was loudly applauded, and a four to Hayward, that was nearly a catch to Weigall at long-off, elicited great applause. But from the next ball Hayward lost his wicket through attempting a single off a piece of misfielding; as it happened, Mr Key ought to have started, but at such a period of the match it was folly of Hayward to risk so much for a sharp single. Seven for 87.

The end as rapidly reached; Mr Key was caught at the wicket, Smith was "yorked" and Richardson was caught at mid-on, Kent winning at a quarter to 5 by 57 runs. Walter Hearne's bowling figures were not far below those of Lockwood, for he took 13 wickets at an average of seven runs each.

23 July: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4182.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 10)

At Taunton yesterday the return match between these counties began. Lancashire went in first, and the feature of their innings (so far as it has proceeded) was the grand batting of Frank Sugg (who made 105 at Old Trafford last week against Somerset). The wicket was soft and the ball cut through the turf. He was at the wickets for two and three-quarter hours. His batting was wonderfully powerful and the only real chance given by him was at 84 to Mr R C N Palairret at slip. So far he is still not out, and has hit six sixes (drives out of the ground), a five and 22 fours. He and Ward put on 151 for the second wicket in two hours, and after Ward had left, at 186, he and Smith ran to 260, when rain stopped play.

Heavy downpours had left the wicket so soft that not a ball was bowled before luncheon, and cricket lasted only a little over three hours. Mr A C MacLaren, who won the toss, was out at 35, while Ward, who had not given a chance, was batting for two hours and a half, and in his 64 were nine fours, a three and four twos. Mr J B Challen, Mr W N Roe, Mr R P Spurway and Nichols are away from the Somerset eleven.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 11)

Bad weather prevented any play yesterday in Somerset v Lancashire at Taunton and Warwickshire v Derbyshire at Birmingham.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 6)

Misfortune has pursued this match since the first day at Taunton, when Lancashire scored 260 for two wickets. Rain stopped the game altogether on Tuesday, and yesterday play was not practicable until ten minutes past 1 on account of the wet state of the wicket. The visitors at once declared their innings closed.

Somerset went in and before luncheon lost two batsmen for 45 runs. Mr Fowler played well until 68 were scored, and the 100 was signalled at 20 minutes to 4 with six wickets down. When only 19 had been added rain delayed the game for 50 minutes. Somerset went on again just before 5 o'clock, and in half an hour the other four went, the total realizing 168. As it had been agreed to draw stumps at 5.45 in order to allow the men to catch the London train, play now ceased and the match was left undecided. Briggs, it may be noted, had bowled well.

23 July: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4183.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 10)

Jesse Hide, who has done good work for Sussex both as a vigorous batsman and a medium pace bowler, receives the proceeds of this match, at Brighton, as a benefit, so that it was rather unfortunate that the weather proved so wet. Hide's services were particularly useful at a time when Sussex were badly off, and his highest score was 173 against Kent in 1886 at Brighton, while his best year was 1884, he then scoring 663 for an average of 24 and taking 50 wickets. Lord Sheffield has sent a cheque for £100 towards the fund.

The cricket yesterday lasted only a little over two hours, and during that time Sussex, on a difficult wicket, did fairly well. Marlow carried off the batting honours with 54; he went in first and was the fourth to leave at 105; his innings was faultless and included six fours, two threes and eight twos. The best partnership was one of 42 between Marlow and Mr Murdoch. Rain extended the luncheon until past 3, and after 20 minutes' further play it stopped the match for the day . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 11)

It is not often that a bowler's wicket is found at Brighton, yet such has been the case in this match on the Hove Ground, where play was continued yesterday in dull weather before about 3,000 people.

Sussex had a little the better of the day's cricket. In an hour and a quarter they increased their overnight score of 112 for four wickets by 51 runs. Mr Newham completed his innings for 43, a number for which he was in nearly 90 minutes. He and Mr Fry added 36 for the fifth wicket, but then there was a collapse and the last half went for 22.

Before luncheon Messrs Howitt and Robinson scored 18 runs in 40 minutes, but afterwards the ten wickets all went down in two hours for an additional 84. Mr Howitt was sixth out at 58. There was little merit in the batting beyond his 28, which occupied an hour and three-quarters. The follow-on was saved with three wickets in hand, but in the end Sussex led by 61. Alfred Shaw again came off in bowling for the home side.

Sussex in the closing 50 minutes lost four batsmen for 49 runs. Pike's excellent wicket-keeping was a feature of the day's play. Sussex are now 110 on with six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 6)

Sussex have at last broken the spell of ill-fortune which has clung to them with such persistency this season that until yesterday evening, at Brighton, they had not a single success in their important matches. Before the close of Tuesday's play the home county had already secured an advantage, as, including their balance of 61 on the first innings, they were 110 to the good, with six wickets in hand.

The visitors took the field at 20 minutes to 11. Messrs Newham and Fry, who had been not out,

both played well and the former advanced his figures to 45. Mr Fry and Butt also made a fine stand, which, in the course of 90 minutes, yielded 79 runs for the seventh wicket. Mr Fry was in altogether two hours and 40 minutes; but Butt's score was of a very different character, and he hit six fours, three threes and five twos. Mr Murdoch closed the innings at 183 for eight at 1.25, but a drizzling rain set in and prevented any more play until after luncheon.

Notts, with 245 to make to win, began the last innings of the match at a quarter to three and, with the wicket helping the bowlers, they could scarcely do otherwise than play for a draw. Three wickets fell in an hour for 40, after which came a long partnership between Mr Dixon and Gunn, which added 64 in an hour and a half. When Mr Dixon was bowled, however, the balance of the innings lasted less than an hour. Indeed, while the 100 went up with only three men out, the side went for 119, Hardstaff being absent injured. Gunn played a fine game to save his county from defeat, being in two hours and 40 minutes for a faultless 56, in which were four fours, two threes and eight twos. The victory of Sussex by 125 runs aroused great enthusiasm, for it is many years since they beat Nottinghamshire.

23 July: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4184.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 10)

Warwickshire's only loss this season has been with Derbyshire, so that particular interest was aroused by the return match, which began yesterday under most unfavourable conditions at Birmingham. Dull weather and a slow wicket, however, did not prevent Warwickshire from distinguishing themselves, although they were not a little helped by sundry errors in the Derbyshire field.

The big stand of the day was that between Mr Bainbridge and Diver, who added 130 for the second wicket in two and a half hours. Diver played fine, free cricket; but he should have been twice out, caught in the slips before he reached a dozen, Davidson and Hulme each dropping a catch, and at 72 Davidson also missed him in the long field. His chief hits were 7 fours, 8 threes and 10 twos. Mr Bainbridge took over three hours to make his 46, but Mr Docker threw plenty of vigour into the game during his stay of an hour and a half.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 11)

Bad weather prevented any play yesterday in Somerset v Lancashire at Taunton and Warwickshire v Derbyshire at Birmingham.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 6)

There seemed small chance of this match at Birmingham being brought to a definite issue yesterday, but in the end Warwickshire gained a brilliant victory. On Monday the home county scored 214 for five wickets, but on Tuesday rain prevented play. This was a return match to that decided at Derby, when Derbyshire won.

Yesterday, Warwickshire continued their batting at 12.25, but when their total had reached 235 for an additional wicket Mr Bainbridge declared his innings closed.

Derbyshire started their innings at half-past 1. Mr Wright and Bagshaw were soon out, but Hulme scored 37 out of 44 before being caught in the deep field, and Davidson was out in a similar way when he and Chatterton had added 47. Four wickets were now down for 91, but after this capital start the Derbyshire defence broke down and the other six added only 25. Whitehead (right-hand slow) bowled splendidly.

With arrears of 119 Derbyshire followed on, but were utterly unable to cope with the bowling and fielding of their opponents. However, with only 20 minutes to play they had still four wickets left. Sugg, Mr Evans and Mr Marsden were all quickly dismissed, and when Mr Walker came in Davidson strove hard to get the bowling, but within two minutes of time Mr Walker was finely stumped. Warwickshire thus won by an innings and 80 runs. Whitehead and Pallett both had fine analyses, and the four in the double innings took 12 wickets for 58 runs.

23 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4185.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 10)

The Gloucestershire eleven had the better of the cricket at Headingley Ground, Leeds, yesterday, when, after a somewhat disastrous season, they met the champion county. The wicket was so wet from the rain overnight that a start could not be made until nearly half-past 1.

In spite of some quick scoring by Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe for the second partnership, Yorkshire fared so badly that half the side were out for 64. At this stage, however, Peel arrived, and his 90 minutes' steady batting gave some respectability to the record.

There was not very much time left when Gloucestershire went in, but the last hour of a day has so often proved fatal to a team that the spectators quite prepared themselves for the fall of one for two wickets. Dr Grace and Mr Ferris, however, played excellently and remained together until the close, when they were within 84 of the Yorkshire total. About 6,000 people watched the game.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 11)

The play in this match at the Headingley Ground, Leeds, yesterday, was full of surprises. Yorkshire, after being in a position that was almost hopeless, were saved by the last two batsmen on the side, and then, when Gloucestershire went in to get an apparently small score, Wainwright bowled with such deadliness that Yorkshire in the end snatched the victory by 26 runs. The simple record that 30 wickets fell in the day for an average of only six runs each demonstrates conclusively the nature of the pitch.

Gloucestershire certainly held an advantage on the first day, for without losing a wicket they had got to within 84 of their opponents' score. But the promise of a substantial total was not fulfilled. Dr Grace and Mr Ferris were not separated until 65; but the last seven wickets were for down for 17 runs. Dr W G Grace, who was cleverly caught at slip, batted an hour and three-quarters for his 41. The great change that came over the match was wrought by Lord Hawke's putting on Peel and Mr Jackson to bowl. The last three wickets went at 108 and Yorkshire were able to claim a lead of 32.

When the home side went in a second time Roberts and Captain Newnham bowled with wonderful effect. Amid great excitement on the part of the 7,000 spectators five wickets fell at 12 – Mr Jackson, caught at extra mid-off; Lord Hawke and Mr Sellers, bowled; Tunnicliffe, caught at wicket; and Brown, played on. Seven runs later four more wickets fell – Mr Mitchell, caught at cover-point; Peel, bowled; Moorhouse, caught at short-leg; and Wainwright, caught and bowled. Nine for 19 left small hope for Yorkshire. Hirst and Hunter, however, added 42 for the last wicket in half an hour, so that Gloucestershire had to get 94 to win.

Dr W G Grace was bowled at 18, five wickets were down at 43 and eight at 45, while, after a stand for 17 by Roberts and Murch, the former was run out. In the end Yorkshire won by 26 runs.

Thursday 26 July, page 6: THE COUNTIES

Surrey's loss at Catford-bridge yesterday has reduced their points to five, and Yorkshire by beating Gloucestershire have again taken first place. The positions are now thus: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	10	8	2	0	6
Surrey	9	7	2	0	5
Middlesex	10	7	3	0	4
Kent	7	5	2	0	3
Somerset	8	3	4	1	-1
Nottinghamshire	10	3	6	1	-3
Lancashire	10	3	6	1	-3
Gloucestershire	8	2	6	0	-4
Sussex	10	1	8	1	-7

26 July: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4186.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 11)

Both these counties entered on their first match this season yesterday fresh from victories, for on Wednesday Sussex had beaten Notts and Kent were successful over Surrey. Delightful weather caused a large company to be present at Catford-bridge.

Sussex, who had won the toss, started remarkably well. Marlow and Bean were opposed at 12.10 by Walter Hearne and Martin. The first-named made seven by an off-drive and cut in the opening over. Bean soon grew busy; 41 were recorded in 20 minutes and W Hearne gave up the ball to Alec Hearne. Eight runs later Bean was bowled. Mr Murdoch was in half an hour without scoring [he actually made 3] and then mistimed a ball from Hearne. A fine return catch at the second attempt dismissed Mr Newham and Marlow was secured by the wicket-keeper, having played a very good innings. Mr Fry had an escape at the hands of Mr Atkins, but when W Hearne resumed he quickly bowled him.

Half the wickets were now down for 84 and at luncheon seven were lost for 95. Afterwards Parris joined Mr Brann and when the 100 was passed he was caught at point. Mr Brann, who had batted in good form, was eventually bowled, and the innings closed after two hours and ten minutes' play.

Kent's venture proved to be a series of disasters. It lasted an hour and ten minutes and may be briefly described. Messrs Mason, Marchant, Wilson and Weigall were all bowled for 11, while a single later Mr Perkins was caught at slip in trying to hit round to leg. Half the wickets were now down for a dozen runs. A Hearne was then bowled after batting three-quarters of an hour for five. Two wickets fell in an over of Hilton's – Mr Atkins bowled and Martin caught at mid-on. When W Hearne joined Wright four were still wanted to prevent the follow-on, but W Hearne was bowled after two singles. Total, 35.

After the usual interval Kent went in a second time with a deficiency of 81, and again started badly, losing three wickets for seven runs. Messrs Weigall and Wilson doubled this total when the former was bowled. Thirteen Kentish wickets in all had been lost for 49. A change for the better now set in. Messrs Wilson and Perkins remained together for 40 minutes, during which time they added 42. Mr Fry was now put on, and with his first ball Mr Perkins was caught at mid-on and the Rev Meyrick Jones was soon bowled. Six for 63. Mr Wilson, who had been in nearly 70 minutes for 33, was finely caught low down at mid-on.

When Wright came in five runs were wanting to save the innings defeat, and these were obtained at 6.25. No further wicket was lost when stumps were drawn. The bowling and fielding of Sussex were excellent and were fully acknowledged by the company. Of course, the wicket had not recovered from the rains of the early part of the week.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 12)

A far keener struggle was made by Kent yesterday than had been expected. On the previous evening they had followed on and had lost seven wickets for 87. The game was resumed at 20 minutes to 12.

The turf certainly seemed to have improved, but Kent made a very poor start. Wright (who was not out with a single) was bowled without adding to his score, while Mr Atkins (who was not out with 14) added a single and was also bowled. Six byes were recorded in Parris's second over. The 100 was reached after a quarter of an hour's play, and 14 runs later Mr Fry took the place of Parris. Four byes came in his first over, and at 119 Humphreys was tried for Hilton. He should have accepted a return chance from Hearne. Before anything was added, however, Martin was Storer, the innings closing for 121.

Sussex were now put in for 41 to win, and as there had been an innings already in the match completed for 35 some of their partisans began to feel a little anxious. However, all doubts were speedily set at rest. Bean scored three fours by two drives and a cut in Hearne's opening over, and should then have been caught and bowled. He continued to hit freely, while Marlow, the other batsman, showed great caution. Bean, having had another escape at deep slip, was at last caught in the deep field, having scored 32 out of 39. Mr Murdoch joined Marlow, who made the winning hit at 1 o'clock.

Thus Sussex, who have played an uphill game so long and so patiently, are to be congratulated on winning two victories in a week. From the score it will be seen that Kent were beaten by nine wickets.

26 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4187.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 11)

Everything was favourable yesterday for the game at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, and a pleasant day's cricket left the match in a pretty even position. The attendance was much above the average reached in Nottingham during the last two or three years, and the spectators had the good fortune to see Dr W G Grace play a very good innings; this, in fact, was the best thing in the day.

Dr Grace and Mr Ferris scored 51 for the first partnership, and the former, who was batting two hours and a half, was the fifth to leave at 105. He survived an appeal for a catch at the wicket from the first ball of the match; but afterwards his cricket was faultless. With the ground a little slow, the Notts bowlers required a lot of watching. Up to a certain point Gloucestershire did remarkably well, but after luncheon six wickets went for an addition of 40 runs, making eight down for 119.

Nottinghamshire went in for an hour and 40 minutes. Daft played very carefully but Gunn showed some fine batting. At the close Notts were 104 behind with seven men in hand. Shrewsbury was unable to appear for his county, and they were trying another bowler in Handford, of Ruddington.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 12)

Aided by a fine innings from Flowers, who made his first century of the season, the Notts eleven secured a big lead in this match at Trent-bridge yesterday. From a pretty even position overnight the home team went to 306, the outstanding seven wickets having added 239 runs.

Flowers went in at 67 and was out at 235. He made his runs in three hours, obtaining nine fours and seven threes, and his only mistakes were at 54, when a good mid-off would have caught him, and at 95 to mid-on. He played good sound cricket throughout.

Going in a second time, Gloucestershire lost six wickets for 16 runs in an hour; five of them fell to the new bowler, Handford, at a cost of only three runs. Captain Luard and Mr Brown put on 45 in 40 minutes, and the closing figures were 66 for seven wickets. Dr W G Grace was unable to bowl owing to a bad knee.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

At Trent Bridge, Nottingham, on Saturday, half an hour's play was sufficient to realize the expectations of Friday evening, and Nottinghamshire beat Gloucestershire by an innings and 44 runs. The Western county had done so badly on the second day that, with only three wickets left, 69 were still wanted to equal the first score of Notts.

Captain Luard continued his sound batting and Roberts stayed with him while 23 runs were added. Captain Luard hit two fours, eight threes and five twos.

26 July: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4188.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 11)

The first day of this match at the Oval yesterday furnished plenty of excellent cricket, in which a dashing innings by Mr S M J Woods, the Somerset captain, stood out prominently. It was a beautiful day, and Somerset, taking the first innings on a wicket which, if a little slow, was steadily drying and rapidly improving, fared badly at the outset. Richardson bowled extremely well and, in spite of Captain Hedley's vigorous batting, six wickets were down for 72.

Things were looking very black for Somerset when Mr Woods went in, with half the side out for 68, at 20 minutes past 1; but he quickly set to work to mend matters and forced the game at a fine pace, driving splendidly and freely hitting the bowler at each end. In the 40 minutes before luncheon Mr Woods, who had been joined by Mr Evans, made 41 out of 55.

Spectators of the subsequent half-hour's play saw something not easily to be forgotten. Mr Evans had made a contribution of 26 towards 74 added for the seventh wicket in 45 minutes, but the quarter of an hour's partnership between Mr Woods and Tyler yielded 48 runs. Mr Woods scored 20 in one over from Lockwood by four drives and one square-leg hit to the boundary, while from the seven balls sent down after Tyler came in 28 runs were recorded. In the half-hour following the luncheon interval 79 runs were scored. Mr Woods was the last to leave, caught at short slip for a brilliant 85 made out of 139 put on during his stay of 75 minutes; his innings included one five, 13 fours and four threes. Somerset were batting only two hours and a half for their score of 207.

Surrey began their innings at a quarter to four and immediately lost Abel, caught in the slips. Lockwood and Hayward made a stand of an hour and five minutes, during which, by first-class batting, 67 runs were obtained. Lockwood was then bowled in trying to drive, the ball keeping low and taking the leg stump. With Brockwell in Hayward continued to play fine cricket, and before a good catch in the long-field disposed of Brockwell the score reached 124. Henderson also played steadily, and at the end of the day Surrey, with seven wickets in hand, were within 39 runs of the Somerset total.

Surrey people will be glad to learn of the return to fine form of Hayward. A feature of the cricket that should not be overlooked was the splendid fielding of Somerset.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 12)

Mr S M J Woods has increased his reputation as a great cricketer by his play in this match at the Oval. Twice he was the main agent in getting Somerset out of little less than a hopeless position, and those who saw his splendid batting on Thursday afternoon and again yesterday are unlikely to forget the part played by the old Cambridge captain in one of the best uphill fights of the season.

Surrey had been left in a somewhat strong position on Thursday night, for, with seven wickets in hand, they were within 39 of their rivals' score, and with the prospect of the turf remaining fast and true this pointed to a big advantage on first innings. Yesterday morning, however, Somerset fielded and bowled splendidly, and four more wickets went down in 40 minutes for 35 runs. Naturally most of the attention was concentrated on Hayward, whom every one hoped to see complete his

100. He had passed this landmark some time when he made the mistake of playing back to something like a half-volley, which he turned into his wicket. He had been rather more than three hours getting his 113, going in first wicket down before a run was scored and being seventh out at 203. His hits included one five and 13 fours.

This fine batting of Hayward's will do much to resuscitate his last year's reputation, which has been dulled this season by various failures that have endangered his position in the Surrey eleven. It is the best thing that he ever did for Surrey, and beats his fine innings against Kent at the Oval last summer. Street made some good hits and Surrey, as the result of four hours' batting, secured a lead of 53 runs.

With the turf true and hard most people looked for a good fight, but the 40 minutes before luncheon wrought a great change in their expectations. Before the fine fast bowling of Richardson and the left-hand slows from Smith the Somerset men failed lamentably, and such was the collapse that the first five wickets fell in less than half an hour for 15 runs. The game was brightened by a spell of vigorous batting by Messrs Woods and Hill, but just as the men had settled down to play a fine free game there came an ill-judged attempt at running, and the result was fatal to Mr Hill, whom Mr Read threw out from point. Thirty-three had been obtained in 13 minutes, and at the adjournment Somerset had yet to clear off five of the arrears and had only four wickets left.

The match seemed completely lost to Somerset; but there was a treat in store for the 8,000 spectators in the afternoon, when Messrs Woods and Evans played magnificent cricket and made a wonderful attempt to save the game. Such a fine uphill fight has not often been witnessed. For an hour and 35 minutes did these batsmen withstand the Surrey bowlers, driving and cutting with great brilliance. Without the semblance of an error the seventh wicket yielded 127 runs, and then Mr Evans was caught at the wicket for a superb 60; he has a fine forward style which was greatly admired, and Somerset will be fortunate if they can secure his services regularly. His chief hits were two fives and six fours.

Mr Woods did not long survive his partner, for at 189, in trying to drive, he nicked the ball and was caught behind the wicket. Two hours had been occupied by him in getting his 80, in which were seven fours and three threes. He had made 165 in the match. Surrey went in to get 144, and Abel and Lockwood played so well as to make their victory almost assured.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

Two days' brilliant play in this match at the Oval left only the prospect of a quiet and brief Saturday. It was extremely unlikely that Surrey would experience much difficulty in getting the last 52 runs – that is if the wicket remained true – as they had nine batsmen in hand.

Lockwood and Hayward resumed the batting at 11.30, the score being 92 for one wicket. Nichols and Tyler bowled very well, but the ball came along easily and the figures travelled steadily towards the required 144. A three on the leg side by Lockwood sent up the 100 at a quarter to 12. After this came a fine piece of fielding by Mr Fowler at point, while at 105 that player took up the bowling at Tyler's end. Hayward got a three and a five on the leg side, while Lockwood with a couple of boundary drives completed his 50 in an hour and three-quarters.

Messrs Hill and L C H Palairt were put on and then the end was rapidly reached, a single by Lockwood winning the match for Surrey at 20 minutes past 12 by nine wickets. The partnership

had produced 70 runs, and Hayward by his capital 36 had brought his aggregate in the game to 149. Lockwood's chief hits were five fours, four threes and four twos. The match will, perhaps, be best remembered for the fine batting of Mr S M J Woods in both the Somerset innings.

26 July: DERBYSHIRE v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105724.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 11)

It rarely happens that an error in judgment meets with such a lamentable result as that which befell the South Africans yesterday at Derby. Mr Castens won the toss and sent Derbyshire to the wickets, where they remained all day and achieved a great batting performance.

Walter Sugg carried off the honours; he was in two hours and a half, but gave a chance of stumping at 66; he had made 121 when he fell a victim to venturesomeness. His hits included eight fours and seven threes. He and Chatterton put on 132 for the third wicket. The latter was batting for three hours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 12)

Mr C O Sewell carried off the batting honours at Derby yesterday, and his 128, which were made out of 212 put on while he was in, took him four hours; his chief hits were 13 fours and ten threes. The best partnership was one of 117, between him and Frank Hearne.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

At one period of this match, at Derby, on Saturday, the South Africans appeared to have a good prospect of victory. The close of an innings each had left the county with a lead of 25, but going in a second time Derbyshire fared so badly that in an hour and three-quarters six of their men were out for 90. By excellent wicket-keeping, Mr Halliwell had helped to bring about this result.

The character of the game underwent a change through the fine batting of Chatterton, who was well backed up by Messrs Ward and Marsden. He should, however, have been caught at mid-off, and again in the long-field, with his figures at 32 and 52. His chief hits were one five, four fours, three threes and eight twos. When the home side finished their innings there was insufficient time to play the match out, and the result was a draw . . .

Surrey's victory at the Oval on Saturday brings their record up to the level of Yorkshire and the positions are now as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	10	8	2	0	6
Yorkshire	10	8	2	0	6
Middlesex	10	7	3	0	4
Kent	8	5	3	0	2
Somerset	9	3	5	1	-2
Nottinghamshire	11	4	6	1	-2
Lancashire	10	3	6	1	-3
Gloucestershire	9	2	7	0	-5
Sussex	11	2	8	1	-6

NORTH v SOUTH. – At the Oval on Thursday the elevens for this match, the gate-money from which goes to the benefit fund of H Wood, the Surrey wicket-keeper, will be as follows: - [Team lists follow.]

30 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4189.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

The successful beginning made by Lancashire yesterday created a lot of enthusiasm at Old Trafford, Manchester. Albert Ward, in repeating his performance at Bristol, had a large share in the fine score of the home side, whose innings extended over the whole day. He went in first and as eighth out at 337 for 131. His first 50 were secured in an hour and 25 minutes, and he took another two and a quarter hours to reach the 199; while he was 75 minutes getting the last 31. During all this time he gave no actual chance; his figures comprised 21 fours, three threes and seven twos.

Mr A C MacLaren and Ward were together three-quarters of an hour for the first wicket, scoring 68, and the former his five fours in his 33. At luncheon time the record was 124 for four wickets. Subsequently Baker threw plenty of vigour into the game, scoring 61 out of 99 in an hour and a half, and making ten fours, two threes and three twos. Several other members of the side batted freely and the total reached 351. Gloucestershire are giving a trial to Mr Jessop, a bowler.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 11)

Yesterday, at Old Trafford, Manchester, the Gloucestershire team did not shine in their fight against the big Lancashire score, the accumulation of which occupied the whole of Monday. The wicket perhaps helped the attack a little, an Mold's fast bowling met with remarkable success; his two analyses gave him a record of 13 wickets at an average cost of only nine runs each.

Between 11.35 and ten minutes to 1 Gloucestershire's first innings was played through. Dr W G Grace failed altogether, and the only batting of any note as by Painter and Mr G Jessop, whose partnership for the fifth wicket produced 48 runs in 20 minutes.

