1 January: AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND (Second Test Match)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5846.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 2 January, page 9)

The second of the five test matches began here to-day. The weather at the start was overcast and the wicket was in a bad state from the effects of rain. After he had been given a trial at practice to see if his injured hand would permit him to play, Blythe was included in the English eleven at the last moment, McGahey, Garnett and Robson being left out. The Australians played their selected team.

MacLaren won the toss, but decided to put Australia in first. The Englishmen were warmly cheered when they turned out to field.

Trumper and Darling opened the innings to the bowling of Barnes and Blythe. Trumper made a late cut from Barnes's second ball and was out to a fine running catch at third man. The first wicket thus fell without a run having been scored. Hill came in and Darling, with his score at three, had a piece of luck, Gunn misjudging a catch at long-on. Runs were then put on at a rapid rate - chiefly off Blythe. Both batsmen scored almost entirely on the on-side.

With the score at 32 Hill was bowled, and other disasters quickly followed. Darling and Noble were out at 34 and Gregory left at 38, all three being caught at the wicket off Blythe's bowling. There was a roar of disappointment from the crowd at Noble's downfall. Blythe was bowling very well and at the time he got rid of Gregory his average was three wickets for 24 runs. Barnes had taken two wickets for 14. Lilley's wicket-keeping was admirable.

With five wickets down Trumble was joined by Duff and the character of the cricket changed. The Englishmen fielded in excellent form and for a time the scoring was slower than before. When Duff had made 19 he was missed at the wicket off Blythe's bowling. Following this he drove and pulled Blythe to the boundary.

With the total at 81 Trumble was caught in the slips. He had played in cautious but uncomfortable style for 46 minutes. Blythe had now taken four wickets, but at a cost of 50 runs. Kelly came in, and at lunch-time the score was 85 for six wickets, Duff being not out 32.

When play was resumed the attendance, large at the start, increased to 25,000. In Barnes's first over Duff was brilliantly caught in the slips with one hand by Braund. Duff scored 32 out of 47. At 90 Kelly, from a false hit, was easily caught at cover point, and at 94 Howell was bowled. Jones, however, played a lively game and gave some trouble. When the 100 went up the innings had been in progress an hour and three-quarters.

Off Blythe's bowling Lilley missed stumping Armstrong when that batsman had scored four. The blunder, as it happened, did not make much difference, as a match at mid-off dismissed Jones, the innings ending for 112. This total was obtained in an hour and 55 minutes. Barnes took six wickets for 42 runs and Blythe four for 64.

MacLaren and Hayward opened the England innings, Trumble and Noble being the bowlers. The first over was rather sensational. MacLaren got a four to leg and a single, but from the fourth ball Hayward made a weak stroke and was caught at short leg. Tyldesley followed in, but at 16 he lost MacLaren, who was caught at long-on. With the score unchanged Tyldesley was out to a simple catch, and at 24 Quaife played a ball on to his wicket.

Jessop was then joined by Gunn, but the partnership was brief, for at 36 the latter was stumped. Jessop did his best to make up for all these misfortunes and hit out freely. He scored 10 in one over from Trumble, chiefly to leg, and then lifted the same bowler over the ring for five. This big hit was loudly cheered. Before Lilley had scored Jones missed him in the long field off Trumble. Having scored 27 in 20 minutes Jessop was stumped, the sixth wicket falling at 51. So far Noble had taken three wickets for 11 runs and Trumble three for 35.

With Jessop gone the innings was quickly finished off for 61, Noble carrying all before him. Jones was caught at the wicket at 61, and Lilley, after giving a second chance in the deep field - this time to Darling off Noble - was caught at mid-on. Barnes was soon caught and bowled and Blythe caught at mid-on, the Englishmen being out after batting for only 68 minutes. Noble had the wonderful average of seven wickets for 17 runs, and Trumble's third-wicket cost 38.

When the Australians started their second innings with a lead of 51 runs the order was changed, Trumble going in with Darling. Barnes and Blythe shared the bowling. The wicket was evidently improving and the batsmen began cautiously. With the score at 12 a change was tried, Blythe, from whom nine runs had been hit, giving way to Braund. When Darling had made nine he lifted a ball from Barnes to the long field, but Hayward failed to bring off a difficult catch.

At 28 Blythe relieved Barnes, the latter crossing over to Braund's end. At 32 Darling was splendidly caught in the double figures. He had played steadily cricket for 55 minutes. Tyldesley was much cheered for the catch.

With time getting on the weaker batsmen were sent in and the good ones kept back till the morning; but the policy did not answer well, four more wickets being lost before the drawing of stumps. The bowling and fielding were very good. After batting 70 minutes for a most serviceable 16 Trumble was caught in the slips. With the total (42) unaltered, Howell was caught at third man and Kelly run out, and at 48 Jones was caught in the slips. When Howell left Barnes had taken three wickets for 22 runs.

With Jones out play ceased, the Australians being 99 runs ahead with five wickets to go down. The weather remained fine all day and the crowd numbered 28,000. The wicket is improving.

Day 2 (report from Friday 3 January, page 9)

Melbourne, Jan. 2

The weather was very pleasant at the time for resuming play to-day and the wicket rolled out splendidly. With five men out for 48 the Australians went on with their second innings, Gregory being joined by Hill. Barnes and Braund shared the bowling.

From the first the game was keen and interesting, and it at once became evident that the wicket would be altogether different from what it was on Wednesday. When Hill had scored 11 he was caught at cover point off Barnes from a no-ball. The fielding all round was very smart. By steady degrees the total was carried to 98, and then Gregory left. Beaten by a ball which went with Barnes's arm, he was beautifully caught in the slips with the left hand by Jones. He took an hour to get his 17 and gave no chance.

Trumper came in and the scoring was slow. The innings had lasted two hours and 20 minutes when the 100 went up. The bowling was excellent, Barnes keeping up a wonderfully good length and Braund's slow leg-breaks being very puzzling. At 122 Blythe displaced Braund, who had bowled 22 overs for 52 runs. Having made 37, Hill gave a difficult chance at cover-point off Blythe's bowling, but Quaife failed to bring off the catch and the hit produced two runs. At lunch time Hill was not out 40 and Trumper not out 16, the total being 128 for six wickets.

During the interval the attendance increased enormously, and when play was continued there were 18,000 people on the ground. From Barnes's first ball Trumper was smartly caught at the wicket. Seven for 128.

Noble joined Hill and Braund relieved Blythe, off whom only 15 runs had been scored. Hill played a fine attractive game and completed his fifty after batting for an hour and 55 minutes. So far Barnes had taken six wickets for 62 runs. At 159 Blythe was tried again in place of Braund, and off his bowling Noble, at 167, was out leg before wicket. Noble had maintained a stubborn defence for 50 minutes.

With Duff in, Jessop, at 175, took the ball from Barnes, who had bowled unchanged for 42 overs and had had 76 runs hit from him. Nine runs came from Jessop's first over, Duff getting a couple of fours from successive balls, so at 188 Braund was put on again. The scoring now became much faster than before, and the fielding was so brilliant as to be frequently cheered. A pretty cut for two by Duff sent up 200, the innings having been in progress four hours and five minutes. At 214 Barnes relieved Braund.

The customary interval was taken for tea, Hill being then 83 and Duff 26, and at the resumption of play the crowd had further increased to 25,000. By this time the wicket was in perfect condition. Hill scored freely, till at 233 he was splendidly caught by Jones in the slips. His innings of 99 was a remarkable display of stylish, resourceful and in every way attractive batting. He was at the wickets for just over three hours and a quarter and hit seven fours. His reception at the pavilion was enthusiastic in the extreme.

Armstrong was the last man, and he and Duff rapidly increased the score. At 252 Braund displaced Barnes, but though this change checked the hitting, the batsmen held their own. Gunn bowled an over at 257 to enable Blythe and Braund to change ends. Duff, now playing a brilliant game, reached his 50 after a stay of an hour and 35 minutes. MacLaren tried further changes, but without success. Gunn went on for Blythe at 272, but with 20 runs added gave way to Barnes and crossed over to Braund's end.

Duff, scoring at a quick rate, punished Barnes rather freely. Jones was put on in place of Gunn at 298, but when a cut for two by Armstrong had sent up 300 stumps were drawn. Up to the present, the innings had lasted five hours and 51 minutes. So far Duff has been batting for two hours and 21 minutes, his 71 not out including seven fours and four threes. The Australians, with a wicket to fall, now hold a lead of 351 runs.

Day 3 (report from Saturday 4 January, page 11)

Melbourne, Jan. 3

The weather was warm, the attendance large and the wicket in perfect condition when play in the test match was resumed to-day. Duff, not out 71, and Armstrong, not out 25, went on with the second innings of Australia, the score standing at 300 for nine wickets.

Blythe and Barnes started the bowling, but at 312 the former gave way to Braund. The change was followed by slow cricket, Braund bowling four maidens in succession and the batsmen playing many balls with their pads. For the most part, however, the batting was excellent. The ground fielding was superb, but Lilley at the wicket missed Armstrong, off Braund's bowling, when that batsman had made 33.

Duff completed his 100 after batting for just under three hours and a quarter, and was tremendously cheered. The English eleven joined heartily in the applause. The total reached 353, and then the innings, which had lasted a few minutes over seven hours, came to an end, Duff being bowled. His brilliant 104 included 11 fours and five threes. Armstrong took out his bat for 45, an attractive as well as a most useful innings. Among his hits were four fours. MacLaren expressed the opinion that the Australians had played a wonderful up-hill game. Barnes took seven wickets for 121 runs . . .

Wanting 405 to win, the Englishmen opened with Hayward and MacLaren to the bowling of Jones and Noble. The innings began with a disaster, for, when two runs had been scored, MacLaren mistimed a slow ball from Noble, skied it in the slips and was easily caught. Tyldesley went in and, the total having been carried to 29, Trumble was put on in place of Jones. The change met with immediate success, as from Trumble's second ball Hayward was stumped. Two wickets for 29.

Quaife joined Tyldesley, and at 35 Howell relieved Noble. When Quaife had made nine he was caught at short leg by Darling off Trumble, but "no-ball" had been called. Both batsmen played an excessively cautious game, and when 50 went up the innings had been in progress an hour and 22 minutes. At 53 Jones bowled for Trumble and at 58 Armstrong displaced Howell, but at the tea interval the batsmen were still together. The total was 66, Tyldesley having made 32 and Quaife 18.

When the game was resumed there were 12,000 people on the ground. Trumble and Noble took up the bowling. Quaife maintained a strong defence for 20 minutes longer, but at 80 Noble bowled him with a yorker. With Jessop in the game at once became brighter, the 100 going up when the innings had lasted two hours and 23 minutes. Jessop in one over from Trumble scored 11 runs. Having made 20, hw, he was missed by Trumble at slip off Noble. In the same over Tyldesley, with his score at 45, was let off by Howell at slip, the ball going for four.

At 111 Jones bowled again in place of Trumble, whose one wicket had cost 33 runs. With five fours as his chief hits, Jessop knocked up 32 in 35 minutes, but at 122 he was caught at cover point. Lilley was easily caught at short leg without scoring, the fifth wicket falling at 123. So far Noble's average was four wickets for 40 runs.

Braund came next, Howell having in the meantime been put on. Off the new bowler Braund, when he had made three, was missed being stumped. He and Tyldesley then played a defensive game in the hope of staying in till the drawing of stumps. Trumper was tried in place of Noble at 141, but nothing happened, and at the close the total was 147, the Englishmen wanting 258 to win with five wickets to go down. Late in the afternoon, when the crowd numbered 17,000, the weather became overcast. The wicket is still good.

3

Day 4 (report from Monday 6 January, page 10)

The test match here was concluded to-day, Australia winning by 229 runs. Rain fell heavily all the morning, and as the weather continued showery nothing was done till after lunch, the ground being sodden. With only five wickets to fall the Englishmen wanted 258 to win, and their task - practically a hopeless one under any circumstances - was rendered quite impossible.

When at last play was resumed the end came very quickly, the game being finished off in 34 minutes. Tyldesley, not out, 60, and Braund, not out, 13, went on with the innings to the bowling of Trumble and Noble. The attendance was moderate and a drizzling rain was still falling. Before he had added to his score Braund was missed by Hill at cover-point off Noble. Nine runs having been put on, Tyldesley was caught at short-leg. Six wickets for 156. Tyldesley played a very careful, but still an attractive, innings. He was batting for nearly three hours and a half and hit eight fours.

Jones came in, and Braund drove Trumble twice in succession to the boundary. However, at 173, Braund was caught at leg. His dashing innings lasted 40 minutes and included four fours. Two more runs were obtained, and then Trumble finished the match by doing the "hat trick." Gunn was caught at midoff, Jones caught at point and Barnes caught and bowled, the innings ending for 175. Noble took six wickets for 609 runs and Trumble four for 49 . . . The innings lasted three hours and 57 minutes.

Tuesday 7 January, page 9: CRICKET

With regard to the Australian tour next summer and the test match profits, the Notts County Cricket Club have given notice to all first-class counties of their intention to move, first: -

"That counties on whose ground a test match is played shall receive £50 or such other amount as may be decided upon by the board of control for the use of such ground."

Secondly: "That all moneys taken at stands or enclosures in the test matches on county grounds shall, with the balance of the gate money, after the Australian half of such gate money has been deducted and expenses of the match have been defrayed, be placed in the hands of the board for division among the 15 first-class counties, less 25 per cent for division among the second-class counties."

The Notts committee, however, do not think that as the M.C.C. is the centre of cricket and independent of county competition their stand money should be pooled with the money taken at the test matches played on county cricket grounds. Each of the first-class counties is asked to discuss the matter and forward its views to Mr Lacey before the board of control meets.

The board of control that governs the test matches to be played in this country between England and Australia next season will meet at Lord's on Monday, the 27th inst.

Thursday 9 January, page 8: MR MACLAREN'S TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Stawell (Victoria), Jan. 8

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135109.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 9 January, page 8)

Mr MacLaren's team to-day began a two days' match against Eighteen of Stawell in pleasant weather and before an attendance of 1,500. Tyldesley, Barnes, Blythe and Lilley were omitted from the English side, Mr S M J Woods coming in to complete the eleven.

The wicket was good, while the ground was small, and of this the Englishmen, who won the toss, took full advantage, staying in all the afternoon and running up a heavy score. Thirteen men fielded . .

Day 2 (report from Friday 10 January, page 9)

The match with Eighteen of Stawell was concluded to-day in fine weather and before an attendance of 2,000. The wicket remained good. The Englishmen raised their total to 626 for nine wickets and then declared.

The home team on going in made 130. Braund took seven wickets for 42 . . . Instead of making their opponents follow on, the Englishmen, by request, batted again, and when stumps and the match were drawn they had scored 164 for three wickets.

Thursday 9 January, page 8: THE TEAM FOR THE WEST INDIES

The side got together by Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, the old Winchester and Oxford captain, left Waterloo yesterday morning for Southampton and embarked on the Atrato for the West Indies. Mr Leveson-Gower is not going out himself, and either Mr R A Bennett or Mr F L Fane will captain the team.

The following is a list of the players: - Mr R A Bennett, Mr R N R Blaker, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr T H K Dashwood, Mr E W Dillon, Mr E M Dowson, Mr F L Fane, Mr F H Hollins, Mr E C Lee, Mr A D Whatman and Mr E R Wilson.

Saturday 11 January, page 11: MR MACLAREN'S TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Ballarat (Victoria), Jan. 10

Mr MacLaren's team began a two day's match against a Ballarat Eighteen to-day in glorious weather. The attendance numbered 3,000 and the wicket was good. Quaife, Braund, Blythe and Gunn stood down from the English team. The visitors went in first and when stumps were drawn the score stood as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Monday 13 January, page 11)

Ballarat, Jan. 11

The visitors resumed their innings to-day in pleasant weather, and when the last wicket fell had raised their total to 469. The wicket was in good condition and there was a fair attendance. The Ballarat Eighteen on going in scored 235 for the loss of ten wickets . . .

Monday 13 January, page 11

Briggs, the famous Lancashire cricketer, who distinguished himself as a bowler and who was as well known in Yorkshire as in Lancashire, died on Saturday, in the Cheadle Asylum, at the age of 39.

He had been seriously ill since June, 1899, when he had a seizure after being engaged at Leeds in a match between England and Australia. While witnessing a performance at a local music-hall in the evening of that day he was struck down, the blazing heat of the day having told upon him, and it was feared from the first that he would not recover. He rallied and was removed to his home at Manchester, but his admission to the asylum became necessary, and he was taken to Cheadle. Recovering, he was discharged, and in the season of 1900 again played for Lancashire. But his old complaint returned and he was again removed to Cheadle.

Born at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, he played for Lancashire at the age of 17. He became the leading member of the Lancashire team, and as a slow bowler had few equals. He was particularly successful in 1888 and the two following years, in 1890 his record being 158 wickets at a cost of 12.54 runs per wicket.

Tuesday 14 January, page 9: CRICKET

Adelaide, Jan. 13.

Noble has ricked his side. - Reuter.

The Melbourne Club has telegraphed the condolences of the Australians to Briggs's family and the Lancashire County Club.

Mr MacLaren has written to the Hampshire County Cricket Club declining the post of assistant treasurer with salary. - Reuter.

Thursday 16 January, page 12: THE THIRD TEST MATCH

Adelaide, Jan. 15.

The following have been selected to represent Australia in the third test match: - Messrs Noble, Gregory, Duff, Kelly, Trumper, Howell, Hill, Darling, Trumble, Armstrong and McLeod. Jones is reserve. - Reuter.

17 January: AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND (Third Test Match)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5849.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 18 January, page 13)

In fine weather and before a large company the third of the five test matches began here to-day. The wicket at starting was slower than is usual on the Adelaide ground, and experts expressed the opinion that it was not likely to last. The Englishmen left out McGahey, Garnett and Robson.

MacLaren won the toss and went in himself with Hayward, the Australian bowling being entrusted to Trumble and McLeod. When Hayward had made five he had a narrow escape of being run out, through hesitating to answer his partner's call. The ball was badly returned by Darling from square leg. With the score at 25 Noble replaced McLeod, who had bowled six overs for eight runs. Then at 42 Trumble, from whom 28 runs had been obtained, gave way to Howell. MacLaren at once let out at Howell, lifting his first ball to the boundary.

Noble, who ricked his side on Monday in the match between New South Wales and South Australia, did not seem able fully to exert himself. Both batsmen played beautiful cricket, McLeod's on-drives being especially fine, and at the end of the first hour the score reached 60. At 71 McLeod resumed in place of Noble, who had sent down eight overs for 10 runs. At 82 Darling put on Trumper for Howell and Armstrong for McLeod. At lunch-time the total was 88 for no wicket, each batsman having made 43. The fielding all round, apart from Darling's one had return, had been excellent.

When play was resumed the crowd numbered 7,000. With the score unaltered Kelly missed stumping Hayward off Armstrong's bowling. The game was interrupted for a little while, the canvas used as a sight board above the cycle track becoming detached. Howell then relieved Trumper. The wicket remained slow and played easily. In one over from Armstrong Hayward made two magnificent off-drives for four each. Just after this there was a further delay in connexion with the sight board, Hayward leaving the wicket to superintend its being placed in the proper position.

At 110 Trumble relieved Howell. When MacLaren had scored 51 his stumps were scattered by a no-ball from Armstrong. The next change of bowling was made at 126, Armstrong giving up the ball to McLeod. Runs then came more quickly than before, till at 149 the batsmen were separated. MacLaren cut a ball from Trumble, but was late in starting to run and lost his wicket through a smart return by Trumper. In getting his 67 MacLaren was at the wickets two hours and a quarter. He hit seven fours and gave no chance. The crowd cheered him enthusiastically. Hayward had so far scored 79.