The visitors did considerably better in their second innings, but it was again Painter who gained the most merit in batting. After four men had gone for 42, Mr Jessop helped Painter to add 26, and then came a considerable partnership by Dr E M Grace and Painter, who put on 43 for the sixth wicket. The latter was caught at point for an admirable 54; he was in an hour and a half and his chief hits were two fours, two threes and eight twos. Mr Brown batted vigorously towards the close, but in the end Lancashire won by an innings and 98 runs. The home side fielded splendidly and were heartily cheered by the 5,000 spectators.

30 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4190.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

Yesterday's play in this match on the county ground, Leicester, was pretty even, but in the end Notts had a slight advantage. With first innings, Leicestershire were batting two and a half hours; but their score scarcely reached the dimensions promised by the luncheon figures of 79 for four wickets. They were subsequently weakened by Pougher's hand being injured so badly as to prevent his taking any share in the attack.

Still, when Notts went in Woodcock bowled very effectively, and the visitors lost four men for 28 and five for 41. But then the game underwent a change. Flowers and Attewell for the sixth partnership added 66 runs in 50 minutes. Flowers was the eighth to leave, after a stay of 90 minutes; his chief hits were four fours, five threes and four twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 11)

The home side had the advantage in an excellent day's play in this match at Leicester yesterday. The Nottinghamshire innings, in which two wickets remained overnight, rapidly ended, and the balance in the visitors' favour was only 17. Woodcock's bowling figures were distinctly good.

Then Leicestershire went in again and for nearly four hours they kept their opponents in the field. Mr C E de Trafford and Holland in a little over an hour scored 85. Mr de Trafford subsequently played splendid cricket until 169, when he was out for 89, after a stay of two hours and a quarter. His chief hits were eight fours, seven threes and five twos. Mr D Lorrimer was in 75 minutes and made a five, three fours, four threes and six twos. With Pougher absent through an injured hand the Leicestershire innings ended for 263. The visitors before the close lost three good men and now want 177 more to win with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 August, page 11)

At Leicester yesterday Notts had to obtain 177 for victory with seven wickets to fall. It soon became apparent that they were not equal to this undertaking, for Mee, Barnes and Howitt only put on 16 between them. Mr Wright batted with the utmost caution and the last man (Wilkinson) was dismissed through great misjudgement of a run. From the score it will be seen that Leicestershire won by 106 runs.

30 July: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4191.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

The return to a match played at Canterbury in June, when Kent were defeated, was begun yesterday at Taunton. Both sides were strong. For the home side Mr A E Newton took the Rev A P Wickham's place at wicket, and Mr M C Kemp reappeared in the Kent team, for whom also Mr C O Cooper, on the strength of his fine batting at Lord's on Friday and Saturday, was given a trial.

Heavy rain overnight had rendered the wicket slow, but the weather itself was fine and there was a large number of spectators. Kent had an advantage in having first innings, but Nichols got wickets with his first and sixth balls. Mr Wilson played well and obtained 33 out of the 40 runs scored while he and A Hearne were together. Half the wickets realized 73. Mr Marchant and A Hearne batted brilliantly and resisted many changes in the attack. In 80 minutes 110 runs were put on. Mr Marchant scored the faster, and in his 71 were ten fours, two threes, three twos &c.

Great care characterized A Hearne's play. He was three hours and a half getting his 65, going in first wicket down, when nothing had been scored, and being the seventh to leave, with the score at 206; his hits were eight fours, three threes and six twos. The Kent innings, which had lasted three hours and three-quarters, closed for 220.

Somerset went in for 70 minutes' batting, during which they lost three men for 57, Messrs L C H Palairt and Hill obtaining 34 for the first wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 11)

Aided by the mistakes of the Kent fieldsmen, Somerset were able at Taunton yesterday to make a much better match than at one time seemed probable. With the wicket untrue, their first innings, in which three batsmen had gone for 57, progressed fairly satisfactorily up to a certain point; but the end was abrupt.

Messrs Woods and R C N Palairt put on 47 for the sixth partnership and the 100 went up with only five men out; but at 106 four wickets fell, while the total reached only 110. A Hearne had a remarkable analysis, taking the last four wickets in five overs without having a run scored from him. During the morning an hour and a quarter had seen the dismissal of seven batsmen for 53 runs.

Following on, Somerset lost Mr Hill before luncheon for 16. Subsequently the Messrs Palairt were both missed, as also were Captain Hedley, Mr Woods and Mr Fowler. Owing to this self-imposed handicap Kent were four hours getting Somerset out a second time. After two wickets had fallen for 40, the brothers Palairt put on 45 in 65 minutes, and then, at 85, R C N left. The old Oxford captain (L C H) played steadily and well until 151, when he was sixth out. His chief hits were five fours and three twos.

Messrs Woods and Evans and Tyler and Nichols added 29 and 32 for the seventh and ninth partnerships, and it was 6 o'clock when the innings finished. It was worthy of note that Tyler lost his wicket through backing up before the ball was delivered, the bowler running him out. Kent are

left with an innings to play to-day and 121 to make for victory. Fine weather prevailed and there was a good gathering of people.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 August, page 11)

After a severe uphill game Somerset, yesterday, for the second time this season, beat Kent by the small margin of 37 runs. When Tuesday evening closed Kent were left with the apparently easy task of getting 121 in their last innings; but rain fell during the night at Taunton and the wicket became difficult.

The visitors did so badly as to lose their first six men for 22 runs. Then Messrs Marchant and Kemp endeavoured to save the game; the former, owing to an injured leg, had a man to run for him. So successful was this partnership that 49 were added, but subsequently Captain Hedley went on and quickly finished off the innings. In spite of the fine bowling and fielding of Somerset the earlier batsmen among the visitors ought to have done better, and another cause of their defeat could be traced to the missed catches on Tuesday by the Kent fieldsmen.

30 July: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4192.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

Neither of these teams was able to place its full strength in the field yesterday to play the return match at Birmingham. On the occasion of the previous game at the Oval Warwickshire gained an unexpected victory.

Yesterday the weather was delightful and the attendance large. Surrey were successful in the toss, but started badly by losing Abel when only a dozen runs had been obtained. They quite compensated for his, however, and, scoring heavily, kept their rivals in the field all day.

Going in first, at 12.15, Lockwood stayed until 5 o'clock and had run up 127 out of the 248 then registered. He had hardly batted so freely as usual, but he made many hard hits. He made a possible return catch to Shilton at 9 and a chance to Walter Quaife at mid-on when he had made 42; and after passing his 100 Law and Diver each let him escape, but he was finally caught at short slip, being sixth out. His partnerships were – with Hayward, 53; with Brockwell, 38; and then with Ayres, 106 in 100 minutes. Shilton let Ayres escape at slip when he had made 17. Mr Key and Street scored 60 runs in 50 minutes, and then the Surrey captain and Smith played out time, when seven wickets were down for 354 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 11)

At Birmingham, in charming weather, Surrey, who had occupied the wickets throughout the whole of Monday and lost only seven batsmen for the large total of 354, continued their batting yesterday at 25 minutes to 12. Mr Key and Smith were then opposed by Pallett and Santall. The three outstanding wickets were secured for an additional 30 runs, Mr Key's excellent innings being closed by a catch at wicket; his principal hits were six fours, four threes and ten twos.

With the heavy total of 384 against them Warwickshire began their batting in promising fashion. Fifty appeared as the result of less than three-quarters of an hour's play. Mr Bainbridge was in until after the 100 was passed, and in his own 50 were four fours, four threes and six twos; his innings was not perfect. Three wickets had realized 105 runs, but the remaining seven only added 46. W G Quaife batted with great patience and was 70 minutes getting his 27.

Being in a minority of 233 Warwickshire followed on, and in the hour and a half left for play 55 runs were obtained without loss of a wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 August, page 11)

Although at one time yesterday the fine stand by Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife for the first wicket in the second innings held out some hope that Warwickshire would avoid defeat, Surrey later in the day gained a decisive victory. There had been a great deal of rain in Birmingham on Tuesday night and again yesterday morning, and this caused play to be deferred until nearly 1 o'clock, as the turf was too soft to admit of cricket; Warwickshire had themselves to blame for not saving the defeat, three wickets being thrown away through reckless running,

Overnight Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife had scored 55, and yesterday, with the bowlers and field handicapped by the wet ball and the slippery turf, they again did well. The full time of the first partnership was only a little less than three hours, and in this period 111 runs were made. Quaife, who was cleverly caught by the bowler, left first; the characteristic of both his and Mr Bainbridge's batting was extreme steadiness.

This excellent start was not followed up, and the Surrey bowlers, after the long spell of successful defence, had a good deal their own way. The seventh wicket went at 175. Lilley and Pallett put on 33 quickly, and subsequently the latter and Shilton made a stand. But when the probabilities pointed to the innings defeat being saved Pallett was caught in the long-field, and Surrey won by an innings and 5 runs.

30 July: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4193.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

Derbyshire got the better of the cricket at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, when the play went much in favour of the bowlers. Davison's analysis for the visitors was particularly good, and to-day Yorkshire have a severe uphill task before them.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 11)

The game on the bad wicket at Sheffield had gone so much against Yorkshire on Monday as to hold out little hope of their saving the match, for five wickets were lost in the second innings and they were only 11 runs ahead.

The play yesterday was brief and decisive. Davidson had secured the bowling honours in the first innings; but it proved Hulme's turn in the second, and yesterday morning the last five fell to him in seven overs and four balls for eight runs, while his full analysis came out thus – nine wickets for 27.

Derbyshire quickly got the necessary 28 for victory and won the match by nine wickets. The feature of the contest was the bowling of Hulme and Davidson, who were not changed in either innings.

30 July: GENTLEMEN OF IRELAND v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/100/100528.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

An interesting day's play at Dublin yesterday went favourably for the South Africans. For the visitors Mr Johnson followed up some good bowling with a fine innings, his chief hits being two sixes and nine fours. Mr Sewell also played excellently, hitting no fewer than 15 fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 11)

There was some rain at Dublin yesterday when this match was concluded. Over night the home team were 50 runs behind and had lost a wicket in their second innings.

Yesterday Messrs A P Gwynne and Kilkelly both showed good form, but they were not well supported and the innings closed for 181. Mr Rowe took seven wickets at a cost of 11 runs each. South Africa only required 85, and they won by nine wickets.

The victory of Somerset over Kent yesterday has not altered the positions of the counties, although, of course, it has improved Somerset's chance of getting nearer the top. The record of the nine leading shires is now as follows:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Played
Yorkshire	10	8	2	0	6
Surrey	10	8	2	0	6
Middlesex	10	7	3	0	4
Kent	9	5	4	0	1
Somerset	10	4	5	1	-1
Nottinghamshire	11	4	6	1	-2
Lancashire	11	4	6	1	-2
Gloucestershire	10	2	8	0	-6
Sussex	11	2	8	1	-5

1 August: TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN v SOUTH AFRICANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105725.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 2 August, page 11)

On a slow and somewhat treacherous wicket at Dublin, yesterday, the batting between these sides in their first innings was pretty level, but at the end of the day the visitors had the better of the position . . .

Day 2 (report from Friday 3 August, page 8)

At Dublin, yesterday, the South Africans followed up their success over the Gentlemen of Ireland with a nine wickets victory.

2 August: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4194.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 8)

Rain fell so heavily in Manchester yesterday morning that it was decided to postpone the start of this match on the Old Trafford ground until to-day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

The heavy rains of Thursday and yesterday morning left the ground at Old Trafford, Manchester, scarcely fit for cricket. However, it was decided to make a start with this match, and Lancashire scored fast during the three hours that were available for the game before the wet weather set in again and stopped play at 4 o'clock.

Mr A C M'Laren and Albert Ward scored 170 for the first wicket by fine, free batting; the amateur should have been stumped when he had made 15, but otherwise his play was faultless. He hit ten fours. Ward was fortunate, as early in his innings he played on without removing the bails, and was also missed in the slips.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 5)

Bad weather completely spoilt this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, and on Saturday, after a feeble display of batting by Leicestershire on the false wicket and some fine bowling by Briggs, the rain caused the game to be drawn.

Lancashire, who had made 212 overnight, continued their innings in order to afford Ward an opportunity to get his hundred. However, he ran himself out for 99, in which were 12 fours. There was no cricket after luncheon, owing to the wet weather.

2 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4195.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 8)

Bad weather delayed the start of this match at Taunton yesterday; but when the home side won the toss and went in, the ball came along easily on the wet turf.

The first innings was remarkable for the splendid batting of Mr V T Hill, the old Oxford cricketer. He went in first and was fourth out at 129, having scored his 86 in an hour and a quarter. He hit a six and nine fours, and gave no chance. Mr Fowler helped him to make 47 for the first wicket, and Mr L C H Palaret stayed while 49 were scored for the third. The last six wickets added only 65. Mr Dunlop played well.

A shower interrupted the Sussex innings, and rain subsequently abruptly ended the day's play. There was a good attendance, although the weather kept dull.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

The second day's play in this match at Taunton yesterday furnished plenty of interesting cricket. Sussex had been left overnight to face the good score of 194 and had lost one wicket for 39. Four wickets were down for 55, and then Messrs Brann and Newham, by adding 53, greatly improved the condition of things for Sussex. The last five batsmen, however, were dismissed for an addition of 11 runs.

Seventy-five was a pretty substantial balance with which to begin their second innings, and so well did Somerset fare for a considerable time that, with only two men out, they had scored 110. Bean then dismissed Mr Hill and Mr Roe and threw out Mr L C H Palaret, who had been playing splendid cricket. In this way half the side were out for 136, and Humphreys going on again met with wonderful success, taking the other five wickets in three overs and three balls for two runs.

Sussex were left with 242 to make for victory and, before the drawing of stumps, 73 of these were obtained without the loss of a wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 5)

Saturday at Taunton witnessed another triumph of the Somerset bowlers, more especially of Tyler, and the result was that Sussex, who had begun so well their task of getting 242 in the last innings by making 73 without loss of wicket in Friday night, were decisively beaten by 110 runs.

Bean and Marlow, the not-outs, on Saturday took the score to 82; but Tyler bowled with such effect that in three-quarters of an hour eight wickets fell for an addition of 28 to the overnight's 73. The last two obtained 30 more, and then the end was reached, the cricket having lasted only 75 minutes. The wicket had been injured by the rain of Friday night, and Tyler made the most of this advantage and was backed up by good fielding. Somerset thus ended a very successful week's work for they had beaten both Kent and Sussex.

2 August: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4196.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 8)

The old-fashioned title of North and South has so often been utilized in cricket as to endanger its popularity, especially as the teams have too frequently been far from representative. Yet, though the match has certainly deteriorated in public interest through the absence of the old traditions, there was a crowd of five or six thousand people to see yesterday's cricket on the Oval.

The Surrey Club had set apart this fixture for the benefit of Wood, their wicket-keeper, and, although several of the leading counties were engaged and Messrs Stoddart and M'Gregor were away, two very representative sides were chosen under the captaincy of Mr W W Read and Mr C W Wright. There was no lack of fine talent in the sides which entered the lists at the Oval yesterday, but unfortunately the weather was uncertain and, although the protection of the wicket by tarpaulin prevented any ill effects from the rain, the rain delayed the start and caused an luncheon interval of over an hour.

With the pitch pretty true, good scoring was not surprising, and the South, getting the advantage of first innings, kept in the whole day. The point in the game was the batting of Brockwell, who not only made his fourth 100 of the season, but by his first few runs increased his aggregate for the season to a thousand, being the first batsman thus to distinguish himself this summer. Brockwell played very strongly on both sides of the wicket and did not give a chance; he scored his runs at a capital rate and, going in second wicket down at 75, was 155 not out when rain stopped the game at 20 minutes to 6.

Abel and Alec Hearne both exercised plenty of caution; but Mr W W Read played extremely well and some of the bumping balls from Mr Walker he got very cleverly away to leg. Before being caught at slip he had helped to put on 75 for the fourth partnership. Then came a long and profitable stand by Brockwell and Mr Ranjitsinhji, who were together at ten minutes to four and were not separated until half-past 5, when the amateur, in trying to get Flowers away to the boundary, was caught from a big drive at long-on; his contribution to the 138 added for the fifth wicket was 62.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

The South, as was anticipated after their fine start on Thursday, had all the best of the wicket at the Oval yesterday. An hour sufficed to finish off their innings for 399. Brockwell added 13 to his score and was then caught at mid-on by Davidson. This is his fourth 100 this season; he gave no chances and hit nine fours, his driving being particularly good. Of the rest Mr Lucas alone showed good form and stayed while 100 runs were put on.

When the North went in, Mr L G Wright played well, as did Gunn and Flowers. The cricket, however, on the whole was very dull until eight wickets had fallen, and then Mr Walker and Peel enlivened matters by some vigorous hitting, one of Mr Walker's drives landing over the covered stand. The innings ended at 5.40 for 244.

The North followed on in a minority of 155, and Mr C W Wright sent in Brown and Chatterton,

who reduced the arrears by 35 before stumps were drawn. There were between five and six thousand spectators present.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 5)

The North, under the severe handicap imposed by the arrears on their first innings, made a fine fight at the Oval on Saturday and succeeded in saving the match. Much of the merit of this achievement belonged to the two men whom Mr C W Wright sent in to begin the second innings, and so well did Brown, the Yorkshireman, and Chatterton play that it took the Southern bowlers two hours and 20 minutes to capture the first wicket.

Thirty-five of the deficit of 155 had been rubbed off overnight, but it was left to Saturday morning to show the best of the Northern batting. The men were cheered very heartily as the unfavourable balance was cleared off shortly after 1 o'clock, and when at last Brown missed a good ball and had his off stump knocked down, the score stood at 202. This wonderful stand for the first wicket was full of excellence. Brown had just managed to get into three figures, and his 101 is one of the best things he has ever done in important cricket. His strokes included a five and ten fours.

Chatterton played with vigour and drove with a finish that astonished everyone. When he saw a prospect of getting his 100, after Brown had gone, he assumed his careful style, and soon after luncheon was out second at 22, l.b.w. He made the best drive of the day, a six all along the ground, which was run out, and also hit a five and nine fours.

As only two wickets were down and the North still possessed several other great batsmen, the chances of the game pointed to a very big score and a probable declaration of closed innings. However, it is not easy to measure the chances of cricket. Gunn was quickly caught at wicket, and after Flowers and Mr L G Wright had put on 47 for the fifth partnership, the innings came steadily to an end before the bowling of Lockwood, who, going on again at 281, took five of the last six wickets in eight overs and three balls for 31 runs. The second half of the innings realized only 45 and the finish was reached at half-past 4.

The South had an hour and three-quarters in which to get 178 for victory. Only at one time did there seem any probability of these being secured, and that was during the partnership of Abel and Mr Lucas, who carried the score from 12 to 108 in an hour. Mr W W Read, however, did not send in the right men for forcing the game, and when bad light stopped the cricket at a quarter-past 6, the South, with 56 to make, had seven wickets to fall. Abel again did well and was only out to a wonderful catch by Wainwright low down at extra slip. The fact that he brought his first-class aggregate of the season to four figures was duly noticed by the company.

There were several thousand spectators of Saturday's play, but the fact that the admission was raised to a shilling for the match no doubt kept many people away. As the expenses of the fixture were very considerable, Wood will have to rely largely on the subscription lists if his benefit fund is to reach an amount worthy of all the good work he has done for Surrey at the wickets.

2 August: WARWICKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4197.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 8)

In consequence of the inclement weather play was impracticable in this match at Birmingham yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

After a blank Thursday a capital day's cricket was witnessed yesterday at Edgbaston, Birmingham, by some 3,000 people. Dr W G Grace with Mr Ferris made 42 for the first Gloucestershire wicket, and later on there was a stand by Mr Rice and his captain for 33. Dr W G Grace was eventually cleverly caught at short slip for 52. He gave no chance and hit six fours. In spite of "W.G.'s" batting things did not go too well for Gloucestershire until Dr E M Grace and Mr Ferris got together; between them they made 77, the longest stand of the innings, and the ultimate score reached 199.

Warwickshire lost two men for 14, after which the Brothers Quaife put on 126 and were still together at the drawing of stumps. Walter Quaife was twice missed at deep square-leg, but his brother made no mistake.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 5)

At Birmingham on Saturday the cricketing day was considerably shortened by the heavy rain which fell in the afternoon. The position of the game overnight pointed to a substantial lead on the first innings for Warwickshire, who, with eight wickets in hand, had 140 runs to their credit, being only 59 less than the Gloucestershire total.

However, on Saturday morning the brothers Quaife, who had put on 126 for the third partnership, were quickly separated, Walter Quaife being bowled before the addition of a run. He had made ten fours. W G Quaife increased his overnight score by five and was then caught at short leg. Subsequently the visitors bowled with so much effect that in the end Warwickshire's lead was only 25. Gloucestershire went in again, but the rain finally caused the abandonment of the match.

2 August: ESSEX v HAMPSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128158.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 8)

On the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, these counties yesterday began their first match of the season. At 5.35 rain stopped play for the day . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

At Leyton yesterday Essex just succeeded in heading the Hampshire score of 192. Hampshire in their second innings fared so well that 200 runs were scored before the second wicket fell, Mr Hill playing a splendid innings. Henty, while umpiring, was so severely injured by a hit from Barton that he had to retire.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 5)

There was an extraordinary day's cricket at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, on Saturday, when Essex, after a great finish, lost the match with Hampshire by nine runs. Friday evening's score left Hampshire in a winning position, for with only two wickets down they had made 240.

In the morning, however, Mr Kortright and Mead wrought a great change in the affairs of the match and captured the outstanding eight wickets for 23 runs. The bowling figures of the two men were remarkable – Mr Kortright took four wickets for eight runs and Mead three for 15. It was a curious ending to an innings that had been so well opened, chiefly by Mr Hill, who in his 114 hit a five and 13 fours.

Still, Essex had a big task before them to make 255, and when two wickets went down for 36 their prospect was not bright. Then came a great stand by Mr M'Gahey and Mr Rowe, who put on 127 in 90 minutes for the third partnership. As the 200 went up with only four men out, Essex seemed to be pursuing an easy course to victory; but after Mr M'Gahey, at 202, had been caught in the long field for 103, in which were seven fours, the sixth wicket fell at 213. Before another man was out Essex were within 19 of victory. However, two wickets went at 236, the ninth at 242 and the tenth at 245, and, amid great excitement, Hampshire won by nine runs.

The following are the present positions of the counties: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	10	3	2	0	6
Surrey	10	3	2	0	6
Middlesex	10	7	3	0	4
Kent	9	5	4	0	1
Somerset	11	5	5	1	0
Nottinghamshire	11	4	6	1	-2
Lancashire	11	4	6	1	-2
Gloucestershire	10	2	8	0	-6
Sussex	12	2	9	1	-7

Monday 6 August, page 5: THE CANTERBURY WEEK

The time-honoured festival at Canterbury begins to-day with the return match between Warwickshire and Kent, a fixture that has rapidly grown in interest both through the general success of Warwickshire cricket this year and the fact that Kent were beaten in the first match at Birmingham. Yorkshire play the second game of the week, so that the cricket programme in no degree lacks attraction.

The Kent eleven will be chosen from Messrs F Marchant, M C Kemp, J R Mason, G J V Weigall, T N Perkins, L Wilson and W L Knowles, Rev W Rashleigh, Walter Hearne, Alec Hearne, Wright and Martin.

As usual, the "Old Stagers" will play at the theatre on the nights of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and their bill will be of a varied character. On Wednesday and on Friday there will be a ball at the music-hall and on Thursday a lantern cycle parade.

6 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4198.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 10)

The bad weather at Bristol yesterday morning made any chance of cricket until late in the day very remote. The weather improved for a little time and then there was more rain, so it was decided to put off the match until to-day.

The crowd of two or three thousand people clamoured for cricket, and finding this unavailing they trampled over the wicket and mobbed the cricketers. On leaving the ground Dr W G Grace and Mr W L Murdoch only safely reached the cab awaiting them through police protection. The public had before been informed that they would receive passes for admission to the ground to-day. It was something of a pity, however, that the gates were not sooner closed. Yet this was no excuse for the disgraceful behaviour of the people and the wilful damage done to the turf.

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

Sussex did excellently at Bristol yesterday, but they were indebted almost wholly for their fine score to two men – Mr C B Fry, the Oxford captain, and Butt, the wicket-keeper. Rain came on when Sussex were out and stopped cricket for the day. Woof, who has not played for the county since 1891, and Mr C L Townsend, of Clifton College, a good bowler, are appearing for Gloucestershire.

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

The Gloucestershire eleven had to play a very uphill game yesterday. They were left with a day before them to keep in on a wicket ruined by rain, but still it was generally thought that the side would manage to draw. As it turned out, however, Gloucestershire succumbed for the most part to the bowling of Parris, whose feats against Kent at Catford-bridge not long ago will be remembered.

The home team did indifferently enough in the first innings, and they afterwards went from bad to worse. So well did Dr W G Grace play to begin with that there seemed a prospect of a fair score. But the disasters set in with a wonderful one-hand catch at short leg which sent back the captain. Mr Rice showed good form and with Mr Townsend put on 34 for the fourth wicket.

Following on, Gloucestershire were out a second time in an hour and 40 minutes, and Sussex gained the victory by an innings and 104 runs. Parris's bowling figures were extremely good.

6 August: KENT v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4199.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 10)

It says a great deal for the hold which “the week” at Canterbury has on the cricketing public that, in spite of every prospect of a wet day, there was a fairly large number of visitors to the St Lawrence ground yesterday morning. Rain came on a little after 10 o’clock, and although the wind veered round from the south-west to the north about noon and the prospect became a little more hopeful, two heavy thunderstorms burst over the ground, and at ten minutes to 3 it was decided to postpone the start until this morning at half-past 11, sharp.

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

The weather was fine at Canterbury yesterday, and the St Lawrence ground assumed its usual picturesque appearance. The attendance was very large.

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

Throughout the morning, at Canterbury, yesterday, rain swept across the St Lawrence Ground, and there seemed very little likelihood of play. However, about 1 o’clock the weather cleared and it was decided to start at a quarter to 3 o’clock. Then it blew nearly half a gale and this had the effect of drying up the turf.

Kent began their second innings with 49 runs to the good. Their early representatives, the Rev W Rashleigh and Mr Mason, led off well and ran up 30 in less than half an hour against Pallett and Shilton, the latter of whom then gave way to Santall. A ball from the new bowler struck Lilley on the thumb and put it out and also split it. Diver kept wicket in his stead. Both batsmen showed careful defence, relieved occasionally by some brilliant cutting. The 50 was recorded as the result of 55 minutes’ play. Mr Mason drove Pallett finely to the on for four, which was the chief hit in several overs. As no wicket came Whitehead was tried for Pallett at 64, and in his third over he clean bowled Mr Mason. The rain now came on again and at 4 o’clock play was stopped.

After 35 minutes’ delay Mr Perkins went in with Mr Rashleigh. In the opening over from Santall the latter drove the first ball to the off boundary and the second he cut for three; the fourth proved disastrous to Mr Perkins – caught at wicket. Mr Rashleigh, who was joined by Mr Wilson, reached his 50 after an hour and 20 minutes’ play. This batsman then made an excellent drive on the off side for four, which sent the total up to 100. Mr Rashleigh followed this up by scoring eight by a cut and straight drive in an over of Santall’s, and Shilton resumed. When the total had reached 119 Mr Wilson was clean bowled and A Hearne came in.

Mr Rashleigh continued to bat with every confidence, and the interest in the game now centred in the probability of his completing his 100. This he did with an on-drive into one of the tents for four, after he had been batting a little over two hours. When he had added half-a-dozen more, however, he was clean bowled, his principal hits being 11 fours. Mr Weigall arrived, but soon lost Alec Hearne. Half the wickets were now down for 182. Play ceased at 6 o’clock, the match being drawn . . .

6 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4200.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 10)

Heavy rain prevented any cricket in this match at Leicester, yesterday.

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

The characteristic of yesterday's play at Leicester was the remarkable care shown by Mr Hailey in his batting for the visitors. His 50 occupied about three hours and a half.

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

Some remarkable bowling by Mead and Pickett brought about a collapse of the home team's first innings yesterday; but Leicestershire did much better in the second innings and the game was eventually drawn. Rain caused much delay.

6 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4201.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 10)

The splendid stand for the fifth wicket by Mr T C O'Brien and Rawlin, whose brilliant batting came at a time when Middlesex were faring badly, was the feature of the day's cricket, which was shortened by the morning's rain, at Taunton yesterday. As it turned out, the hours of play were insufficient for the completion of one innings.

The wet weather had set in on Sunday evening, and so saturated was the turf that it was half-past 2 before a start could be made. Middlesex had choice of innings and were able to bat while the pitch was still easy. The captain did little, and a fine running catch by mid-off sent back Mr Stoddart. These dismissals and the two that quickly followed made the opening so bad for the visitors that four men were out for 27 runs. Then Mr O'Brien and Rawlin came together and by faultless cricket added 151 in two hours before Rawlin fell to a catch at extra slip. He hit six fours and seven threes. After he had gone Mr O'Brien continued to do well and was close to his 100 when stumps were drawn with nine men out for 217. There were several thousands of spectators.

The victories of Somerset last week have roused the county to a livelier interest in its cricket club. Middlesex are giving a trial to Mr P F Warner, the old Rugby cricketer, and have again had the assistance of Mr L C V Bathurst, the Oxford slow left-hand bowler. Mr L H Gay is keeping wicket for Somerset.

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

There was a large crowd of spectators of a fine day's cricket at Taunton yesterday.

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

At Taunton yesterday expectations of a close fight were realized and, with the tail of the Somerset team striving keenly, Middlesex won by only 19 runs. The wicket was false to begin with yesterday morning and the balance of the visitors' innings was got through in less than an hour, the batsmen playing feebly the bowling of Captain Hedley.

Somerset had apparently the small score of 129 to make in the last innings, but the splendid attack of Rawlin and J T Hearne, backed up by fine fielding, was too much for the home side. Before luncheon things went very badly for Somerset, and Captain Hedley, Mr Challen, Mr Hill and Mr Roe were all out for 14 runs. Subsequently Mr L C H Palairret was aided by his brother and Mr Dunlop in putting a better appearance on the game, while Mr Gay and Tyler both worked hard.

6 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4202.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 10)

At the Oval yesterday there was a crowd of quite 25,000 people to witness the match between Surrey and Notts. The Surrey team, in the absence of Maurice Read, who was injured some weeks ago at Leicester, was completed by the inclusion of Ayres, while Wood filled his old position as wicket-keeper.

Nottinghamshire's side has been a little unsettled all through the season, and some of the promising young players were not always able to answer to the call, because of club engagements. Pike, who made his mark in the Easter Monday colts' trial, is a capital wicket-keeper and his position in the eleven is now no doubt permanent, and yesterday he greatly distinguished himself. There were two well-known names absent from the list – Arthur Shrewsbury and Barnes. The latter stood out at the last minute for Bagguley – a change which the Notts captain was very happy in making, for Bagguley came out with the best analysis.

Surrey won the toss and went in first on a wicket that was extremely unlikely to recover after the many hours' rain during the night. The light was very bad and the atmosphere misty when Lockwood and Abel made a good beginning for Surrey. Lockwood's forcing tactics paid very well; he made some fine drives and leg hits, and, in spite of brilliant fielding, runs averaged one a minute until at 49 Flowers was put on to bowl and with his first ball got Lockwood well caught at mid-on. Subsequently Abel threw plenty of vigour into his batting. Bagguley, who was bowling very well from the gasometer end, caused him to be caught at wicket, and Hayward fell to a clever catch low down at slip at the same total – namely, 77.

Brockwell, who was destined to play such a big part in the match, was in just before luncheon with Mr Read, and afterwards these batsmen played very vigorously, and their partnership of 25 minutes yielded 47 runs. It was a wonderful return catch that got out Mr Read. Ayres gave little trouble. Brockwell found his captain a good partner and the sixth wicket added 45. Six men were now out for 185.

Street, judging from his game at starting, was bent on hitting and his efforts mentioned with great success. For the first time in the day the Nottinghamshire bowling was thoroughly collared, and Gunn's lobs, which had been tried earlier, in their second spell received very severe treatment. Although Street, in striving to hit everything, made some bad strokes, he scored from Gunn freely, and one of the lobs he actually drove over the ring near the big elm tree. Street contributed 37 of the 62 added in three-quarters of an hour, and then both he and Smith were caught at wicket, where Pike made his fifth catch, the fourth in succession. Nine men were out for 256, and when Richardson, the last of the side, came in Brockwell was still 17 from his 100.

The next 20 minutes furnished a fine piece of cricket and the crowd grew particularly enthusiastic. Every ball Richardson played safely afforded more chance for Brockwell's 100, upon which all interest now concentrated. The batsman ran a couple of risks in trying to score off good balls, but at last he ran to 96, and then an easy one to hit from Bagguley was promptly sent to the square leg boundary. There was a wonderful outburst of enthusiasm as Brockwell reached his 100, and the cheering was sustained for some minutes, for the ball had gone among the spectators and was only slowly returned. Richardson, having played his part well, was then caught and bowled, and the

innings, which lasted from half-past 12 until 20 minutes to 6, closed for 299. Brockwell took out his bat for a splendid 106; he was in three hours, and his batting possessed all those characteristics of fine driving on both sides of the wicket with which the public of the Oval have grown quite familiar this season, for it was Brockwell's fifth hundred on the Surrey ground, his fourth having been made so recently as last Thursday for South v North. There were nine fours in his 106.

Nottinghamshire went in for half an hour and lost two men for 14 runs. The ball bumped a good deal from Lockwood's bowling and Mr Wright received several bad hits. Nottinghamshire have an up-hill struggle in view, for, with eight wickets to fall, they want 206 to save the follow on. There were loud calls for Brockwell at the finish by the thousands assembled in front of the pavilion.

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

The cricket at Kennington Oval yesterday contrasted very strongly with that of the first day. The conditions of the game had also changed and, whereas Surrey made a big score in brilliant fashion on Monday with the wicket slow and false, yesterday saw Nottinghamshire play a losing match and, before luncheon, playing it very badly. When things were at a very low ebb for Nottinghamshire and when Lockwood was retired through straining his leg in bowling, Messrs Wright and Dixon made an attempt to extricate their side from its difficulties.

The wicket had recovered considerably; but in its dry state Richardson, Lockwood and Smith were able to get a lot of work on the ball. Smith did a remarkable piece of bowling, and his fine length and great break accounted for the collapse of the first Nottinghamshire innings. In his three-quarters of an hour's spell his figures showed thus – nine overs and two balls (six maidens), 12 runs, six wickets.

Surrey were, of course, severely handicapped by losing Lockwood's bowling, or may be the fight would have been shorter. Their victory was thoroughly deserved by their batting on the soft turf on Monday. For the greater part of the day the weather was fine, and another huge crowd fully 18,000 strong assembled to watch the play. At the finish there was the customary enthusiastic scene in front of the pavilion and loud calls were made for Brockwell and Smith.

6 August: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4203.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 10)

It was officially announced at the Park-avenue Ground, Bradford, last evening that over 25,000 people had paid for admission to see the opening of the Yorkshire and Lancashire return match. As the gate-money is to be devoted to the benefit fund of Robert Peel, the fine left-hand slow bowler of the Yorkshire team, and as the subscription lists are also reported to be very good, the capital services rendered to his county by Peel, both as a batsmen and a bowler, are certain to receive substantial recognition.

The day's cricket fluctuated and was full of interest. With first innings Yorkshire started badly, and the dismissal of three such men as Mr Jackson, Brown and Mounsey for 14 runs pointed to a comparatively small score. However, the affairs of the home side quickly mended in the hands of Mr Ernest Smith and Tunncliffe. During this partnership, although it lasted only three-quarters of an hour, 99 runs were added. Mr Smith made 52 of these in 16 hits – namely, two drives for six (both from Briggs over the football pavilion), eight fours, two twos and four singles. The nature of this batting may be understood from the figures. Mr Smith was fourth out, well caught at cover-point.

Tunncliffe did not long survive him, and at 115 was bowled. His was another brilliant innings, inclusive of nine fours. Subsequently the only batting of note occurred during the stay of Wainwright and Peel, who put on 52 for the seventh wicket, and the innings, which lasted from a quarter past 12 until 3.45, closed for 183. Mold had bowled extremely well.

Albert Ward and Mr M'Laren laid the foundation for a good Lancashire score, for they scored 91 in an hour and 20 minutes for the first wicket, and in the end Lancashire had only two men out and were within 81 of the home total. On both sides the fielding was remarkably good, while the keenness of the match kept the spectators very enthusiastic.

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

This match at Park-avenue, Bradford, has been splendidly fought, and to-day Lancashire are left with 220 to make for victory – no mean task against the Yorkshire bowlers. There were 15,000 spectators.

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

Yorkshire gained a brilliant victory over Lancashire at Bradford yesterday by 117 runs. The visitors had been left to play the last innings with 220 necessary to get to win, but the task was too heavy against the splendid bowling and fielding of the home side. Tunncliffe made three fine catches at slip and Brown caught the same number of men at point.

So bad was the start yesterday that the first four batsmen went for 25 runs. Briggs and Baker put on 40 in as many minutes for the fifth wicket, but when Mr Jackson took up the bowling the end soon came. There was a fair attendance.

6 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128157.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 10)

After starting their innings badly at Derby yesterday, Hampshire did very well on the slow wicket. Mr Robson, Mr Hill and Barton were out for a couple of runs, while the fifth wicket went at 32.

At this stage of the game Captain Wynyard and Mr Ward made a fine stand and put on no fewer than 127 in two hours and a quarter. At one period of the partnership 60 were scored in half an hour. Captain Wynyard was caught in the slips for 90, in which were two sixes and eight fours. Mr Ward was still in at the drawing of stumps. Rain had delayed the beginning of the match, and altogether the play lasted only three hours and a half.

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

Yesterday, at Derby, the Hampshire team had the better of the play in this match. Hampshire now want 102 to win.

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

Between the heavy showers at Derby yesterday Hampshire managed to get the 102 necessary for victory at the cost of five wickets, but the match was so much interrupted that it was 6 o'clock when the game ended. Captain Quinton and Barton put on 47 while they were together.

Surrey and Yorkshire are still level at the head of the list of counties, and Middlesex are third only two points behind. With their victory yesterday Sussex go into eighth position. Results up to the present: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	11	9	2	0	7
Surrey	11	9	2	0	7
Middlesex	11	8	3	0	5
Kent	9	5	4	0	1
Somerset	12	5	6	1	-1
Nottinghamshire	12	4	7	1	-3
Lancashire	12	4	7	1	-3
Sussex	13	3	9	1	-6
Gloucestershire	11	2	9	0	-7

9 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4205.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 7)

At one period of the play at the Clifton College ground, yesterday, Gloucestershire's score seemed certain to be extremely small, but a wonderful stand for the ninth wicket was made by Board and Mr Francis. Prior to this there had been two fair partnerships – one of 42, by Dr W G Grace and Mr Rice, for the third; and another of 23, by Messrs Rice and Townsend, for the fifth. These runs were got by play that was too cautious to arouse much enthusiasm, and when the eighth wicket went the score was only 88 and it was already 4 o'clock.

Then occurred the great incident of the day. Board batted with great freedom, which, combined with the steadiness of Mr Francis, added to the score in 90 minutes no fewer than 137 runs. Mr Francis was then stumped for an excellent 55 and, with Roberts out first ball, the innings ended. Board carried his bat for 84 and was very warmly received. The Gloucestershire total was remarkably good for the slow wicket.

The gate money for this match will be set apart for the benefit of Painter, the Gloucestershire professional, who for 12 years has given his side much valuable aid in batting. His best seasons, perhaps, were those of 1884 and 1890, while his highest innings was the 150 against Middlesex in 1888.

There was a good attendance yesterday and the weather kept fine. It may be noted that Dr W G Grace has completed his 1,000 runs in first-class cricket this season.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 8)

Middlesex had an uphill game to play at Clifton College ground yesterday on a wicket made false by the bad weather. Some showers helped them; but in the end the rain came on heavily and reduced the play to about three hours.

On the treacherous wicket the visitors forced the game but, curiously enough, the batsman who exercised every care was in nearly two hours and made 36. Mr Stoddart was fortunate in getting his 21, for he twice narrowly lost his wicket. After eight of the side had been dismissed for 102, Messrs Warner and Watson improved matters, but finally at half-past 3 Middlesex were all out for 130.

Messrs Stoddart and Webbe made a bright beginning to the Middlesex second innings, and when rain came on again the arrears had been reduced to 65. There was a large company on the ground. Young Mr Townsend, of Clifton, bowled extremely well.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 6)

Middlesex converted a losing into a winning game at Clifton College ground on Saturday, and lack of time in all probability saved Gloucestershire from defeat.

There was only a little sunshine, so that the turf, though slow, did not affect the bowling to any great extent and the Middlesex batsmen were seen to great advantage. The best partnerships were 46 by Messrs Stoddart and Webbe, 47 by Messrs Lucas and Stoddart, 64 by Rawlin and Mr M'Gregor in 50 minutes, and 44 by Messrs O'Brien and Warner for the seventh wicket. All this was excellent batting, and after the innings defeat had been averted the play became very free. Mr Webbe closed the innings, leaving Gloucestershire 153 to make, with an hour and 50 minutes to play.

Fortune completely faced about and the home side had a very bad time. The wicket had grown difficult, and Hearne and Rawlin were bowling so well that in a little while six wickets went for 31 and there was yet three-quarters of an hour for cricket. Messrs Rice and Townsend saved their side, however, and stopped together 35 minutes. Towards the close two more men were out and the match was drawn in favour of Middlesex.

9 August: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4206.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 7)

The Ladies' Day at Canterbury is regarded throughout Kent as the most important of the week, and the scene on the St Lawrence Ground yesterday had all its old charm. There were the usual number of tents and during the afternoon there were quite 10,000 people present.

Kent won the toss, and at a quarter-past 12 the Rev W Rashleigh went in with Mr Mason. Wainwright led the attack from the top end and Peel bowled from the lower. Twenty runs came in 16 overs, in which were two fine cuts by Mr Mason and one by Mr Rashleigh. An early change of bowling was adopted. When Wainwright had sent down ten overs for 14 runs Mr Jackson went on for him. The batsmen were careful and gave every promise of a long partnership, so at 31 Peel was relieved by Hirst, and a couple of runs later Mr Mason was finely caught at slip.

The first hour yielded 39, and the 50 was reached in 75 minutes. Although the Yorkshiremen were still fielding splendidly, especially Brown at point, the total, aided with four from Mr Wilson, gradually advanced to 74. Hirst and Peel then had charge of the bowling, and from the latter Mr Wilson cut the ball into point's hands and Alec Hearne fell to the wicket-keeper. Three for 80.

After lunch Mr Perkins went in with Mr Rashleigh, while Wainwright and Peel again took up the bowling. A disaster quickly befell Kent, as a ridiculous attempt to snatch a single resulted in Mr Rashleigh, who was in excellent form, staring late and running himself out. A marvellous catch by third man brought about the downfall of Mr Perkins, and half the wickets were gone for 88.

Soon after the 100 had been completed, at a quarter past 3, Mr Marchant played on. Tunncliffe missed Mr Weigall at slip, but compensated in some measure for this mistake by catching Mr Kemp in the same place. Wright had his leg bail knocked off, and Martin and Mr Weigall were both clean bowled. Thus, after three wickets only being down for 80 at the interval, a complete change had come over the game, the last seven falling for 43. Total, 123; duration of innings, 2h 55 min.

Lord Hawke and Mr Jackson were Yorkshire's first representatives, and their scoring at the outset was particularly slow, but the cricket was brightened by Mr Jackson making a drive to the off boundary. Then Lord Hawke, in playing forward to a ball which did not pitch so far up as he had probably expected, had the top of his wicket struck. Tunncliffe, who followed in, gave a chance to Mr Weigall at third man, but he misjudged it. Further losses awaited Yorkshire, for Mr Jackson was well caught in the long-field and Tunncliffe clean bowled.

Three good wickets were now down for 29, and Mr Smith left at 50. Peel, after being missed at mid-on by Martin, stayed until 75, when he fell to a catch at short-leg, and stumps were then drawn for the day. The game is now in a very even condition, Yorkshire, with half their wickets to fall, being 48 behind.

During the day £60 was collected on the ground for the Kent professionals to mark the appreciation of their fine bowling in recent matches.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 8)

This match was left in a sufficiently interesting state on Thursday evening to induce a large number of people to visit the St Lawrence ground yesterday. Unfortunately a downpour of rain in the forenoon had rendered the turf unfit for play until after luncheon. The game was continued at a quarter to three, when Brown (not out 13) went in with Wainwright. Alec and Walter Hearne were the bowlers.

The latter induced Wainwright to return him the ball for an addition of 13. Moorhouse came and, although Martin relieved Alec Hearne at 94, the 100 was safely reached. Brown had previously made a fine drive on the off-side for four and his companion had scored a boundary hit, nine being scored off an over of W Hearne. The Kent total was headed at half-past 3, and then a beautiful cut to the members' stand by Brown called forth hearty cheers, as did also, from time to time, the fielding of the home side.

Brown completed his 50 after an hour and three-quarters' play. Alec Hearne was tried for an over in lieu of Walter to enable him to change ends. A fine cut was made by Moorhouse for four from Mr Mason, who had just gone on. Brown next cut Alec Hearne for four, which brought this batsman's total this season up to 1,000. At last a catch at long-off dismissed Moorhouse, and seven wickets were down for 160. Mounsey joined Brown and then the bowling was twice changed, Walter Hearne and Martin being again put on. When 182 was reached Mounsey fell to the wicket-keeper; but Brown was badly missed in the slips, and then, assisted by Hunter, he sent up the 200 at 4.35. Thirteen runs later Hunter was out. Brown had been batting three hours and five minutes for his 95, in which were nine fours. Rain then fell heavily and stumps were drawn at 5.35.

The Hon Mrs Mackinnon, before play began, presented to Alec Hearne, Martin, Walter Hearne and Wright the sum of £15 each.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 6)

Little hope was left for Kent's success in this match at the close of Friday's play, but on Saturday the batting of their early representatives caused the prospect to brighten. At 11.35 Mr Mason and Mr Rashleigh began the second innings, Wainwright and Peel being the bowlers.

The batsmen hit so vigorously, however, that the attack underwent several alterations. Fifty runs ere hit up at the rate of nearly one a minute. Eighteen were added when Mr Rashleigh played on. The next two batsmen were speedily dismissed, for Mr Wilson fell to the wicket-keeper and A Hearne returned the ball. Three for 88. Mr Mason, who had batted capitally, was dismissed three runs later, and after his departure the end soon came. Indeed, the wicket was becoming more difficult every minutes and the batsmen were almost powerless against the excellent bowling and fielding of the visitors. The last six wickets averaged exactly four runs apiece.

Yorkshire now required only 26 to win, and these Lord Hawke and Mr Jackson obtained without the loss of a wicket.

9 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4207.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 7)

Owing to the bad weather cricket did not begin at Leicester yesterday until after 3 o'clock . . .

Day 2 (no report from Saturday 11 August, page 8)

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 6)

Davidson and Porter bowled very effectively for Derbyshire at Leicester on Saturday, with the result that Derbyshire won easily by an innings and 36. The wicket helped the attack. Porter took nine wickets for 37.

9 August: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4208.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 7)

At Taunton, yesterday, Somerset took an hour and a half for their innings of 101. After 30 had appeared with only one man out the game so changed that six were gone for 39. Then Messrs Dunlop and Gay made a stand of 20 minutes, for 44, while the former scored his 41 at the rate of one a minute and was ninth to leave at 96. Richardson bowled with great effect, and his break back brought disaster to the Somerset team.

In spite of a life given to Lockwood, Somerset got six of the visitors out for 58. Mr Walter Read, however, relieved his side and was backed up by Mr Key, who stayed while 20 were added, and Street, who helped to put on 36 for the eighth wicket. Surrey had got in front with seven men out, but the lead in the end was only 28. Mr W W Read went in fourth wicket down at 46 and was ninth out at 127.

The position of the game at the finish was that Somerset had a lead of 12 runs with six wickets to fall. During the day it transpired that Brockwell had received an invitation to join Mr Stoddart's Australian team. There were 4,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 8)

From the position of the game on Thursday evening at Taunton it was easy to predict a victory for Surrey and, although in the end the visitors had to go in to get 89, few could have thought of any closeness in the finish. But the pitch was treacherous and Surrey had several anxious moments before they won the match by four wickets.

Somerset, who overnight had lost four men in the second innings for 40 – that is, they were 12 runs on – took about an hour and a quarter to finish their batting, and the outstanding six wickets averaged a fraction over 12 runs each. Messrs Wood and Challen advanced the score from 40 to 60; but, in spite of this, seven of the team went for 66. Tyler and Mr Dunlop, however, added 23, and Tyler continued his vigorous style for some time longer and made 26 of the last 35 runs.

Surrey's task of getting 89 was begun so well by Abel and Lockwood that at the luncheon interval 23 of these were made without loss. Afterwards came a change, and when the fourth wicket went at 42 it seemed anybody's match. A careful stand by Hayward and Ayres, however, settled matters, and Somerset's last hope disappeared when Hayward was let off by Mr Fowler at cover-point. The partnership yielded 32. Both men played the good bowling very well and it took Surrey two hours to make the requisite 89.

9 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128161.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 7)

Warwickshire fared well yesterday at Southampton on the slow wicket, and their first innings occupied the greater part of the day. Its best feature was the 84 by Walter Quaife, who went in first and was seventh out, caught in the slips after batting three hours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 8)

At one time at Southampton yesterday, that was during the partnership of Barton and Mr Ward, Hampshire seemed to have a prospect of a very big score; but after these three batsmen were separated, at 222, the last seven wickets went down so quickly that the side were all out for 257. Warwickshire hit off the arrears of 60 at the cost of one wicket, Dewey playing brilliantly and making ten fours . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 6)

From first to last this was a splendidly fought game, and the Hampshire victory, narrowly gained by two wickets, roused the spectators on the Southampton ground on Saturday to a high pitch of enthusiasm. The result was largely brought about by the batting of Barton and Mr H F Ward in both innings, and by Bacon and Captain Wynyard.

Warwickshire did pretty well for a long time on Saturday, but some of their batting successes could be traced to mistakes in the field. Mr Docker twice escaped while he and Diver were taking the score from 113 to 213, but the latter, who was eventually caught at slip, played finely and hit ten fours. Subsequently the innings came to a rapid end and Hampshire were put into make 180.

When Mr Robson, Mr Hill and Captain Wynyard were dismissed for 46 the prospect of Hampshire was not very promising. Barton and Mr Ward again did well, and the 100 went up before the latter played on. Barton, who as ultimately taken in the slips, made six fours. With three men to lose Hampshire had still 23 to make, but only one other wicket fell. The spectators showed their appreciation of the efforts of the Hampshire professionals by contributing a present of money for them.

Monday 13 August, page 6: SOUTH AFRICA v SCARBOROUGH AND DISTRICT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105728.html)

Since their defeat by Sussex in the early part of July, our South African visitors have been doing remarkably well. From that time they have not experienced a single reverse, and of the 12 matches played eight have ended in victories. The last of these was against Scarborough and District, which ended on Saturday, when the colony won, amid great excitement, by seven runs.

THE COUNTIES

The successes of Surrey and Yorkshire last week make the fight for first position still very keen.
Results up to the present: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	12	10	2	0	8
Surrey	12	10	2	0	8
Middlesex	12	8	3	1	5
Kent	10	5	5	0	0
Somerset	13	5	7	1	-2
Lancashire	12	4	7	1	-3
Nottinghamshire	12	4	7	1	-3
Sussex	13	3	9	1	-6
Gloucestershire	12	2	9	1	-7

13 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4209.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 12)

The annual cricket festival at Cheltenham began yesterday in the College ground before a large company. Gloucestershire won the toss and went in on a difficult wicket. Their innings was disastrous. Mr Townsend was in an hour for eight and the last wicket put on 16 runs. It is curious to note that Dr W G Grace carried off the batting honours with a dozen runs. Richardson's bowling was remarkable.

Surrey were in for nearly three hours. Hayward and Brockwell hit freely, their partnership yielding 69. Hayward gave two chances. Brockwell was assisted by Street in putting on 40 for the seventh wicket. The former was then clean bowled. Although not faultless, his innings was invaluable to Surrey. He had been batting two hours and a quarter, but not with his customary vigour, for in his 72 there were only three fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 August, page 11)

From the complete score in this match at Cheltenham, yesterday, it will be seen that Surrey won by an innings and 49 runs.

13 August: SOMERSET v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4210.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 12)

The turf at Taunton rapidly recovered from the wet, and as the pitch steadily improved there was not much advantage for Notts in winning the toss. Gunn went in first wicket down and was ninth out. He batted very steadily at first, but in the afternoon he opened his shoulders and cut and drove with great brilliancy. Altogether he was in three hours and, except a difficult return chance to Tyler when he had made 77, there was no flaw in his innings, which included eight fours.