With Tyldesley in Noble, before a run had been added, displaced McLeod. Tyldesley showed poor form and at 160 he was easily caught and bowled. At 164 Hayward was out in rather a peculiar way. He left his ground to play Noble and snicked the ball, which, while he was outside the crease, rebounded from Kelly's hand on to the wicket. Hayward's innings was magnificent - played from first to last in his most finished style. He was batting for nearly two hours and 50 minutes, among his hits being 11 fours. Like MacLaren he was greatly applauded. The Australians were handicapped as regards their bowling, Noble being troubled by his ricked side and Howell by a strained leg. Quaife, who had gone in second wicket down, was joined by Jessop, but the latter, after getting a single, was brilliantly caught at long-off. The total at the tea interval was 171 for four wickets.

When play was continued Lilley, when he had scored ten, was missed at slip by Trumble off Noble's bowling. However, the blunder made no difference, as without obtaining another run Lilley was out leg before. Five wickets for 186. Since going on the last time Trumble had bowled 13 overs and seven maidens for ten runs and three wickets. Braund became Quaife's partner, Armstrong having in the meantime been put on in place of Noble.

Runs came slowly and the fielding was as good as ever. When he settled down Braund played more freely, his hitting being very crisp and attractive. Quaife, on the other hand, played for a long time a rigidly defensive game. When the score had reached 220 Trumper bowled for Armstrong. Following this change the scoring was rapid, Braund getting most of the runs and batting in very artistic style. At 243 Howell relieved Trumble, whose three wickets had cost in all 74 runs. Trumper at the same total gave way to McLeod.

Quaife now began to play with far more vigour than before, and in one over from McLeod he hit two fours to leg. This punishment brought on Noble again at 262, but Quaife, amid loud cheers, pulled his first ball to the boundary. Just after this stumps were drawn, the score being 266 for five wickets. Quaife in his 51 not out has hit six fours. The weather remained fine all day and 8,000 people were present. The wicket is going at one end.

Day 2 (report from Monday 20 January, page 11)

When play in the test match was resumed here to-day the weather was overcast, with signs of a coming thunderstorm. The wicket was worn in places at one end. Even at the start there was a large attendance.

With five wickets down for 266 McLeod's team went on batting, Quaife and Braund, the not-outs, being opponents by Howell and Trumble. In the second over Howell's bad leg gave way and he had for a time to leave the field. However, he was soon back, and off his bowling, when the score had been raised to 294, Quaife was smartly caught at the wicket. In the meantime Braund, when 44, had given a difficult chance to McLeod at mid-on off Trumble. Quaife's innings of 68 lasted two hours and 40 minutes and was in every way admirable. He hit six fours and seven threes, scoring well all round the wicket. His partnership with Braund produced 108 runs and put quite a new appearance on the game.

Jones came next, but at 302 he was foolishly run out through delaying to start for a third run for a hit of Braund's. John Gunn then joined Braund and some excellent batting followed. At 322 McLeod relieved Howell, whose one wicket had cost 61 runs. Trumble all this time had been bowling extremely well. So far his analysis came out at 52 overs for 94 runs and three wickets, his last seven overs having been bowled for eight runs. However, at 327 he gave ay to Armstrong. At the luncheon interval the total was 330 for seven wickets, Braund being not out 62 and Gunn not out 15.

When the game was continued Trumble bowled again in place of Armstrong. The wicket played better than had been expected and was faster than on Friday. With the score unaltered Braund was missed by Trumble in the slips off Howell, who had gone on for McLeod. After his escape Braund made runs fast, his driving being splendid. Another change was tried at 363, Noble displacing Howell. With a hit for two off Trumble Braund passed Hayward's score of 90 and was much cheered. Then at 371 Gunn, who had played a stylish innings, was bowled.

With Barnes in Braund drove Trumble magnificently for five and by stealing a single reached his 100. Up to this point he had been batting three hours and a half. The crowd cheered him enthusiastically and the Australian eleven joined in the applause. After making two, Barnes was missed in the slips by Trumble off Noble, but the blunder mattered little, as at 384 he was easily caught from the same bowler at mid-on.

Blythe, the last man, was brilliantly caught in the deep field, and the innings, which had lasted seven hours and 40 minutes, came to an end for 388. Braund, who had a great reception, hit one five and 12 fours in his 103 not out. Noble took three wickets - the last three in the innings - for 58 runs . . .

Darling went in himself with Trumper to open the Australian innings, the bowling being started by Barnes and Blythe. Darling got a single from Barnes but, in trying to place Blythe's first ball past point, he made a false hit and was caught at slip. One wicket for one run. Hill joined Trumper and runs were rapidly put on, 35 being scored in a quarter of an hour.

From the first Hill played a strong forcing game. A change was tried at 37, Blythe, who had bowled three overs for 20 runs and a wicket, giving place to Braund. Both batsmen seemed anxious about the condition of the wicket at the end to which Barnes was bowling. When Hill had made 25 he narrowly escaped being run out, the ball being smartly returned by Gunn at leg to Barnes. Braund's bowling came in for severe punished, the scoring still rising fast.

The English team now met with a serious misfortune, Barnes at 57 twisting his left knee and having to retire. Blythe bowled in his place and Garnett came out at substitute. The fielding was splendid, Jones, Jessop, Quaife and MacLaren all being applauded for their quick and accurate returns. The batsmen showed no falling off in vigour, Hill especially playing with great freedom. Twelve runs were hit from Braund in one over. At 90 Gunn bowled for Blythe, who, with one added, took the ball from Braund. From the last-named bowler 43 runs had been obtained.

The hundred went up when the innings had been in progress an hour and a quarter. Eleven runs were scored from Blythe in one over, and in another over from the same bowler Trumper himself scored 12. This fierce hitting naturally caused the bowling to be changed, Jessop going on at 130 for Gunn, who crossed over to Blythe's end. At 138 the batsmen were parted, Trumper being run out. His beautiful innings, quite free from fault, lasted an hour and three-quarters and included eight fours. Duff came in, and at 146 Braund bowled for Gunn. Twice Duff cut Braund for four, but after this the pace of the run-getting slackened considerably, Hill seeming fatigued.

At the drawing of stumps the score stood at 172 for two wickets, Hill being not out 83. During the latter part of the afternoon the crowd numbered 15,000. The wicket is worn.

Barnes is confined to his bed and will not be able to play during the remainder of the match. - Reuter.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 21 January, page 12)

The weather was warm and the attendance large here to-day at the time of resuming play in the test match. With two wickets down for 172 the Australians went on batting, Hill, not out, 83, and Duff, not out, 22, facing Gunn and Braund. As had been made known yesterday, Barnes, owing to his injured knee, was unable to play, Garnett fielding as substitute for him. MacLaren received many expressions of sympathy at having been deprived by an accident of his best bowler.

From the start to-day the wicket played well. When Hill had made 92 he had an escape, Jones missing him badly at slip off Gunn's bowling. However, he only scored six more runs before being splendid caught in the deep field by Tyldesley. Three wickets for 197. Hill's brilliant innings included 12 fours and lasted just under two hours and 40 minutes.

Gregory, who came in next, began cautiously. Gunn was keeping a good length and bowling better than on any previous occasion during the tour. With his score at 39 Duff was badly missed at slip by MacLaren off Gunn. Some confident batting followed, Gregory hitting Braund twice in succession for four. Blythe, who damaged his bowling hand before the test match in Melbourne, complained to-day that his finger was painful. MacLaren says he will have Blythe's hand photographed by the Rontgen Rays, so that the exact nature of the injury may be discovered.

The total having been increased to 229, Duff was smartly caught at the wicket. He played a bright, attractive innings, his placing being excellent. Among his hits were eight fours. With Gregory and Armstrong together runs came slowly, and at lunch-time the score was 248 for four wickets. Gregory was not out 30 and Armstrong not out seven.

Five thousand people were on the ground at the resumption of play. Twelve runs were added and then Armstrong, who had never seemed at all comfortable, was caught and bowled. Five for 260. Trumble joined Gregory and the game went on rather quietly till at 283 Gregory was caught at mid-on. Beautiful cutting was the feature of his innings. He hit ten fours and was at the wickets an hour and 35 minutes.

8

One more run having been scored Trumble was bowled, the seventh wicket thus falling at 289. Up to this point Gunn had taken two wickets and 70 runs had been hit from him. He had just bowled four maidens in succession. At 302 Howell was neatly caught in the slips, and at 309 Noble was bowled. McLeod was the last man, and before he had scored Garnett missed him at leg off Braund's bowling. However, he only scored seven and the Gunn bowled him, the innings, which had lasted five hours and 16 minutes, ending for 321. Gunn took five wickets for 76 runs, all his success being gained after luncheon to-day . . .

With a lead of 67 runs the Englishmen opened their second innings, MacLaren and Hayward facing the bowling of Howell and Noble. At 16 Howell gave way to Trumble, but he resumed at 25 and, bowling to the worn end, puzzled MacLaren very considerably. A shower of rain delayed the game, but it was not sufficiently heavy to affect the wicket.

On resuming both batsmen played a sound but, at the same time, highly attractive game, MacLaren making beautiful strokes on the on-side and Hayward getting a good proportion of his runs by very pretty cuts. At 62 Howell, from whom 29 had been scored, again gave the ball to Trumble, and at 609 Noble was displaced by Armstrong. Noble had bowled 13 overs for 31 runs.

The light now began to fail, and at 80 MacLaren was bowled. He hit four fours and gave no chance during his stay on an hour and 20 minutes. Tyldesley came in, and Hayward, with his score at 34, was missed being stumped by Kelly off Armstrong. At 88 Noble bowled again at Armstrong's end. Having made three more runs Hayward had another piece of luck, Kelly missing him off Trumble. A section of the crowd jeered, but on Noble's refraining from bowling the demonstration instantly ceased and Noble was applauded.

The score at the close was 98 for one wicket. Late in the afternoon the company numbered 10,000. Rain is predicted.

Rain is falling here this evening and seems likely to continue. - Reuter.

Day 4 (report from Wednesday 22 January, page 12)

The rain cleared off in the night, but the weather was dull and threatening at the time for resuming play in the test match to-day. It was evident that worn patches at one end of the wicket were extending. The attendance was moderate.

With their score at 98 for one wicket the Englishmen went on with their second innings, Hayward and Tyldesley, the not outs, facing Trumble and Howell. Eleven runs were scored in Trumble's first over, but in his second he bowled Hayward. Two wickets for 113. In the meantime Tyldesley, when eight, had been missed off Trumble by Hill at square-leg. Hayward was batting an hour and 54 minutes for his 47, playing a very keen, attractive game all the time. His hits included five fours. Trumble, who was bowling to the defective end, had so far taken two wickets for 30 runs.

Quaife came in and was batting a quarter of an hour before he made his first run. At 119 Noble relieved Trumble, who at 123 went on in place of Howell. The last-named bowler had had 35 runs hit from him during the innings. When the total had reached 126 Tyldesley was run out. He cut Noble, started to run and was unable to get back to his crease, the ball being very smartly returned by Trumper.

Jessop, welcomed by the spectators, joined Quaife, who was playing with painful slowness. Amid great applause, Jessop drove Noble for five, but having scored 16 runs out of 18, he was bowled by Trumble. Four for 144. Trumble had now taken three wickets for 36 runs. Braund was cheered as he went in. At 150 Darling tried a change, putting on Howell for Noble. Having made eight, Braund nearly ran himself out, the ball, luckily for him, being wildly returned by Duff. After this Braund scored quietly, till at 165 Howell bowled him. At lunch time the total was 167 for five wickets, Quaife being not out 10 and Lilley not out 1.

On the game being continued, Quaife and Lilley played excellent cricket. At 194 Howell, whose one wicket had cost 60 runs, gave place to McLeod. After this, in a failing light, runs came slowly.

When the score stood at 204 an extraordinary spectacle was seen, a violent storm of dust blowing in thick clouds across the ground. Play was suspended at once, the fieldsmen throwing themselves on the ground to avoid discomfort. The streamers flying from the grand stand were carried away. This

9

happened about 3 o'clock, and there was no more cricket, stumps being drawn a few minutes before 5. MacLaren's team, with five wickets down, now hold a lead of 261 runs.

Day 5 (report from Thursday 23 January, page 8)

After the dust storm of yesterday the weather here to-day was perfect at the time for resuming play in the test match. The attendance at the start was moderate and the wicket had not improved.

With five wickets down for 204 MacLaren's team went in with their second innings, Quaife and Lilley, the not outs, facing McLeod and Howell. Before a run had been added the batsmen were separated, Lilley being bowled by the last ball of McLeod's first over. Jones came in, and at 208 Trumble relieved McLeod, who crossed over to Howell's end. Jones began in lively style and made two or three beautiful cuts, but having scored 11 he drove the ball back hard to Trumble, and was caught. Seven wickets for 218. So far Trumble had taken four wickets for 64 runs.

The Australians were fielding well, but when Gunn, the next batsman, had made a single Hill missed him badly at mid-off from Trumble's bowling. However, the blunder did not cost many runs, as at 228 Gunn was out leg-before-wicket. Quaife and Blythe put on 17, and then the former was also legbefore-wicket, and as Barnes could not go in the innings, which had lasted nearly four hours and three-quarters, came to an end at 247.

Quaife was batting for two hours and three-quarters and gave no chance. His hits included four fours. Trumble took six wickets for 74 runs . . . It is stated that Barnes is improving and that the doctor has advised Blythe to rest his bowling hand.

The Australians wanted 315 to win. Changing the order, Darling sent Duff in with Trumper. When MacLaren's team turned out it was seen that Blythe after all was going to field. Gunn and Braund started the bowling, and in Gunn's second over, when only five runs had been scored, Duff was out, hit wicket.

Hill came in and the score rose fast, ten runs being hit from Braund in one over. Gunn, it was noticed, was bowling at a quicker pace than usual. The fielding was so brilliant as to be repeatedly cheered. When Hill had made 19 he gave an easy chance of being stumped of Braund's bowling, but Lilley missed it. Then with the total at 50 Trumper was bowled by a beautiful ball from Gunn. He hit three fours in his 25, and was batting for 48 minutes. Up to this point Gunn had taken two wickets for 18 runs.

With Gregory in, Hill made a splendid straight drive for five - all run out - from Gunn, and the over yielded 11. Gunn was bowling to the patchy end and Hill, not being able to trust the wicket, kept jumping out to play him. At 79 Blythe was called upon to bowl in place of Braund, from whom 45 runs had been scored. When Gregory had made 22, MacLaren thought he had caught him in the slips off Gunn, and was so confident that he tossed up the ball. Gregory, however, stood in his ground, and Crockett on appeal from the fieldsmen ruled that it was a bump ball. With this decision the Englishmen were obviously dissatisfied.

In Gunn's next over, with the score at 98, Gregory was smartly caught at slip. Darling came next, and at the tea interval the total was 103 for three wickets, Hill being not out 48.

On play being resumed Hill and Darling made a great stand, Hill batting brilliantly. At ten minutes past 5 the score had reached 150, Hill being then 77 and Darling 21. At last, with the total at 194, Hill was bowled by Jessop, the partnership for the fourth wicket having put on 96 runs. Darling and Trumble played out time, the Australians then requiring 114 to win with six wickets to fall.

Day 6 (report from Friday 24 January, page 9)

The test match here came to an end to-day, the Australians winning by four wickets. At the start of play they wanted 114 runs and had six wickets to fall. The weather was glorious, but the attendance moderate, when Darling and Trumble, the not-outs, continued the innings to the bowling of Jessop and Blythe.

The wicket kicked. Both batsmen played keen but cautious cricket, and carried the overnight score of 201 to 255. Then Darling, who had played a splendid innings, was caught at mid-on. Five wickets for 255. Luncheon was taken at this point, Trumble having made 29. Noble, after scoring 13, ran himself

out at 287, but Trumble and Armstrong hit off the remaining runs together and won the match. Gunn took three wickets for 88 runs . . .

Hill's masterly innings yesterday lasted two hours and 52 minutes, and included seven fours. There was a good deal of discussion as to the catch MacLaren claimed to have made just before Gregory was out. The Englishmen were confident it was a catch, but Hill, who was in at the time, and the umpire at the other end upheld Crockett's decision that it was a bump ball. The wicket played better yesterday than had been expected.

Saturday 18 January, page 13

The Kent executive announce that their match with Middlesex arranged to take place at Beckenham has, in consequence of the Coronation, been deferred to July 24.

Saturday 25 January, page 14: CRICKET

Adelaide, Jan. 23

When he had scored 43 in the third test match the Australian captain received a severe blow on the knee from one of Jessop's deliveries. Barnes is recovering rapidly. He will remain in Adelaide until his leg is quite well. - Reuter

THE ENGLISH TEAM IN THE WEST INDIES

Barbados, Jan. 24

BARBADOS V R A BENNETT'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5850.html)

Report from Saturday 25 January, page 14

In the first match, which was played here to-day by the English team visiting the West Indies against an eleven of Barbados, the home team won by an innings and 71 runs. Mr Fane made 50 in the Englishmen's second innings and Mr Bosanquet took 6w for 89 runs. A drizzling rain fell. Mr Dowson was unable to play, as he is suffering from influenza.

26 January: AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY XI v A C MACLAREN'S XI (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135111.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 27 January, page 11)

Mr MacLaren's Eleven to-day commenced a three-days match on the Melbourne cricket ground against a country team of 16 players. The weather was hot and the attendance only moderate. Mr MacLaren and the two injured bowlers, Barnes and Blythe, were omitted from the English team.

The Englishmen batted first and 13 of their opponents fielded. The wicket was in good condition.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 28 January, page 9)

The match against a country team of 16 was resumed here to-day in pleasant weather. There was a fair attendance. The wicket was wet on consequence of last night's rain.

Mr Robson, who captained the Englishmen, decided at once to declare the innings closed, with the score at 377 for 6 wickets, as it stood when stumps were drawn at the close of play on Saturday. This action on the part of the English captain was questioned and adversely commented on, as it constituted a declaration before the time provided by the law and the umpires were not consulted.

The home team scored 111 in their first innings. Jones took six wickets for 23 . . . The home team followed on and put together 178 for the loss of nine wickets. Harry made 58 not out for the country 16. Play will be resumed to-morrow.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 29 January, page 12)

The match against a country team of sixteen was resumed here to-day in pleasant weather. There was only a poor attendance. The wicket was good.

The home team, continuing its innings, made 267 runs for the loss of 13 wickets, Harry being out for 64. Two men were absent. McGahey took three wickets for 55 . . . Garnett and McGahey went in for the visitors. The former knocked off two runs without loss and the Englishmen thus won by ten wickets.

Monday 27 January, page 11

To-day the board of control for the Australian test matches next summer will meet at Lord's.

Tuesday 28 January, page 9: THE BOARD OF CONTROL AND THE TEST MATCHES

The Board of Control appointed to carry out all arrangements in connexion with the test matches next season met for the first time yesterday afternoon at Lord's. The board consists of six members of the Marylebone Club - Earl Howe (president), The Earl of Lichfield, the Hon Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., MP., Mr A G Steel, K.C., Mr V E Walker and Mr W H Patterson - and the following representatives of the six counties that came out at the top of the list last season: - Lord Hawke (Yorkshire), Mr A J Webbe (Middlesex), Mr S H Swire (Lancashire), Earl Winterton (Sussex), Mr H W Bainbridge (Warwickshire) and Mr J Shuter (Surrey). These 12 gentlemen were all present at yesterday's meeting, together with Mr F E Lacey, secretary to the M.C.C.

The dates and places for the five test matches provisionally arranged at the secretaries' meeting at Lord's in December were confirmed, and the matches will accordingly be played on May 29 at Birmingham, June 12 at Lord's, July 3 at Sheffield, July 24 at Manchester and August 11 at the Oval. It was further determined that in all five matches play should begin on the first day at 11.30 and on the second and third days at 11 o'clock, stumps being drawn at half-past 6. The umpires will be appointed in the same way as in 1899.

It will be remembered that in 1899, when fir the first time five test matches were played in this country, a new principle was adopted, half the gate money over and above expenses and a deduction of 20 per cent to the club or county on whose ground the match was played being divided among the first-class counties and the M.C.C., an arrangement which resulted in a profit of about £180 per head. The money accruing from stands was not interfered with.

This year, however, two proposals were put forward by Notts: - (1) That counties on whose ground a test match is played shall receive £50 (or such other amount as may be decided upon by the Board of Control) for the use of such ground; and (2) that all moneys taken at stands and enclosures in test matches on counties should with the balance of the gate money, after the Australian half of such money and expenses had been deducted, be placed in the hands of the board for division among the 15 first-class counties, less 25 per cent for division among the second-class counties.

In bringing this motion forward Notts expressed the opinion that the M.C.C., being the head of cricket, should not be put on the same level with the counties, and that therefore the test match at Lord's should stand on a separate footing. After a good deal of discussion, which was of course strictly private, the Notts proposal was rejected, but a modification of it was agreed to, the M.C.C. insisting that they should be treated in exactly the same way as the counties that had test matches, no better and no worse.

The official ruling of the board, communicated to the Press at the end of the meeting, was as follows: -

"All moneys taken at stands and enclosures at test matches shall, together with the balance of gate money in respect of the test matches, less the Australian half of such gate money and less the expenses of the matches authorized by the board, be placed in the hands of the board for distribution as follows: - 40 per cent to the ground where the match is played, 10 per cent to the second-class counties which take part in the second division of the county championship, and 50 per cent to the pool."

The board also selected the following sub-committee to pick the England teams for the five matches: -Lord Hawke, Mr G MacGregor and Mr H W Bainbridge. This sub-committee only differs in one instance from the body that acted in 1899, Mr MacGregor taking the place of Dr W G Grace. The sub-committee will, as in 1899, have the power to co-opt any two amateurs who have already been selected to play for England in the match immediately following.

Thursday 30 January, page 9: THE ENGLISH CRICKETERS IN THE WEST INDIES

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5853.html)

The return match with Barbados ended in a victory for the Englishmen by eight wickets. Hollins made 58 in the first innings and Dillon 46 in the second. Bosanquet in the second innings of the home team took three wickets for 26 runs. - Reuter.

31 January: NEW SOUTH WALES v A C MACLAREN'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5855.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 1 February, page 12)

In glorious weather MacLaren's team began to-day their return match with New South Wales. They left out Barnes, Blythe and Robson. The doctor reports that Barnes will be fit for the next test match, which commences here to-day fortnight. Blythe, when bowling at practice this morning, complained that his damaged finger was still painful. Of the 12 players from whom the New South Wales side had to be picked Meares was the one to stand down.

At MacLaren's request Bannerman was appointed umpire in place of Crockett. The action taken by MacLaren surprised the Australians, who are confident of Crockett's honour and ability and have written to him to that effect.

Sydney Gregory won the toss for New South Wales and, on a good wicket, Charles Gregory and Hopkins opened the innings to the bowling of Gunn and Braund. From the start runs came fast, Hopkins scoring more freely than his partner. No change was tried till the score had reached 56, when MacLaren put on McGahey for Braund and Jessop for Gunn. McGahey began well, bowling four maidens. However, the first wicket fell at the other end, Hopkins at 73 being caught in the slips off Jessop. Hopkins showed splendid cricket, his play on the off side being especially fine. In one over from Braund he scored 14 runs, all by late cuts. His innings included six fours.

Trumper came in, and at 75 Gunn relieved Jessop. Following this change the pace of the run-getting slackened. The fielding was superb, Jessop at mid-off being conspicuously brilliant. At lunch-time the total was 89 for one wicket, Gregory being not out 34 and Trumper not out 14.

At the resumption of play the attendance - small at the start - had increased to 6,000. The hundred went up when the innings had lasted an hour and 33 minutes. At 117 McGahey gave way to Braund, and to the latter's third ball Trumper, before a run had been added, was out leg-before-wicket. In his innings Trumper hit six fours. He gave no chance, and at one time he made 30 runs while Gregory was getting six.

Poidevin came next, but at 124 he lost Gregory, who was bowled for a stylish innings of 45. With the total unchanged Poidevin was also bowled, four wickets being thus down for 124. Up to this point Braund had taken two wickets for 40 runs.

Sydney Gregory and Duff now became partners, and at 137 Jessop relieved Gunn, whose one wicket had cost 46 runs. Runs came slowly but, with the batsmen getting set, another change was tried, Jessop

at 154 giving place to Hayward. Duff was a good deal puzzled by Braund and frequently played him with his pads. Both batsmen were cautious and the game went on rather quietly. Still no wicket fell, so at 167 Jones bowled for Hayward, off whom 17 runs had been hit. At the tea interval the total was 187, Gregory being not out 27 and Duff not out 32.

On the game being continued Gunn displaced Jones and the scoring quickened. When 200 went up the innings had been in progress exactly 200 minutes. Braund bowled splendidly, but at last Gregory punished him for 11 runs in one over. The batting was now more attractive in character than before, Gregory's placing being admirable. Jessop went on for Gunn at 242 and, with nine runs added this change got rid of Duff, who was bowled. Five wickets for 251. Apart from his difficulties with Braund's slows, Duff had played a confident game. He was batting for an hour and 42 minutes and hit six fours.

Noble joined Gregory and runs were rapidly put on. At 283 McGahey was tried in place of Jessop, but after bowling one over he gave way to Gunn. Nothing, however, could now stop the hitting, and 300 went up when the innings had hasted four hours and 17 minutes. The last 100 runs had been obtained in 57 minutes. At 315 Gunn was relieved by Jones. Gregory completed his 100 after batting for two hours and a half without a chance, and was greatly cheered, the English team joining in the applause. So far he had hit 11 fours.

At the drawing of stumps the total was 337 for five wickets. Noble's cricket was sound and vigorous and entirely free from fault. The weather remained fine all the afternoon and the wicket perfect.

Day 2 (report from Monday 3 February, page 7)

The weather was warm, the attendance moderate and the wicket in excellent condition at the time for resuming play here to-day. New South Wales, with five wickets down for 337, continued their innings, Sydney Gregory, not out 106, and Noble, not out 52, facing Braund and Jessop.

A maiden was bowled from each end, and the total had only been increased to 345 when, in Jessop's third over, Noble was smartly caught at the wicket. His innings included nine fours and only lasted 62 minutes. Carter came in and the score rose steadily. At 375 a change was tried, Jessop, who had taken three wickets for 58 runs, giving place to McGahey. At 391 the batsmen were separated, Carter being run out through a smart piece of fielding by Quaife at cover point.

Clarke joined Gregory, and without a run having been added Jessop bowled again for McGahey. This change suited Clarke, who cut Jessop brilliantly for four and sent the next ball to leg for the same number. When 400 went up the innings had been in progress five hours and 53 minutes. At 409 Gunn relieved Jessop. Gregory was run out at 417, his fondness for short runs at last costing him his wicket. His brilliant innings of 147 as quite free from fault. He hit 15 fours and was batting for three hours and 48 minutes. At lunch time the total was 429 for eight wickets, Clarke being not out 25 and Kermode not out 2.

After the interval, the attendance having in the meantime greatly increased, the innings quickly ended for 432, Clarke being leg before wicket and McBeath run out. Both wickets fell at the same total. The innings lasted six hours and 11 minutes. Jessop took three wickets for 78 runs . . .

MacLaren and Hayward opened the English innings and gave a wonderful display. The bowling at the start was entrusted to McBeath and Clarke. For a few overs the cricket was quiet in character, an d then MacLaren scored rapidly. Hayward was more cautious, but by no means slow. Out of the first 53 runs MacLaren made 32. No change of bowling was tried till the score had reached 70, Kermode at this point displacing Clarke, from whom 39 runs had been hit. The 100 went up at the end of 87 minutes' batting, and Hopkins relieved McBeath. So far MacLaren had scored 58 and Hayward 43.

The wicket was playing perfectly and not a fault could be found with the batting. In one over from Kermode MacLaren scored a dozen runs, this punishment bringing on Noble at 116. The fielding was uneven, but Carter kept wicket admirably. Noble was cheered on taking the ball, but his persistent indulgence in the "off theory" displeased a section of the crowd, who shouted to him to bowl at the wicket. At 156 McBeath bowled again in place of Hopkins. MacLaren completed his hundred after batting two hours and 12 minutes. The total was 161.

At 165 Kermode displaced Noble, who had bowled eight overs for 20 runs. When he had made 106 MacLaren made his first faulty stroke, an uppish cut off Kermode going dangerously near to Trumper at third man. The total having been carried to 190, Trumper went on for McBeath. Then with a slashing cut to the boundary off the new bowler Hayward sent up 200, the runs having been obtained in two hours and 39 minutes.

The bowling was now completely collared, and both batsmen continued to play a most brilliant and masterly game. The great variety of the strokes made the cricket exceptionally interesting to the crowd. Clarke relieved Kermode at 215, but nothing could stop the hitting, and after a while Hayward reached his 100. Then at 245 Trumper gave way to Kermode. At the drawing of stumps the total was 255 for no wicket.

The magnificent batting had worked the crowd up to a high pitch of enthusiasm, and on returning to the pavilion MacLaren and Hayward had a great reception. So far, MacLaren has hit 15 fours and Hayward one five and 18 fours. All through the day the weather was fine and the attendance numbered 19,000. The wicket remains perfect.

Mr MacLaren states that he will not take his eleven to Bathurst on the 6th inst. to play a team representing Bathurst and Wollongong unless the local team excludes Marsh, the aboriginal fast bowler, who was no-balled by Crockett in an inter-State match for unfair delivery. Mr MacLaren declines to risk accidents on the eve of a test match. The Bathurst Club is considering the English captain's objection. - Reuter.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 4 February, page 8)

In lovely weather the return match between Mr MacLaren's team and New South Wales was resumed here to-day. At the start of play the attendance was moderate. The wicket was still in perfect condition.

With the score standing at 255 for no wicket the English innings was continued, MacLaren 136 and Hayward 115 facing Clarke and McBeath. The batsmen at once settled down to a brisk game and runs came fast. At 298 a change was tried, Kermode relieving Clarke. Hayward hit the new bowler twice in succession to the boundary, sending up 300 when the innings had been in progress four hours and three minutes. However, at 314, the long partnership came to an end, MacLaren playing a ball on to his wicket. His innings of 167 was in every way magnificent. He scored all round the wicket and hit 19 fours. On returning to the pavilion he was loudly cheered. Hayward had so far made 142.

Tyldesley came in, and at 325 McBeath, from whom 102 runs had been obtained, gave way to Trumper. Quickly playing himself in, Tyldesley showed brilliant form, his driving and cutting being equally fine. Hayward at this time was also seen at his best. Nothing could have been better than his placing. When he had scored 157, however, he was missed in the slips off Trumper. At 356 Noble displaced Kermode and the pace of the run-getting slackened. At lunch time the total was 362 for one wicket, Hayward being 161 and Tyldesley 28.

On continuing the game Hayward, amid loud cheering, passed McLeod's score, but at 390 he was caught at slip. His innings of 174 lasted 4 hrs 55 min, and included one five and 30 fours. He played wonderfully well, employing all his strokes, and, like MacLaren, was applauded with the utmost warmth.

Quaife joined Tyldesley, who went on with his vigorous hitting. At 417 Clarke was put on in place of Noble. For the most part Quaife played a cautious game, leaving the scoring to Tyldesley. There was a cheer when the New South Wales total was passed, the innings having then lasted just over five hours and three-quarters. At 437 Trumper, who had taken one wicket for 77 runs, gave place to Kermode, and after this change Quaife became freer in style.

Tyldesley, when 78, made an uppish stroke in the slips off Clarke. The score having reached 480, Clarke was relieved by Hopkins. Some uneventful play followed, and then Quaife, having made 30, was missed being caught and bowled by Kermode. Tyldesley completed his hundred after batting an hour and 51 minutes. The game was then adjourned for team, the total being 493 for two wickets.

The attendance was large when play was again proceeded with. Trumper and McBeath shared the bowling. Quaife, with his score at 35, was missed at the wicket off Trumper. Tyldesley went on batting as freely as ever and the spectators were delighted with his style. At 527 Hopkins bowled in place of Trumper. The game went on briskly till at 5.46 Tyldesley was bowled. His masterly and attractive innings, which lasted two hours and 55 minutes, included 21 fours. The crowd cheered loudly when Jessop appeared, evidently expecting that the tired bowlers would be roughly treated. The field at once deepened for the big hitter. Jessop began vigorously and in six minutes scored 22 runs. McBeath at 589 gave way to Clarke, and off that bowler Quaife, when 44, was missed at the wicket. Jessop was cheered for a five to leg off Hopkins, and just afterwards he made two fours from successive balls. One of his finest hits was a great straight drive. The total reached 600 as the result of seven hours and 23 minutes' batting.

Noble at 617 took the ball from Clarke, who had so far had 125 runs hit from him. The cricket was very lively and in one over from Noble Jessop scored 14. With the total at 637 another change was tried, Kermode relieving Hopkins. Jessop, amid loud cheers, went on hitting, and at 649 Kermode gave way to McBeath. This change at once proved successful, as before another run had been scored Jessop was bowled. His brilliant 87 - obtained in 57 minutes - included one five and 15 fours.

Just after Garnett joined Quaife stumps were drawn, the total being 650 for four wickets. During the latter part of the afternoon the attendance numbered 11,000. The weather is fine and the wicket still good.

Day 4 (report from Wednesday 5 February, page 11)

The weather here this morning was showery and the beginning of the match was delayed for an hour. When play began the attendance was small. With their score at 650 for four wickets Mr MacLaren's team went on batting, Quaife and Garnett, the not outs, being opposed by Clarke and Trumper.

Nine runs having been slowly added, rain came on and stopped the game. After an hour's interval a fresh start was made, McBeath relieving Trumper. From the new bowler's fifth ball, with the score unchanged, Garnett was caught at point. Braund joined Quaife and Kermode bowled in place of Clarke. Play proceeded uneventfully, runs being put on at a slow rate till at 690 Braund was caught at midon. Then at 695 Quaife was caught, close in, at short leg. He had played with extraordinary care and patience, his innings of 62 lasting four hours. Among his hits were eight fours.

Lilley and Jones began in confident style, and 700 went up when the innings had been in progress nine hours and 20 minutes. The score steadily rose, and at 717 McBeath, whose two wickets had cost 164 runs, gave way to Trumper. Two more runs having been obtained Jones was caught at the wicket. McGahey joined Lilley and the game became much brighter. At 742 Kermode, who had taken four wickets for 162 runs, was displaced by Hopkins. The fielding was fairly good. It was noticed that the grass in the out field had grown quite long.

When Lilley had made 23 he gave a chance of stumping off Hopkins, but Carter missed it. At 761 McBeath bowled again for Trumper. Just after this the interval for tea was taken, the total being 763. Lilley had made 27 and McGahey 26.

On the game being resumed Clarke relieved Hopkins. With six runs added Lilley was brilliantly caught at mid-on. Gunn, the last man, was caught at square leg without scoring, and the innings, which had lasted ten hours and a half, came to an end for 769. Kermode took four wickets . . .

Wanting 337 to avoid a single innings defeat New South Wales began with Charles Gregory and Hopkins to the bowling of Gunn and Braund. From the start of the innings the wicket kicked at one end. Hopkins was bowled by the last ball of Braund's first over, and when the score had been increased from two to ten Charles Gregory was caught at square leg.

Trumper, who had gone in first wicket down, was joined by Poidevin and the batting improved a little. When he had made four, however, Trumper was missed in the slips by Jones off Gunn. The score having reached 25, Poidevin was run out. Sydney Gregory came in next and some good play followed, but runs were hard to get and the scoring was extremely slow. At 66 Jessop displaced Gunn, and in a failing light this change proved highly successful. Trumper was caught by the wicket-keeper at 67, and at 75 Duff was cleverly taken in the slips, the ball cannoning off Braund to MacLaren.

Gregory and Noble then played out time, the total at the close being 79 runs for five wickets. So far Jessop has taken two wickets for seven runs. Rain is threatening.

The Bathurst Club has declined to withdraw Marsh, whose inclusion in the team was objected to by Mr MacLaren, and the match between the Englishmen and Bathurst and Wollongong will probably not take place. - Reuter. Day 5 (report from Thursday 6 February, page 12)

The weather was clear and cool here to-day, but, with an easy victory in prospect for MacLaren's team, the attendance at the start of play was small. With five wickets down for 79 and still wanting 258 runs to avoid a single innings defeat, New South Wales went on batting, Sydney Gregory and Noble, the not outs, facing Braund and Jessop. The wicket was in good condition. Owing to a bruised hand Lilley was away, Garnett keeping wicket and Robson fielding as substitute.

When Gregory had made 32 he was missed by Garnett off Jessop's bowling. Runs came steadily, and the hundred went up before half-past 12, the innings so far having lasted just over an hour and a half. At 119 Gunn relieved Jessop, whose two wickets had cost 30 runs. Jones was tried at 125, but after he had bowled one over MacLaren put Braund on again. The fielding all round was very smart. Gregory showed excellent cricket, his play on the leg side and his cutting being equally effective. Noble meanwhile played a sound careful game.

At 145 Jones again displaced Braund, and off his bowling Gregory made a couple of beautiful cuts. Then at 153 Jessop resumed at Gunn's end. The total having reached 159, Gregory's fine innings was closed by a catch at slip. He was batting an hour and 55 minutes and hit eight fours.

Carter came in, and at 161 Braund relieved Jones, who crossed over and bowled in place of Jessop. Noble, when 29, nearly ran himself out, and just afterwards he escaped being stumped, missing a ball from Braund which he jumped out to drive. At lunch time the total was 168 for six wickets, Noble having made 30 and Carter four.

On the game being resumed Carter was soon caught at short leg, the seventh wicket falling at 170. With nine runs added Noble was stumped, and at 181 Kermode was caught at mid-off. Clarke, who had gone in at 170, was then joined by McBeath, and the last wicket gave some trouble. McBeath, when he had made nine, was missed in the long field by Jessop off Jones's bowling, two being run for the hit, and a wild return adding four for overthrow. At 298 Clarke was bowled and the match ended, MacLaren's team winning by an innings and 128 runs. Braund took six wickets for 90 . . .

By direction of the umpire an alteration was made in the score this morning, Poidevin, who had yesterday been given as run out in the second innings of New South Wales, being returned at stumped by Lilley.

Carter is regarded as certain to be the second wicket-keeper for the Australian team in England this summer.

The Bathurst Club has decided not to play Marsh, to whom Mr MacLaren objected, and the match between the Englishmen and Bathurst will take place. - Reuter.

Friday 7 February, page 6: THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A special meeting of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club is to be held on February 20 to consider the question of subscriptions. The committee propose to alter the rule dealing with the question to empower them to charge 15s instead of 10s 6d for single tickets, and £1 10s instead of £1 1s for family tickets, and there is every prospect of the change being sanctioned.