Flowers made 31 of the 49 put on for the third wicket, while Attewell helped Gunn to score 72 for the fifth. Handford was in while 40 were recorded, when Gunn was caught in the slips. The Notts innings lasted three hours and a quarter.

In the last 75 minutes of the day Messrs Hill and R C N Palairet did remarkably well, running up 78 for the first wicket. Mr Hill made six fours.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 15 August, page 11)

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 August, page 8)

Rain shortened the play at Taunton yesterday and no doubt deprived Nottinghamshire of a victory. Mr Dixon and Mr C W Wright, the not-outs, continued their partnership, which lasted 80 minutes and yielded 96 runs. Mr Wright made no mistake in his long stay, excepting a difficult chance at 22, and he hit 12 fours. Mr Dixon was once missed. The Nottinghamshire captain closed his innings just before 1 o'clock, leaving Somerset three and a half hours in which to score 268 for victory.

After a cautious 26 in three and a quarter hours for the first Somerset partnership between Mr Hill and Mr R C N Palairet, the game grew brighter while the former and Mr L C H Palairet were together. Mr Hill's 46 included seven fours. After Mr L C H Palairet and Mr Dunlop had put on 42 and Mr Woods had been in half an hour, seven were down for 133. There remained 25 minutes for cricket, so that the finish was exciting. But the last chance of the success of Notts was gone when Mr Dixon missed Captain Hedley.

13 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4211.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 12)

Good progress was made with this match at Brighton yesterday on a wicket that greatly helped the bowlers in the early hours of the day, but which later improved. Fortune fluctuated. In the last hour of the day the fine batting of Marlow and Bean extricated Sussex from a bad position.

Mr MacLaren tried the experiment of putting his rivals in and this turned out very successful. Mold took his first five wickets in nine overs without having a run scored from him, and when eight men had gone only 35 was recorded. Parris hit vigorously but Mold still had a splendid analysis.

Although Albert Ward stayed in a long time on the difficult pitch half the visiting side were out for 51. However, the "tail" improved matters. An hour's batting by Bean and Marlow placed Sussex before the end of the day 17 ahead with ten wickets in hand.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 15 August, page 11)

13 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4212.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 12)

The skill of the Yorkshire eleven was further illustrated yesterday at Bramall-lane in the return match with Middlesex. Mr Jackson's fine batting in the last two hours recalled some of his great feats against the Australians last summer. The turf was very false, and Wainwright and Peel dismissed Middlesex in two and a half hours. Messrs Ford and Lucas played pretty well; but, although 50 went up with only two men out, the last eight averaged six runs each.

In about the same time that Middlesex took to play through an innings Yorkshire secured a lead of 68 at the cost of four wickets. Lord Hawke and Mr Jackson obtained 80 in an hour, and after the fourth wicket had fallen at 106 Mr Jackson and Peel added 60. On the bad wicket Mr Jackson played a fine forcing game and, although he ran some risks and was sometimes beaten by the ball, he aroused great enthusiasm amongst the company, which numbered fully 10,000.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 August, page 11)

On the bad wicket at Sheffield, yesterday, the advantage gained by Yorkshire on the first day enabled them to beat Middlesex by four wickets. There was some remarkable bowling by Wainwright and Rawlin.

Tuesday 14 August, page 12: COUNTY CLASSIFICATION

At a meeting of the Yorkshire committee held yesterday at Sheffield the M.C.C. memorandum relating to the increase of the first-class counties next year was approved, subject to the addition of Hampshire to the new first-class counties and the raising of the *minimum* first-class fixtures for each county from six to eight.

The present positions of the nine leading counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	13	11	2	0	9
Surrey	13	11	2	0	9
Middlesex	13	8	4	1	4
Kent	10	5	5	0	0
Lancashire	13	5	7	1	-2
Somerset	14	5	7	2	-2
Nottinghamshire	13	4	7	2	-3
Sussex	14	3	10	1	-7
Gloucestershire	13	2	10	1	-8

16 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4214.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 9)

After the inglorious cricket played by Gloucestershire against Surrey at the beginning of the week it is to be hoped that the match between the home side and Kent will furnish a much better fight in the second stage of the festival. Wet weather yesterday morning delayed the start and left a soft wicket on which to begin the play; and, while the turf was yet easy, Kent had first innings.

They opened the batting shortly after 1 o'clock and, aided by some errors in the Gloucestershire field, ran up the respectable score of 161 in three and a half hours. Mr Mason, after a couple of escapes, played excellently and, going in first, made nearly half of the 82 recorded at his dismissal. The next best thing in the innings was the fine cricket by Mr Rashleigh, who has been showing consistently good form this season. He went in third wicket down at 39 and, without giving a chance, put together 45, in which were four fours. He left at 131, and the innings soon afterwards ended.

Gloucestershire did badly in the little time during which they were in. The weather grew bright late in the day and there was a capital attendance.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 10)

On a difficult wicket at Cheltenham yesterday the home county fared badly. At one time Gloucestershire were in danger of having to follow on; but after seven men had gone for 55 Mr Page and Dr E M Grace added 24 – the best partnership of the innings – and in the end Kent's advantage was 64.

In the Kent second innings Mr Mason and Mr Marchant made an excellent start, and before the first wicket fell the figures were 57. But so complete was the breakdown afterwards that the last eight wickets put on only 43 runs. Mr Jessop bowled well and also had a hand in running out Mr Stewart and Walter Hearne.

Gloucestershire, with 170 to get to win, lost five wickets for 32 and, although Mr Page and Mr Townsend more than doubled the number, the home side still wanted 105 for victory.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 August, page 4)

This match at Cheltenham had gone so much against Gloucestershire by the time Friday night was reached that, with the turf bad, there was small hope of their getting the runs on Saturday, when, with five wickets to fall, 105 were still necessary to win. Walter Hearne bowled exceptionally well and the end was soon reached, Kent being victorious by 84 runs. The weather was dull and there were not many spectators.

16 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4215.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 9)

The weather at Nottingham yesterday was very unfavourable to the game. Middlesex included in their side Mr G Marks, of Teddington, who kept wicket in place of Mr M'Gregor, and Mr J Douglas. Mr Bathurst stood out, as he was suffering from an injury received at the beginning of the week at Sheffield. Nottinghamshire played Lowe, a bowler engaged with the Elland club.

The day's cricket went greatly in favour of the visitors. By the time 52 went up the home eleven had disposed of both Messrs Webbe and Stoddart, while, in spite of an hour's partnership, which yielded 83 runs, between Messrs Lucas and Ford, the score was only 150 when the sixth wicket fell. Then came a fine stand by the old Harrovian, Mr A K Watson, and Phillips, who added 109 to the total in 90 minutes. Mr Watson gave a chance to mid-on at 49, but his game generally was brilliant. Handford bowled well for the home team.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 10)

On the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, yesterday, the sky was overcast and the light indifferent. Handford and Attewell began the bowling and, without adding to his score, Phillips fell to the wicket-keeper. He and Mr Watson had put on altogether 109 for the seventh wicket. The end of the innings was reached in less than three-quarters of an hour. Mr Watson had batted superbly and among his hits were ten fours. Handford (who is a medium pace right-hand bowler, keeping a good length and making the ball get up quickly from the pitch) took seven wickets.

Notts were batting four hours and a half. Mr C W Wright, who has been doing excellently of late, went in first, was the fourth out and did not give a chance. His chief hits were six fours. Mr Dixon, Gunn, Flowers, Attewell and Mr Jones all batted well.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 August, page 4)

As only an innings each had been got through during Thursday and Friday, the chances were against a definite issue to this match at Trent-bridge on Saturday. Middlesex held a lead of 18, and during the two hours and 20 minutes' play before luncheon they made 121 for the loss of half the side.

The batting for the most part was cautious. Rawlin, Mr Lucas and Mr Douglas all exercised great care. After the interval the last five Middlesex men averaged ten runs each, although the first three of them went for 11. It was a stand of 33 by Messrs Watson and Holdship for the ninth wicket that prevented the visitors from being out for a meagre total.

Notts, who had 190 to make to win in two hours and 20 minutes, were content to play for the draw, and the cricket in the last stage of the day grew very dull. In the end the match was drawn in the visitors' favour, for Notts, with five wickets to fall, were 122 behind.

16 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4216.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 9)

Rain fell heavily in South London yesterday and prevented any play at the Oval in this match. The decision to postpone the beginning of the match until this morning was arrived at about 3 o'clock. Surrey won the first game with Lancashire at Old Trafford very easily. The downpour yesterday offered a poor prospect for batsmen to-day, when the wicket is sure to be soft.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 10)

At the Oval the bowlers, for the greater part of yesterday, had the best of it. Lancashire secured a great advantage. Surrey's first innings began at 11.35 and lasted until a few minutes after luncheon.

From the very outset the bowlers got a wonderful break on the ball, especially Briggs, at the gasometer end, who obtained the first six wickets for 33 runs. Catches in the slips and a remarkably fine one at square-leg, which disposed of Mr Walter Read, were the chief causes of Surrey's early disasters, and four wickets went for 28.

It was at this point that Street went in. His best partner was Hayward, who helped to put on 25, but the others were rapidly dismissed. Street had plenty of luck; his worst mistake was at 23, when Mr MacLaren missed him in the long field. But the only game as to hit at every opportunity. Street adapted himself excellently to the circumstances. He was the last to leave and hit five fours.

Lancashire began very badly, but, when six wickets had gone for 46, Mr S M Tindall played a vigorous game, and his stand of 37 with Tinsley was the turning point of the innings. C Smith and Tindall added 45, and in the end Lancashire secured an advantage of 50. Mr Tindall was several times severely hit by the ball and in one instance had to retire to have his finger bandaged after being struck by Richardson's bowling. He made five fours.

The last 40 minutes were very disastrous to Surrey. Two remarkable catches were made by Mr Bardswell in the slips, and one by Paul at point. The spectators numbered fully 8,000.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 August, page 4)

The wonderful cricket which resulted in a tie match between Surrey and Lancashire at Kennington Oval on Saturday was watched with keen interest by the spectators. Fortune fluctuated in a remarkable way on Saturday, and with the pitch helping the bowlers the changes were very sudden. The morning found Surrey's case desperate, but by dint of strenuous work on the part chiefly of Mr W W Read they were able to leave Lancashire something to do, though the task seemed easy of accomplishment.

The actual position of affairs at the renewal of the match in the morning was that Surrey, with six wickets in hand, had still nine runs of the first innings arrears to rub off. Wood, who was not out with Ayres, stayed until 63, when a catch in the slips dismissed him, and 14 runs later Ayres, who had had a life off Briggs, was immediately taken at slip when Mr Bardswell went on to bowl.

Meantime Mr Read was playing carefully and well, making some clever strokes on the leg side, and he had got a dozen runs there before Lancashire quite realized that it was advisable to have a short-leg to him.

With Mr Read well in and also getting runs, it was the duty of the men who came in to play carefully. But Street attempted to go in and hit the fine bowling, and although he quickly got a dozen his career was brief – caught at slip from Mold, who had gone on in lieu of Mr Bardswell. Mr Read had made one or two splendid drives and, with him on so well, Mr Key arrived at 105. Surrey were now 55 runs ahead with three wickets in hand. While Mr Read was getting runs, the game for his companions was steadiness. But, like Street, Mr Key began hitting out at everything, and after being missed at the wicket he was easily stumped off Briggs. Smith and Richardson afforded Mr Read no help of note, and by 1.20 the innings ended for 124, and Lancashire were left with 75 to get to win. Briggs had a fine analysis and his full figures for the match were 13 wickets for 93.

Lancashire entered upon their final task at 1.35, and the beginning was ominous for them. Lockwood bowled splendidly; for, in his first over, he got out Albert Ward, who as too late for a “yorker,” which he just touched before it went into the wicket, while the fourth ball broke back, kept low and struck Sugg’s leg stump. Two runs, two wickets was the record when the rain caused the luncheon hour to begin a quarter of an hour before the regular time.

The rain was heavy but brief, and its effect on the turf had passed away when, in a bad light, the game was renewed at ten minutes to 3. Paul and Mr MacLaren were the batsmen, but the bowling was of great deadliness. A fast “yorker” from Richardson sent down Paul’s leg stump, and after eight runs had been scraped together Briggs, who had been struck by a ball from Richardson, was “yorked” by Lockwood, and then Baker shared a similar fate, so that five wickets were down for nine runs.

As Lancashire wanted 66 [more] to win, there was the prospect of an easy win for Surrey. The bowling was wonderfully good and the fielding keen, so that runs were difficult to obtain. Aid was at hand for Lancashire in a rapid improvement of the light, after which [Tindall] got ten runs in an over from Lockwood. Then came the fall of Lancashire’s sixth wicket, the score being only 25 when Abel, at short slip, caught Mr MacLaren high up with his right hand, while a single later Mr Tindall skied the ball and Abel caught it at short slip – an awkward catch.

With three men to go and 50 wanted to win, Lancashire’s position had grown almost hopeless. But again the game changed. Smith played well and Tinsley made several good cuts. The score mounted rapidly and, after Tinsley had narrowly escaped in the slips, 50 went up at a quarter to 4. Each batsman was almost bowled, the ball in both instances going for byes, so that the board showed 59. Lockwood was still bowling splendidly, but Richardson, in his last few overs, had shown signs of the hard work and excitement, and had got very short in his pitch. It was, of course, a critical time to change his bowling, but Mr Key had to do it, and he put on the best man under the circumstances – Hayward. The score was 59, and Lancashire with three wickets in hand wanted 16 runs to win. Smith made a two on the leg side and a four by a drive, and thus reduced the task to 10. In this over, however, he was caught by cover-point. This eighth partnership, which had so nearly won the game, had lasted half an hour and had yielded 39 runs. Smith had played very well. Eight wickets were now down for 65.

The crowd grew very excited; but Mr Bardswell got a three and a single and Tinsley a single and a three. Then Mr Bardswell was caught at wicket. Mold arrived with Lancashire wanting two runs to

win. Tinsley was left to play Lockwood. It was a sensational over, in which Surrey twice had a chance of winning. Mold started backing up and Lockwood fielding his own bowling had a chance of running him out, but he dared no risk the overthrow. In tossing the ball into the wicket he missed the chance. From the third ball Tinsley was also missed by Brockwell at slip – a sharp chance – and the run scored from this escape equalized the figures; while from the last ball Mold was caught at wicket.

Thus the match, just after 4 o'clock, ended in a tie. Great excitement prevailed and the crowd were profuse in their cheers. Lockwood has never bowled better on the Oval and his six wickets for 30 runs was a fine performance.

Surrey have been associated with most of the ties recorded in cricket. Surrey v Middlesex at the Oval in 1876 and that in 1868 were ties, while in the latter year there was also a tie between the M.C.C. and Surrey on the Oval; Kent v Surrey in 1847 ended in a tie; and the other instances are Gentlemen v Players at the Oval in 1883 and Somerset v Middlesex at Taunton in 1890.

16 August: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4217.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 9)

Lord Hawke and Mr F S Jackson were away from the Yorkshire eleven which met Leicestershire at Harrogate yesterday; but Pougher was able to assist the visitors, having recovered from the injury sustained in the Nottinghamshire match a short time ago.

The cricket day was curtailed by the rain and the game was limited to a little over two hours, during which Yorkshire played through an innings and did only moderately well against the capital bowling of Mr F W Stocks. Three wickets were lost for 27, and then Peel and Wainwright added 32. After the first five men had been dismissed for 114 the others put on only 28. When rain stopped the game the score was as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 10)

This, at Harrogate, has proved a bowlers' match from first to last. Yorkshire won yesterday by 74 runs.

16 August: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128162.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 9)

Hampshire have been doing remarkably well of late, and their play at Southampton yesterday did not suggest a break in their success. In spite of the fine batting of Messrs Murdoch and Brann, the Sussex score was of only moderate dimensions.

When Hampshire went in three wickets fell for 20, after which Messrs Hill and Ward made a splendid stand, and in the end Hampshire secured a lead of 33 with only four men out. Mr Hill hit 12 fours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 10)

Sussex yesterday at Southampton had to play an uphill game. The close of an innings each found Sussex 109 runs behind; but, after losing two wickets for 31, Messrs Murdoch and Newham gave a fine exhibited of sound batting and were together an hour and a half.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 August, page 4)

From the start this match at Southampton furnished fine play; but on Saturday Sussex, after having converted a losing into a winning game, declared their innings closed too soon, for Hampshire got the 241 necessary for victory in less than the three hours left for the game.

The chief credit of this performance belonged to Captain Wynyard, who made his 117 in two hours and hit a six and thirteen fours, while Mr Hill scored five fours. When nearly two hours and a half of the time had expired, Hampshire still wanted 41 to win; but, after four men had been quickly lost, the visitors secured the victory by four wickets. Mr Murdoch's not-out innings of 172 for Sussex lasted six hours and included ten fours.

16 August: WARWICKSHIRE v SOUTH AFRICANS (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105730.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 9)

At Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday, this match produced some interesting play . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 10)

The South Africans brought their programme in England to a close at Birmingham yesterday, when the match with Warwickshire was drawn.

In the early fixtures of the tour the Colonials found the soft wickets quite unsuited to them; but their victory over the M.C.C. team was the beginning of a more successful period, and the tour, on the whole, was fairly satisfactory. During their visit they have played 24 matches, and have won 12, lost five and drawn seven.

The present positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	13	11	2	0	9
Surrey	14	11	2	1	9
Middlesex	14	8	4	2	4
Kent	11	6	5	0	1
Lancashire	14	5	7	2	-2
Somerset	14	5	7	2	-2
Nottinghamshire	14	4	7	3	-3
Sussex	14	3	10	1	-7
Gloucestershire	14	2	11	1	-9

20 August: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4218.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

An interesting day's cricket was witnessed in this match at Derby yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 6)

The capital batting of that good cricketer Storer was the best feature of the second day's play in this match at Derby yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 8)

Although Tomlin played remarkably well at Derby yesterday, he was not strongly supported in the uphill fight against Derbyshire, who won easily by eight wickets. Tomlin once escaped, but his cricket was very sound and he hit six fours.

20 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4219.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

The excellence of the Yorkshire side runs right through the team, and of this there was another instance yesterday at Bristol, when, after an extremely bad start, they improved to such an extent that before the drawing of stumps they were 75 runs on with four wickets to fall.

Brown and Peel were the men who advanced the team to its present favourable position in this match. They got together when four wickets had gone for 34, and put on 144. Brown, who played a fine free game, was only an hour and three-quarters in getting his 100, and he gave no chance, while his chief hits were 14 fours. Both he and Peel were caught at wicket. Peel played a very careful game in comparison with that of his partner.

The early part of the day had been occupied with the Gloucestershire innings, in which 114 runs were obtained. Dr W G Grace seemed set for a big score at the time when he was given out leg-before at 50. Five of the side were dismissed before luncheon for 87, after which the wickets averaged only about five runs each. The Yorkshire fielding and bowling were very good, and the left-hand catch at slip by Tunncliffe is worthy of special mention.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 6)

There seems to be no end to the batting capacity of the Yorkshire eleven, for yesterday the tenth man on the order of going in scored his hundred by well-finished hitting in a little over 90 minutes. Hirst has often proved himself of great use to his side at a critical stage of a match, but until yesterday his highest score for the county was 48, made last year against Kent.

The play in this game at Bristol has been wonderfully interesting. The rain, which prevented more than a few minutes' cricket before luncheon and afterwards further shortened the hours, kept the wicket easy and the ball was wet and slippery. The eighth wicket went at 189, and then Moorhouse and Hirst put on 176 for the ninth-wicket and are still not out. As Yorkshire have a lead of 251, they will probably declare their innings closed this morning. There was a capital company on the ground yesterday in spite of the indifferent weather.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 8)

Yesterday morning, at Bristol, Lord Hawke at once declared his innings closed and left Gloucestershire to face arrears of 251. With the wicket spoiled by wet it was scarcely likely that Gloucestershire would save the match and, although some respectability was given to the home score by the courageous batting of Wrathall and Mr Page and the patience exercised by Mr Rice, victory was with Yorkshire by an innings and 100 runs.

At first Gloucestershire seemed likely to put together a far better aggregate, and the partnership of Mr Rice and Wrathall yielded 42 for the third wicket; but after this Peel bowled with great effect. Seven of the side had gone by luncheon time for 131, and subsequently in 20 minutes the remainder of the team increased the score to only 151. Mr Page and Mr Wright added 26 for the eighth

wicket. Gloucestershire's second innings lasted about two hours and three-quarters.

20 August: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4220.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

At Lord's yesterday the wicket was true, and Lancashire scored heavily against the Middlesex bowling. The batting was of great excellence, but the bowlers had nothing to aid them. There were 4,000 or 5,000 spectators of the match.

In the first half-hour there were not any signs of the big record, for Albert Ward and Mr MacLaren were both out for 22. But then the foundation of the Lancashire score was laid by Sugg and Paul, both of whom drove splendidly and, in spite of fine fielding, scored at a great rate. An 85 minutes' partnership yielded 120 runs, and then a very good catch at wicket disposed of Paul, who had hit seven fours, while at the same total Sugg was leg before.

As these two went before luncheon at 142 the game quickly changed, while with Briggs caught in the slips at 171 five wickets were down. The next four men in two hours and 40 minutes put on nearly 200 runs. Mr Tindall, who distinguished himself by his courageous play on the Oval last week, again showed sound and vigorous form, and with Baker added 69 for the sixth wicket. Baker drove well and as ultimately dismissed by a good catch at point for 50. Mr Tindall was caught at extra slip, being seventh out at 307. Tinsley lost his wicket through slipping as he was attempting a second run, but Mr Bardswell and Mold put on 44 for the last wicket before the close of the day, stumps being drawn at 6 o'clock. The average rate of the scoring was about 73 an hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 6)

The fine batting of Mr Stoddart furnished the chief feature in the cricket at Lord's yesterday, when Middlesex were engaged in a severe uphill fight with Lancashire. The day was very dull and the rain shortened the cricketing time by nearly an hour and a half.

Early in the morning Lancashire finished their innings without increasing the overnight score, after which Middlesex in an hour lost five good men for 62. Mold bowled very effectively and four times he hit the wicket. Mr Webbe was caught at extra mid-off. Mr Stoddart was in his best form. While his companions were faring ill he urged the score along at a steady rate, and with Mr M'Gregor in a much brighter aspect was given to the Middlesex state of affairs. Mr M'Gregor played well and 52 were added for the sixth wicket in 35 minutes; but he was at last out from an easy catch at mid-on.

Middlesex did very badly subsequently, and Mr Stoddart, after playing faultlessly for two hours, was quite beaten by a ball from Mold. He was ninth to leave at 142, having hit seven fours and four threes. Mold, who bowled from the pavilion end, came out with an excellent analysis.

Middlesex had to follow on in a bad light, and they did well to rub off 113 of the 226 arrears in 80 minutes. Mr Ford played vigorously for his 21; but it was after he was out at 46 that the best piece of cricket of the day was seen when Mr Stoddart and Rawlin added 67 in half an hour before rain came on so steadily as to stop the play. Mr Stoddart made some magnificent drives and cuts, and his example was well followed by Rawlin. The men were deservedly cheered.

Mr Stoddart is a spectators' batsman and the keenness of the interest was demonstrated by the notice the public took when the famous Middlesex amateur completed his thousand runs in first-class cricket this season. There were between four and five thousand people on the ground. To-day Middlesex, with seven wickets in hand, have 113 to make to save the innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 8)

The fine score made by Middlesex in their second innings at Lord's yesterday was not suffered to restore evenness to the match with Lancashire, for the arrears were 226, and late yesterday afternoon there as victory for the Lancastrians by nine wickets.

But while the game turned out so one-sided, the third day's cricket was made excellent by the batting of Messrs Stoddart and O'Brien, during whose partnership there was a probability that the visitors might be set a respectable task for the last innings. However, their separation was followed by a steady fall of wickets, and on a true fast pitch Lancashire had 56 to make.

The early morning had seen a speedy end of the stand by Messrs Stoddart and Rawlin, who for the fourth wicket added altogether 68. Then Messrs Stoddart and O'Brien played well and carried the score from 114 to 192 before Mr Stoddart was fifth to leave, caught at short slip. For the second time in the match he had shown good form. Well finished driving and cutting were the features of his 84 – the highest score in the three days – and during his two and a half hours' stay he made nine fours and five threes. Mr O'Brien only survived his partner by a few overs and was caught at wicket for 57, in which were six fours. Thus had the position of the game quickly changed. Only four men were out with 190 up, yet the sixth wicket had gone at 209.

The best points in the rest of the innings were the cutting of Mr Douglas and the driving of Mr Watson; but neither of these men made big scores and the total reached 281. Mr Bardswell's slow, right-hand bowling was very successful; he kept an excellent length and got considerable work on the ball. The Oxford "Blue" is certainly a valuable recruit for Lancashire, as besides his bowling merits he is a vigorous bat and a clever slip.

Lancashire obtained their 56 runs in three-quarters of an hour, Mr MacLaren and Sugg both making some splendid drives, although the former ran several unnecessary risks through endeavouring to steal singles. It should be mentioned that Briggs strained himself in picking up the ball early in the morning and retired from the game. Some three or four thousand spectators took a lively interest in the play.

20 August: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4221.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

Hayward, the young Surrey professional, played a fine innings of 142 on the Oval yesterday, and in this batting the great feature was the hard and well-timed driving. Although he has thrice before run into three figures for his county, this is the highest and perhaps the best score in point of merit yet made by him. At the beginning of the season his ill-fortune rather tarnished the reputation built up by him last summer, but recent successes have brought him back to his game, and his fine cricket promises to revive the fame acquired by the Hayward family 30 years ago, in the days when Cambridgeshire was a great cricket county and when Tom Hayward (the present player's uncle) was, perhaps, the best batsman of the time.

The hero of the cricket at the Oval yesterday went in first wicket down at 39 and was seventh to leave at 318, when he played on, after a stay of four hours and a half. He was missed by Walter Hearn at mid-on with his figures at 31, Mr Patterson nearly caught and bowled him from a lob just before he reached his 100, and afterwards he gave a difficult chance to Mr Marchant. But these were the only blemishes in a fine display of batting. Sixteen fours were his chief contributions.

At the outset, in spite of some good play by Lockwood, who was second to leave at 79, there was nothing out of the common in the play, and the record was only 98 with four of the best batsmen on the side gone. Then began the partnership which was to have such an influence on the score. Street and Hayward stayed together an hour and three-quarters and added 137 runs. Street scored ten fours. Ayres and Hayward were partners during the addition of 75. Of course Surrey with 318 and still three men left possess a great advantage in the match.

An idea of the relative merits of the play before 3 o'clock and that subsequent to it may be gathered from the fact that in the first two hours four wickets fell for 98, and in the last three hours three wickets yielded 220 runs. The pitch was remarkably true and the ground seemed to have thoroughly thrown off the effects of last week's rain. There were over 10,000 spectators, of whom 9,069 paid for admission. It will be remembered that Kent won the first match with Surrey at Catford-bridge.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 6)

After the excellent batting in the Surrey innings of Monday the rather feeble fight made by Kent at the Oval yesterday must have disappointed not a few of the 10,000 spectators of the last day's important cricket on the Surrey ground this season. The balance of the Surrey innings, in which three wickets remained, lasted about three-quarters of an hour and advanced the overnight score from 318 to 371.

Richardson and Lockwood's fast bowling was very effective and Kent's first five batsmen went for 22 runs; but a check was given to this career of disaster by Messrs Marchant and Weigall, whose partnership yielded 48 in 35 minutes and caused the bowling to be varied. A little vigorous play by Mr Kemp and Martin gave life to the close of the Kent innings; but the minority in which the follow-on took place as 261.

The second attempt opened badly, and Alec Hearne for the second time in the match was out first ball. Messrs Rashleigh and Mason made a stand and their capital play promised better things for Kent. But the improvement lasted for only a short time, and the separation of these batsmen at 47, for which they had played extremely well, was followed by a wholesale fall of wickets to Lockwood, and, although Messrs Stewart and Kemp batted courageously, the game was all over by ten minutes past 6. Surrey won by an innings and 137 runs.

It should be said for Kent that they had all the disadvantages of batting in a bad light, especially in the last hour and a half. In spite of the cheerless day the official return showed that 8,953 people paid for admission.

Yorkshire and Surrey have both been victorious in their matches this week and their points in the championship remain equal. To-day both sides begin the last of their matches which count for the championship, Surrey playing at Brighton and Yorkshire at Taunton. Present positions: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	14	12	2	0	10
Surrey	15	12	2	1	10
Middlesex	15	8	5	2	3
Kent	12	6	6	0	0
Lancashire	15	6	7	2	-1
Somerset	14	5	7	2	-2
Nottinghamshire	14	4	7	3	-3
Sussex	14	3	10	1	-7
Gloucestershire	15	2	12	1	-10

The first fixture between Yorkshire and Kent was not decided owing to bad weather.

23 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4223.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 9)

This return match should have begun yesterday at Clifton, but bad weather necessitated a postponement until to-day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 7)

More rain fell in the early hours of yesterday at Bristol, and the Clifton College ground was unfit for cricket until half-past 3. On the slow turf Warwickshire had the advantage of first innings.

The ball was difficult to get away on the heavy ground and Walter Quaife took an hour and three-quarters to make 28. He was several times nearly bowled and also had one or two narrow escapes of being caught, before a good catch at cover-point dismissed him. The fine free play of Diver furnished a marked contrast to Walter Quaife's game.

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

Further progress in this match at the Clifton College ground could not be made on Saturday owing to the heavy rains of the early morning, and the game was abandoned as a draw . . .

23 August: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4224.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 9)

There was a little play in this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, but the weather in the morning was miserably dull and wet, and after an hour's cricket between half-past 2 and half-past 3 rain set in heavily and stumps were pulled up just before 5 o'clock.

Mr Oscroft, who is a nephew of the late William Scotton, is making his first appearance for his native county. To judge from his cricket yesterday he seems to be a player of some promise. S Lowe, a brother of T Lowe, of Kirkby-in-Ashfield, and Turner, of Sutton-in-Ashfield, also appear for the first time in the Nottinghamshire eleven.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 7)

Yesterday was a bowler's day at Old Trafford, Manchester, and such was the evenness of the scoring that at the end of an innings each there was only a difference of three runs between the totals. At the beginning of the day Nottinghamshire held an advantage of having scored 46 for one wicket; but the pitch was soft and false, and they lost this lead.

Mold and Lancaster bowled extremely well, and although the balance of the innings extended over two hours and a half, only 68 runs were added. This slow scoring gave an element of tameness to the morning's cricket. Mr Oscroft, who was fourth out at 73, made a successful first appearance for his side, while Daft exercised so much care that he was an hour and 20 minutes recording 15. Lancaster, who was put in the team in the absence of Briggs through a strain, was very effective with his left-hand bowling, and he had a large proportion of the wickets. Another point worthy of note was the excellent wicket-keeping of Smith.

Up to a certain point Lancashire did so well that they were promised a good lead on the first innings. Sugg, Mr MacLaren and Baker all met with success, and with seven men in hand the home side got to within 34 of the Notts total. Mr Dixon, however, went on and several wickets fell quickly, eight being down for 92. Tinsley then hit vigorously and, although no one stayed long with him, the Nottinghamshire score was passed. There were about 5,000 spectators.

During the day it became known that Mr MacLaren, the Lancashire captain, had accepted an invitation to join Mr Stoddart's Australian team.

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

A brilliant victory was gained by Lancashire at Old Trafford on Saturday. There was some splendid batting by Frank Sugg and Mr MacLaren in the last hour.

On a slow pitch the visitors' play in the second innings was very steady. Gunn made 27 out of 31 put on while he was in, and Flowers too did well, while Daft for a second time went in fifth wicket down and took out his bat after a very cautious defence. The innings lasted three hours and a quarter. Its rapid end was to a large extent brought about by Mold, who dismissed four men after

luncheon for 13 runs. It was well for Lancashire that Mold had proved so, successful, as Lancaster, the slow bowler, had strained himself and had to retire from the game, and Briggs was also away.

Lancashire were left with two hours and a quarter in which to get 131 for victory on a difficult wicket. The beginning was poor. Ward and Paul were dismissed for 13 runs, and Frank Sugg and Mr MacLaren to begin with showed so much care that with only 90 minutes remaining 100 runs were wanted. But, when thoroughly set, the batsmen threw great brilliancy into their game. In another half hour 58 runs were made, while the last 42 were scored in 20 minutes. Sugg hit nine and Mr MacLaren five fours. It was a wonderful feat and the 6,000 spectators were roused to a great state of enthusiasm. Lancashire won by eight wickets.

23 August: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4225.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 9)

The change in the weather since Wednesday caused much disappointment at Lord's yesterday. Throughout the morning rain fell heavily and, although at the outset play seemed impossible, it was not until half-past two, when the weather had slightly improved, that Ulyett and Lillywhite, the umpires, pronounced the ground unfit for any cricket. A start will be made this morning.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 7)

The first day's cricket in this match at Lord's was played under depressing conditions. For the most part the weather proved dull and cheerless; the light after 3 o'clock became very bad and ultimately stopped the game at the end of the Kent innings, the wicket was soft and false, and in the end a drizzling rain set in. The cricket was limited to three hours, in which time the first innings of Kent was played through.

Before luncheon perhaps the pitch was at its worst and the play was very dull. Alec Hearne took an hour to make a single and Mr Wilson was in nearly the same time for ten, while altogether in 90 minutes the first six wickets fell for 38 runs. Afterwards there was a distinct improvement in the rate of scoring. Mr Marchant played quite brilliantly and made some fine drives. In endeavouring to drive Hearne the ball beat him and he skied it to point.

Mr Kemp, as at the Oval, showed plenty of courage under difficult conditions and his partnerships with Mr Marchant for the seventh and Martin for the ninth wicket yielded respectively 25 and 27, while Martin and Walter Hearne put on 23 for the last. As he has so often done, Martin proved himself a useful and vigorous batsman at a pinch.

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

The severe rainstorm of Saturday morning caused the abandonment of this match at Lord's.

23 August: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4226.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 9)

In consequence of the bad weather this match was not started at Taunton yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 7)

From the present position of this game at Taunton the probabilities are that the match will not be brought to a definite issue, and should this be the case it will be a matter for regret in the existing state of the county championship. The bad weather again interfered with the play yesterday.

Soon after midday Somerset, who won the toss, went in. Mr L C H Palairet and Mr Hill made an excellent beginning and in a little over three-quarters of an hour advanced the score to 54. In the hour following Messrs Palairet and Hill's fine play, wickets fell so steadily that six had gone by luncheon time for 86, while in the 20 minutes after the interval the innings was completed for an additional 13 runs. This cheap dismissal of the Somerset team was largely brought about by the fine bowling of Hirst, whose seven wickets cost only 32 runs.

Yorkshire had scarcely begun their innings when rain stopped the game for the day. Lord Hawke is suffering from lameness and stood out of the visiting side for Denton.

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

At Taunton on Saturday morning a steady downpour set in, and this, following the heavy rains in the night, quickly made cricket impossible. The game was abandoned.

23 August: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4227.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 9)

The heavy rain at Brighton yesterday caused the start of this match to be deferred until to-day . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 7)

An excellent score on a bad wicket by Surrey and fine bowling on the part of Richardson and Lockwood marked the cricket at Brighton yesterday, in bright weather, and Surrey secured a great advantage.

Although Hayward played capital cricket, the first five wickets went for 42. Subsequently the scoring improved, thanks to Mr Walter Read, who gave no chance and hit seven fours. Ayres and Mr Read put on 29; but the partnership of the day was that of Mr Read and Mr Key, who added 52 in 35 minutes for the seventh wicket. Afterwards Wood played well.

Sussex started pretty well, Bean and Marlow scoring 17 for the first wicket. But then came a collapse and the whole ten wickets went down for an additional 27. Lockwood and Richardson bowled with wonderful effect and no fewer than five wickets fell with the score at 33. Following on in a minority of 124, Sussex did better and are now 75 behind with seven wickets in hand.

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

At Brighton, on Saturday, Surrey secured an easy victory. With the pitch still further spoiled by more rain, Sussex had an uphill task against Richardson and Lockwood.

The condition of the turf delayed the start until 20 minutes to 1, and then, with the score raised to 67, Marlow and Mr Fry, who had made 47 for the fourth partnership, were separated. Two runs later Mr Fry left, and subsequently Mr Brann alone batted successfully. Indeed, the last five wickets yielded only 40, and Surrey won by an innings and 15 runs. Richardson and Lockwood bowled splendidly.

23 August: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/123/123313.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 9)

Late yesterday afternoon, at a quarter past 5, a start was made with this match at Southampton, and Leicestershire, going in first, scored 63 for one wicket. Mr de Trafford made 48 not out and Mr Hillyard was dismissed for 15.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 7)

Hampshire followed up their recent successes yesterday by getting much the better of their game with Leicestershire at Southampton. In spite of a brilliant 81 by Mr C E de Trafford, Leicestershire were got out for 166. Hampshire then made 306 for four wickets . . .

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

This match at Southampton on Saturday was abandoned owing to the bad weather.

Saturday 25 August, page 7: MR STODDART'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Mr Stoddart informs us that Abel has not accepted the invitation to go to Australia, and that the side will be definitely settled on Monday next.

The results of Saturday's matches leave Surrey at the head of the counties for this season, after a close and exciting contest. Yorkshire had bad luck in that one of their fixtures (that with Kent) was abandoned, as well as in the bad weather, which interfered with their last game with Somerset. It must not be forgotten, however, that Surrey won both matches with last year's champions.

Five of the counties have yet to complete their championship series of matches, which extend through the present week. Up to Saturday the results are: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	16	13	2	1	11
Yorkshire	15	12	2	1	10
Middlesex	16	8	5	3	3
Kent	13	6	6	1	0
Lancashire	16	7	7	2	0
Somerset	15	5	7	3	-2
Nottinghamshire	15	4	8	3	-4
Sussex	15	3	11	1	-8
Gloucestershire	15	2	12	1	-10

27 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4229.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 4)

If all the catches had been held at Leicester yesterday the home side would scarcely have found themselves in their present bad position. Going in first, Lancashire lost both Sugg and Paul for 20, while Ward left at 38. Afterwards there were several good stands. Mr M'Laren and Baker were each missed before the score was increased by 47, and then Baker and Smith added 53. Baker, after his escape at eight, played fine cricket and was in two hours, being the last to leave; he hit six fours in his 61.

Leicestershire wickets fell fast before the bowling of Ellis, who was early put on for Mr Bardswell, and, at the close, the home team still wanted 56 to avert the follow on and had only one batsman in hand. Pougher was unable to share in the Leicestershire attack.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 4)

After following on at Leicester yesterday the home side played excellently. To begin with there was a splendid stand for the first wicket by Messrs de Trafford and Hillyard, the former of whom played a free game and made 52 out of 81 before he returned the ball. He was in 75 minutes and hit three fours. After luncheon there was a good fifth partnership between Pougher and Tomlin, who rubbed off the arrears and added altogether 48. Tomlin contributed six fours. Leicestershire were batting three and a half hours for their 197.

Lancashire won easily by eight wickets. The bowling of Ellis in the home team's first innings was wonderfully effective.

27 August: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4230.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 4)

There was a pleasing change in the weather at Taunton, yesterday, from the experiences of last week; but, while both Sunday and Monday were fine, the wicket had not recovered from the effects of the bad weather and it was to a great extent a bowler's pitch.

It proved an extremely interesting day's cricket, and there was one batting feat on each side of great merit. Gloucestershire fared so ill against Tyler's slow bowling that, in three-quarters of an hour, they lost six wickets for 27 runs, while, in spite of Mr Rice, who was in an hour, and Mr Townsend making a stand, nine men were out for 60. Mr Jessop, however, played a brilliant innings, while Roberts kept up his end, and the result was that, although Roberts scored only a single, 55 were made for the last partnership. Some idea of the successful play of Mr Jessop will be gathered from the fact that he scored 61 of the 73 added during his stay of three-quarters of an hour. The mistake by Mr Hill in the long field when he let off Mr Jessop, at three, from Tyler, was an expensive blunder for his side.

Somerset, after losing five men for 35 runs, were rescued from a bad position by the batting of Mr S M J Woods, who, after beginning with a lack of precision, settled down and played splendidly. He and Mr Dunlop put on 63 for the sixth wicket at a great pace, while the score was 121 when Mr Woods was eighth out. He scored his 54 in an hour, hitting six fours and five threes. Mr Townsend bowled well, but was rather severely punished by Mr Woods.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 4)

A large company visited the Somerset ground yesterday to see the last important day's cricket of the season at Taunton. Overnight the game stood in a pretty even position, for Gloucestershire had begun their second innings and, with nine batsmen in hand, were only six runs behind.

The wicket helped the bowlers and runs were difficult to make. Dr W G Grace contributed 20 of the 21 added for the third partnership; but five of the side had gone by the time the score reached 60. Messrs Page and Rice put on 27, and the latter was in altogether an hour and three-quarters for his 30. After eight men had left for 99, Board and Roberts played vigorously and in the end the score reached 135. Captain Hedley came out with a fine analysis.

Somerset got the 110 required for victory in 90 minutes at a cost of five wickets. Messrs Hill and Palaret made a splendid start, putting on 56 in 50 minutes. Mr Hill forced the game well and scored 42 of this number. Board met with considerable success at the wicket, and with five of the home side disposed of for 82 the visitors seemed to have just a chance of winning. However, Mr Woods, aided by Mr Spurway, soon put the result beyond doubt, and by 20 minutes to 5, Somerset had won.

27 August: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4231.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 4)

The Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, although rather slow, showed something of that trueness for batsmen for which it is reputed, and the result was that Kent, going in first, scored heavily.

The substantial part of the visitors' success began when Mr Mason had left. Then Alec Hearne and Mr Marchant got together and put on 110 in 85 minutes. The large proportion of this number belonged to Mr Marchant, who played in that brilliant style which has always been his characteristic since the cricket world became acquainted with him as a public schoolboy, when he did so well for Eton against Harrow at Lord's. He gave a chance to Hilton at mid-on with his figures at 26, but this was his only error prior to his cutting a ball on to his wicket. Thirteen fours were among his figures.

Unlike his captain, Alec Hearne exercised the most careful defence and took two hours and a quarter to score 47 out of 166, when he was fourth to leave. The chief merit of the subsequent batting belonged to Mr Stewart, whose 90, made without a mistake, is the best thing he has done for the county. He hit nine fours and was out at 263, caught by the wicket-keeper, who clinched the ball with his pads below the knee. Martin was thrice missed from Parris's bowling before the innings ended.

In a little less than half an hour Sussex scored 21, but, as rain fell at the close of play, they may have a bad wicket for to-day. Butcher, a Brighton professional, bowled pretty well for his county.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 4)

Sussex came out well in a severe uphill fight at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, and their innings, which began on Monday evening, lasted throughout the greater part of the day. The wicket was at first affected by the overnight rain and the good Kent bowling made the batsmen very careful.

Bean and Marlow opened well, putting together 53 for the first wicket. At the end of two hours Marlow was third to leave at 100. Mr Newham batted soundly and scored nearly half of the 64 added during his stay. The brightest cricket was seen after luncheon, when the wicket had recovered, and Messrs Brann and Fry put on 62 for the fifth partnership. To begin with Mr Fry gave a couple of sharp chances, but no fault could be found with his subsequent play. Mr Brann, who has been scarcely in form this season, played with more care than usual and took an hour and three-quarters to make his 58. It is the best thing he has done for his county this summer.

Although the follow-on was averted with four wickets in hand, the end of the innings came so quickly that Kent went in a second time with a lead of 61 . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 August, page 4)

An exciting day's cricket was witnessed at Brighton yesterday, and Sussex in the end just avoided

defeat. The pitch at the Hove Ground seemed to have suffered from the heavy dew and in the early hours of the game the bowling required a lot of watching.

As in the first innings, the feature of the batting was the splendid form of Mr Marchant, who cut and drove with great brilliancy. Going in first wicket down at 22, he was seventh to leave at 122, having contributed 60 out of the 100 put on during his stay of 85 minutes. He offered a sharp chance to the wicket-keeper soon after his arrival, but this was his only error, and he hit four fours and three threes. Messrs Weigall and Kemp met with some success, and when the score was 172 for nine wickets Kent closed their innings. Parris for the second time in the match had bowled well, and his double analysis credited him with 12 wickets for 155 runs.

Sussex had two hours and a half to play and 234 to make to win. Walter Hearne was indisposed and could not bowl for Kent. At first there seemed a prospect of the visitors' success, for the first five wickets fell for 45 runs, and there was then more than an hour for cricket. However, Mr Brann and Butcher made a fine stand of 50 minutes' duration, and this put the result beyond doubt. Mr Brann allowed some of his old freedom, while but adopted careful tactics. Butcher left at a quarter to 6, after which two more wickets fell. When the match ended Sussex wanted 147 to win and had only two men left, so that the draw was much in favour of Kent. Fine weather prevailed and there was a capital attendance.

27 August: YORKSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4232.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 4)

The popular festival at Scarborough had not a happy beginning yesterday. The weather became wet soon after the commencement of the cricket, previous to which a thick haze had enveloped the ground, while the wicket, in spite of its artificial protection from the bad weather last week, was made soft by the early morning's rain. Play lasted only about three-quarters of an hour, the start taking place at 20 minutes to 1 and the rain putting an end to the game at 20 minutes past the hour.

Mr Jackson and Brown made a bright opening for Yorkshire and scored 47 before the amateur returned the ball. Marylebone have a very good side, in which Mr F R Spofforth, the famous bowler, makes one of his few appearances in important cricket. The Rev E B Firth, of the Yorkshire Gentlemen's Club, is playing for Mr Ernest Smith in the county team.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 4)

In a good day's cricket at Scarborough yesterday, marked by a fine bowling feat by Wainwright and the excellent batting of Brown and Tunncliffe, the Yorkshire eleven secured a material advantage. The game was enjoyed under the favourable conditions of bright weather and the number of spectators reached about 5,000.

Yorkshire, who had scored 53 overnight for the loss of Mr Jackson, completed their innings by half-past 3 for 219, made at an average of about 70 an hour. Brown was second to leave at 130 for 80. This was a brilliant display of cricket, his cutting being, as usual, very good, and included five fours and nine threes. Tunncliffe, who had helped Brown to add 83, ran up 52, but his game lacked the excellence of his first companion. Five wickets fell for 179, after which the rest of the side put on only 40.

Marylebone's innings was full of disaster to the batsmen, six of whom failed to score, and lasted only an hour and a quarter. Davidson played with every care and stayed in an hour. In the follow-on the M.C.C. scored 16 for one wicket, so that to-day they require 144 to avert the innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 August, page 4)

There was a continuance of the fine weather at Scarborough yesterday, and the first match of the festival reached its end under far happier conditions than existed at the opening on Monday. Of course, the unevenness of the position on Tuesday night, when Marylebone had followed on against arrears of 160 and had lost one wicket for 16 runs, took some of the interest out of the match, yet a good company assembled to see the play.

Although the pitch had been protected it still helped the bowlers, and at no time did Marylebone appear likely to make much of a fight. Mr Thornton batted vigorously for a time and twice drove the ball out of the ground from Moorhouse and Wainwright. Fortune, however, was kind to him and he had two escapes before, at 63, he returned the ball. Four of the side were out for 69, but then ensued a quiet partnership between Davidson and Chatterton, and the score reached 82. After

luncheon Rawlin and Ranjitsinhji enlivened the cricket; but about 4 o'clock the match was completed and Yorkshire had won by an innings and 11 runs. Wainwright was again very successful with the ball and his ten wickets altogether averaged only six runs each.

During the luncheon interval Mr C I Thornton was presented with a silver trophy, representing him at the wicket, as a memento of the great part he has taken in the Scarborough Festival since its institution in 1869. Lord Londesborough spoke at the presentation, which was made by Mr C W Woodall on behalf of the Scarborough Club.

27 August: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128163.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 4)

Captain Wynyard, who has played so prominent a part in the recent fine cricket of Hampshire, scored his third consecutive 100 for the county, at Southampton, yesterday, in the beginning of the return match with Essex. The first game at Leyton, it may be remembered, was won by Hampshire by eight runs.

Captain Wynyard, who went in first wicket down at 25, made a splendid stand of over 100 with Mr Robson, and was ultimately caught at square leg for 108 – the result of two and a half hours' cricket; twice he hit the ball out of the ground and his figures also included six fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 4)

Another brilliant victory was gained by Hampshire at Southampton yesterday in the return match with Essex. Essex at first looked like making a good score, but the later batsmen failed, and in the follow-on the side did badly, with the exception of Mead. Eight wickets were lost for 30, and in the end Hampshire won by an innings and 61 runs.

At Southampton, yesterday, Mr J Moberley presented Captain Wynyard, of the Hampshire Eleven, with a pair of silver candlesticks as a souvenir of the three consecutive hundreds he has made for the county in the last three matches.

Thursday 30 August, page 4: THE PRESENTATION TO CAPTAIN WYNYARD. – This presentation, mentioned in The Times of yesterday, of a pair of silver candlesticks to Captain Wynyard, as a souvenir of the three consecutive hundreds scored by him for Hampshire, was made by Mr J C Moberley, as chairman of the committee, on behalf of the Hampshire County Cricket Club.

Tuesday 28 August, page 4: MR STODDART'S AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Mr Stoddart informs us that he has completed his side for the tour in the colonies by the inclusion of Mr A C MacLaren, the Lancashire captain, and Brown, who has been playing consistently well for Yorkshire this year. The full team is therefore as follows: -

Mr A E Stoddart (captain) and Mr F G J Ford, Middlesex; Brockwell, Lockwood and Richardson, Surrey; Peel and Brown, Yorkshire; Briggs, Mr A C MacLaren and Albert Ward, Lancashire; Mr H Philipson, Oxford University and Northumberland; Mr L H Gay, Somerset; and Walter Humphreys, Sussex.

The team leaves England on September 21 in the Orient boat Ophir.

The following are the present positions of the nine leading counties: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	16	13	2	1	11
Yorkshire	15	12	2	1	10
Middlesex	16	8	5	3	3
Kent	13	6	6	1	0
Lancashire	16	7	7	2	0
Somerset	16	6	7	3	-1
Nottinghamshire	15	4	8	3	-4
Sussex	15	3	11	1	-5
Gloucestershire	16	2	13	1	-11

30 August: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4233.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 August, page 4)

The cricket at the Lyttelton ground, Leyton, yesterday, was remarkable for the success of the Surrey innings and for two fine batting feats on the part of Holland, a young professional from the Surrey second eleven, who is only in his 19th year, and Maurice Read, who has been resting since his accident at Leicester some time ago. Each of these took part in a long three-figure stand.

Holland, who has the advantage of a good height, stands well up at the wicket and plays a capital forward game, driving and cutting with power, while his whole defence is sound. In his first county match for Surrey he played superb and faultless cricket for a couple of hours, scoring 76 out of the 125 added during his innings. The Surrey second eleven, of which Holland was a member, has thus again proved its usefulness, and Mr W T Graburn, whom the Surrey committee intrusted with the task of looking after the young cricket of the county, is to be congratulated on having developed the game of such a promising player. Holland is a Surrey man by birth.

After Abel and Hayward had made 39 for the first wicket, the former and Holland added 110 runs in 105 minutes. Abel played with much care and just passed the 50 before a clever return catch dismissed him. As the score was 112 at luncheon with only one man out, things looked ominous for Essex, but between half-past 3 and 4 o'clock five wickets fell (three of them at 164); and six for 164 pointed to no extraordinary total. Holland, who was fourth out at 164, bowled in playing back to Mead, was batting a little over two hours, hitting a five (a leg hit), eight fours and five threes.

Mr Graburn and Maurice Read were together an hour and three-quarters and made 129 runs. Read, who was run out in going a second time for a drive, played his own free game and hit six fours, nine threes and ten twos. Mr Graburn batted with every care, but was dismissed just before the drawing of stumps, when Surrey had still two wickets in hand. Essex fielded and bowled well on the true turf.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 September, page 6)

While there was a repetition of Thursday's fine weather at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, the play was different from that of the first day. Against the powerful Surrey bowling there were many failures among the Essex batsmen, and before the hour fixed for drawing stumps Surrey had gained a very substantial victory by an innings and 97 runs.

As the wicket kept hard and true the feeble defence of the home side was not a little disappointing. The excellence of the batting in the second innings by Mr Owen and Carpenter was hardly sufficient to lend much interest to the struggle and the odds against which they went in seemed to depress the eastern county men. Essex may have been a little weary after their spell of five hours in the field, for Surrey batted the whole of Thursday and did not complete their innings until midday yesterday, when the score stood at 325.