The chairman of the committee has issued a circular explaining the reasons why the increase is deemed necessary. He says that the existing rates of subscriptions have been in force ever since the club was formed, and although the number of subscribers has now reached 1,400, the expenses of the club have of late years so greatly increased that a continuous decrease of the balance in hand has had to be faced. The losses on the last three years' working have amounted to over £1,000.

This has been brought about by the increased expenditure consequent upon the extension of the fixture card, that extension not having been attended by a proportionate increase in the measure of support received from the public. At present the revenue of the club is dependent too much upon the weather at home matches, and it is felt that the finances of the club should be placed upon a firmer basis.

Bathurst, Feb. 7.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135112.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 8 February, page 14)

The Englishmen to-day began, in pleasant weather, a match against the Bathurst and Wollongong Cricket Club. The wicket was good and the attendance numbered 3,000. Lilley, Barnes, Blythe and Jones were omitted from the English team, while Mr Woods was included. When stumps were drawn at the close of play the English total stood at 414 for seven wickets.

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

Play in the two-days' match between Mr MacLaren's eleven and eighteen of the Bathurst and Wollongong Cricket Club was resumed this morning in hot weather. There was an attendance of about 3,000, and the wicket was in capital condition.

The overnight not-outs, Quaife and MacLaren, continued the Englishmen's innings. The latter had only added five runs to his yesterday's score when he was dismissed, but Quaife carried out his bat for 159. The Bathurst Club were all out for 177 and the match was drawn.

Saturday 8 February, page 14: THE FIFTH TEST MATCH

Melbourne, Feb. 8.

The fifth test match between Mr MacLaren's eleven and All Australia will begin here on the 28th inst. instead of on March 1 as originally fixed. - Reuter.

THE ENGLISH CRICKETERS IN THE WEST INDIES

Kingston (Jamaica), Feb. 7.

The English cricketers touring through the West Indies have arrived here. They met with a hearty reception. To-morrow they meet Jamaica, who, it is feared, will not prove so strong as Barbados. - Reuter.

Thursday 13 February, page 11: CRICKET

A settlement was yesterday arrived at in the matter of the benefit which the Yorkshire County Cricket Club gave J T Brown in August last. The match was Lancashire v Yorkshire, and the receipts for the three days amounted to £3,108.

The expenses of the match and the return fixture - always deducted in the case of a benefit amounted to £825, so that Brown will be the recipient of a net balance of £2,282. Of this amount the county committee have intimated their intention to invest £2,000 for Brown's benefit, and a cheque for the balance of £282 was yesterday handed to the beneficiare by Mr J Sheldon, chairman of the local committee.

The benefit, it may be added, is a record for all matches of this character, the nearest approach to it being that given to Arthur Mold by the Lancashire county committee a couple of years ago, which amounted to £2,088.

Brown intends to start for Jamaica next Saturday to escape the cold weather and March winds of England, and he means to return about the middle of April so as to get into practice for the cricket season.

14 February: AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND (Fourth Test Match)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5858.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 15 February, page 13)

When play was started here to-day in the fourth of the five test matches the weather was overcast. Of the 14 men from whom the Australian team had to be selected, Darling was unable to play and Eady and Charles Gregory stood down. MacLaren left out Barnes, Garnett and Robson. In Darling's absence Hugh Trumble captained the Australians. At practice in the morning MacLaren tested Barnes and found his knee unequal to the strain of such a match.

MacLaren again won the toss, and on a perfect wicket he opened the innings with Hayward. Noble and Saunders shared the bowling. Both batsmen began cautiously and the scoring was slow. When Hayward had made eight he was beaten twice in one over by Saunders, who was cheered by the crowd. From the first the bowling and fielding were admirable. At the end of an hour's play the total was 45.

Having obtained 23 MacLaren ought to have been caught and bowled, but Saunders missed the chance. No change was tried till the score had reached 58, at which point Howell went on for Noble and Trumble for Saunders. Noble had bowled 14 overs, five maidens for 28 runs, and Saunders 14 overs, six maidens for 30 runs. The weather had now become delightful. At lunch time the total was 68 for no wicket, MacLaren being 31 and Hayward 37.

The crowd numbered 12,000 when the game was resumed. Saunders relieved Howell and in the third over he bowled Hayward with a splendid ball. One wicket for 73. Hayward was batting an hour and 32 minutes for his 41. He played a correct and attractive game. His hits included eight fours.

Tyldesley started in promising style and, with MacLaren playing more freely than before, the hundred went up when the innings had lasted an hour and 55 minutes. So far, MacLaren had scored 46. He now settled down into his finest form, playing beautifully all round the wicket. At 122 Saunders gave way to Noble. A section of the crowd then clamoured for the inclusion of Marsh, the aboriginal bowler, in the Australian Eleven. Noble sent down four maidens; but then MacLaren punished him for three fours in one over - two magnificent drives and a leg hit. This fine batting was fully appreciated by the spectators.

Tyldesley meanwhile was scoring slowly. The fielding continued to be very smart, Noble at point being especially good. At 144 Trumble, who bad bowled 19 overs, 11 maidens for 28 runs, gave the ball to Howell. The game went on quietly and Tyldesley made nearly all the runs, scoring 13 in 18 minutes, while MacLaren was getting a single. Noble, from whom 51 runs had been hit, was displaced at 165 by Armstrong. At the tea interval the total was 174 for one wicket, MacLaren being not out 90 and Tyldesley not out 41.

Mr F R Spofforth was among the company at the reception, and received a cheer when his presence became known. Saunders relieved Armstrong, and from his bowling MacLaren was well caught at mid-off, the second wicket falling at 179. MacLaren hit 15 fours in his 92, and was batting for just under three hours and a quarter. His innings was in every way masterly. He was full of resource and combined great patience with his fine hitting. The crowd cheered him very warmly.

Quaife was caught at the wicket and Jessop was out first ball to a catch at point. Both batsmen fell to Saunders, who had now taken four wickets for 72 runs. Since the tea interval he had obtained three for ten. Braund came next and narrowly escaped being stumped off Saunders before he had scored. Two hundred went up when the innings had been in progress three hours and 50 minutes.

When Tyldesley had made 58 he was missed off Saunders at mid-off by Hopkins. He then drove Saunders straight for five - a splendid hit. At 221 Trumble bowled for Howell, and in his first over, with four runs added, Braund was out leg-before-wicket. McGahey joined Tyldesley, who hit Saunders twice in succession for four. When McGahey had made eight he was missed at mid-on by Hopkins, off Trumble's bowling. At 245 Saunders, from whom 102 runs had now been scored, gave way to Noble. The change met with immediate success, as off Noble's second ball Tyldesley was caught at the wicket. Tyldesley's fine innings lasted a little over three hours, and included a five and fourteen fours. His play was very attractive in character.

McGahey and Lilley added 21 runs and were still together at the drawing of stumps, but McGahey had a second escape with his score at 18, Trumble missing him at slip off Noble. The weather remained very fine all the afternoon, and there were 17,000 people present. The wicket is in splendid condition.

Day 2 (report from Monday 17 February, page 7)

To-day's play in the test match here drew a record crowd, the attendance in the afternoon numbering 40,000. The weather was fine and the wicket in good condition when MacLaren's team went on with their innings, McGahey, not out 18, and Lilley, not out 10, facing the bowling of Trumble and Saunders. The score stood at 266 for six wickets.

Only one run had been added when, in Trumble's second over, McGahey was bowled. Jones came in and began slowly. Lilley, on the other hand, played a lively game, making for a time nearly all the runs. When he had scored 30 he narrowly escaped being run out, Howell returning the ball very smartly from mid-on. The total reached 300 when the innings had lasted just over five hours and a quarter.

At 303 Noble displaced Saunders. Lilley seemed uncomfortable against Noble and was caught off him at the wicket at 312. After this the end soon came. Jones was caught at the wicket in the next over with the score unchanged, and Blythe, after getting four, was bowled, the side being out for 317. The duration of the innings was five hours and 48 minutes. Kelly was much cheered for his brilliant wicket-keeping. He did not give away a single bye. Saunders took four wickets . . . Noble's two wickets to-day cost only nine runs.

Eight minutes before lunch time the Australians began their innings, Trumble and Trumper being opposed by Braund and Jessop. The latter bowled at his fastest rate. The weather was becoming dull. When seven runs had been scored Trumble was smartly caught at slip.

After lunch the ground presented a striking picture, their stands being full to overflowing. There were already 25,000 people present. Hill came in and was knocked down by Jessop's first ball. The total having been raised to 18, Trumper was brilliantly caught, low down in the slips with one hand, by Braund. It was a splendid piece of work and the fieldsman was heartily cheered. Gregory followed, but amid great excitement he also was caught in the slips by Braund, the third wicket falling at 30. Jessop had taken all three wickets and only 11 runs had been scored from him.

A cloud of dust from the adjacent camp of the South African contingent was now sweeping over the ground. Noble joined Hill and the play was followed with intense interest. Encouraged by success, MacLaren's team fielded magnificently. Getting his runs from Braund's bowling, Hill quickly reached double figures. The catches in the slips made Noble cautious, and he twice let Jessop go by on the off side without attempting to play the ball.

When Hill had scored 13 he skied a ball from Jessop to square leg. Gunn made a splendid attempt to bring off the catch, but failed. However, Hill did not stay much longer, being caught at mid-on off Jessop at 48. The crowd were amazed at the rapid fall of the wickets. When Hill left Jessop's record was four wickets for 20 runs.

Duff joined Noble, and these two batsmen tried their hardest to improve the situation, both playing with extreme caution. The first change was tried at 53, Jessop, who had bowled nine overs for 25 runs, giving way to Gunn. The cricket continued slow, the bowling being treated with great respect. Gunn sent down five overs for four runs. At 73 Blythe relieved Braund, from whom 38 runs had been scored in 15 overs. At the same total Jessop bowled again in place of Gunn, but his pace was not so great as at the start of the innings.

When Noble had made 19 he gave a chance of stumping off Blythe. The 100 went up at the end of an hour and a half's batting, and at 102 Braund took the ball from Jessop. At the tea interval the total was 104 for four wickets, Noble being not out 24 and Duff not out 33.

When the game was resumed light showers fell, but they were not sufficient to stop the cricket. The ground was simply packed. Blythe and Jessop bowled, but when nine runs had been slowly put on Jessop gave place to Braund. The new bowler repeatedly beat Duff, who played many balls with his pads. Then at 119 Duff was caught at the wicket off Blythe. So far Noble had scored 33.

Armstrong came next, and Noble, after a long period of slow play, gave a more lively exhibition. When he completed his 50 he had been batting two hours and 24 minutes. Some of the spectators in the outer reserve threw bags of sand as a protest against their view of the game being blocked by those in front. With the total at 148 for five wickets rain stopped play at half-past 5, and as the weather remained bad, stumps were drawn. Barnes consulted the doctor to-day as to the condition of his knee, and was advised to go on with the massage treatment. - Reuter.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 18 February, page 8)

At the time for resuming play in the test match here to-day the weather was gloriously fine and the attendance large. The wicket was in perfect condition, the effects of the rain on Saturday having quite passed off.

The five wickets down for 148, the Australians went on batting, Noble, not out 51, and Armstrong, not out 11, being opposed by Jessop and Braund. The score having been increased to 160, Noble was out leg-before-wicket. His defensive and invaluable innings of 56, which included six fours, lasted just over two hours and three-quarters.

Hopkins joined Armstrong and at 164 Blythe relieved Jessop. Both batsmen played with caution and runs came slowly. The bowling was good and the fielding excellent. Braund was treated with such respect that he bowled six maidens in succession. In one over of Blythe, Armstrong drove every ball hard to the off, but he did not get a run, Jessop and Quaife fielding magnificently.

A remarkable scene was witnessed when Armstrong, with his score at 33, lifted a ball from Braund to leg. Tyldesley caught it, but was on the cycling track beyond the turf. The umpire, being in doubt on the matter, consulted Tyldesley, who said he was on the track when he made the catch. Armstrong was then allowed to continue his innings, the crowd having in the meantime been yelling, "Not out, fourer!"

After this Armstrong made some grand drives, his timing being perfect. When the score reached 200 the innings had been in progress exactly four hours. Having made 53 Armstrong was missed at coverpoint by Quaife off Braund, but the chance was difficult. At 204 Gunn displaced Blythe, hose one wicket had cost 46 runs. A section of the crowd laughed at Gunn's way of running up to the wicket. With one run added Armstrong was bowled. His fine attractive innings lasted an hour and threequarters, among his hits being seven fours. At lunch time the total was 206 for seven wickets, Hopkins being not out 9 and Kelly not out 0.

When the game was resumed Blythe bowled in place of Gunn. Kelly's unsuccessful attempts to score from Braund on the leg side caused some amusement. Just at this time Braund's record for the innings was 50 overs, 23 maidens, 95 runs and two wickets. At 266 Gunn bowled again in place of Blythe and slow batting followed the change. Jessop at mid-off did a lot of work. When Hopkins had scored 32 Gunn appealed against him for leg-before-wicket, but the decision was in the batsman's favour. In the same over Hopkins hit two fours from successive balls. However, at 252 he was caught at the wicket, having played a most useful innings.

The field deepened for Howell, who immediately drove Braund to the on for five. This splendid hit was greatly cheered, Jessop joining in the applause. Howell's cricket was sensational. He punished Gunn for 18 runs in one over, his score reaching 23 when he had been at the wickets five minutes. This fierce hitting brought on Jessop at 275, but, to the great delight of the crowd, Howell made 12 in his first over. Gunn relieved Braund at 287, and with one run added this change got rid of Howell, who was caught at mid-off. His 35 - obtained in 14 minutes - included a five and six fours. He was loudly cheered.

On Braund's going on again for Gunn at 293 Saunders was soon bowled, the innings, which had occupied just over five hours and a half, ending for 299. It was agreed on all hands that the Australians had played a grand uphill game. Jessop took four wickets . . .

MacLaren and Hayward opened the Englishmen's second innings, the attendance by this time numbering 20,000. Saunders and Noble shared the bowling. The start was disastrous, MacLaren being caught at the wicket in Noble's second over. One for five. Tyldesley followed in, but the bowling was too good to be hit and the score rose slowly. Hayward had been at the wickets 20 minutes when he made his first run. At 24 Tyldesley was caught at slip. The fieldsmen stood close in for Quaife, the next batsman. He did not begin at all well and was frequently beaten by Saunders. Hayward after scoring 12 was bowled, the third wicket falling at 36.

Jessop on joining Quaife played more steadily than usual. Fifty went up, but at 57 Jessop was bowled. Braund came in, but with the score unchanged another wicket was lost. Noble appealed twice in one over for leg-before-wicket against Quaife, and on the second occasion the batsman was given out. Without another run having been scored Braund was bowled, the fourth, fifth and sixth wickets thus all going down at 57. So far, Saunders had taken three wickets for 23 runs. There was great excitement when at 60 Lilley was out to a catch at slip, Noble's record being then four wickets for 37.

McGahey and Jones stayed together till the drawing of stumps, but Jones was very uncomfortable. Before he had made a run he played a ball from Noble on to his wicket without removing the bails, and he was frequently in difficulties when playing Saunders. At the close the total was 77 for seven wickets. The weather was fine all day and the wicket in splendid condition. As the game stands now MacLaren's team, with three wickets in hand, are only 95 runs ahead.

Day 5 (report from Wednesday 19 February, page 12)

The test match here came to a quiet conclusion to-day, the Australians winning by seven wickets.

At the time for starting play the weather was gloriously fine, but the attendance only moderate. The wicket was still in splendid condition. MacLaren's team went on with their second innings, McGahey and Jones, the not outs, facing Noble and Saunders. The score stood at 77 for seven wickets.

McGahey scored a single from Noble but was caught at the wicket off Saunders's second ball. Eight for 78. With ten runs added Jones was also caught at the wicket, and Blythe, after hitting up eight, was out in the same way, the innings ending for 99. There was nothing in the state of the ground to account for the collapse, the wicket being perfect throughout, but the bowling was magnificent. Saunders and Noble were unchanged . . . Kelly kept wicket brilliantly.

Wanting only 118 to win, the Australians opened the innings with Duff and Trumper to the bowling of Jessop and Braund. Having quickly scored eight, Trumper was missed at mid-on by McGahey off Braund's fourth ball - an easy chance. Braund's first over yielded 13 runs. The score continued to rise fast, Trumper playing with much grace of style, and at 31 Blythe relieved Jessop, from whom only nine runs had been hit. At 46 Gunn displaced Blythe, who crossed over to Braund's end. Blythe's third ball after this parted the batsmen, Trumper being out leg before wicket. One for 50.

Hill joined Duff, and MacLaren, persevering with his policy of frequent changes of bowling, put on Jessop at 54 in place of Gunn, the latter having only delivered one over. When Hill had made four he was badly missed by Lilley - standing back to Jessop. At lunch time the total was 62 for one wicket, Duff being not out 30 and Hill not out five.

On the resumption of play Braund bowled at 73 in place of Blythe. Runs came freely, and at 87 Gunn took the ball from Jessop. The English fielding was not so good as usual, and Hill, when 25, had another escape, Garnett - acting as substitute for Hayward - missing him close on the boundary from Braund. Hayward was kept away by lameness. When the 100 went up only one maiden over had been bowled.

At 105 Hill was caught at the wicket. With the match as good as over the spectators clamoured for Howell, ho was cheered as he left the pavilion. However, he was out first ball, caught at third man. Gregory came in and scored eight of the next 12 runs. Then, with only a single required to win the game, he was twice missed off Gunn's bowling - first by Lilley at the wicket, and then by MacLaren in the slips. After this a four by Gregory finished the match.

The runs were hit off in exactly 100 minutes. Duff played admirably for his 51 not out, his hits including six fours. Gunn took two wickets . . . The attendance at the finish numbered 5,000.

The Australian Eleven in the fifth and last test match, beginning at Melbourne on the 28th inst., will be selected from Noble, Trumper, Trumble, Kelly, Sydney Gregory, Hill, Darling, Duff, Armstrong, Howell, Eady, Saunders and Hopkins. - Reuter.

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR ENGLAND

Sydney, Feb. 18

22

Ten certainties have been selected for the Australian cricket team to visit England - namely Hill, Darling, Noble, Trumper, Trumble, Kelly, S Gregory, Duff, Armstrong and Carter. - Own Correspondent.

Sydney, Feb. 18

The Australian team will sail for England in the Omrah, leaving Adelaide on March 20. Major Wardill will be manager, as in 1899. - Reuter.

Tuesday 18 February, page 12: THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I enclose an extract from a local newspaper giving a list of fixtures for the visit of the above team to England. On behalf of a large number of Anglo-Australian cricket enthusiasts, I would respectfully protest against the arrangement as being unduly calculated to favour the Australians, and giving the public an incorrect estimate of their merits.

It may be contended that the test matches, if properly controlled, are the most proper means of testing the relative merits of English and Australian players, and that the minor matches are merely intended as exhibitions of the Australians' skill. That may be the English view, but the Australian public, and particularly the Press - which is practically unanimous on the question - judges by the result of all matches played, and are emphatic in asserting the superiority of the Australians because the last team that visited England won 16 games and lost only 3.

I respectfully contend that some of the county teams are so weak, as well as others - particularly those described as "An English Eleven" - that their defeat is a foregone conclusion, and that the arrangement of the fixtures is in itself a prearranged triumphal tour for the Australians. The remedy that suggests itself is that the control of all matches played should be in the hands of some properly constituted authority; that, after the test matches, those with the three leading counties, the Players, Gentlemen and North of England, all other matches should be against combinations of teams or odds.

English teams visiting Australia have no such advantages. Although generally badly selected - owing to the inclusion of numbers of players whose methods are unadapted to Australian conditions - they can be relied on to do as well against weak reams as Australian teams in England. But the only matches which are considered in the results are the test matches and those against the only three States from which the players for the test matches are drawn.