Richardson and Smith bowled unchanged during the hour and three-quarters over which the first spell of Essex batting extended. In this almost the only good feature was the vigorous play of Mr Kortright. The longest stand was one of 29 by Mr Rowe and Mr Owen for the fourth wicket. Six of

the side went for 65 and the other four were out, for an additional 22, just after luncheon.

When Essex followed on, with arrears of 238, they adopted the old-fashioned device of putting in first the not-out of the other innings. But Russell did not give much trouble and two wickets fell for 32. Mr Owen and Carpenter played sound cricket and added 35. Then, when there seemed every chance of a fairly good score being made, Carpenter was bowled. It was during this stand that Surrey first changed their attack. Mr Owen survived Carpenter for some time and made many fine drives; but he played on at 104 for 40. His was quite the best piece of batting on the Essex side.

The last five wickets then fell in three and a quarter hours for 37 more runs, and Surrey won easily. Richardson again bowled well and his ten wickets in the match averaged only 11 runs each. It may be pointed out that Mead worked very hard in bowling for Essex as a glance at the figures will tell.

30 August: NORTH v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4234.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 August, page 4)

Everything was favourable to the game at Scarborough yesterday, and the bright weather and the good batting were thoroughly enjoyed by some 5,000 people. Much progress was made with the match, in which the North secured a considerable advantage. Three hours were occupied by them over their first innings, and in this time 203 runs were scored.

Messrs Jackson and De Trafford made a good beginning and in three-quarters of an hour ran up 66; but three wickets were lost for 89. Sugg then went in and began driving hard. He did most of the run-getting during his stay of an hour, although his brilliant innings was marred by an easy chance to Lockwood at cover point when his score stood at four. He eventually ran himself out at 163. Bean fielded the ball well and returned it very quickly. Mr J E Hill, of Warwickshire, batted steadily, but the last five wickets yielded only 40 runs.

The South fared badly before the bowling of Mold and Peel, and although Mr Lucas and Marlow added 37 for the third wicket, six of the side were out for 61. It is worthy of note that by their scores yesterday Mr Jackson and Mr MacLaren each completed his 1,000 runs in first-class cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 September, page 6)

There was a fine day's play at Scarborough yesterday. The South came out well in a severe uphill game, with the result that, although they had only four wickets in hand overnight and were 142 behind, the balance against them on the first innings was only five runs.

It was a question of saving the follow-on to begin with, and Lockwood and Ranjitsinhji made a capital stand. The former scored freely, while the latter contented himself with playing carefully. Forty-five had been added before Lockwood was caught in the slips, and then came another good stand by Mr Gay and Ranjitsinhji. Neither batsman ventured to hit out until the follow-on had been averted and the cricket at times was rather dull. At last at 137 Ranjitsinhji skied the ball to mid-off and was caught. With Hearne as a partner Mr Gay adopted a freer style of batting with distinct success. Indeed, so marked was the change in the game that 55 were put on in 40 minutes. Mr Gay was the last to leave at 198.

In their second innings the North lost three wickets for 79 runs. Mr M'Laren, who was out on the stroke of time, hit finely for his 40. The North are thus 84 ahead with seven wickets still to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 September, page 5)

The cricket at Scarborough on Saturday was excellent, and the match itself was so splendidly contested as to cause much regret that the time proved insufficient for a definite result to be reached. An earlier start than usual had been made in the hope of finishing the game, but when stumps were drawn the South with four wickets in hand still wanted 48 runs to win.

On Friday evening the home team had got 79 for three wickets. Between 10 minutes to 12 and 2

o'clock they increased their score to 212 for nine, and afterwards declared their innings closed. There were a couple of interesting stands during this period. Mr Hill and Brown put on 48 in 35 minutes for the fifth partnership and Peel and Wainwright 49 for the eighth. Mr Spofforth was unable to bowl for the South, having strained his knee. Lockwood and Hearne had done well with the ball.

With such a brilliant batting side against him Lord Hawke ran some risk in putting his opponents in for two hours and 50 minutes with only 218 wanted to win. Messrs V T Hill and Hewett made a good beginning and scored 39 in the first half-hour; but after they were separated at 44 several other wickets fell, and four of the side were out for 58. Then the game changed again. Ranjitsinhji played splendidly. Marlow and Rawlin did well also. The latter was out with the last ball of the match. Ranjitsinhji's 52 was made without a mistake. He only just missed an aggregate of 100 in the two innings, and he was warmly cheered by the spectators, of whom there were about 3,000.

30 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4235.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 August, page 4)

Steadiness in batting marked the opening day of the return match between Nottinghamshire and Kent at Trent-bridge yesterday. The play was fairly even, although at one period there seemed a probability that Kent would make a better score, for the first three wickets yielded 76. However, the bowling was very good, especially that by Attewell, whose accurate pitch as usual kept the runs down.

Mr Rashleigh has been playing brilliantly this season, and his 39 yesterday were the result of some splendid cricket, in which his off-driving was notable. He went in at the fall of the second wicket at 26 and was sixth to leave at 113. Mr Marchant's stay was brief and merry, while Mr Stewart, after being missed at slip, was in during the addition of 44. Nine of the side were dismissed for 132; but Walter Hearne hit vigorously and with Wright put on 30 for the last wicket. The Kent innings extended over about three and a half hours. Attewell had a fine analysis and was well supported by the fieldsmen. Pike again distinguished himself at the wicket and did not allow the ball once to pass him for "extras."

Nottinghamshire had over an hour's batting. Walter Hearne bowled so effectively that three wickets were captured at a small cost. Gunn played cautiously and, before being bowled, completed his 1,000 runs in first-class cricket this season. At the close Nottinghamshire were 123 behind with seven men in hand. Handford and Easby are receiving further trials for their respective counties. The weather was fine and a large company visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 September, page 6)

Richard Daft's son carried off the batting honours at Trent-bridge yesterday, when there was a long day of studied defence, which produced 195 runs in five hours and placed Nottinghamshire in a very safe position. While all the cautious tactics, which seemed almost general in the side, turned out pretty profitable, it was a poor day for the spectators, as will be gathered from the fact that on a good, fast wicket the rate of scoring was so low as 40 runs an hour. Only seven wickets fell during the day, these representing the balance of the home innings, in which three men were lost overnight for 39 runs.

H B Daft played the principal part in this lengthened illustration of careful cricket and, without giving an actual chance, he remained in five hours and a half and took out his bat for 92. Once or twice the ball beat him, but no amount of off-bowling would tempt him and he relied on the leg side for most of his runs. While his game was so unattractive to watch it was profitable enough for the side, and included among his figures were nine fours. Mr Dixon played brighter cricket and made 41 of the 72 added in the 90 minutes of his stay.

As eight wickets fell for 161 there seemed a prospect of only a small difference between the innings; but Turner, profiting by a mistake in the field by Mr Rashleigh, made a long stay with Daft and the pair added 64 runs. The Kent bowlers did well and Mr Kemp kept wicket excellently.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 September, page 5)

The spectators of Saturday's cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, saw play very different from that of the previous days. The dullness and caution of the Nottinghamshire innings were succeeded by free and brilliant hitting, in which the chief part was taken by the Rev W Rashleigh, who on the occasions he has played for Kent this season has shown all those powers of cutting and driving which made him such a great batsman in his first year at Oxford.

Kent knocked off their arrears of 72 in the morning at the cost of one wicket. They had begun by losing Easby before a run was scored; but then Alec Hearne stayed while Mr Rashleigh forced the game, with such good results that the partnership for the second wicket yielded 92 runs in 70 minutes. Mr Rashleigh was batting only 85 minutes for his 95, and was third out at 118. Beyond a hard return to Turner early in his innings he gave no chance.

Any chance that Notts still had of winning disappeared quickly, for Mr Stewart played thoroughly sound cricket and the score at the interval was 183 for four wickets. Afterwards, at the cost of three more, the total in 50 minutes was increased by 77 runs. Mr Marchant then closed his innings and left Notts with 189 to make to win in an hour and three-quarters.

As the wicket remained hard and true there was little chance of playing the game out. Nottinghamshire lost five of their side for 86. The best point in the closing hour was the excellent batting of Mr A O Jones. The weather was fine but only a small number of persons visited the ground.

Monday 3 September, page 5: COUNTY CRICKET IN 1894

This has been a bad year for batsmen, and the season which ended at Trent-bridge on Saturday with the match between Nottinghamshire and Kent will be marked in cricket history by the memory of its false wickets and bowlers' triumphs. The most casual comparison between the figures of this and of last year lends emphasis to the indifferent times on which batsmen fell.

Beautifully prepared pitches were ruined by the weather with a regularity that must have almost broken the hearts of groundsmen. The water lurked about the clay at Lord's and gave the bowlers aid time after time. Clay is the finest thing to play on after a long spell of good weather, but it is the worst in a rainy season. Perhaps the Oval suffered less than most grounds, for it recovers itself so quickly. There was certainly room for improvement on the season of 1893, when the Kennington ground completely lost its good name for trueness. A wet summer was really beneficial to the Oval, as the new turf put down 18 months before got thoroughly set.

When the badness of the conditions is remembered it is surprising that so many of the averages should come out so well. Surrey recovered the championship lost by them last year, and Yorkshire were beaten at the post. Both had very fine sides.

Of course the natural uncertainty of cricket is increased a hundredfold when the wickets are false and often little better than stretches of mud, when it is almost an impossibility to time the ball and when a little indiscriminate hitting often pays better than finished skill in defence. On all sorts of grounds Surrey did well, and there is little doubt but that they possessed the strongest team of the season. The truest test of a side must be that of their play on a hard and true wicket. Through this ordeal Surrey came out best when they beat Yorkshire on the Oval. The pace and break of Richardson and Lockwood made Surrey's attack very dangerous, and they had another good bowler in Smith.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Yorkshire was the excellent batting ability which ran right through the side. However ill the early men fared, someone invariably got runs. There was no "tail" to the batting, and when things went badly in the second match with Gloucestershire the tenth man made 100. Mr F S Jackson, one of the best all-round amateurs of the day, was able to play for the county regularly. On a hard pitch their bowlers did not appear to have so much sting in their attack as Richardson and Lockwood.

Middlesex had a pretty good season, but they want another bowler, while the fact that Mr Stoddart did not play with all his old brilliancy made a great difference to the side. Middlesex and Surrey both have a great hold on the London public, and for several years past the crowds at Lord's and the Oval have been on the increase.

As a contrast to this the slow and patient play of the Trent-bridge eleven has been very harmful to the popularity of the game in the famous county of Nottingham. To watch a man get 92 runs in five hours and a half (however profitable the feat may be to his side) is not very enjoyable. It is with a feeling of regret that cricketers think of the Notts eleven, cherishing, however, the hope that its prospects will brighten and that it may again arouse, before long, something of the old enthusiasm of the Notts people. Now-a-days the scene at Trent-bridge is not at all like the picture drawn by William Howitt in 1835 at Nottingham of a match between Nottingham and Sussex. He told how –

“Along each side of the ground ran a bank sloping to it, and the booths and tents at the end were occupied with a dense mass of people, all as silent as the ground beneath them; and all up the hills

were groups, and on the race stand an eager, forward-leaning throng. There were said to be 20,000 people, all hushed as death, except when some exploit of the players produced a thunder of applause . . . But nothing was so beautiful as the sudden shout – the rush and the breaking up of the ground when the decisive notch was gained . . . And the crowd, which before was fixed and silent as the world itself, spreading all over the green space where the white figures of the players had till then been so gravely and apparently calmly contending – spreading with a murmur as of the sea . . . it was a beautiful sight and one that the most sedate person must have delighted to see.”

The county has fallen upon evil times, and some of her best players are to be found in other sides. Endeavours should be made to retain some of the promising young players now coming on; Wilkinson, Handford and Hardstaff all have club engagements in other sires and they should not be allowed to drift away from the county of their birth.

Kent had a variable season. Walter Hearne and Martin bowled splendidly all through and there was also plenty of good batting. To a few missed catches and bad luck must be ascribed some of their lost games.

Somerset upheld its good name in the West of England, and Lancashire made a brilliant finish after a bad beginning. Gloucestershire and Sussex fared ill on the bad wickets.

The memorandum drawn up by Lord Hawke and signed by most of the county captains, praying that the M.C.C. would nominate Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Essex as first-class counties for the purpose only of the general averages, was adopted by the Marylebone Club. But the exclusion of Hampshire turned out to be an error, and Hampshire’s brilliant success, during August especially, was a severe satire on those who sit in judgment on the classification question.

The Marylebone Club have been asking the counties for their views on classification, and have suggested that six home-and-home fixtures with the present nine first-class counties should make any county eligible to take part in the competition for the championship next year. Yorkshire, while agreeing with the M.C.C. in general principle, suggested the inclusion of Hampshire and the raising of the *minimum* to eight home-and-home fixtures. The matter will no doubt be thrashed out during the winter months and, although cricket legislators are slow to move, the community may look forward perhaps to a better understanding all round.

Although some side must be at the bottom of the list, there is a pretty general feeling that something should be done so that good teams like those of Warwickshire and Derbyshire should not be left out in the cold when such records exist as those of Sussex and Gloucestershire. The general feeling is in favour of a larger circle. Lord Harris when he was in England endeavoured to get the counties to come to some settlement in the matter of classification, and perhaps when he returns from India he will again give his attention to the subject.

SURREY

The Surrey eleven have not long been absent from the first position among the counties, and after the lapse of one season 1894 again leaves them at the head of the list, as 1887, 1888, 1890, 1891 and 1892. In 1889 they divided the chief place with Nottinghamshire and Lancashire.

Their success this season can be traced to various sources. There was the splendid cricket of Brockwell, who followed up his capital all-round play in the previous year of disaster, playing a

fine forward game and driving well. Brockwell has been in and out of the Surrey eleven for some years; but, while possessing the physique and style of a fine player, he was slow in developing his game. Lockwood, too, played better. Indeed, the old members of the team all did well, notably Mr Walter Read.

Mr K J Key, upon whom has fallen the captaincy, scored 100 runs less than last year, and goes from the second position to one half-way down the list. Still he often batted well, and in cutting and his driving he showed all his old power and brilliancy. Young Hayward was a little uncertain at the beginning of the season, but in July and August he improved, and the fame of the great cricketing family of Hayward seems safe in his hands.

Street proved himself a courageous and successful batsman and a good change bowler, while Mr Jephson did good service as a steady bat and a brilliant field. Richardson and Lockwood were the two bowlers of the side, and in pace, pitch and break had perhaps no equals among the counties. Whether the wickets were good or bad they met with wonderful success. F Smith, slow left hand, with a good length, was a great addition to the side, for he is a fine bowler on a good wicket. It will be seen from the tables that these three men did really the whole of the bowling for Surrey. Some of Surrey's supporters are a little anxious about next season, as Richardson and Lockwood are sure to find plenty of severe work on the hard Australian wickets, in the matches of Mr Stoddart's team.

It must be very gratifying to Mr Key that in his first year of captaincy, made more difficult by having to follow Mr John Shuter, Surrey should reclaim the chief position among the counties. Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Sussex were each beaten twice and Middlesex, Lancashire and Kent once. Thus 13 of the 16 matches were won. Surrey lost to Kent at Catford and Middlesex at Lord's while the return with Lancashire ended in a tie.

YORKSHIRE

In every way the Yorkshire eleven splendidly upheld their reputation of 1893 and, although second to Surrey, they have lost one match less than they did last year. Mr F S Jackson, besides having the best aggregate, the highest score and the best average, was often of use in bowling. Brown, of Driffield, played consistently well throughout the season and he has achieved the high reward of a place in Mr Stoddart's Australian team.

Mr Ernest Smith, the old Oxford "Blue," was far more successful than in 1893, and the same has to be said of Moorhouse and Mounsey. Tunnicliffe fell back from second place last year with 28 to ninth with 13, but Peel and Wainwright both did well. Mr F Mitchell, of whose batting at Cambridge so much was heard, failed altogether to show any form when tried for Yorkshire, and in six innings made only 44 runs.

George Ulyett dropped out of the eleven; he was the last member of the old Yorkshire team. The county is now represented by a comparatively young set of players, who should keep Yorkshire to the front for some years to come. Wainwright, Peel and Hirst did most of the bowling, and often when the wicket helped them had some wonderful analyses. Foster, who made his mark in Yorkshire v M.C.C., at Lord's, was given a trial with slight success.

Yorkshire were handicapped in their fight for the championship by having, through the abandonment of the first Kent fixture, one match less than Surrey to play. In the circumstances it was to be regretted that another date could not be arranged by the counties. Yorkshire beat

Lancashire, Middlesex, Sussex, Nottinghamshire and Gloucestershire twice each, and also defeated Somerset and Kent. The weather spoilt the return match with the former. They were defeated by Surrey on a bad wicket at Sheffield and on a fine true pitch on the Oval.

One good feature in the Yorkshire game was the splendid fielding of the team. Tunnicliffe, at short slip, made many splendid catches.

MIDDLESEX

There was no lack of good points in the cricket of the Middlesex eleven and the county is once more third on the list. This position has been secured with eight wins and five losses – a record that stands out well when all the bad wickets of the season are called to mind.

Mr Stoddart has not been so successful as in some other seasons, and his failures in one or two instances made a great difference to the side. Still, he has the biggest aggregate. The wet summer was undoubtedly the cause of the fall of his averages from 47 last year to 23, with a decrease in his total runs of more than 500. Mr T C O'Brien did not play so much as in 1893; but he generally did well and he comes out first on the list.

One of the features in the season's doings was the rise in reputation of Mr R S Lucas, who played a very fine innings of 99 in the Middlesex uphill fight against Surrey on the Oval. That brilliant hitter, Mr F G J Ford, although playing less than half as much as last year, is again second on the list, while Mr M'Gregor, besides displaying his great ability in wicket-keeping, again rendered his side great service as a batsman. Cricketers seem apt to forget that Mr M'Gregor in his Cambridge days was one of the best bats in the eleven. In the earlier matches of the season Mr A J Webbe, the captain, was in splendid form and getting plenty of runs, but the severe accident that he sustained while practising at the nets in Brighton necessitated his temporary absence from the team and the shock from the blow seemed to put him off his game in the rest of the season.

A useful recruit for the side was found in Mr L C V Bathurst, the Oxford slow left-hand bowler; but, of course, the brunt of the attack fell upon the shoulders of J T Hearne and Rawlin. The former's superb pitch and break make him one of the best hard-wicket bowlers we have; but there is a general feeling that he is worked too hard in the first two months of the season.

Middlesex beat Surrey at Lord's, Nottinghamshire at Lord's and Lancashire at Liverpool; they won both their matches with Somerset and Sussex and the Lord's match with Gloucestershire. Yorkshire beat them twice and Kent, Surrey and Lancashire once. The drawn games at Clifton and Trent-bridge were both greatly in their favour.

KENT

It is almost surprising that Kent's record is not better than the six losses and six wins, with which they divide the fourth position on the list with Lancashire. They did very well up to the time when they beat Surrey at Catford; but from that date their fortune changed. In the same week they were beaten by Sussex and afterwards they lost to Surrey, Somerset and Yorkshire.

The splendid batting of Mr Rashleigh in several of the matches, the brilliancy of Mr Marchant's driving and cutting, and the capital form in which Mr Wilson, Mr Mason, Mr Weigall and Mr

Stewart played made the side powerful and quick scorers, while Walter Hearne and Martin bowled with great effect, the former being very deadly on the bad wickets. The fielding was not quite up to the mark, and to this fact could be traced some of the county's ill fortune.

The programme was reduced to 15 matches in consequence of the abandoned fixture with Yorkshire at Bradford. The side was captained throughout by Mr F Marchant, and Mr W H Patterson played only a very little cricket. Next year the eleven will probably be strengthened by the inclusion of Mr G J Mordaunt, the best bat at Oxford this summer, who will play under the residential qualification. Kent's victories were over Lancashire and Gloucestershire (twice each), and Middlesex and Surrey.

LANCASHIRE

The success of Lancashire in the last six weeks of their season did something to balance the earlier losses. Up to the end of June the side had won only a single match, against six defeats. However, the team played splendid cricket all through the latter part of July and August and came out with a very respectable record.

They were dependent on Mold and Briggs for nearly the whole of their bowling and both these men had fine records. Mold in the last few matches, however, drew right away from Briggs, who strained himself at Lord's and was so prevented from playing against Notts at Old Trafford. Otherwise he would doubtless have secured a three-figure aggregate.

Mr M'Laren, a brilliant batsman and a fine field, generally captained the side, who in London were seen at their best, perhaps, in the match with Middlesex at Lord's, which followed the tie match on the Oval with Surrey. They wound up their season, too, with a very fine win over Nottinghamshire. Albert Ward, who had an aggregate of 1,035 and an average of 36 last season, drops to third place on the list this year with 26. Baker played very well and Frank Sugg and Mr M'Laren were both in fine form all through the season. A good man was found in Mr S M Tindall in the later matches, in which also Mr C Smith proved himself a capable wicket-keeper, while Mr G R Bardswell, the Oxford slow bowler, promises to be of considerable aid to the side.

Lancashire beat Gloucestershire and Sussex twice, and also gained victories over Middlesex, Nottinghamshire and Somerset. Their seven defeats were suffered at the hands of Kent (two), Yorkshire (two), Surrey, Middlesex and Nottinghamshire.

SOMERSET

Although not a slow-wicket side, Somerset had a fairly good season, in which the batting of Messrs Hill, L C H Palairet and Woods was the best feature. The retirement of Mr H T Hewett from county cricket was of course a serious loss to the side, but Mr Woods, who succeeded him in the captaincy, was in splendid form. His strenuous work in the field, with the ball, and at the wicket was a brilliant example, the force of which was not lost on the side. Mr Woods's batting feats at the Oval against Surrey were among the best things achieved in any county cricket of the season. He scored over 500 runs and took more than 50 wickets. Mr Woods was a great captain at Cambridge and he has gained fresh honours by his leadership of the Somerset eleven.

The return to form of Mr V T Hill was heartily welcomed, while Mr L C H Palairet, who long ago established his name as a sound cricketer, played as brilliantly as ever; his best innings was the

wonderful 119 against Notts at Trent-bridge, when he only just missed winning the match for Somerset.

The side is strong in batting, and in bowling, too, the figures come out well. Tyler was very successful all through the season, and Captain Hedley and Nichols also did good work. Somerset have three fine wicket-keepers in Mr Gay, Mr Newton and the Rev A P Wickham, but in the Canterbury match they were unable to secure the services of any one of these.

They beat Kent, Gloucestershire and Sussex twice each, but lost two matches with Middlesex and Surrey, and were also beaten by Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Nottinghamshire.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Nottinghamshire eleven have had a very bad season. Only four matches were won against eight lost, a record that is worse than last year's. In the early matches the team varied considerably, but as the season advanced the side became more regular.

The causes of the misfortunes which overtook the county were various. Perhaps the chief were the inability of Arthur Shrewsbury to help in the batting and the absence of a good fast bowler. Mee was nothing like so effective as he was last year and Shacklock was left out altogether. Attewell is still a pretty good bowler, but he does not get wickets as he used to, while the county was unable always to secure the services of their new young players.

Sherwin was left out permanently, and the committee eventually tried Pike, who made his mark in the Easter Monday colts' match. In this professional they have certainly a fine wicket-keeper, whose style and execution left a good impression everywhere. Barnes, after a long and brilliant career with Nottinghamshire, has dropped out of the side, but the cricket world will always think of him as one of the greatest players ever possessed by the county.

Mr C W Wright batted better than in any other season, and Mr Dixon also did pretty well. Flowers, too, met with much success. Gunn's health troubled him considerably, but in the later fixtures he recovered his form and played fine cricket. Still, Shrewsbury was absent, and the loss of a man who used so regularly to get his thousand runs a season is not easily balanced.

Nottinghamshire's four victories were against Kent, Somerset, Lancashire and Gloucestershire.

SUSSEX

A most indifferent summer for Sussex was brightened up a little by their successes in the last week of July, when Notts were beaten by them for the first time for upwards of 20 years, and when they also gained an easy win on a false wicket over Kent at Catford-bridge. They lost 11 matches and won only three, a record that compares ill with that of last year, when the side played very much better than had been the case for many seasons. But the wet weather and the false wickets have caused the side to go back.

A good deal of this ill-success can be ascribed to the failure of some of their best batsmen, notably Mr W L Murdoch and Mr Brann, whose aggregates of 965 and 689 in 1893 have sunk this year to 425 and 269. Marlow, Bean and Mr Newham all worked hard, and Mr C B Fry, the Oxford captain,

going into the team at the end of the University term, did very well in batting.

Sussex suffers, however, from its weakness in bowling. The veteran Shaw was called to the aid of the side after a long absence from first-class cricket, and the old Nottingham slow bowler showed that he still possessed his wonderful pitch, for he secured first place on the averages with 12.24. Parris promises to be of great use. The wickets generally were unsuited to lobs, so Walter Humphreys, who took 122 wickets last year, has not done nearly so well this year. The third victory of Sussex was gained over Gloucestershire.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire's record shows 13 matches lost out of the 16 played. Their games in May with Sussex and Nottinghamshire were won, after which there was a whole series of defeats, broken only by a drawn game in August with Middlesex. They were beaten twice by Surrey, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Kent and Somerset, and once each by Notts, Middlesex and Sussex.

There is not a batting average of 20 in the whole list, and Dr W G Grace, although in the general season he has done well, was singularly unfortunate when playing for the county. Roberts did most of the work in bowling, while late in the season Mr Frank Townsend's son and Mr G L Jessop gave useful aid. Mr Ferris showed no signs of having recovered his bowling skill; but he often batted steadily. There is plenty of young and promising blood in the eleven.

The following is the table of results: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	16	13	2	1	11
Yorkshire	15	12	2	1	10
Middlesex	16	8	5	3	3
Kent	15	6	6	3	0
Lancashire	16	7	7	2	0
Somerset	16	6	7	3	-1
Nottinghamshire	16	4	8	4	-4
Sussex	16	3	11	2	-8
Gloucestershire	16	2	13	1	-11

3 September: EAST v WEST

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4236.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 September, page 5)

The conditions for this match on the United Services Ground, Portsmouth, yesterday, were not very favourable. Rain fell so persistently through the morning as to prevent any cricket until the afternoon, and even when a start was made the atmosphere was dull and chilly, and this no doubt furnished the cause of the small attendance. The cricketing day was reduced to two hours and a half; but in this time the spectators saw some very good play.