Stoddart's last team played a match against Queensland, and the latter, being defeated, insisted on having 13 men in the return match, which was allowed. Not satisfied, Queensland requested the inclusion of several players from New South Wales, which was also allowed. Stoddart's team won, but the result was not chronicled or allowed to be included in the averages, because 13 men played on one side, although seven of the 13 were international players. Among them were Gregory, Iredale, Trumper, Howell, Kelly and Turner.

I would also strongly urge the English cricket public to protest against the proposal (included in enclosed extract) to play test matches in England to a conclusion. Nothing would be gained in the direction of fairness. Matches here last sometimes seven days. At the time of writing the first test match with MacLaren's eleven has lasted two days and only 13 wickets are down. Even with favourable climatic conditions the wicket on the last day is seldom good. How can it be expected otherwise in England?

Now that English batsmen have adopted the Australian methods the game has become a trial of patience and endurance for the spectators as well as for the players. I assure you, Sir, that to-day, although the side with which my sympathy was naturally placed was successful, it was an ordeal to me to watch the game. At one time it was a pleasure no matter which side won.

In conclusion I would respectfully ask you not to countenance matches of unlimited duration, as being fraught with the gravest possibilities for the future of the game.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

A MEMBERS OF THE SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND

Sydney, N.S.W., Dec. 14.

22 February: VICTORIA v A C MACLAREN'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5861.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 24 February, page 11)

The return match between Mr MacLaren's team and Victoria was begun here to-day in splendid weather. Though small at the start, the attendance increased during the afternoon to 8,000. The wicket was perfect. Barnes, Jessop and Gunn were left out of the English eleven, and Victoria played Collins and Woodford in place of Trumble and Hastings.

Worrall won the toss for Victoria and went in himself with Warne, the bowling being shared by Braund and Blythe. Playing a free game Worrall, after some smaller hits, made a five to leg from Braund, but in the next over he was caught at long-off, the first wicket falling at 17. Armstrong was stumped without getting a run, and with the score still at 17 McAlister was out leg before wicket. So far Braund had taken two wickets for 12 runs.

Warne, who from the first played with extreme caution, was joined by Laver. The latter had made 13 when, with the total at 31, he was compelled by indisposition to retire for a time. Stuckey took his place but was bowled first ball. Four wickets for 31. Warne when three was missed being caught and bowled by Blythe. McLeod stayed for a little while, but was run out at 49. McMichael was cleverly caught low down in the slips at 53, and then Laver came back to complete his innings. At lunch time the score was 60 for six wickets, Warne being 22 and Laver 13. Up to this point the bowling had been admirable, but the batting - on such a good wicket - curiously poor.

When play was resumed Victoria for a time did better. Warne and Laver gave a good deal of trouble and sent up the 100 when the innings had lasted an hour and 50 minutes. However, at 106, Laver was caught at mid-off. Woodford came in and McGahey bowled in place of Blythe, whose two wickets had cost 47 runs. At 123 Woodford was smartly stumped, and the innings soon came to an end for 129, Collins being caught and bowled with one hand and Saunders bowled. Altogether the time occupied was just upon two hours and a half.

Warne played steady, patient cricket for his 61 not out, but his batting was not very attractive in character. Braund took five wickets . . . The fielding was brilliant.

MacLaren and Jones opened the English innings to the bowling of South Australia and Laver. Both batsmen were favoured by fortune. Jones when seven was missed by Saunders at slip, and MacLaren had two escapes, being missed by Saunders at slip when he had made five and by Armstrong at slip off Saunders's bowling with his score at 16. By steady degrees the total reached 42, and then Jones was caught at mid-off.

Quaife came in and began very quietly, leaving nearly all the run-getting to MacLaren. The first change of bowling was tried at 72, McLeod displacing Laver, and at 76 Warne relieved Saunders. Quaife took 48 minutes to get his first ten runs, his careful play provoking ironical cheers from a section of the crowd. He replied to the demonstration by raising his hat. When the 100 went up the innings had been in progress 93 minutes.

MacLaren, who made 66 runs out of 100, was fortunate in giving two more chances that were not accepted. When 71 he was missed at cover-point by McAlister off McLeod's bowling, and in the next over with his score at 78 he ought to have been caught and bowled by Warne. At 121 Collins bowled for Warne, and at 141 Saunders resumed in place of McLeod. Still the score rose, so at 158 Saunders gave way to Armstrong. Then at 160 MacLaren was caught and bowled, and stumps were drawn.

MacLaren's well-hit but lucky 100 lasted two hours and a quarter, and included eight fours. The loose fielding told heavily against Victoria, and as a whole the day's cricket was not interesting. The weather remained fine all day.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 25 February, page 12)

Owing to a heavy downpour of rain there was no play here to-day in the return match between Mr MacLaren's team and Victoria till half-past 4. With two wickets down for 160 the Englishmen went on batting, Quaife, not out 29, being joined by Hayward. The ground was sodden and the attendance small. Collins and McLeod shared the bowling.

When Hayward had made four Woodford missed stumping him off Collins. Runs came steadily, Quaife playing, for him, quite a free game. The bowlers found a difficulty in maintaining a foothold and the outfielding ground as in a bad state. At 101 Quaife was out leg-before-wicket. His innings of 45 lasted two hours and nine minutes, and included four fours. With one run added, Garnett was also leg before, and with the total still at 192 Hayward was smartly caught at the wicket.

McGahey and Tyldesley then stayed together, but in a dull light they scored slowly. Tyldesley had only made nine when, from Collins's bowling, he was missed by Warne at square leg. At 203 Collins, who had taken three wickets for 34 runs, gave way to Saunders, and at 209 Laver relieved McLeod. Neither change proved successful, and at the drawing of stumps the score had without further loss been increased to 232. At the close of the afternoon rain was threatening.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 26 February, page 11)

The return match between Mr MacLaren's team and Victoria was concluded here to-day, the Englishmen winning by eight wickets. At the time play began the weather was showery, the attendance small and the wicket in a very bad state after yesterday's rain. With their score at 232 for five wickets, MacLaren's team went on batting, McGahey, not out 17, and Tyldesley, not out 21, being opposed by Saunders and Laver.

Handicapped by having to use a wet ball, neither bowler could do anything, and runs came freely. However, when the total had reached 262, McGahey was caught in the slips. His partnership with Tyldesley had produced 70 runs. Braund came in, and at 263 Collins relieved Saunders. The change soon proved successful, Braund being out at 260 to a brilliant catch at third man. Then at 278 Tyldesley was caught at the wicket. His innings of 45 lasted an hour and 10 minutes.

Lilley and Robson now got together, and Robson, after making two, was missed by Saunders at squareleg off Collins's bowling. In trying for the catch Saunders fell heavily and seriously injured his collar-bone. He had to leave the field, and it is possible the accident may prevent him from getting a place in the team for England. Braund came out as substitute.

Lilley was caught and bowled at 293 and Blythe stumped without getting a run, the innings ending for 298. Collins took five wickets for 52 runs . . .

Wanting 169 runs to avoid a single innings defeat, Victoria began batting with Worrall and Warne. Braund and Blythe shared the bowling. Worrall made a single and then lunch was taken. On the game being resumed Worrall, with the score at 8 - all obtained by himself - was out leg before wicket. Armstrong joined Warne, and by slow degrees the total was carried to 34, at which point McGahey displaced Blythe. The change proved effective, as off McGahey's second ball Warne was caught in the slips. Two wickets for 36.

McAlister came in next, and for a long time the game went on in a very uneventful way. When Armstrong had made 24 he gave a very difficult chance from McGahey's bowling to Lilley at mid-off. He did not profit much by the escape, as after getting four more runs he was caught at cover-point. Three for 55.

McAlister and Laver gave some trouble and carried the score to 80. Then McAlister's innings was ended by a catch in the slips. At this point McGahey had taken three wickets for 27 runs. Laver was caught in the slips at 92, but Stuckey and McLeod stayed together, and at the tea interval the total had, without further loss, been taken to 119.

On play being continued Blythe at 126 bowled again in place of McGahey. The bowling was weak and not nearly so difficult as it should have been on the damaged wicket. McLeod was caught in the slips at 135, and with the score unaltered McMichael was stumped. Woodford came next and 35 runs were added for the eighth wicket. When he had made 38 Stuckey skied a ball from Blythe to short-leg. Robson, the wicket-keeper, ran for the catch, but failed to bring it off. At 174 Woodford was bowled, and at 182 a catch at slip got rid of Stuckey and finished the innings, Saunders being unable to go in. Stuckey was batting an hour and 18 minutes for his 54. Among his hits were three fives - all from Braund's bowling - and two fours. Blythe took three wickets . . .

With only 14 runs required to win, MacLaren sent in Garnett and Robson. Warne and Worrall bowled. Garnett - missed at slip first ball off Warne - was run out at nine, and at ten Robson was caught at long-on by Saunders's substitute. McGahey and Jones were in at the finish, but McGahey ought to have been stumped off Worrall's bowling . . .

28 February: AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND (Fifth Test Match)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5862.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 1 March, page 14)

The fifth and last of the test matches was begun here to-day in glorious weather, but on a wicket rendered slow by the heavy rain at the beginning of the week. MacLaren in making up his team left out Barnes, Garnett and Robson. Barnes practised at the last moment, but his injured knee was too unsound to justify his taking part in the game.

In the Australian eleven two changes were made from the side that won last week at Sydney. Howell gave way to Eady and, Saunders being incapacitated by his accident on Tuesday, the last place was filled by Travers, the left-handed slow bowler from South Australia. Darling could not spare time to play. Crockett stood umpire for the Australians.

Trumble beat MacLaren in the toss and, deciding to take first innings, sent in Trumper and Duff. Jessop and Braund started the bowling. Thirteen runs were scored in Jessop's first over, but Duff played the last ball of Braund's first over on to his wicket. One for 16. Hill came in, and Blythe relieved Jessop. The new bowler was immediately punished for ten runs, Trumper getting two fours to leg from successive balls. For some time the batting was vigorous and attractive, but when the score had reached 54 Trumper fell to a beautiful ball from Blythe. In his 27 Trumper hit four fours.

Gregory joined Hill, and as runs again came rather freely two changes were tried, Hayward bowling for Braund at 76 and Gunn for Blythe at 81. The second change at once proved successful, Hill being caught at deep slip from Gunn's fifth ball. Three for 81. Noble came next, and in the hope of getting another wicket before lunch MacLaren varied his bowling, Hayward giving way to Braund at 88, but going on again at 91. At lunch time the total was 98 for three wickets, Gregory being not out 25 and Noble not out three.

When the game was resumed Gunn and Hayward still bowled, and before a run had been added Gregory was caught in the slips. So far Gunn's record as two wickets for ten runs. Two other wickets soon fell, Noble being out leg before at 104 and Trumble caught at cover point from a false hit at 108. When the 100 went up the innings had lasted an hour and 18 minutes. Armstrong and Hopkins were not together for very long, Hopkins at 112 skying a ball which the wicket-keeper, running forward, caught easily. Then with the score unchanged Kelly was caught at mid-off. Eight for 112. Hayward at this point had taken four wickets for 13 runs.

The wicket was playing in a peculiar way and runs were evidently hard to get. Armstrong was excessively cautious, being in 41 minutes before he scored. Eady was bowled at 125, but Travers gave some trouble and helped to put on 19 runs. Then a catch at slip got rid of him, the innings, which had occupied two hours and 23 minutes, closing for 144. Hayward took four wickets . . . The fielding was excellent. At one time during the latter part of the innings Gunn bowled six maidens in succession.

MacLaren took Jessop in with him to open the English innings, and Noble and Trumble started the bowling. The wicket seemed to have improved, and naturally played better after having been rolled. Jessop made 15 runs in Noble's second over, and then, amid great applause, drove Trumble to the off for five. He continued to play a most brilliant game, and had scored 35 out of 50 in 20 minutes without giving a chance when a catch at long-on ended his innings. His hits included five fours.

After he left the game was much quieter, and for a time everything went well for Australia. At 62 Quaife was caught in the slips, and at 64 MacLaren was caught and bowled. Tyldesley and Hayward then stayed together, and at 86 Noble, whose one wicket had cost 46 runs, gave way to Travers. The change was successful, Hayward being brilliantly caught from the new bowler at long-off at 91. Braund came in next. With one run added Eady relieved Trumble, and off his bowling Tyldesley was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back. Five for 96. Tyldesley was batting 40 minutes for his 13 and showed very pretty cricket.

Lilley joined Braund, and the 100 went up when the innings had lasted an hour and a half. Braund played a good game, some of his hits being very crisp, but he could not score fast. Noble displaced Travers at 123, and afterwards crossed to Eady's end; but no other wicket fell, and at the drawing of stumps the total was 133. The weather kept fine all day and the attendance numbered 8,000. The wicket is improving.

Day 2 (report from Monday 3 March, page 7)

Warm and windy at the time for resuming play in the test match here to-day, the weather became sultry as the afternoon advanced. Even at the start there was a large attendance, and before the finish the crowd numbered 19,000.

With five wickets down for 133 MacLaren's team went on batting, Braund and Lilley, the not-outs, facing Eady and Noble. The pitch seemed in excellent order. Seven runs were scored in Eady's first over, so at 140 Trumble put himself on. The batting was both sound and attractive. Lilley played with great freedom and punished Noble for ten runs in one over. Trumble parted the batsmen at 164, Braund from a false hit being caught in the slips. Lilley so far had made 35.

McGahey came in, but was bowled without getting a run, the seventh wicket falling at 168. Since going on at 140 Trumble, who was bowling admirably, had taken two wickets for 11 runs. Jones joined Lilley, but at 173 the latter was caught at long-on. In scoring his 41 Lilley was at the wickets an hour and 22 runs. He hit four fours and gave no chance.

Gunn came next, and while Noble was bowling a section of the crowd shouted "Take him off; give Travers a show." At 183 Eady relieved Noble, and this change quickly finished off the innings, Jones being smartly caught by the wicket-keeper standing back and 186, and Gunn out leg before wicket at 189. Altogether the Englishmen were batting for three hours and five minutes. Trumble took five wickets for 62 runs . . .

The Australians started their second innings with Trumper and Duff to the bowling of Braund and Hayward. Ten runs having been scored without loss, the players went to lunch. There were 10,000 people on the ground when play was resumed.

Runs came rather fast, Trumper scoring chiefly from Braund. When Duff had made 10 he gave a difficult chance off Hayward to MacLaren in the slips. For the most part the fielding was brilliant, MacLaren and Jones showing great smartness. The first wicket fell at 30, Trumper being caught at mid-on. Hill came in and began very cautiously. Duff obtained 16 out of the next 22 runs, but at 52 he was brilliantly caught and bowled.

Gregory now became Hill's partner, and the score rose steadily. At 74 the bowling was changed for the first time, Hayward, who had sent down ten overs for 29 runs, giving way to Gunn. After this 15 runs were hit from Braund in first over, Hill from successive balls making two beautiful fours on the on side. As a result of this punishment Braund was displaced at 93 by Blythe. Braund's two wickets had cost 60 runs. The 100 went up when the innings had lasted an hour and 17 minutes.

When Hill had scored 38 he had an escape of Blythe's bowling, Lilley missing him at the wicket. Braund bowled again for Blythe at 128, but before a run had been added the tea interval was taken. Hill was not out 43 and Gregory not out 39. The wicket had obviously become faster than it was yesterday.

In Gunn's second over after the resumption Gregory was bowled. Three wickets for 131. Gregory was batting 71 minutes for his 41 and hit three fours. He gave no chance, but he was not in his best form. Noble, the next batsman, made 16 runs out of 18 and was then caught in the slips. Four for 149.

Armstrong joined Hill, who with his score at 55 was missed being stumped off Braund, an easy chance. After his second let off Hill played very freely, often jumping out at Braund's slows. At 179 Braund was relieved by Blythe, but nothing resulted, so at 193 Blythe gave way to Hayward. This change met with success, Hill being caught at the wicket off Hayward at 208. Hill, who had a great reception at the pavilion, was batting two hours and 37 minutes. He hit vigorously all round the wicket, among his figures being eight fours.

Trumble came in, and at 211 Gunn, who had taken two wickets for 53 runs, gave way to Braund. Again a change proved effective, Armstrong being out leg-before to Braund at 224. Trumble and Kelly stayed together for the few remaining wickets, the total at the close being 226. As the game stands now the Australians are 181 runs ahead with four wickets still to fall. At the drawing of stumps the wicket was still in good condition.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 4 March, page 9)

Heavy showers fell here this morning, but the rain cleared off before the time fixed for resuming play in the test match. The weather, however, remained dull and unsettled. At the start the attendance was moderate. The grass has grown wonderfully since Saturday.

With six wickets down for 226, the Australians went on with their second innings, Trumble and Kelly, the not outs, facing the bowling of Hayward and Gunn. Though the showers had not affected the wicket to the extent expected, the ball kicked a good deal. Runs came slowly, but as no wicket fell MacLaren tried a double change at 243, putting on Blythe for Hayward and Braund for Gunn. Six runs having been added, Trumble was bowled. Seven wickets for 249. Hopkins came in, but with the total unchanged he was caught in the slips. Since going on at 243 Blythe had taken two wickets for two runs.

Eady, before he had scored, was missed at mid-off by Hayward off Braund's bowling, but he did not profit by his luck, being caught at long-on at 252. Travers was caught and bowled for a single, the innings, which lasted just over four hours and twenty minutes, ending for 255. Braund took five wickets for 95 runs . .

The Englishmen wanted 211 to win the match. MacLaren and Hayward began the task to the bowling of Noble and Trumble, and at lunch time 13 runs had been scored without loss. On the resumption of the game the wicket played better than before, and by steady degrees the total was carried to 40. At this point Hayward, from a tame hit, was caught at mid-on, and then a drizzling rain stopped play.

After a delay of half an hour a fresh start was made, Quaife joining MacLaren. Only 21 runs had been put on, however, when rain again drove the players from the field. This time the game was stopped for an hour.

On play being resumed, Quaife was out leg-before-wicket at 64. Jessop came in and the score was increased to 87. Then, unfortunately for his side, MacLaren was run out. Before anything more could be done, rain set in again, and as the weather did not improve, stumps were drawn at 20 minutes to 6. As the score stands now the Englishmen, with seven wickets to fall, want 124 runs to win.

Day 4 (report from Wednesday 5 March, page 11)

The test match here ended to-day just before half-past 1, the Australians winning by 32 runs. At the time play began the weather was cloudy, the light bad and the attendance small, and before long a drizzling rain fell. Wanting 124 runs to win with seven wickets to fall, Mr MacLaren's team went on batting, Jessop and Tyldesley being opposed by Trumble and Noble. The wicket, as the result of yesterday's rain, kicked a good deal, and the out fielding ground was dead.

From the first ball Jessop was caught at cover point. Braund came in, but after scoring two runs he was caught at long-on, the fifth wicket falling at 93. Lilley joined Tyldesley and the hundred went up, the innings having lasted two hours and five minutes. Then at 104 Lilley was caught at mid-off. McGahey gave a chance to Trumble at slip before he had scored, but the escape did not profit him much, as at 120 he was out to a catch at long-on.

The match was now almost as good as over, the Englishmen, with only three wickets in hand, still requiring 91 to win. However, when Jones became Tyldesley's partner there seemed for a time a possibility of the runs being obtained. Both batsmen played freely, and at 137 a change was thought necessary, Eady being put on in place of Trumble. Twice in succession Jones cut Eady behind point for four, both beautiful hits. Having scored 26, Jones was missed at slip by Trumble off Noble. At 156 Trumble resumed in place of Eady, who had only bowled two overs. Jones was missed at the wicket by Kelly, but from the next ball Noble caught and bowled him. His 28 was a very plucky innings. He hit four fours and was only batting 25 minutes.

Gunn was caught behind the bowler at 161, but Blythe stayed, the last wicket adding 17 runs. Then Tyldesley fell to a catch at leg and the match was over. Tyldesley played fine cricket for nearly an hour and a half, and gave no chance. His hits included five fours. The English innings lasted in all three hours and 11 minutes. Noble took six wickets for 98 runs and Trumble three for 64 . . .

MacLaren's innings of 49 yesterday, though disfigured by a couple of chances - a difficult one at the wicket when 40 and the other at short leg just before he was out - was an admirable display. He made most of his runs on the leg side and was at the wickets an hour and 43 minutes.

Monday 3 March, page 7: THE NOTTS COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting at the Notts County Cricket Club was held at Nottingham on Saturday, under the presidency of Lord Belper, who occupied the chair in the absence of Sir George Ernest Paget.

The report showed a total income of £3,520. The total expenditure amounted to £3,516. An efficiently ground staff has been engaged for the coming season.

Although the committee's suggestions with regard to the division of the profits from the test matches wee England and Australia were not car exactly as proposed, the committee felt they had been instrumental in securing a far fairer division than on the occasion of the Australian visit in 1899.

The retiring president nominated Mr Pearson Gregory, of Harlaxton Manor, as his successor.

Additional interest was given to the meeting by reason of the presentation by Mr W E Denison, on behalf of the members of the club, of an illuminated address to Mr J A Dixon in recognition of his services at captain of the eleven for 12 years up to 1899. One hundred and seventy pounds had been subscribed without personal canvassing, the subscriptions being limited to one guinea. All but the money necessary to pay for the address was, at Mr Dixon's wish, left with the committee to be given as they might deem fit to help the benefits on Notts cricketers who have been regular members of the county eleven.

Earlier in the proceedings Lord Belper urged the necessity of looking after young players in the best interests of county cricket, and criticized the action of some rich counties who took their players from any part in order to qualify them to play.

Wednesday 5 March, page 11: AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM FOR ENGLAND

Melbourne, March 5

The composition of the Australian cricket team to visit England this summer has now been completed, Saunders, Jones, Howell and Hopkins having been chosen to fill the remaining vacancies. - Reuter.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Warwickshire Club was held at Birmingham last night, Mr G H Cartland presiding. The report described the past season as the most successful in the annals of Warwickshire cricket.

Financially the result was more reassuring, but there was an adverse balance of £93. The Yorkshire match, however, was set aside for Lilley's benefit, which realized £850. The gate money for the season amounted to £2,426, and the subscriptions to £1,862, an increase on both items of £1,342 as compared with the previous year. In view of the imperative need of strengthening the finances an entrance fee of half-a-guinea had been instituted and the subscription raised from a guinea to 26s.

The chairman referred to the selection of the Edgbaston ground for the first test match of the Australians' tour and explained the steps which were being taken to increase the accommodation for spectators. The club looked forward to an excellent season, as all their men were available again.

Mr J C Lane, treasurer, said their expenses were very heavy because they could not rear cricketers in Warwickshire and consequently had to make importations. Lord Willoughby de Broke was re-elected president of the club.

11 March: BROKEN HILL v A C MACLAREN'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135113.html)

Day 1 (report from Wednesday 12 March, page 7)

Mr MacLaren's team began a two days' match to-day against an Eighteen of Broken Hill before a large attendance. The weather was warm. MacLaren, Hayward and Barnes stood down from the English team, Robson taking MacLaren's place as captain. The wicket was a matting one.

The Englishmen won the toss and, electing to bat, were all disposed of for 173.

Day 2 (report from Thursday 13 March, page 7)

There was a capital attendance this morning when play was resumed in the match between Mr MacLaren's Eleven and an Eighteen of Broken Hill. The weather was hot.

The colonials, who overnight had scored 119 for the loss of 14 wickets, were all out for 221, Canst carrying out his bat for 99. Braund took 11 wickets for 105 . . . In their second innings the Englishmen scored 190 for the loss of seven wickets and the match ended in a draw.

Wednesday 12 March, page 7

Adelaide, March 11.

The eleven to represent South Australia in the last match of Mr MacLaren's team, which begins here on Friday, will be selected from the following 13 players: - Messrs Claxton, Evans, Giffen, Hill, Hack, Jones, Kirkwood, McKenzie, Reedman, Travers, Waters, Newland and Jarvis.

Thursday 13 March, page 7

In their annual report the Sussex County executive announce a deficit of £111 on the year's working. Tate's benefit last season realized £1,051, a sum that has not before been reached in benefit matches in Sussex.

Next season the county will play all the first-class counties except Warwickshire and Derbyshire. Oxford and Cambridge will be met and the Australians will visit Brighton; but the Lord's match with M.C.C. is dropped.

It is hoped that Mr Arthur Collins will be a regular member of the team. Cordingley and Clarke will be qualified to represent Sussex.

14 March: SOUTH AUSTRALIA v A C MACLAREN'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5864.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 15 March, page 14)

Mr MacLaren's team began here to-day their return match with South Australia - the last fixture of their tour. The weather was gloriously fine, the weather good and the wicket in perfect condition.

Mr MacLaren left out Barnes, Blythe and Robson, and of the players from whom the South Australian side had to be chosen MacKenzie and Hack stood down.

Hill won the toss and sent in Reedman and F Jarvis, the English bowling being shared by Braund and Gunn. Jarvis began in vigorous style and scored 13 in one over from Braund, hitting three fours in succession. Reedman, on the other hand, was slow and cautious. Of the first 25 runs Jarvis made 22. The fielding was excellent. The total reached 48, and then Jarvis was caught at mid-off.

Hill came in, but after he had made two Braund bowled him with a splendid ball. Two wickets for 51. George Giffen joined Reedman, but with 15 added the latter was easily stumped. At this point Braund, who was bowling in great form, had taken two wickets for 37 runs. Kirkman was bowled at 82, and then the luncheon interval was taken, Giffen being not out 17.

After lunch, without a run having been added, Giffen was out to Gunn's bowling. Five wickets for 82. Claxton and Evans then stayed together, Evans scoring 30 out of 34 before being smartly caught at the wicket. Waters only made a single and was then out leg before wicket. Seven for 118. After this came the best stand of the innings, Claxton finding a very capable partner in Newland. Claxton did most of the hitting, and without further loss 70 runs were added before the interval for tea. Claxton had then made 52 and Newland 18.

On the game's being resumed Claxton was caught and bowled, the eighth wicket falling at 198. Little more was done, Travers being caught in the slips at 207 and Newland leaving at the same total. Braund took five wickets for 116 runs and Gunn five for 73 . . .

MacLaren and Hayward opened the English innings and made an excellent start, the total at the close being 53 with no wicket down. Hayward from the outset scored the faster of the two, getting 23 runs out of the first 30.

Day 2 (report from Monday 17 March, page 11)

The weather was splendid and the wicket in perfect condition at the time of resuming play here today. Small at first, the attendance increased to 8,000 before the end of the afternoon. With their score at 53 for no wicket the Englishmen went on batting, MacLaren and Hayward, the not-outs, being opposed by Travers and Jones.

Four runs having been added, MacLaren was bowled. Tyldesley joined Hayward and the game proceeded quietly. The bowling and fielding were excellent and runs came at such a slow rate that at one point only four were scored in 20 minutes. Still the batsmen stayed together, and at 83 Jones, from whom 38 runs had been hit, gave way to Giffen. Before very long the change proved successful, Hayward being caught and bowled at 99. He hit five fours in his 57 and gave no chances.

Quaife came in and the hundred went up, the innings having lasted two hours and seven minutes. When he had made four Quaife was missed in the long field by Waters off Travers's bowling. At lunch time the total was 126 for two wickets, Tyldesley having 38 and Quaife eight.

After the interval the attendance was much better than before. Travers and Giffen still shared the bowling, and in the former's second over Quaife played a ball on to his wicket. Jessop, who followed in, was missed at mid-on by Waters off Travers when he had scored two. However, he did not profit by his luck, for without getting another run he was bowled. Four wickets for 142.

Braund came next and Tyldesley, when 50, narrowly escaped being run out. A little later Braund, with his score at 11, was badly missed in the long field by Kirkwood off Giffen. Reedman went on at 174 in place of Travers, who had taken three wickets for 82 runs, and at 176 Jones relieved Giffen. The fifth wicket fell at 199, Braund being caught at mid-off. Lilley was Tyldesley's next partner, and 200 went up, the innings having been in progress just under three hours and a half. At 211 Lilley was bowled by Jones, whose record was now two wickets for 51 runs.

With McGahey in the batting improved. At 213 Travers was bowled again for Reedman. Tyldesley was playing in his finest form, his cutting being beautifully clean. Jarvis displaced Travers at 230, and at 241 Giffen resumed for Jones. Off Jarvis's bowling Tyldesley, who had made 93, was missed at point by Evans. At the tea interval the total was 244 for seven wickets, Tyldesley being not out 94 and McGahey not out 17. On restarting Jones and Giffen shared the bowling. Tyldesley completed his hundred after batting for two hours and 53 minutes and was much cheered. McGahey left at 260, his partnership with Tyldesley having produced 49 runs. With A O Jones in, Jarvis bowled at 272, and at 304 Travers was tried again in place of Giffen. The second of these changes parted the batsmen, Tyldesley falling to Travers's first ball. In his splendid innings of 126 Tyldesley hit 21 fours.

Jones was bowled at 316 and, Gunn being bowled just afterwards, the innings ended for 318. Travers took four wickets . . .

Reedman and Jarvis started the second innings of South Australia to the bowling of Braund and Gunn. When Jarvis had made four he was missed by Hayward at square leg off Braund, but at the close of play the score was 21 with nobody out. Lilley did not seem in form behind the stumps. The wicket is lasting well.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 18 March, page 12)

Though the weather here to-day was again splendid, there was only a meagre attendance when the match was resumed. The wicket was still in good condition. South Australia, with the score at 21 for no wicket, went on with their second innings, Reedman and Jarvis, the not-outs, facing Braund and Gunn.

When Jarvis had made 12 he narrowly escaped being run out, the ball being smartly returned by Jessop. The total reached 32 and then, in Gunn's second over, Jarvis was caught in the slips. Hill came in and the game proceeded quietly, both batsmen being cautious. The score having been carried to 65, Reedman was bowled. When he left Gunn's average was two wickets for 23 runs.

Giffen joined Hill, and runs were rather slowly put on, the fielding all round being very brilliant. After a time the pace improved, and the 100 went up when the innings had lasted an hour and a quarter. Hill's cutting was perfect and Giffen scored fast, chiefly off Braund. At 119 MacLaren tried a double change, McGahey going on for Gunn and Jones for Braund. From Jones's first ball Giffen was out leg-before-wicket and, as it was close upon half-past 1, lunch was taken, the total being 119 for three wickets. Hill was not out 28.

When play was continued Kirkwood became Hill's partner. Jones and Gunn shared the bowling. The batting was admirable, Kirkwood getting his runs in free, attractive style and Hill playing a dashing game. At 150 Braund relieved Jones, but runs still came freely, so at 171 McGahey displaced Gunn, from whom 67 had now been scored. This latter change proved successful. McGahey's second ball dismissed Kirkwood, and off the same bowler Hill was caught at 184. In his 61 Hill hit six fours. McGahey had at this point taken two wickets for three runs.

Evans was caught in the long-field at 191, and Claxton, who had gone in at the fall of the fourth wicket, was joined by Waters. The total reached 200 when the innings had been in progress two hours and a half.

At 205 Gunn bowled again for McGahey. About this time Claxton scored nine runs from Braund in one over. Waters began unsteadily, but became freer in style when he had settled down. McGahey at 234 once more took the ball from Gunn, and at 252 Jones was put on in place of Braund. The batsmen, however, stayed together, and at the tea interval the score was 260 for six wickets, Claxton being not out 58 and Waters not out 13.

Jones and McGahey still had charge of the bowling when play was resumed. When Waters had made 18 McGahey ought to have caught and bowled him. At 277 Hayward relieved Jones, and off his bowling, with ten runs added, Waters was caught.

Newland came next, and at 293 Braund displaced Hayward, who crossed over to McGahey's end. Three hundred went up as the result of a little less than four hours' batting; but at 303 Claxton was bowled. His fine innings of 83 had lasted an hour and 47 minutes. He hit 12 fours and gave no chance. The spectators cheered him enthusiastically.

Jones was missed by Tyldesley off Braund before he had scored, but he only made three, and then Hayward bowled him. Travers, the last man, was caught at point without getting a run, and the innings ended for 306. Hayward took three wickets . . .

MacLaren's team wanted 196 to win the match. The order was changed, Quaife and Gunn being sent in first. Jones and Travers bowled. From Jones's third ball Quaife made a four to leg. Gunn was

32

uneasy when opposed to Jones, but nothing happened, and at the close of play 21 runs had been scored without loss.

Day 4 (report from Wednesday 19 March, page 10)

Mr MacLaren's team brought their tour to a close here to-day, beating South Australia by six wickets. Out of 196 runs required to give a victory 21 had been obtained overnight without loss, so that today, with all ten wickets in hand, the Englishmen wanted 175 runs. Lovely weather prevailed and the wicket remained in excellent condition, but there was only a small company of spectators.

Quaife, not out five, and Gunn, not out 14, proceeded with the Englishmen's innings against the bowling of Jones and Giffen. The first over yielded six byes. Quaife had only added six runs to his score when he had a narrow escape from being caught and bowled by Giffen, who was in particularly goof form. Gunn, however, was the firs to leave, a catch at point by Travers dismissing the Notts player when the total had reached 40.

Tyldesley joined Quaife and soon settled down to a bright and confident game. With the score increased to 56 Travers took the ball from Jones, and at 74 Giffen made way for Jarvis. Tyldesley, after making 20, gave a chance to Travers at point off Jarvis's bowling, but the catch was a difficult one and the fieldsman failed to bring it off. Making the most of his luck Tyldesley hit away freely, and when he had played a ball from Jarvis on to his wicket he had scored 47 while Quaife was making 18. Included in Tyldesley's innings were seven fours. The first 100 runs occupied 102 minutes, the luncheon interval being taken with the total at 107 for two wickets.

When the game was continued Travers and Jarvis bowled so well that neither Hayward nor Quaife could score at all freely. Slowly the total was advanced to 121, when Evans relieved Jarvis. The change in the attack was immediately successful, as off the new bowler's fourth ball Quaife was caught. The Warwickshire batsman had played an invaluable innings of 41, his skilful work going a long way towards ensuring the success of his side. He hit six fours.

Wanting only 74 more runs to win the Englishmen had seven wickets in hand when Jessop joined Hayward. The newcomer scored rapidly, hitting five fours in quick succession. Waters relieved Travers at 140, but it was off Evans that Jessop, five runs later, was taken in the long field by Claxton. Out of 32 runs added during his stay the Gloucestershire captain had made 25, Hayward, when the fourth wicket went down at 154, being not out ten.

No further success attended the efforts of the South Australian bowlers. With Braund as his partner Hayward continued to play a slow and cautious game. Giffen went on for Waters at 174, but then Hayward, adopting a freer style of play, scored four fours, and Braund with a boundary hit off Giffen brought the total to 196, the Englishmen winning the match by six wickets. Of the six bowlers tried Evans took two wickets . . .

At the conclusion of the match Sir Edwin Smith, members of the Legislative Council, bade the Englishmen farewell.

[Note: Results summary and averages follow.]

Tuesday 18 March, page 12: THE KENT COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Kent County Cricket Club was held yesterday, at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing-cross. The retiring president, Major John Howard, M.P., was in the chair.

It was resolved to make a grant of £100 to Walter Hearne instead of giving him a benefit, and he was reappointed scorer. The report and balance-sheet as approved at the meeting in November last were adopted, the accounts showing that a sum of £498 0s 5d had been carried forward. The loan on the new pavilion account has been reduced from £3,000 to £1,300.

Matches will be played this season with all the other first-class counties except Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire, and also with the Australians at Canterbury on August 21, with the M.C.C. and Ground at Lord's, and with Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The Earl of Darnley was announced as president for the present year, and a vote of thanks was passed to Major Howard. Of the retiring committee, the Hon. J S R Tufton, Captain McCanlis and Mr F A Mackinnon were re-elected, Major J Howard, M.P., and the Hon H Milles-Lade taking the places of General Sir J Bevan Edwards and Mr P B Neane, resigned.

THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

The Essex committee has issued the annual report, which states that Mr H G Owen will again captain the side, and that Mr C E Green had again engaged Alfred Shaw, Robert Peel and Albert Trott to coach the eleven and specially selected players on the county ground for three weeks beginning on April 12.

The committee further records its regret at the loss the club has experienced by the death of Lord Rookwood, who was one of the original vice-presidents and one of its staunchest supporters. The financial position of the club is considered fairly satisfactory.

Wednesday 26 March, page 10: SUSSEX COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The annual meeting of the Sussex County Cricket Club was held yesterday afternoon at the County Cricket Ground Hotel, Brighton, under the presidency of Lord Winterton.

From the report of the committee it appeared that the benefit match granted to Tate last season had realized £1,051. The financial position of the club was not, however, satisfactory, the previous year's deficit of £33 having been increased to £110. The general depression had affected them and the benefits granted during the last two seasons had been a great drain upon the finances. It is confidently expected, however, that with fine weather the club will recover its position this year.

All last year's team will be available with the exception of Mr K O Goldie, who is now in India. In addition, Mr A Collins is expected to play again regularly, while two young bowlers - Cordingley and Clarke - are qualified. The ground staff will comprise Bland, Tate, Killick, Vine, Marlow, Bean, Cordingley and Clarke.

An improved scoring-board will be erected on the ground during the season. Lord Brassey was elected president for the ensuing year.

Wednesday 9 April: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The balance-sheet of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club has just been issued to members in view of the annual general meeting which is to be held in Bristol on the 24th inst. This shows that the club began the year with the sum of £2,127 9s 2d in hand.

Gate money at home matches produced £2,180 0s 9d, and members' subscriptions amounted to £1,114 17s 6d, the total receipts being £5,480 8s 1d. On the other side, the chief items are the expenses of players, presentation bats and talent money, £1,603 6s 4d; secretary's salary, travelling expenses, printing, advertising and stamps, £429 17s 1d; bowlers at the county ground, £183 3s 6d; contributions to bowlers engaged by district clubs, £155; rent of county ground, £175; luncheons, £175 12s 3d; and Board's benefit (receipts at Surrey match), £208 9s 6d. The club's total expenditure amounted to £3,928 7s 10d, which reduces the balance in hand to £1,552 0s 3d, or a loss of £575 9s 1d on the year.

At a recent special meeting it was decided to increase the subscriptions of members from half a guinea and a guinea to 15s and 30s respectively, but notice has been given to rescind this at the annual meeting.

Saturday 12 April: THE CRICKETERS' NATIONAL WAR FUND

Lord Howe, the president of the M.C.C., and Mr F E Lacey, the secretary, have issued the following circular to cricketers in aid of Queen Alexandra's appeal for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association: -

The committee of the M.C.C. invite to co-operation of all cricket clubs and persons interested in cricket in the furtherance of the following scheme: -

(1) In view of the prolongation of the war in South Africa and the great suffering caused thereby to the wives and families of our soldiers and sailors, the committee think that cricket clubs and cricketers would like to join in contributing to their relief.

(2) The committee of the M.C.C. propose that a fund be instituted entitled "The Cricketers' National War Fund."