Although losing Mr Stoddart early the East began pretty well and had still four wickets left when stumps were drawn. Mr C W Wright, who went in first, made many fine drives, while Alec Hearne helped him to put on 49 in 40 minutes. He stayed until the end of an hour, when at 70 he was third out. Messrs Read and Lucas added 37, and Mr Weigall, going in fourth wicket down at 107, batted steadily. The sides, which are captained by Messrs Wright and Hewett, possess plenty of good talent.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 September, page 4)

The East had the better of the play at Portsmouth yesterday, when the conditions of the game were altogether an improvement on those which existed on Monday. Both the weather and the cricket were brighter and there was a good attendance.

Nearly two and a half hours were occupied by the East in completing their innings, in which six men were out for 149. The last four more than doubled the runs gained overnight. It was after the seventh wicket had fallen at 160 that the game changed so favourably for the East. Mr Weigall, who had gone in at 107, and Walter Wright put on 63, when the amateur was dismissed. Cutting was the chief feature of his batting, and he hit four fours and eight threes. J T Hearne stayed while 23 were added; but Martin and Walter Wright made a brilliant stand for the last wicket, and in three-quarters of an hour obtained 59 runs. Martin, after an early escape, batted vigorously; but Walter Wright played more cautiously.

For the West of England Mr Hewett and Mr Murdoch made a splendid start, scoring 95 in 80 minutes. The Sussex captain was then out; and at 100, Mr Hewett was well caught for a brilliant 77. He began with some uncertainty, but afterwards played brilliantly. He hit five fours in one over of Alec Hearne's and altogether made 10 fours. Five of the side went for 115, and then Mr Ferris and Mr Townsend put on 45. At the close the West with four wickets in hand required 54 to save the follow on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 September, page 8)

At Portsmouth yesterday the West, who had lost six wickets for 172, still wanted 54 to save the follow-on. The fine batting of the not-outs, Messrs Townsend and Gay, quickly set at rest any doubts on this head. Before they were separated 53 runs had been added to the overnight figures.

Mr Gay had played vigorously and well; but the honours of the side were carried off by young Mr

Townsend. He was ninth out at 257, after a stay of two hours, during which he played a sound and steady game, scoring 79 out of the 145 put on while he was batting. In the end the West finished their innings 33 runs behind.

The East lost Mr Robinson for 22 before the interval, after which Messrs Stoddart and Lucas played fine free cricket and scored altogether 83 for the second wicket, 62 being obtained in about 35 minutes. With six of the side dismissed for 129, Mr C W Wright closed his innings and left the West with 163 to make in an hour.

Mr Hewett batted brilliantly and with Mr Murdoch scored 71 without being separated, but in the end the game was drawn. There were a good many spectators, who followed the cricket keenly.

3 September: XI OF YORKSHIRE v XI OF LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4237.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 September, page 5)

Bad weather made a material reduction in the cricket hours at Scarborough yesterday, when the last match of the festival began. The sides which took the field were not quite up to the full strength of the counties of Yorkshire and Lancashire. From the former the chief men absent were Mr F S Jackson and Mr Ernest Smith, while Briggs, who is still indisposed through the injury which befell him at Lord's, Mr Tindall and C Smith are away from Lancashire.

Play extended over three hours and a half, and during this time the Lancashire innings was got through. Between 12.20 and 1.50, when the rain stopped the game, the visitors lost three men for 72. Sugg, who went in second wicket down at 31, batted brilliantly, scoring 42 out of 56 in 40 minutes, and was out soon after the renewal of the match at ten minutes to 4. Baker was caught in the deep field for a vigorous 30; but Ward played with every care. Tinsley was the last of the batsmen who made any stand and after the sixth wicket had gone the end of the innings was rapidly reached. Yorkshire fielded and bowled excellently on a cold and windy day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 September, page 4)

There was an excellent day's cricket at Scarborough yesterday. Although cold, the weather was bright and the company numbered between four and five thousand persons.

On Monday the visitors had played an innings of 181; but up to luncheon time yesterday Yorkshire seemed likely to do much better than this, as they scored 108 for three wickets. Subsequently, however, Oakley, a medium-pace bowler, met with great success and secured six of the last seven wickets at a cost of 17 runs, while after the interval, in the course of an hour, the balance of the innings was completed for an additional 44.

The best feature of the Yorkshire batting was the play of Brown, who without a bad mistake scored 53; he went in first wicket down at 24 and was fourth to leave at 108, well caught at slip. His chief hits were three fours. Lord Hawke and Mr Mitchell, who ran himself out when in good form, and Peel all batted capably; but Lancashire in the end secured a lead of 29.

Mr MacLaren's brilliant driving and cutting characterized the second innings of the visitors. He made 42 – in which were seven fours – of the 60 put on before he was second out. Lancashire are now 132 ahead with seven wickets to fall. Play begins to-day at 11 and will cease at half-past 4, so as to enable those of the cricketers who have to appear at Hastings to-morrow to leave by the evening train for the South.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 September, page 8)

This match was abandoned yesterday owing to the state of the turf. The score was published in The Times yesterday.

Wednesday 5 September, page 4: Walter Price, the well-known member of the Marylebone Ground staff at Lord's, died yesterday at Ruddington, Notts, after a long illness. He was born in 1834 and played for Nottinghamshire in 1869; but he was better known as a coach and umpire than as a player. He succeeded A Diver as coach at Rugby School in 1876; but he soon returned to his post at Lord's.

Thursday 6 September, page 8: THE HASTINGS FESTIVAL

The Hastings matches have acquired a great deal of popularity and the large attendances at the grounds in past years have left a substantial fund for the carrying out of the festival. This season's programme embraces matches between North and South and Gentlemen and Players, the former of which begins at noon to-day . . .

6 September: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4238.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 September, page 4)

The Hastings festival opened successfully in every way yesterday. Except for a couple of trivial interruptions owing to passing showers, the weather was fine and bright, and the attendance was one of the largest ever known in connexion with the festival. The cricket was reduced by the short delays and the necessity of an early termination to rather less than three hours and a half.

Nearly all the whole of this time was devoted to the innings of the North, who were captained by Mr A T Kemble, the Lancashire wicket-keeper. The turf played well and the average rate of run-getting was a little over 60 an hour. The North made even a bigger score than at one time seemed probable, for in spite of all the brilliant efforts of Frank Sugg, at the luncheon interval five men had been dismissed for 87. Mr Mitchell, who made such a big reputation by his heavy scores at Cambridge at the beginning of the summer, played very well at the start, but just as he was set he was caught at wicket.

Fine cricket was displayed during the partnership between Sugg and Gunn, who put on 43 before the latter was run out in attempting a short single. Sugg had been missed by Mr Stoddart at third man – an error that cost the South immense trouble. Lockwood's splendid bowling, however, soon disposed of Brown, Albert Ward and Tunnicliffe, and it was the rapid downfall of these men that made the luncheon record of the North appear very moderate.

Subsequently there was steady batting by one or two of the members of the side, but Sugg's brilliant 71 was the best innings of the day. He went in first and was sixth out at 117, when he was stumped through the ball rebounding off the wicket-keeper's pads. His innings occupied about two hours and, except for the chance to Mr Stoddart, contained few errors. Fine driving was the characteristic of his play and he hit seven fours, five threes and seven twos. Lockwood bowled splendidly. The South went in for a few minutes . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 September, page 7)

Another large crowd gathered on the ground at Hastings yesterday and saw a capital day's cricket, in which the North steadily gained an advantage. The conditions were again favourable, except that in the morning, when the South were batting, the bowlers received some aid from the turf through the effects of a heavy dew.

Martin and J T Hearne, who had been sent in for a few minutes overnight, made a bright beginning and the strokes of each man were hard and well timed. Hearne was very successful, and the score was taken from three to 59 before he gave a catch to short-slip. He obtained seven fours. With all their best batsmen to come in the South seemed to hold a good position against their rivals' score of 190; but the prospect changed materially during the next half an hour, and a spell of success was followed by a struggle to save the follow-on. Davidson and Peel bowled remarkably well, and Abel, Mr Hewett, Mr Stoddart and Dr Grace were all got out so cheaply that when the sixth wicket went the score was only 77 – five wickets had gone for 18 runs.

But cricket's uncertainty was shown by the next partnership. Mr W W Read and Brockwell played

well and 43 were added before Brockwell was caught at slip. Mr W W Read did not long survive him, as he gave mid-off a catch at 124. Mr Murdoch threw some vigour into his game, and in the end the innings finished for 152 and 20 minutes past 3. Thus were the North possessed of a lead of 38.

In their second innings the early batsmen played extremely well. Mr Mitchell hit Lockwood four times to the boundary and was only out to a splendid return catch. Gunn also made many good strokes, although his stay was brief. In an hour and three-quarters the North scored 109, and to-day they enter upon the game with a lead of 147 and six wickets to fall. Mr W W Read, who was struck on his left hand while batting, injured his right in fielding and had to retire.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 September, page 5)

There was a heavy fall of rain during Friday night and the early hours of Saturday morning and, although the weather cleared up, it was found necessary to abandon the North v South match owing to the state of the pitch . . .

In the afternoon, on a fresh wicket, Dr W G Grace and Mr Kemble captained the sides in a scratch match . . .

Monday 10 September, page 5: LORD HAWKE'S AMERICAN TEAM

Early on Saturday morning the members of Lord Hawke's team, who are going to make a short tour in the United States, playing, among other places, at New York, Philadelphia and Boston, left Waterloo Station for Southampton, where they embarked on the New York . . .

10 September: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4239.html)

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

It was a bowlers' wicket at Hastings yesterday, and a powerful batting side representing the Players were got out at a small cost. The Hastings executive had not been very successful in their endeavours to secure the leading amateur bowlers, and it was generally felt before the start that the Gentlemen would labour under a considerable disadvantage. But the turf had not got over the effects of Saturday's rain, and the false pitch reduced the chances of the teams to pretty much the same level.

Mr Stoddart and Mr Ferris kept such an excellent length, and got on so much break, that they achieved the feat of disposing of a great Players' eleven for a meagre 85. Both Abel and Brockwell went at five, after which Ward stayed with Gunn a long while and was in about 40 minutes for his first run. Wickets were steadily captured and the balls from Mr Stoddart that beat the batsmen were all very good. Gunn was fifth to leave, caught at cover-point at 38. Lockwood hit hard and Peel played carefully, but there was not much merit in the batting, and by half-past 3 the innings ended. The start had taken place at 12.35 and the luncheon interval was a little longer than usual. Messrs Stoddart and Ferris's analyses were very good.

It was left to the Gentlemen to furnish the best batting of the day; and the spectators were well pleased with the cricket displayed by Dr W G Grace and Mr Stoddart, who made 58 in 55 minutes for the first wicket. Mr Stoddart was quite himself in driving and cutting, while Dr Grace threw into the game some of his old precision in placing and hitting. Mr Ferris profited a little by an error in the field, but he and Messrs Murdoch and Newham were out before the close. The Gentlemen, with six wickets in hand, are already nine runs ahead, so that their position is at present very favourable.

Mr H V Page played instead of Mr Read, who injured both his hands in the previous match, while Dr Grace's son took Mr Woods's place. The weather was good and a large number of spectators visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 September, page 4)

It is always pleasant to record a big innings by Dr W G Grace, and all the more pleasant to do so now at the end of a season made grievous to batsmen by many wet days and much false turf. Dr Grace is close upon his hundredth three-figure score in first-class play; this 131 in the 98th.

His batting yesterday was so full of powerful precision as to make the spectators wonder that this could be the man who has seen 30 years of first-class cricket, for "W.G." was in the Gentlemen v Players match when he was only 16, and last July his age reached 46. At times yesterday he scored fast, making 42 in 35 minutes and 62 in an hour. His play was marked all through by much of his old skill and power, the former being demonstrated by the correctness of his "placing." His famous stroke just out of reach of cover-point was repeated again and again.

The advantage which overnight it seemed probable would be gained by the Gentlemen, who with six wickets in hand were nine runs ahead, proved very substantial. Mr F Mitchell, whose career this

season has not fulfilled the early promises given by his play at Cambridge, did better than he has done for a long time. The wicket had completely recovered and the bowlers were pretty severely treated. Changes were therefore frequent. Lockwood and J T Hearne were followed by Martin and A Hearne, and then came on Peel and Mold. A ball from Alec Hearne was driven out of the ground by Dr Grace, who reached his 100 at a quarter to one, when he had been in for two hours and 40 minutes. Soon afterwards Mr Mitchell, is trying to pull a short ball from Peel, was bowled. Five of the side were now out for 198.

Apart from the rest of the captain's innings, there was nothing more of note in the batting. Young Grace stayed in some little time. Lockwood resumed bowling at 239 and Dr Grace was soon caught from him at the wicket. His 131 was scored with scarcely a fault, and the only bad stroke was a ball he put into the slips at 50, when J T Hearne endeavoured to make a catch with his left hand. In the end the Gentlemen secured a lead of 162. J T Hearne's bowling analysis came out well.

The Players in the last two hours made a vigorous effort to get on even terms, and were so far successful that the arrears of 162 were reduced to 57 at the cost of one wicket. Brockwell played finely, and he and A Hearne scored 47, while with Albert Ward and Brockwell together 58 more were added. The amateur bowlers did some good work; but the condition of the turf had greatly changed and the weakness of their attack was soon exposed.

Yesterday there were more spectators than on any previous day during this season's festival. The present state of the game holds out a fair promise of good cricket to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 September, page 5)

The Hastings Festival came to an end yesterday with another good day's cricket. As the weather was fine and the wicket remained hard and true, the position of the game held out small hope of any definite issue being reached, for the Gentlemen's bowling was not difficult to play on a sound pitch.

The game went, in its early stages at least, as most people must have expected, and the reason of the loss of so many good batsmen in the last hour lay in the fact that to win the match it was necessary to score at the rate of 100 runs an hour. With the exception that Saturday was spoilt by the night's rain, the festival has been favoured by the fine weather which has become almost proverbial in connexion with it, and the good attendances at the matches will no doubt have the effect of increasing an already substantial fund. The programme was well carried out under the direction of Mr W Carless and his committee, to whom its success must be very gratifying.

Although there was no lack of excellence in the batting yesterday, and Brockwell, with a finished 81, broke the spell of ill-fortune which has of late been his, the day's cricket fell a little flat after the great innings by Dr Grace on Tuesday. The Players stayed in most of the time and then declared their innings closed. Brockwell and Albert Ward played steadily and well, and their partnership yielded 105 runs. Ward, who was stumped by the ball rebounding off the wicket-keeper's pads, had been always content to wait for the bad balls to hit, and as the bowlers kept a pretty good length his scoring was slow. The Gentlemen were handicapped a little through Mr Stoddart, owing to a strain, only bowling a few overs. Brockwell was third out at 157; his 81 was a faultless innings, in which he had shown more care than usual, for he was in three and a quarter hours. He hit nine fours.

After these dismissals there was a stand by Gunn and Abel; but the batting was very quiet, no liberty was taken with the bowling and luncheon had intervened before Gunn gave a catch to the

wicket-keeper. He and Abel had obtained 77 in 90 minutes. Mr Mitchell, going on at 265, got a couple of wickets, and then, after Abel had reached his 50, Gunn closed the Players' innings, leaving the Gentlemen with 107 to make in just over 65 minutes.

Dr Grace sent in the hitters first; but the bowling was not of a kind to be treated lightly, and the only man who met with much success in forcing the game was Mr Mitchell, who scored 28 of the first 46 in half an hour. Other wickets fell, and at the close the Gentlemen, with three men in hand, wanted 34 to win.

Wednesday 12 September, page 4: MR STODDART'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Some anxiety has been experienced through the injury sustained by John Briggs in the Lancashire and Middlesex match at Lord's. Yesterday, however, Mr Stoddart received from him the information that he was almost well and hoped to be quite so by the 21st inst., when the team sail in the Orient boat Ophir for the colonies.

(From a correspondent)

Just as old sportsmen adhere to the fashion of hunting for their game whenever possible, so in cricket many of the old school exist who protest against any extraneous excitement, beyond the pleasure derived from witnessing each match during its progress and noticing the excellence of the players in every department; and added to this there is "the glorious uncertainty of cricket."

Last year the subject of "first" and "second" class was discussed owing to an outburst of indignation by the old Yorkshire president, whose wrath was mainly directed against the title "Champion County." The question was taken up very warmly in the Press, a section of which had inaugurated the "county classification" and "championship" on its own authority, having deposed Derbyshire a few years since on the ground that the county did not win a single match out of eight during a whole season, and having later on promoted Somerset, as a reward for the success of its elevens. No one with any sense could deny that Somerset was a foremost county and worthy of high rank, if rank is to be recognized.

For some seasons Gloucestershire and Sussex have been within a very short distance of the Derbyshire failure. If Gloucestershire had accomplished the "zero" feat of Derbyshire, what would the real cricketing world have thought if the self-appointed critics had left out of the "first class" a county which contained the real champion of England, Dr W G Grace, and his brother, Dr E M Grace, who, in spite of the originality of his style, is so great a terror to his friendly foes?

One is tempted sometimes to ask for information as regards the value of the opinions so confidently put forward by unknown authorities, who claim to make and unmake counties and to assign championships. It would be of some value to learn how many of the writers could point to a score-book in which their names have appeared as participators in any match of importance. "Importance," however, is hardly a word, as all matches are important to lovers of the game, who follow it loyally, whether their performances are very good or otherwise. It would be better to say "matches in which some of the leading professional players are engaged." No one can accurately assay the value of a cricketer's performance unless he has been "under fire" to first-class professionals and has passed many a long summer day "leather hunting."

Early in the present year the captains of nine counties, whose elevens have played a round of matches for some years, had to meet on the subject of the "follow-on" law; and without tuck of drum or blast of trumpet, or any notice of motion or formality, the Yorkshire captain put it to his brother cricketers whether, as some unknown authorities had styled the nine counties "first-class," they had not better at once announce that they considered four other counties – Derbyshire, Essex, Leicester and Warwickshire – as on equal footing with themselves. The suggestion was agreed to unanimously then and there, subject to the approval of two captains who were absent, and whose approval was signified immediately afterwards.

Captains of counties are the proper people to take such steps as these. They are men of honour who have won their spurs and are always anxious to "level-up" and encourage all rising talent and to share with new recruits all the glories of the game. An outcry arose amongst the "anarchists" – as self-appointed arbiters of tournaments may be styled – that the four new counties should not be reckoned in the championship, which they maintain is essential to public interests. There is no law to prevent the "anarchists" having a mode of reckoning victories and of assaying merits of cricketers in their own way just as the three tailors of Tooley-street did as regarded the English

Government, but they should be a little more logical. In one breath almost they declared that they would ignore the four new counties and at the same time scolded the captains for leaving out Hants from those which they promoted. Doubtless Hants will sooner or later be promoted by acclamation, and as time rolls on more counties will find a higher level. But captains of counties should take matters authoritatively into their own hands and settle outstanding questions and do away with the meddle-and-muddle which now exists.

A scheme has been suggested for reviving the county council. Somehow it extinguished itself – if it is legally extinguished. Perhaps its collapse was occasioned by there being too many cooks and too much canvassing behind the scenes. The shortest solution of all difficulties is to leave them to captains and presidents of counties who can come to conclusions without the aid of the public. The “public” are capital fellows and have an excellent sixpennyworth throughout the season, but it is not within the province of the public to dictate how the game is to be played but clubs on whose shoulders rest the anxieties and expense of management. Thackeray said that the fault of the foreign policy of England was that the English ministers were too fond of poking the fires and criticizing the cuisine of foreign nations before they had known them for seven years. This is the failing of the anarchists who meddle with cricket. Any one who goes into the pavilion of the Marylebone Club, whose affairs have been, and still are, managed by gentlemen whose names are world-known, would find on inquiry that 19 out of 20 members will tell you that they wish the words “first” and “second” class and “championship” had never been heard of.

Look at the value of the championship to Surrey now. Some of the papers stated that the championship was “wrenched” out of the hands of Yorkshire. Is it possible that the word intended was not “drenched,” the “order of succession” being attributable to the weather? At Taunton on August 26 the rain came down in torrents and robbed Yorkshire of their almost certain victory over Somerset. At Brighton on the same day it was fine, so Surrey was enabled to beat Sussex; and at the Oval the celebrated “tie match” was occasioned by a downpour of rain on August 18, when Lancashire went in for 75 runs, and the wicket was unplayable against the Surrey fast bowling.

In fact, the championship was a sheer “fluke.” No one doubts that last year Yorkshire and Surrey were the two strongest counties, but what is the real value of championship to either, especially under the circumstances just mentioned? Look at the proceedings of the new counties – Warwickshire beat Notts, Surrey and Kent; Leicestershire beat Yorkshire and Surrey; Derbyshire beat Lancashire and Yorkshire; Essex had a bad time in 1894. The enterprise of Essex has been somewhat dampened owing to their splendid cricket ground (which really is most accessible) being on the east side of London; but the efforts which the county has made and the struggles with difficulties are beyond praise. All their professionals are on the staff at Lord’s. Does not the omission of defeats by what some call “second-class counties” from the calculation of “county championships” seem somewhat cowardly? Does it not seem rather like saying, “We first-class counties will give you a match, if you please, but we cannot risk the chance of your bowlers getting our best men out, and therefore cannot allow the match to count in the championship”? All this kind of thing is against the spirit of cricket, when one side plays a game which is not to count if lost.

Success of counties depends much on the state of the exchequer, and regarding the question of rank and precedence as a whole from a sportsman’s point of view, those who under difficulties have established county grounds and have formed county elevens for the love of the game ought to be supported in every way by the public opinion of those who love English sports; and chivalrous cricketers will hold up both hands against the domination of a cockney crowd.

The “championship” and “average” school may not be aware of the fact that a very large number of

the professional cricketers at Lord's come from what that school calls "second-class counties." The truth of this statement may be verified by reference to the Marylebone Club and ground elevens during August, when most of the professionals of the "first-class" counties are finishing their engagements in the country. In fact, an eleven chosen from the "first-class" counties would have no absolute certainty of beating an eleven chosen from the other counties. Any real lover of cricket who saw the last two August matches – two days only – between the M.C.C. and counties comparatively unknown in the London circuit, such as Cheshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Worcestershire, and the school matches, Rugby and Marlborough and Cheltenham and Haileybury, &c., witnessed much interesting cricket, inasmuch as many members of the M.C.C. who do not take part in the three-day matches, and who are ready to supply a place in the club eleven, are admirable cricketers, and spectators have the pleasure of seeing new faces.

And many of their August matches are most exciting. During last August those who were at Lord's saw a most exciting contest and much interesting cricket between Cheltenham and Haileybury, which the former won by one run; and in the M.C.C. v Cheshire match the latter won a desperate fight by six runs; and in the Oxfordshire v M.C.C. two brothers on the Oxfordshire side, who were educated at Bloxham College, got the whole wickets of M.C.C. except one – 15 wickets being clean bowled.

As a general rule the conduct of crowds on cricket grounds is admirable, but clouds, no bigger than a man's hand at present, have appeared during last season. At Taunton one of the best and fairest of county bowlers was hooted; in a Gloucestershire match the Grace brothers had to be guarded off the ground owing to the uproar of the crowd; at Notts the crowd so jeered at one of the best Notts players that he wrote to the papers stating that he would withdraw from the game; at the Oval there was a disgraceful, noisy exhibition by the crowd because the game had to be drawn; and at Lord's, in one of the August matches, a number of the spectators came in front of the pavilion, when play was stopped owing to the want of light, and made an angry protest, although the gas was lit at the refreshment stall at the time. One thing ought to be done once for all, and that is for the presidents and captains of counties to put a firm foot down on the present false system and to establish some mode of reckoning which all can adopt.

Old cricketers and supporters of the game in fair weather and foul have a right to protest against mob dictation and, above all, to call on captains to suppress the disgraceful shouting at umpires by the crowd with the object of "snapping a judgment" in favour of "county championship."

14 September: W W READ'S XI v W G GRACE'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/209/209560.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 15 September, page 6)

At Reigate yesterday there was a great triumph of batsmen, and Dr Grace's son eclipsed everything by taking out his bat for 148. This innings is perhaps the best thing he has done in cricket of any importance, although in college matches at Cambridge he has often met with much success. The strength of his game seems to be in the off-drive, into which he puts much power; but his endeavour to cut was not yesterday characterized by precision, with the result that there were various weak strokes in the slips. Yet only one serious error occurred in his long innings, and that was with his score at 59, when he was easily missed at short-slip. At times his batting became very steady, and especially was this the case in the hour following luncheon; but generally it was an innings of great merit, and when once he passed the 100 he threw great vigour into his game. He went in second wicket down at eight and was in altogether about four hours, his chief hits being 15 fours and eight threes.

To begin with, Dr Grace's side fared badly, but the turn came after the fall of the fourth wicket at 41. Then young Grace had a succession of good partnerships. His father played brilliantly and helped to add 46 in 25 minutes, Street stayed while 54 were put on, and Wood and Smith shared partnerships with the captain's son of 84 and 77. A severe handicap was imposed on the other side, however, owing to Richardson's injuring his foot, his lameness necessitating his retirement at luncheon time. In the circumstances Mr W W Read sought the services of Nice, a Redhill professional, and the company saw the strange spectacle of a substitute going on to bowl. He was tried at each end without success.

Although good, the cricket scarcely reached the standard of last year, when Dr Grace himself scored 10; but the match seems to have secured wide popularity.

Day 2 (report from Monday 17 September, page 5)

Another interesting day's cricket was witnessed at the Reigate Priory ground on Saturday, when Mr W W Read's side played an up-hill game against their opponents' score of 338. They went in at a quarter to 12 and were batting until 4 o'clock, which, with an hour's luncheon interval, meant an innings of three hours and a quarter's duration.

At first the bowling was freely hit and, after Abel had gone at 28, Messrs Newham and Murdoch put on 65 in 40 minutes for the second partnership. It was an excellent catch at mid-on that dismissed Mr Newham, while Mr Murdoch left at 132. His 55 runs were made by sound and vigorous cricket, and included among his figures were nine fours. Brockwell played well for his 58, before being stumped at 217; he had gone in second wicket down at 93 and was the eighth to leave. His best partner was Mr Grayburn, who helped to add 45. Dr Grace bowled very successfully.

In the follow-on, which was made with arrears of 112, the chief feature of interest was the vigorous batting of Mr W W Read, who scored 49 out of 63 in 35 minutes and hit eight fours. The game was drawn. Dr Grace's team had much the best of it, eight of their opponents being out with only a balance of eight runs in hand.