(3) The committee of the M.C.C. propose to inaugurate this fund by contributing the sum of 1000 guineas.

(4) The Cricketers' National War Fund, in support of Queen Alexandra's appeal, shall be paid to "The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association," which shall be the sole administrators of the fund after it has passed into their possession.

(5) It is proposed that cards, such as are usually issued for "benefit" matches, be printed by the M.C.C. and issued to all cricket clubs which apply for them, to be placed in their pavilions and other conspicuous spaces. Such applications are to be addressed to the secretary of the M.C.C. and enclosed in envelopes marked "Cricketers' National War Fund."

(6) In addition to the placing of the above-mentioned cards, it is suggested that clubs might devote the whole or part of the profits of one match played during the coming season to the above-mentioned fund.

(7) Three trustees shall be appointed by the committee of the M.C.C., in whose names "The Cricketers' National War Fund" shall be banked. When cheques are drawn on the said fund the signatures of one trustee and the secretary of M.C.C. shall appear on the cheques.

(8) The trustees shall be Earl Howe, Lord Alverstone and the Right Hon. Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane.

(9) The secretary of the M.C.C. is authorized to receive and give receipts for the contributions sent by the various cricket clubs and cricketers, and also to open an account at the London and South-Western Bank, N.W., in the name of the said trustees to be called "The Cricketers' National War Fund" account.

(10) The said accounts shall be credited by a firm of chartered accountants appointed by the committee of the M.C.C., and their statement shall be furnished to the Press as soon as possible after the accounts are closed.

(11) The committee of the M.C.C. venture to express a confident hope that this appeal in aid of such an object will be greeted with enthusiasm by all lovers of cricket.

Monday 21 April: THE SURREY CLUB

The annual meeting is to be held in the pavilion at the Kennington Oval on Thursday, May 1, at 5 o'clock.

In their annual report the committee express regret that they cannot congratulate the members of the club upon the results of Surrey cricket last season, and eleven having only won seven county matches and lost six, no fewer than 14 having been drawn.

Sympathetic reference is made to the death of Mr William Burrup - hon. secretary of the club from 1855 to 1872 and an active member of the committee for the last 30 years - and also to the death of George Lohmann, over whose grave at Matjesfontein a suitable memorial is to be placed.

During the past year 110 new members were elected to the club. The year's working ended in a profit of £184, a result which, considering the adverse circumstances of the season, the committee think satisfactory.

In the course of the year Surrey made grants to the extent of £352, the largest items being £125 to Mr H Wood on his leaving the club's service and £50 to Lockwood on the occasion of his benefit.

During the coming season Surrey will play out and home matches with all the other first-class counties, and two matches each with the Australians, Oxford University, Cambridge University and the London County. The Gentlemen and Players match at the Oval is to be played on July 10, 11 and 12, and England and Australia (the last of the five test games) on August 11, 12 and 13. A dinner in honour of the Australian team will be held at the Oval on May 12.

Messrs R K Causton, M.P., S Colman, D L A Jephson, H D G Leveson-Gower, W E Roller, J Shuter W W Thompson and F G Thorne retire from the committee by rotation, but are eligible for re-election. The late Mr Burrup's place on the committee has been filled under the provisions of Rule XV by the election of Mr F P Knox.

21 April: SURREY TRIAL MATCH

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

Potted score: FIRST TWELVE 214 (Hayes 39, Lockwood 41, Holland 36, V F S Crawford 37, Lees 27*; Adams 4 wkts, Dolbey 3 wkts) and 117/6 dec (Abel 23, Brockwell 33, H C McDonell 25; Adams 4/35). NEXT FIFTEEN 132 (Nice 51; H C McDonell 7/50) and 42/2 (Kersley 27). Match drawn.

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

In a match on the Oval, yesterday, between the First Twelve and the Next Fifteen, the score was left thus . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 April, page 11)

Rain delayed the start of play on the Oval yesterday until well into the afternoon, and the match between the Twelve and the Next Fifteen was drawn.

The cricket was made interesting by the batting and bowling of Mr H C McDonell, the late Winchester captain, and the vigour of Brockwell's innings. Mr McDonell's seven wickets cost only 50 runs. Adams, a young professional from Croydon, got four of the county wickets in the second innings for 35 runs.

21 April: THE NOTTS COLTS' MATCH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/.html)

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

The annual trial of colts began at Trent-bridge yesterday on a slow wicket. There was some rain in the early part of the day and the ball always came along easily.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 April, page 11)

The bad weather allowed of only 30 minutes' cricket at Trent Bridge yesterday, and then the trial of colts was abandoned. Heath, a right-hand fast bowler, showed some promise. Against a score of 196 the Eleven advanced their overnight score of 23 to 42 . . .

Tuesday 22 April, page 12: The Australian team arrived in London yesterday and took up their quarters at the Inns of Court Hotel.

Thursday 24 April, page 7: ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Essex County Cricket Club was held in the pavilion at Leyton yesterday, Mr C E Green presiding over a good attendance of members, among those present being Colonel Fane and Messrs A P Lucas, H G Owen, C J Kortright, C R Higgins (hon. treasurer) and O R Borradaile (secretary).

The report submitted referred to the death of Lord Rookwood, one of the original vice-presidents of the club, and the somewhat disappointing results of last season's fixtures. The chairman regretted the team would this summer be without the services of Mr A J Turner, who had gone to South Africa again with his regiment. Mr H G Owen would again be captain.

The financial position was not so satisfactory as in the previous year, the sum in hand amounting to only £114 odd, as against £634 the previous year. This was accounted for to come extent by a falling off in the list of members. They had a good list of fixtures this season, and the Australians would make a couple of visits to Leyton, a return match to that on May 15 having been arranged for July.

Colonel M Lockwood, M.P., later in the evening took the chair in the annual dinner held in the dining hall.

RETURN OF THE ENGLISH TEAM FROM THE WEST INDIES

The West Indian mail steamer Atrato, which arrived at Plymouth yesterday morning, brought home the team of English cricketers that has been touring in the West Indies. Nineteen matches were played, 13 being won, five lost and one drawn.

Mr Bennett, the captain, preceded the team to England, while Mr A D Whatman remained behind in Demerara; with these exceptions all returned by the Atrato. The tour was a complete success.

24 April: LONDON COUNTY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5871.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 April, page 9)

The Crystal Palace ground was yesterday the scene of the first important fixture of the cricket season, and there was a large company to see the cricket in the match London County v Surrey. Everything was favourable for the game. The weather was bright and warm and the turf easy and true. The excellent bowling and fielding made the scoring small. All the catches were held and most of them were difficult.

Mr W G Grace, who has been doing well in some small games, started in good form yesterday, but just as he was getting well in he played a ball that he was trying to cut hard in to his wicket. London County had a bad time after this, but in its later stages the innings was rescued from failure by the steadiness of Mr Beldam and the vigorous play of Board and Mr Walker. Adams bowled well, but the best bowling was done by W Smith, whose right hand slows yielded the excellent record of five wickets for 55 runs. Surrey have in W Smith and Adams two good bowlers; while Strudwick, the wicket-keeper, who has done steady work in the second eleven, is a very promising player.

Brockwell and Hayes batted excellently for Surrey, but after Dr Grace had got out both of them there was something of a collapse; and at the finish Surrey, with two men left, were ten runs behind. Play will be resumed this morning at half-past 11.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 April, page 11)

Dr W G Grace played a fine innings at the Crystal Palace, yesterday, and only missed the "century" by three runs. The scored rather slower than usual and took rather more than three hours to get his 97. There were 13 fours among his figures. Mr Murdoch forced the game at a great pace and helped to add 126.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 April, page 13)

London County beat Surrey at the Crystal Palace on Saturday by 196 runs. The Surrey men had been left to make 407 in the last innings of the match; but it was a cheerless day for cricket and the weather no doubt affected the play.

Brockwell drove splendidly and scored his 70 out of 125, and later on there was good cricket by Baker. Dr Grace again bowled with success and his five wickets cost only six runs each.

Friday 25 April, page 9: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

The Australian cricketers, by the invitation of the Marylebone Club, will practise next week at Lord's. Their first match is on Monday, May 5, at the Crystal Palace against London County.

THE CRICKETERS' NATIONAL WAR FUND

The following letter has been received by Mr F E Lacey, the secretary of the Marylebone Club: -

"23, Queen Anne's-gate, Westminster, S.W., April 19, 1903. Dear Mr Lacey, - I am commanded by the Queen, who has seen the announcement of the opening by the Committee of the M.C.C. of 'The Cricketers' National War Fund' in aid of her Majesty's appeal for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, to ask you to convey to Lord Howe and your committee the Queen's grateful appreciation not only of their handsome contribution of one thousand guineas, but also of the inauguration of such a fund to support the work which her Majesty has so much at heart.

"The Queen will watch with much interest the progress of the fund which, initiated by such an influential body, her Majesty feels sure will be supported with enthusiasm by all lovers of cricket throughout the Kingdom, and probably by cricketers in the King's Dominions beyond the Seas. - Yours very truly, JAMES GILDEA, chairman, Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association."

Saturday 26 April, page 11

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM. - Mr A C MacLaren and Mr A O Jones, and Major Wardle, Messrs Howell, Kelly, Saunders and Gregory, of the Australian team, arrived at Plymouth yesterday by the Orient steamship Omrah. Mr and Mrs MacLaren disembarked and proceeded by train for Basingstoke, the others going on in the ship to London.

In the course of an interview, Mr MacLaren spoke in the highest terms of the fielding of his team. As to the bowling, he said that it was as good as that of any team which had visited Australia. Mr MacLaren could not say whether he should play for Hampshire or Lancashire this season, but he said that the post of secretary of Hampshire County had not been offered to him, and he should decline it if it here.

Monday 28 April, page 13: THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS

Hugh Trumble arrived at the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, yesterday, having travelled overland from Marseilles. The team is now complete. The players began practising at Lord's to-day, but will not start till 3 o'clock. Later in the week they will be at work both before and after lunch.

28 April: SURREY v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5872.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 April, page 7)

There was a splendid day's batting on the Oval yesterday. It began early with the vigour of Hayes; it was taken up by Mr Crawford, whose driving was very hard and clean; and in the last two hours of cricket Dr W G Grace and Mr Fry scored at a great pace and made their runs with almost every variety of stroke.

The bowlers had rather a bad time, but the fieldsmen with such a cold wind sweeping across the ground could be pardoned for the mistakes which occurred. Mr Crawford, who was cleverly caught at mid-on when only three short of the century, played with all that dash which marked his batting as a schoolboy. He was 90 minutes getting his 97, and hit a six, two fives and 14 fours.

Dr Grace and Mr Fry forced the game so well that 130 were made for the first London wicket, and at the close London County with eight men left were 131 runs behind. The turf is in splendid condition.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 April, page 12)

The London County team established a big advantage in the match at the Oval yesterday, and last evening Surrey, with only two wickets left in the second innings, were 75 runs on. Thus London County are promised a repetition of their success at the Crystal Palace.

In the early hours of yesterday there was good batting by Mr Wood, Braund and Llewellyn, and then Surrey, going in against odds of 110, lost half their side for 126. Abel's steadiness saved the side from utter collapse; but the fall of three wickets in the last 20 minutes left Surrey in a very bad way. Dr Grace, Llewellyn and Braund bowled well. The weather was cold and there was only a small company present.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 May, page 12)

London beat Surrey on the Oval yesterday by nine wickets.

28 April: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - THE SENIORS' MATCH

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

Potted scores: MR HOWARD-SMITH'S SIDE 418 (S S Harris 59, F A S Sewell 111, J W Horne 53, G Howard-Smith 46; C H Bodington 5/96) and 136 (C P Goodden 50, J W Horne 31; L T Driffield 4/43, C H Bodington 5/23). MR TAGART'S SIDE 303 (C H M Ebden 51, H Willey 83, F B Wilson 46*, L T Driffield 35; G Howard-Smith 4/90, T H Watson 3/46) and 252/4 (C H M Ebden 102, J W Marsh 63*). Mr Tagart's Side won by seven wickets.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 April, page 7)

The annual trial of seniors began yesterday at Cambridge between sides captained by Mr Howard-Smith and Mr N O Tagart.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 30 April, page 12)

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 May, page 12)

The Seniors' trial match ended at Fenner's yesterday, Mr Tagart's side winning by seven wickets. Mr Ebden again batted excellently, and his 102 runs were the result mostly of hard play on the off-side.

Tuesday 29 April, page 7: THE TEST MATCHES

At Lord's yesterday the umpires for the England and Australia matches were settled by ballot as follows: - The Birmingham match, William Hearn and J Phillips; the Lord's match, C E Richardson and

Titchmarsh; the Sheffield match, J Phillips and Richards; the Manchester match, Moss and Mycroft; the Oval match, C E Richardson and White.

1 May: SURREY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5873.html)

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

Good bowling and fielding were characteristic of yesterday's cricket at Kennington Oval. Richardson and Lockwood both had something of their old sting and pace, and Worcestershire had to struggle very hard for their 149 runs. There was no particular merit in their batting.

To Surrey fortune at first was not kind, but Abel, Hayward and Lockwood by steady batting took the score to within a dozen runs on Worcestershire's innings with six wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 May, page 15)

To Lockwood, of Surrey, has fallen the honour of making the first century of the season's county cricket. Lockwood for many years has been a very fine bat as well as bowler; and he has rarely played better than he did yesterday.

He began his innings on Thursday afternoon at a point when Surrey were doing badly, and yesterday, before he left, the side were in a commanding position. Lockwood's innings was played in rather more than two hours; he forced the game strongly on both sides of the wicket, and his figures included 13 fours, while he had a single increased to five by an overthrow. Mr Crawford played fine free cricket, his off-drive being particularly good.

Worcestershire, who were 143 behind, began their second innings so disastrously that three wickets fell for 12 runs. Corden and Wheldon then made a stand and were still together when rain, which had before delayed the play, stopped cricket for the day. Worcestershire have arrears of 83 with three of their best men out.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 May, page 14)

There was no cricket at the Oval on Saturday owing to the rain, and the match between Surrey and Worcestershire was abandoned, drawn. Scores . . . The bowling analysis of Worcestershire's unfinished innings showed that Hayward took three wickets for 35 runs.

1 May: WARWICKSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5874.html)

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

With the exception of Mr T S Fishwick, the Warwickshire eleven at Birmingham yesterday gave a disappointing display of batting, being put out in two hours and a half for 143. This total would certainly have been smaller had the London County accepted all their chances, Mr Fishwick being twice missed in making his first dozen runs. He made his runs in 70 minutes, and hit nine fours.

Thanks mainly to the correct and skilful batting of Mr C J B Wood, London County left off at night in a very favourable position. Mr Wood has already been at the wickets for two hours and 40 minutes, and so far has not made a mistake. The weather was cold and there was only a small attendance.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 May, page 15)

Following up at Birmingham yesterday the great advantage they had previously gained the London County eleven left off at night with every prospect of gaining an easy victory. In the first place they increased their overnight score of 136 for two to 357, and then got down four good Warwickshire wickets for a moderate number of runs.

Mr Wood made only 17 more runs, and the batting honours yesterday were carried off by Mr Murdoch, Braund and Mr Smith. Mr Murdoch made some capital cuts and drives, and Braund, who was out to a brilliant left-handed catch in the slips, gave a stylish display. Mr Smith's innings was marred by a chance of stumping, but otherwise his cricket was sound.

Kinneir and Mr Fishwick made a promising start in Warwickshire's second innings, but the home side finished up badly. At present with four men out they require 130 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 May, page 14)

The weather so shortened the cricket hours on Saturday, at Birmingham, that Warwickshire escaped defeat. Lilley's batting and Llewellyn's bowling were the features of the day.

1 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH

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

Potted scores: MR E M DOWSON'S SIDE 97 (H C McDonell 26; H G Driffield 4/40, A Buxton 7/55) and 209 (E W Mann 31, C T Rudd 62, H C McDonell 33, R E Lambert 26; H G Driffield 5/102, A Buxton 4/43). MR E R WILSON'S SIDE 213 (P G Broad 26, V A Walker 26, K R B Fry 95*; H C McDonell 6/45, T S Gibson 3/86) and 91/6 (V A Walker 20, K R B Fry 45; H C McDonell 6/42). Mr Wilson's Side won by five wickets.

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

At Cambridge, yesterday, some fairly good form was shown by a few of last year's public school cricketers. Mr Buxton, the Harrow slow bowler, and Mr Driffield got out Mr Dowson's side for less than three figures. Mr McDonell, last year's captain at Winchester, alone batted well and subsequently showed great skill as a slow bowler. Mr Fry, of Cheltenham, kept wicket excellently, and for Mr Wilson's side made 62 in little over an hour.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 May, page 15)

Bowling has so far been the chief characteristic of the Freshmen's match at Cambridge. Mr McDonnell is maintaining the reputation he made at Winchester, and his length and break were again good yesterday, indeed his analysis of six wickets for 48 runs speaks for itself. Mr Buxton and Mr Driffield also did very well.

In batting the best thing was the innings of Mr Fry, of Cheltenham, whose driving was very hard, and there was plenty of good style shown by Mr Rudd, Mr McDonell and Mr Mann.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 May, page 14)

The Freshmen's match at Cambridge ended before luncheon on Saturday, Mr Wilson's side winning by six [five?] wickets. Mr Fry again batted excellently.

Mr McDonell once more bowled with great success; he took the whole of the six wickets which were lost and brought his record for the two innings to 12 wickets for 88 runs.

1 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY - THE SENIORS' MATCH

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

Potted score: MR COLLINS'S SIDE 293 (R S Darling 124, F G Robinson 29, B A Collins 41, E Fawcett 21; C W Wordsworth 5/97) and 126/5 (O M Samson 55, R C Grellet 27, D O'Brien 22; M Bonham-Carter 3/28). MR MEDLICOTT'S SIDE 351/10 dec (A S Wetherall 94, M Bonham-Carter 77, J E Tomkinson 34, C S Hannay 20, C W Wordsworth 24, K D Morrice 27*; E Fawcett 3/96, A C Von Ernsthausen 4/62). Match drawn.

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

In yesterday's trial of seniors at Oxford the feature of the cricket was the fine batting of Mr Darling.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 May, page 15)

There was some good batting in the Seniors' match at Oxford yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 May, page 14)

The weather spoilt the cricket at Oxford on Saturday and the match was drawn.

1 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS v YORKSHIRE COLTS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/101/101263.html)

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

Yesterday, at Nottingham, the Notts team made 168 (G Gunn 77 and Drury 46), and Yorkshire scored 133 (Washington 49 and Mr Smallwell 48) for five wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 May, page 15) The Yorkshire Colts won the match at Trent-bridge yesterday by eight wickets . . .

1 May: YORKSHIRE v EIGHTEEN OF NORTHALLERTON

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

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

Having practised for a fortnight on the Headingley ground, the Yorkshire eleven visited Northallerton yesterday, where they met an eighteen of the district.

The feature of the cricket was a century by G H Hirst. There were no less than 16 men in the field, and bowling changes were, of course, numerous. Yet he hit up 97 before giving a chance in the outfield, and he completed his century in brilliant fashion after two hours' batting. He twice hit the ball out of the field, and scored two sixes, 14 fours and five twos.

Mr F S Jackson and Tunnicliffe also did well, while Haigh captured three wickets of the local side, each being clean bowled. As against the county score of 217 Northallerton made 38 for three wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 May, page 15)

This match at Northallerton yesterday was left drawn, the eleven in the second innings being 124 runs on with six wickets in hand. Schofield Haigh took seven wickets for 27 runs, Mr Jackson four for 32 and Wilfred Rhodes five for 73.