17 September: GENTLEMEN OF THE SOUTH v PLAYERS OF THE SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4241.html)

Saturday 15 September, page 6

A few changes have been made in the Gentlemen's side for this match at Lord's on Monday, when Messrs T N Perkins, J J Ferris and F A G Leveson-Gower will probably be found among Dr Grace's Gentlemen's side. The proceeds of the game are for the benefit fund on G F Hearne, of Lord's.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 September, page 4)

The cricket season has been extended beyond the usual limits by the revival of the old-fashioned fixture between Gentlemen and Players of the South, at Lord's. The proceeds of the "gate" are to be added to the fund which is being raised as a testimonial to G F Hearne, of the Pavilion at Lord's, where he has worked for the Marylebone club for upwards of 20 years. It is scarcely necessary to point out that he is a member of the family whose name has grown famous in cricket history. He is the son of Tom Hearne, of Middlesex (the present head of the ground staff at Lord's) and a cousin of the Kent and Middlesex professionals.

This period of the year may be late for cricket, but at Lord's yesterday the ground was firm and the ball came along easily, so that in a season of bad wickets, the match has lost little through being put off until the last. Two capital sides have been got together. Mr Walter Read would have played, but he had not recovered from his accident at Hastings, while the Players were weakened at the last moment by the besides of Lockwood who was indisposed and had a substitute in the field all day. As the game went, it will not be took late for him to take his place in the team this morning, for the professionals can ill afford to lose his batting. There were about 4,000 spectators of a thoroughly good day's cricket.

The feature of the day was the splendid stand made by the two Sussex batsmen, Mr W L Murdoch and Mr W Newham, each of whom scored his hundred, without giving a chance, against good bowling and fielding. Their partnership began when Dr Grace and Mr L C H Palairt had been cheaply dismissed, and between 20 minutes to 1 and ten minutes to 4 they raised the score from 21 to 188. Mr Murdoch played splendidly, and his cutting and off-driving revived memories of his Australian seasons. He made his 104 out of 188 in rather less than three hours. He was ultimately out to a good catch low down at cover-point.

After this stand of 167 for the third wicket a "rot" set in, and the interest concentrated on the prospect of Mr Newham's 100. He batted with less vigour than Mr Murdoch, but his finished defence and his skill in getting runs in front of the wicket were remarkable. He saw several of his companions leave before he completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season, and then, just before 5 o'clock, there was loud cheering for his "century." But he did not stay much longer, for at 250 J T Hearne caught him at mid-off.

Of the other incidents of the day the best were the catch at mid-off which got rid of Mr Hewett (who did not force the game so vigorously as usual), a few hard hits by Mr S M J Woods, and the capital fielding of Bean at cover-point. J T Hearne and Mead bowled well. The Gentlemen were all out at 20 minutes to 6 and then stumps were pulled up. Subsequently Mr Hine-Haycock presented G F

Hearne with a gold souvenir from the 80 boys of the Foundling Hospital who are occasionally visitors to Lord's.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 September, page 4)

There have been few more pleasant afternoons at Lord's this season than that of yesterday, when, in addition to the fine, bright weather and the fast wicket, the cricket was good.

Abel, the popular Surrey professional, made the third three-figure score in the match and, like Mr Murdoch and Mr Newham, he played quite faultlessly. He went in first. After getting 50 he watched and played the ball with additional care. He made 104 out of 227 before he was dismissed by a ball from Mr Woods. He had several very useful partners. After Alec Hearne had been bowled in playing back to Mr Woods, Bean helped to put on 56 for the second wicket at a quick rate, and Brockwell's ten runs were sufficient to bring his aggregate of the season to the top. Maurice Read was bowled in trying to pull a ball from Mr Ford, and with his departure (fourth at 105), the best of the talent, apart from Abel (then not out 40), seemed exhausted.

But the prospect of a follow-on for the Players rapidly disappeared during the next partnership. George Hearne, of Kent, played in something approaching his old form and made many good cuts and drives, while Abel still did well. It was nearly 4 o'clock when the stand for the fifth wicket, which in 100 minutes had yielded 119 runs, was ended by a catch in the deep field that dismissed Hearne. Sound defence combined with plenty of vigour characterized his innings of 50. Abel was sixth to leave, after which a little brightness was given to the end of the innings by the hard hitting of West (who played for Lockwood) and Mead, the pair adding 25 in 12 minutes. But the Gentlemen's total was not reached. The clever running catch in the deep field that got rid of Mead was one of the best pieces of fielding during the day. Mr Woods and Dr Grace did most of the bowling and their analyses came out pretty well.

The Gentlemen in their second innings had 40 minutes' batting and scored 42. Mr Palairet, in endeavouring to steal a single, apparently in order that young Grace might not wholly fail as in the first innings, ran him out; the wicket was thrown down from short-leg by Butt. Mr Palairet afterwards played splendidly, and the present position of the game promises well for to-day, when the Gentlemen have all their best men in hand. There were about 5,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 September, page 4)

The excellence of the cricket in this match at Lord's was maintained to the last. Yesterday there were some 5,000 spectators of the brilliant batting of Mr Hewett, the old Somerset captain, and of the successful, though steadier, play of Brockwell and Abel. The bowling and the fielding were good, and the cricket season went out under the happiest conditions, for the weather, when once the sun had burst through the autumn morning mist, turned out beautifully fine and the wicket remained hard and true.

In the first hour the Gentlemen, who had lost one wicket overnight for 42, did so badly that there seemed every prospect of their being severely defeated. Messrs Ford and Palairet, the not-outs, carried the score to 59. Mr Palairet was bowled at 73 for a capital 36, and then in quick succession Dr Grace skied the ball to mid-off and Mr Murdoch was bowled. Thus, with the score only at 74, the Gentlemen found five of their best batsmen gone.

Messrs Hewett and Newham, however, put a different complexion on the game. The former started with a little uncertainty; but he soon gained confidence and drove with great power. Indeed, so vigorous was the batting that in half an hour 63 runs were added. Then Mr Newham left. Six for 137. The other four wickets, mainly owing to Mr Hewett, put on 60, and the innings was over just before 3 o'clock. Mr Hewett was the last to leave, cleverly caught in the long field by Abel.

Had the Players got their opponents out before luncheon they might have won; but as it was they were left with only two hours and ten minutes in which to make 206 for victory. Although the pitch remained good and the bowling not too difficult, this was a pretty big task and the Players could not accomplish it. The Gentlemen fielded splendidly; but 45 were made in half an hour. Brockwell and Abel played fine cricket and scored freely from Dr Grace and Mr Woods, but with Mr Ford and young Grace on the rate of run-getting slackened and steadiness was the characteristic of the batting for the rest of the day. The people followed the game closely and the batsmen were warmly cheered when they reached their fifties within a few minutes of each other.

Seven bowlers were tried, but the first wicket had put on 139 in rather less than two hours before Abel, in playing back to Mr Palairet, had his leg stump knocked out of the ground. He had followed up his 104 of Tuesday with 60, made in his best style, his driving, cutting and leg hitting being equally good. Bean came in, but Brockwell had not time to get his 100 as he had grown very cautious in his later play. When stumps were pulled up and the match left drawn the Players wanted 50 to win with nine wickets to fall. The "gate" on each day has been good and will prove a substantial addition to G F Hearne's testimonial fund.

Thursday 20 September, page 4: MR STODDART'S AUSTRALIAN TEAM

With the exception of Mr H Philipson, who will join the ship at Naples, the members of Mr Stoddart's team will leave Fenchurch-street station to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock to go on board the Orient liner Ophir at Tilbury.

The end of the cricket season has arrived under conditions that have not been too common this summer. Bright and genial weather and turf that enabled the batsmen to time the ball with some degree of certainty were experienced at Lord's in the last three days. Indeed the afternoon of yesterday was especially fine and made the parting with the national game all the more regretful.

This afforded a strong contrast to the end of the county championship competition, which was decided amidst rain storms and cold winds. In a year when the bowlers have so often been dominant through the aid given them by the soft and false wickets the batting averages compare less unfavourably with those of 1893 than might have been expected. Apart from the adverse weather the absence of the 36 Australian matches (nearly all played on dry turf) gave the batsmen fewer opportunities of distinguishing themselves.

This was in a slight degree counterbalanced by the decision of the Marylebone Club that the counties of Essex, Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire should in future come under the category of first-class. This step, supposed to be the first towards their accession to the championship contest, gave satisfaction to the general body of cricketers, although it would have been better had Hampshire also been included. The mistake made in their exclusion was emphasized by the great success which attended the county (within whose borders is the birthplace of cricket) in most of its matches. Probably, however, the M.C.C. may see fit to widen their circle in this respect.

Outside the Marylebone matches and those of the thirteen counties were Oxford v Cambridge and Gentlemen v Players. The Universities were fortunate in having a hard wicket to bat on, but the match proved dull and compared ill with many of the brilliant contests of past years, especially the game of 1892.

With regard to the Gentlemen v Players contests honours may fairly be said to have been divided. First in order of date came the Oval fixture, in which the Players were victorious by an innings and 27 runs; but in the encounter at Lord's, which may unquestionably be regarded as the foremost match of the year, the Gentlemen got the best of the wicket and won by an innings and 39 runs.

The Marylebone matches at Lord's were attentively watched and furnished plenty of excellent cricket. Yet the turf at headquarters suffered as much as that of any other ground from the bad weather. The wickets, therefore, were often reduced to that state in which a little courageous batting is far more profitable than all the skill of defence.

Warwickshire's success was among the topics that furnished the subject for much conversation among the cricket community, and they very forcibly demonstrated their right to the turn which the Marylebone ruling had given to their fortunes. The reputation gained by their early wins over Surrey, Notts and Kent was not much injured by their subsequent play. Derbyshire were another side that did pretty well, but Essex proved somewhat of a disappointment. They want another good bowler and a little more batting. The matches at the Festivals of Scarborough and Hastings yielded plenty of fine cricket.

As usual, the general averages include the chief matches of the Marylebone Club, the 13 first-class shires, the Universities, Gentlemen v Players, North v South, the Scarborough Festival and Gentlemen of the South v Players of the South. Glancing at the batting, it will be seen that the first place has been secured by Brockwell, of Surrey. He has not only the best average but the highest

aggregate. Last season he played a good all-round game and was well up in both bowling and batting. The manner in which he has leapt to first place is wonderful, and by his vigorous batting, chiefly shown on the Oval, he thoroughly merits his position. His play is most attractive to watch and his best stroke is the off-drive.

Abel, although some distance removed from Brockwell in the averages, has the second best aggregate, being only 44 less. It is not inappropriate that Surrey (the champion county) should thus be represented at the head of the list. However, the fine records last year of Mr Stoddart and Gunn (who then each made over 2,000 runs and had an average of 42) have not been reached. Mr Stoddart, although getting 1,174 at the rate of 30 an innings, had many spells of ill-fortune; while Gunn, curiously enough, receded in about the same degree.

One feature of the season will be gratifying to cricketers and that is the prominent place again secured by Dr W G Grace in the batting. Although dropping from 35 to 29, he is among those who have scored over 1,000 runs, which is something for a man to achieve after 30 years of first-class cricket. Few who saw his big innings at the Hastings Festival will forget the brilliancy of his batting. Indeed, the maintenance of his high position testifies every year to the splendid genius of his cricket.

Brown, of Driffield, one of Yorkshire's best bats, is well up in the list and has the third best aggregate. Mr F S Jackson and Mr L C H Palaret were often brilliant. One well-known name drops out altogether from the lists – Arthur Shrewsbury, whose ill-health has been the cause of a loss not only to his county, but to the general cricket public.

The chief honours in bowling are secured so regularly by professionals that no surprise will be felt by the absence of any substantial amateur record in the higher places on the list. In these figures may be found the secret of the fall in batting as compared with 1893. Then Peel's was the first of the three-figure aggregate of wickets with 121 for 14.28. But this season there are many better results. Mold, of Lancashire, has taken the large number of 207. He bowled with great effect on various grounds and, although his action is scarcely so good as formerly, his record will stand out as one of the features of the season.

Richardson is only 11 wickets behind him and has a lower average. Indeed, the Surrey men are again prominent, for Lockwood has an aggregate of 150. Fine bowling records are, in fact, very plentiful. J T Hearne, of Middlesex, has the third best aggregate, while Wainwright, Peel, Briggs, Walter Hearne, Martin, Attewell and Rawlin all run into three figures. Of the amateurs, Mr F S Jackson, Mr S M J Woods, Mr L C V Bathurst, Captain Hedley and Mr G R Bardswell all did a lot of hard work. The averages are as follows: -

[Note: the full batting and bowling averages for 1894 can be found through:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/1894_ENG.html]

We have received the following communication from Lord's: -

“The Committee of the M.C.C. having, at the request of the leading counties, prepared a scheme for regulating the county championship, and that scheme having met with the approval of county concerned, the contest for the championship will in future be regulated by it.

“The scheme as finally approved is as follows: -

“Classification of Counties.

“Cricketing counties shall be considered as belonging to the first-class, or not. There is no necessity for further sub-division.

“First-class counties are those whose matches, with one another, with M.C.C. and Ground, with the Universities, with the Australians, and such other elevens as shall be adjudged ‘first-class matches’ by the M.C.C. Committee, are used in compilation of first-class batting and bowling averages.

“There shall be no limit to the number of first-class counties. The M.C.C. Committee may bring new counties into the list, may remove existing ones from it, or may do both.

“The list for 1895 is as follows: - Derbyshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Nottingham, Somersetshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Yorkshire.

“The County Championship.

“After the close of each cricket season the Committee of M.C.C. shall decide the county championship.

“It shall be competed for by first-class counties. No county shall be eligible unless it should have played at least eight out and home matches with other counties, provided, that if no play can take place owing to weather, or other unavoidable cause, such match shall be reckoned as unfinished.

“One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss, unfinished games shall not be reckoned.

“The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county.”

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - On March 24 and September 14 a correspondent discussed this subject at considerable length in your columns, the purport of his remarks taking the form of a crusade against the terms "championship" and "first and second class," which he takes to be purely creations of the Press. He maintains in effect that they form no part of the vocabulary of true sport. As these questions are more than ever vexing the minds of cricketers and are bound to crop up at the impending meeting of secretaries, I have been at the trouble of unearthing a few facts to show the attitudes of cricketers and the Marylebone Club in regard to these matters during the last 20 years.

At the end of 1872 the M.C.C., "with a view to promote county cricket and to establish a new and interesting series of matches at Lord's Ground, offered a challenge cup for competition." Notices under the heading "Regulations for champion county cup matches" were sent out to the counties, the following being the chief of the 12 clauses: - 1. That a silver cup be offered for competition, to be called the County Challenge Cup. 2. Not more than six counties to compete. 5. Dates to be fixed and ties to be drawn by the M.C.C. 9. The county winning the final tie to hold the cup that year and produce it at the anniversary dinner. 11. The winner for three years in succession to hold the cup in perpetuity. 12. The name of the winning county, with date of the match, to be engraved on the cup at the cost of the M.C.C., by whom also all the usual expenses in connexion with the matches shall be borne.

I also have it on good authority that medals were to be presented to the members of the winning team. In reply to the notices five acceptances were received and ties were drawn. Two of the five counties, however, withdrew from the contest and, though the project failed, this "championship" scheme was all the more remarkable as emanating from the headquarters of the game itself. Is it not rather self-condemnatory for "19 out of 20 members of the M.C.C." to say "we wish the championship had never been heard of"?

In 1889 and for some years previously a custom had been in vogue of scoring half a point to each county in the event of a drawn game, and as the system did not work well Mr C F Pardon, the late editor of "Wisden's Almanack," obtained the written opinions of several cricketers as to the desirability of a change.

The following sent in replies, viz.: - The committees of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Kent, Derbyshire, Norfolk and Warwickshire, also Messrs E M Grace, C I Thornton, R A H Mitchell, A G Steel, I D Walker, W H Patterson, R Bencraft, S M J Woods, W H C Oates and Hon Ivo Bligh, as well as the professionals T Hearne, Lohmann, Peel, Attewell, Beaumont, Barlow, G F Hearne and Pullin. Of these Mr Steel expressed himself as averse to scoring by points, Kent were "indifferent" to the system used by the Press, while Yorkshire said "We see no necessity to enter into these questions as we do not recognize any arbitrary distinction between counties." Mr Bencraft was unable to obtain the opinion of the Hants committee, but of the rest the majority suggested methods of scoring for draws, and the remainder "would refer the question to authority."

Here, then, was another tacit recognition of the competition by several well-known players, for had not such a competition existed Mr Pardon's question would have been meaningless. However, on December 10, 1889, the whole of the first-class counties, including refractory Yorkshire, put their official seal on the championship by deciding that in future draws should be ignored and losses deducted from wins. On the same day the minor counties adopted the same plan.

The proceedings of the County Cricket Council, before it came to grief over the classification question, further exhibit the views held by some of our best-known cricketers. When Durham moved for an official classification and for establishing a means of promotion from one class to another the proposal found for a seconder none other than Lord Harris, than whom few men have done more for the welfare of the game. At the same meeting Mr W G Grace said "I think there must be classes. All the first-class counties should meet each other and the other counties should follow the same plan. There should also be some system of the highest of the second class taking the place of the lowest among the leading shires."

Subsequently, in August, 1890, the council passed a scheme which divided the counties into three classes, fixed a *minimum* of matches and established a method of promotion. The delegates who were responsible for this radical production were : - Messrs J Shuter (chairman), Hon Ivo Bligh, W G Grace, J B Wostinholm, W Newham, H W Bainbridge, A Wilson, T Burdett, H K Grierson, C E Green, T H Vialls and the Norfolk delegate.

Only last August Mr F S Jackson, in an interview with the York Monthly, remarked that "the championship did absolutely no harm and made the professionals very keen." Having placed these hard facts on record, it only remains for me to apologize for the space I have occupied and to subscribe myself

Your obedient servant

JOHN BERTRAM PAYNE

2, Holly-village, Highgate, N.

There was a thoroughly representative meeting of secretaries of the English county clubs at Lord's yesterday for the arrangement of next season's programme. As usual, it was held on the Tuesday in Cattle Show week; but this year the meeting gathered new interest from the scheme drawn up by the Marylebone Club Committee, who had taken a liberal view of the county championship by an extension that brought into the competition five fresh counties – Hampshire, Essex, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Warwickshire – and sent up the number of competitors from nine to 14. With eight home and home matches laid down as the *minimum* by which any of these counties was eligible for the championship, an increase in the fixtures was entailed if all the new counties were to come in.

Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the M.C.C., presided, and the others present were: - Mr A J Webbe, Mr I D Walker and Mr C I Thornton, Middlesex; Mr C W Alcock, Mr K J Key, Mr Denzil Onslow and Mr W W Read, Surrey; Lord Hawke, Mr M J Ellison and Mr J B Wostinholm, Yorkshire; Dr W G Grace, Gloucestershire; Mr W H Patterson, Mr F Marchant and Mr A J Lancaster, Kent; Mr W H Oates, Mr C W Wright, Mr E Brown and Mr W E Denison, Nottinghamshire; Mr W L Murdoch and Mr W Newham, Sussex; Mr H Murray-Anderdon, Mr S M J Woods and Mr T Spencer, Somerset; Mr J MacLaren, Mr S H Swire and Mr E B Rowley, Lancashire; Mr W Berkley-Delacombe and Mr Arthur Wilson, Derbyshire; Dr Russell Bencraft and Mr A J L Hill, Hampshire; Mr C E Green, Mr O R Borrodaile, Mr C M Tebbutt and Mr H G Owen, Essex; Sir Archibald Palmer, Mr J Perkins, Mr J Bonner and Mr H T Burdett, Leicester; Mr H W Bainbridge and Mr W Hansell, Warwickshire; Mr H Thornber, Cheshire; Mr G J Mordaunt and Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Oxford University; Mr F Mitchell, Cambridge University; Mr R H Mallett, Durham; Mr C Pigg, Hertfordshire; Mr T C Slaney and Mr T G Bagguley, Staffordshire; Mr H M Turner, Oxfordshire; Mr C M Thring, Bedfordshire; Mr J H Brown, Glamorganshire; Mr C G Buxton, Norfolk; Mr F Phillips, Monmouthshire; Mr P H Foley, Worcestershire; Mr A Worsley and Mr T J Mintoft, North and East Riding of Yorkshire; and Mr H T Hewett.

The meeting began at noon with the arrangement of the fixtures; but on returning after the luncheon adjournment, Mr Perkins addressed the secretaries on the subject of the new championship scheme drawn up by the M.C.C. Committee at the suggestion of the counties. He wished to know whether all the first-class counties had secured the *minimum* eight home and home fixtures which made them eligible for the championship. He was sure there was no desire to leave any shire out in the cold and he urged the secretaries to be generous in this matter.

In response to the question Mr C E Green said that Essex was not so fortunate as her neighbours, and only six home and home fixtures had been made. Sussex was mentioned as a likely county, but Messrs Murdoch and Newham explained that for financial reasons they could make no additional matches. Mr Perkins again appealed to the meeting, and said that this championship idea was that of the counties themselves and was being tried for the first time. He exhorted the counties to be generous and not to leave out Essex. He wished to mention, however, that, whatever matches were made by a county with any other first-class county, they would be calculated in the championship. Mr A J Webbe offered to help Essex out of the difficulty on the condition that some other county met them, and failing this he would move a resolution to the effect that seven instead of eight be the *minimum* number of home and home matches to qualify for the championship. Mr Murray-Anderdon said that Somerset would be happy to meet Essex, after which Mr C E Green cordially thanked Middlesex and Somerset for coming forward and lending a hand to a poor struggling county like Essex. Lancashire also offered Essex some provisional dates which have yet to be confirmed.

Later in the meeting Lord Hawke called attention to a subject of much dissatisfaction – i.e., the one regarding umpires. He hoped he had a solution for the difficulty and that the meeting would be with him. This was, that each county should nominate as many umpires as they liked to the Marylebone Club by the 1st of February. Afterwards he would call a meeting of the captains of the counties to talk over the subject, and among the various propositions might be one for the raising of the payment from £5 to £6 a match; this was a small item when “gates” possessed the substance that was pretty general nowadays. He thought the question as to efficiency could be well settled by the captains, who, after all, were the persons most affected by bad decisions. They would then make suggestions to the M.C.C.; while, perhaps, at the end of the season the captains would go through the list and mark the incompetent umpires.

Various delegates spoke on the question. Mr Denzil Onslow deprecated the idea of the captains laying down any hard and fast rule that a man could umpire for the county for which he had formerly played, as had been suggested by Lord Hawke. Every one must agree that the M.C.C. were the body to whom they must look for final decision on the question. Mr Webbe insisted that under no condition could an umpire stand in a match in which the county by whom he had been nominated were engaged. He mentioned incidentally Ulyett’s name. Now every one had every belief in Ulyett, yet supposing Middlesex nominated him they could never allow him to stand in any of the matches in which they played. It was unfair to the umpire. Dr Grace hoped that they were not going to take a retrograde step and allow men to umpire for counties for which they had played. Mr Ansell suggested the revision of the list at the end of the season and striking out the names of those who had proved themselves incompetent, while Mr Denison asked that the men should not be so much nominated as that their names should simply be sent up as suggestions to the M.C.C.

Mr W L Murdoch said that captains would not care to have the onerous duties proposed by Lord Hawke thrust upon them. He looked to the M.C.C. as the only proper body for the appointment of umpires. What cricketers themselves should do was to place more confidence in the umpires and then more satisfaction would be secured. Again, he thought umpires should be better looked after and not allowed to retire to different players’ rooms and be subject to much abuse from those who disagreed with decisions. He was with Lord Hawke, however, in the idea of going through the list at the end of each season and striking out the names of those who had not given satisfaction. At the suggestion of Mr Perkins the matter was then allowed to drop, it being understood that the umpires should be sent in by the 1st of February, and that Lord Hawke would anyhow call his captains’ meeting.

A list of matches was arranged in which all the old fixtures were preserved. The University game at Lord’s is to begin on a Thursday; the last time it took place late in the week was on the famous occasion in 1892 – Jardine’s and Hill’s year – when Oxford won by five wickets in a match in which 1,100 runs were made. Gentlemen v Players and Eton v Harrow follow in the next week. Of the new fixtures Oxford play Kent home and home and also Yorkshire, and drop the interchange of visits with Lancashire. Nottinghamshire v Somerset is absent from the list; but Essex should find their games with Middlesex and Somerset very beneficial, and they have also a provisional promise from Lancashire. Hampshire, who made a great name for themselves in batting last season, have secured a formidable programme in which Yorkshire and Surrey matches will be found.

The greater shires have all very comprehensive lists. As to the Bank Holidays the counties are very conservative. Surrey v Notts return is again reserved for August, while Middlesex v Somerset, at Lord’s, is once more a fixture for Whit Monday. Kent were unable to improve on the Canterbury Week of last year, and Warwickshire and Yorkshire again appear in this most famous of all the

cricket festivals.

Benefit matches, if less numerous than last summer, are again plentiful. The profits of Surrey v England will go to Mr Walter Read as a testimonial of the services rendered by one of Surrey's greatest batsmen to his county, while the popular professional Robert Abel will probably be given the Surrey and Yorkshire match as a benefit. Flowers receives a benefit at Trent-bridge – the title of the match is yet unsettled – and Nicols, of Somerset, also takes one at Taunton. Marylebone will devote the proceeds of a match at Lord's to their old servant Tom Mycroft, the brother of the late William Mycroft, of Derbyshire. There is also a wish among some members at Lord's to revive the game between the Gentlemen of England and I Zingari. The fixtures are given below: -

[Note: the full fixture list for 1895 can be found at:

http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/1895_ENG.html]

Before the meeting at Lord's yesterday the second-class counties' delegates assembled privately to discuss the question of a championship for the clubs outside the first-class circle. Mr P H Foley, of Worcestershire, presided and was appointed honorary secretary. The counties represented were: - Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Devonshire, Durham, Glamorganshire, Hertfordshire, Monmouthshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Wiltshire and Worcestershire. Lincolnshire and Cheshire also gave their support to the idea, but Herefordshire and Shropshire made no response to the circular sent out.

The following resolution was adopted: - "That a second-class county cricket competition for the second-class cricketing counties be instituted and be open to all county cricket clubs arranging a programme of not less than four home and home county matches. The method of scoring shall be the same as that adopted in the first-class county cricket competition."

Another meeting will be held in a few weeks' time further to discuss the question. It was also suggested that next year the M.C.C. might be appealed to for some kind of promotion from the second-class championship.