There will be two changes in the Yorkshire side at Lord's next Monday, Ringrose and W Brown playing for Mr F S Jackson and Mr T L Taylor.

Friday 2 May, page 9: THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

Lord Alverstone, the president, moved the adoption of the annual report and statement of accounts at a largely attended meeting of the Surrey Club held last evening in the pavilion at the Oval. He was sorry that the county's results were not sufficiently good last year to merit a higher position, but individually there were many good performances. Mentioning the championship, he congratulated Yorkshire on their splendid cricket of last year.

Lord Alverstone paid a tribute to the memory of the late Mr William Burnup, who from 1835 to 1872 was the hon. secretary of the club, and he also drew the attention of the members to the memorial which the committee had decided to put over the grave of George Lohmann, who died at Matjesfontein.

The finances of the club were in a satisfactory condition; and during the season the club would, no doubt, contribute to the Cricketers' War Fund. For the moment they could not pledge themselves to any absolute amount.

He congratulated the members on the fact that Mr Jephson would be again able to captain the side. On the Monday of the Australian match - namely, May 12 - the Australians would be entertained to dinner by the Surrey Club at the Oval.

Lord Alverstone was re-elected president; Lord Roseberry and Lord Onslow were elected vicepresidents; and Mr Wildman Cattley was again chosen hon. treasurer for the 22nd year.

A new rule was passed by which ladies will be eligible for membership of the club.

Saturday 3 May, page 15

The annual meeting of the Derbyshire County Cricket Club was held at Derby yesterday, Mr Arthur Wilson presiding. The report, which was adopted, showed a loss on last season of £360; but, as the result of the bazaar held in Easter week (which yielded a net profit of £1,350), the club starts the present season free from debt.

Sir Peter Walker was re-elected president, and the names of Mr William Arkwright and Mr H H Raphael were added to the list of vice-presidents.

The chairman stated that, as Mr S H Wood was unable to continue the captaincy, the position had been offered to Mr A E Lawton, who had accepted it.

5 May: LONDON COUNTY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5875.html)

Monday 5 May, page 14

At the Crystal Palace the London team to-day will consist of Dr W G Grace, Mr C B Fry, Mr W L Murdoch, Mr G L Jessop, Mr G W Beldam, Mr C J B Wood, Mr W Smith, Llewellyn, Braund, Vine and Board. The Australians will decide upon their eleven this morning. Mr Trumble's injured hand will keep him out of the side for a few matches.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 May, page 11)

The Australians had bad weather for the opening match of their tour, and the wind and rain were disagreeable to everybody at the Crystal Palace yesterday. Dr W G Grace had got together a very fine side for London County. But the game was played on a pitch that helped the bowlers, for it was soft on the surface and hard underneath; and, except when Mr Darling and Mr Gregory gave a brilliant 20 minutes' display, the batsmen always seemed at a disadvantage.

The bowling and fielding of London County were good, and during the brief half an hour that was seen of the Australians in the field Mr Noble appeared as skilful as ever in pace, break and length. The eccentric method of Mr Saunders in his run before delivering the ball is even more pronounced than one had been led to expect. He takes his run almost from mid-on, and passes between the umpire and the stumps. Mr Trumble, Mr Jones and Mr Carter stood out of the Australian team. Cricket was not practicable until 3 o'clock, and then the Australians, who had won the toss, began batting with Mr Noble and Mr Duff. Braund and Llewellyn were the bowlers and needed a lot of watching, Llewellyn being particularly difficult with his fine length and his quickness from the pitch. Mr Noble made a drive for four from Braund, but in trying to repeat the stroke he got right under the ball and was caught at leg. Mr Hill was beaten by a yorker first ball. Two for 14 was a poor start.

Llewellyn puzzled Mr Gregory a good deal, and when Vine went on Mr Duff badly mis-timed the legbreaks. Then from Llewellyn the same batsman nearly fell to slip. Braund threw himself forward to make the catch, but it fell just short of him. Mr Gregory made some fine cuts from Vine and, after Mr Duff had been bowled, hit a ball splendidly to leg to the top of the stand. The score was raised to 33 when the third wicket fell.

Mr Darling was nearly caught at mid-on by Mr Murdoch, who jumped up and partially stopped a hard drive with his right hand. Mr Gregory came out now and again with his beautiful wrist play and was strong on both sides of the wicket. Vine overpitched the ball a good deal, but his field was strongly placed on the leg side and runs for a time came slowly, and neither batsman could do much with Llewellyn. Dr Grace had a turn with the ball himself, and ought to have had Mr Gregory in his first over, but Braund misjudged the flight of the ball.

There was some fine hitting by Mr Darling, who treated the spectators with three fours running from Llewellyn; the fourth ball of an over he hit square, and the fifth and sixth he drove over the buildings on the right of the pavilion. Mr Gregory followed suit by hitting a ball from Dr Grace over the stands to leg. This fine free cricket quickly put a fresh complexion on the game. The score had been only 33 with three men out, and 47 were added in 20 minutes. But Llewellyn retained his length and break, and got Mr Gregory caught just behind the wicket by Braund at short slip.

Mr Trumper should have been run out before he had scored. The Australian captain was out just afterwards, Mr Fry, who was fielding rather fine at deep mid-off to Llewellyn holding the ball low down. Five wickets were now lost for 83, and before Mr Armstrong could take up his position a heavy shower drove the players to shelter.

The weather soon cleared, and when the game was renewed, the Australians quickly lost two more wickets. Mr Trumper was run out in going a second time for a drive by his companion, and at 102 Mr Hopkins played on. Dr Grace had Mr Kelly repeatedly in two minds, and the same remark applies to Mr Armstrong when playing Llewellyn. Mr Armstrong ran himself out. Mr Howell skied the ball to point and Mr Saunders lofted a ball carefully to short leg. The Australians had played their innings through in an hour and three-quarters, the total being 117.

Dr Grace and Mr Fry began London's innings at 5.25, and in the first over, sent down by Mr Noble, Dr Grace played on. Mr Beldam came next, and Mr Saunders took up the bowling at the other end. Mr Beldam, after playing a couple of overs very well from Mr Saunders, was out leg before.

When Mr Wood came in Mr Darling changed the bowling and put on Mr Howell at Mr Saunders's end. Mr Fry, however, drove a half volley straight to the boundary and hit the next ball to leg for four. Stumps were then drawn, London being 83 behind with eight wickets left. Play begins this morning at 11 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 May, page 8)

There was a splendid day's cricket at the Crystal Palace ground yesterday, in site of the unsettled weather. The Australians soon found themselves with a losing game to fight; and the superb batting of Braund and Mr Jessop turned it very strongly against them. Afterwards they made a bad start to their second innings, only to be rescued from disaster by the correct batting of Mr Trumper and the powerful hitting of Mr Darling, who made one big drive across the roadway to the lawn tennis courts.

Braund's century was made mostly by fine forward play; but he dealt with anything short in masterly style on the leg side. Mr Jessop showed yesterday that he has not lost the art of hitting. Against so much forcing play it was only natural that the bowlers at times lost their length; but the fielding was always good, while the wicket, after the first hour, recovered rapidly.

It was just after 11 when London, who had lost two wickets for 34, went on with their innings. Mr Wood was cleverly stumped without alteration in the score, Mr Kelly taking the ball wide of the off stump. Braund, who followed in, was several times badly hit from the bowling at each end, and the wicket kicked a good deal; but after a sharp shower the ball came along more easily. After Mr Fry had been nearly caught by Mr Darling at point, he was beaten by a break back from Noble, at which he did not even attempt to play. Four for 52.

Mr Jessop was quite himself, and immediately began to force the hitting at a great pace. His first six hits were fours - off-drives and late cuts - and 12 of the runs he made in an over from Mr Noble. The latter had lost his length, and in one over Braund made three drives and a leg hit for four each. So fast had been the scoring that 50 were added in 20 minutes. But after another delay by rain Mr Jessop could not recover his game, and in running in to Mr Howell misjudged the flight of the ball and was easily stumped. It had been a fine partnership of 40 minutes' duration.

Then the game changed again, and with eight men out for 178 it became a question whether Braund would miss his century. Vine, however, stayed some time and severely punished Mr Hopkins, who bowled with no particular length. When Board, the last man, arrived, Braund was still two short of the 100. He managed to get these, however, and then skied the ball back to Noble. Braund had played beautiful cricket for his 101 out of 201 while he was in. There was scarcely a bad stroke in the innings, though he gave a sharp return chance to Mr Howell when 15 and to Mr Kelly at 62.

The Australians, who were 118 behind, began badly again, and Mr Duff, Mr Hill and Mr Gregory had gone by the time the score reached 23. Then the game changed. Mr Trumper and Mr Darling played beautiful free cricket, and the driving of both was very severe. Dr Grace changed his bowling in vain, and when the tea interval was taken the score stood at 96.

On resuming, Mr Trumper did not settle down again, and after escaping at the hands of Mr Wood at deep square leg off Braund, he was easily stumped. His share of the score was 64, an extremely good innings, in which were a five and eight fours. Mr Noble was never at home and was quickly leg before; but Mr Darling continued his fine hitting. He followed up a drive for six with four fours in an over from Llewellyn, but slackened down as he approached the 100. Mr Armstrong played well and the 200 appeared, but at this total Mr Darling's innings was ended by an easy catch at deep mid-on.

He made his 92 out of 167 added during his stay of 80 minutes, and he hit a six and 15 fours. It was a splendid innings and the Australian captain is to be congratulated on his success in the first match of the tour. A well-judged catch at deep square leg disposed of Mr Armstrong from the last ball of the day, and the Australians finished with a lead of 85 and three wickets in hand.

Play will resume this morning at 11 o'clock and stumps will be drawn at 5 o'clock, in order to allow the Australians to catch their train to Nottingham.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 May, page 7)

The weather was so bad yesterday at the Crystal Palace that the cricket of the day consisted of four overs, which produced ten runs to the Australians.

The Australians left London last night for Nottingham, where they play the county to-day at Trent Bridge.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5876.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 May, page 11)

This week, at Lord's, the M.C.C. are, as an experiment, in their matches with Yorkshire and Lancashire, trying the suggested new law of leg-before, the idea of which is to abolish the necessity of the ball's pitching in a straight line from wicket to wicket. The proposed amended rule, which did not get the required two-thirds majority at the general meeting of the club last May, is as follows: - The batsman is out - "If with any part of his person (except the hand) which is between wicket and wicket he intercept a ball which would hit his wicket; 'leg before wicket.'" It will be interesting to watch the results of the cricket under such conditions. Yesterday the bowlers needed no extra help. The champion county, playing only a moderately strong side of the M.C.C., disposed of the club for 27 runs. Rhodes found a wicket to suit him and came out with the remarkable analysis for six for 15 runs.

When Yorkshire went in the home bowlers had neither the fortune nor the skill of their opponents. Denton played a good innings before returned a ball to Relf. Washington hit hard all round the wicket and Lees Whitehead showed capital form. Tunnicliffe played slow cricket and gave three chances. Huish was in his best form behind the wicket, dismissing three men without giving away an extra. The weather was cold and the attendance very small.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 May, page 8)

Less that a couple of hours sufficed to bring this match to a conclusion at Lord's yesterday, the county winning by an innings and 71 runs. King played capital cricket all round the wicket. In Ringrose Yorkshire have a useful fast bowler. He varies his pitch and pace well, and took four wickets at a cost of 17 runs.

5 May: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5877.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 May, page 11)

Although the rain prevented any cricket on the Oval, yesterday, until late in the afternoon, there was time for Essex to get through an innings. Their batsmen mostly fared badly on the soft pitch.

After losing four wickets for 37, they did well for a time, and 80 went up without further disaster; but when Brockwell was put on the last six wickets fell to him for 19 runs. Mr McGahey, who went in second wicket down at 21, played with great care and took out his bat. Surrey started their innings, but only one over was bowled before rain stopped play for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 May, page 8)

Surrey scored heavily on the Oval yesterday, and finished the day with a lead of 211 and three wickets left in their first innings. There were two three-figure partnerships - 1o2 by Mr Jephson and Baker for the first wicket and 126 by Abel and Brockwell for the seventh.

The feature of the day was the century by Abel, who made his runs with that elaborate care which usually marks his batting. Going in first wicket down he was seventh out at 335, when he turned a ball from Mr Perrin into his wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 May, page 7)

Owing to the rain, this match at the Oval was given up yesterday as a draw. Early in the day Mr Jephson declared Surrey's innings closed, but there was no cricket until after luncheon, when Mr Fane and Mr Perrin batted well on the soft wicket.

5 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY - THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH

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

Potted score: MR MARSHAM'S SIDE 225 (C D McIver 71, K M Carlisle 30, A E S Mulholland 34, Hon M Herbert 23; E G Whately 3/53, J Raphael 3/63) and 269 (V H Cartwright 33, C D McIver 50, K M Carlisle 81, W Flowers 41*; R C W Burn 3/39, A G Graham 4/23). MR FINDLAY'S SIDE 332 (J D Craig 29, R C W Burn 33, P H Wilson 26, E G Whately 73, A G Graham 62, A N Pope 36; W Flowers 5/73) and 166/5 (J E Raphael 47*, A G Graham 25, L Brownlee 25*). Mr Findlay's Side won by seven wickets.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 May, page 11)

7

The trial of Freshmen began yesterday at Oxford. There was plenty of good cricket. Mr McIver played in a fine, free style, and scored quickly against fielding and bowling of more than average excellence.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 May, page 8)

The batsmen had the upper hand in the match at Oxford yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 May, page 7)

Mr Findlay's side beat Mr Marsham's side in the Freshmen's match at Oxford, yesterday, by seven wickets.

Tuesday 6 May, page 11

ETON v WINCHESTER. - The Eton and Winchester match will this summer be played on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 24 and 25.

Wednesday 7 May, page 8

Sussex will not have the services of K S Ranjitsinhji next week, when they play Yorkshire at Leeds and Lancashire at Manchester. He is expected back on May 18, and should be able to take part in the Whit Monday match against Gloucestershire at Brighton.

Thursday 8 May, page 7

The Australians left London last night for Nottingham, where they play the county to-day at Trent Bridge.

THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

The 115th anniversary meeting of the M.C.C. was held yesterday in the pavilion at Lord's, Lord Howe, the president, in the chair. Among those present were Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, Lord Lichfield, Lord Harris, Mr A J Webbe, Mr A G Steel, Mr V E Walker, Lord Darnley, Lord Wenlock, Lord Jersey, Mr F S Jackson, Mr W E Denison, Mr G MacGregor, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr K J Key, Mr Bruce Wentworth, M.P., Mr Henry Perkins and Mr F E Lacey (secretary).

The report and the financial statement were adopted. The report showed that in 1901 the club consisted of 4,783 members, an increase of 69 over the previous year, of whom 4,009 paid, 405 were life members and 369 were abroad.

During last season 164 matches were played by the club, of which 86 were won, 36 lost, 39 drawn and three were ties.

Lord Lichfield, Mr W H Patterson, Mr W E Denison and Major W E Hardy retired by rotation from the committee, and to fill these vacancies there were four candidates - Lord Howe (retiring president), Lord Harris, Lord Jersey and Mr R A H Mitchell. Mr E Rutter had been appointed a member of the committee to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sir A L Smith.

A cricketers' national war fund has been initiated under the auspices of the M.C.C. to benefit the families of soldiers and sailors who have suffered from the war. To this fund the committee, on behalf of the club, have contributed 1,000 guineas, a course which they feel confident will meet with the approval of the members.

8

In order to carry out what is believed to be the wish of the majority of the members of the club, the committee have decided that "family tickets" for the Oxford and Cambridge and Eton and Harrow matches will be available for a member's family whether residing in his house or not, and they recommend that the issue of such tickets shall be confined to members elected prior to 1902.

Members are informed that special tickets will be required for introducing friends into the members' enclosures at the Australian and Gentlemen and Players matches, as in 1899, and that the practice of using visiting cards will be suspended on those occasions. Two of the tickets will be given to any member on application. The price of season tickets in 1902 has been increased to £2 each. Accommodation for purchasers will be found under the awning on the large mound stand for the more important matches, otherwise the rules in force in 1901 will apply.

The refreshment accounts show a loss of £901 18s 3d.

It was found impossible for the M.C.C. to send a representative English team to AUSTRALIA last year, and the project was abandoned with regret.

The minor counties, having offered to try in their competition in 1902, as an experiment, any alteration in the laws of cricket recommended by the M.C.C., have been asked to test the value of the proposed alteration to law 24 (l-b-w). This alteration will also be tried at Lord's in M.C.C. and Ground matches.

A cricket tour in Holland has been arranged for gentlemen of M.C.C. from August 13 to August 22.

The meeting was made special to consider the proposed change in law vii of cricket. The amended rule, which was car unanimously, is as follows: - "The bowling crease shall be in a line with the stumps, 8ft 8in in length; the stumps in the centre; with a return crease at each end, at right angles, behind the wicket." The old rule placed the crease at 6ft 8in.

At the annual dinner in the evening Lord Howe nominated Mr A G Steel as his successor in the presidency of the club.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A meeting of Old Blues will be held in the court-room at Christ's Hospital, next Monday, May 12, at a quarter-past 5, to consider a proposal that a fund should be raised by the subscription of Old Blues to put up in the playing fields of the school at Horsham a cricket and football pavilion as a gift from Old Blues to the school in its new quarters. The chair will be taken by the treasurer of the school (Mr Alderman W Vaughan Morgan). Mr G Rowland Hill, Hyde-vale, Greenwich, S.E., and Mr A B Shaw, 9, King's Bench-walk, Temple, E.C., are the hon. secretaries to the movement.

8 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v H D G LEVESON-GOWER'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5878.html)

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

The Cambridge Eleven did very well on the slow wicket at Fenner's yesterday, when in their first match they met a strong team got together by the old Oxford and Winchester captain, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower. All round their cricket was excellent.

In batting Mr Ebden, who was successful in the Seniors' match, Mr E M Dowson and Mr Fry, the Cheltenham freshman, carried off the honours. With six wickets left Cambridge are 69 runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 May, page 9)

There was much fine batting at Cambridge yesterday, when the wicket was faster than on the opening day of the match. Mr Ebden and Mr Fry, each of whom had scored substantially overnight, both ran into three figures, and Cambridge were able to secure a lead of 276.

When Mr Leveson-Gower's team went in a second time the bowlers were severely punished, particularly by Mr Chinnery.

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

There was another century in the match at Fenner's on Saturday; but not all the fine batting of Mr Bosanquet could make up the ground lost by the scratch team on Thursday and Friday. Cambridge, who were left with 106 to make, eventually won by seven wickets.

It was a brilliant game from beginning to end, and the Cambridge captain should be well satisfied with the good all-round work done by his side. Mr Bosanquet, who with Mr Key put on 141 for the fourth visitors' wicket, got his 103 in 75 minutes, and hit 17 fours.

8 May: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5879.html)

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

The wet weather prevented any cricket on the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, yesterday. Mr F S Jackson and Mr T L Taylor take the place of Ringrose and Whitehead, who appeared for Yorkshire at Lord's early in the week. Mr H G Owen will captain Essex, for whom neither Mr A P Lucas nor Mr Kortright can play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 May, page 9)

In consequence of the rain at Leyton yesterday the captains deferred the start of the match until this morning.

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

After two days at Leyton on which play was impossible, the Yorkshire eleven on Saturday gave the spectators a splendid glimpse of their fine cricket capacities. The soft pitch suited their great bowlers well, and Rhodes and Haigh made short work of the Essex innings, backed as they were by fine fielding.

The feature of the day was the batting of Mr F S Jackson, who, in getting his century, showed that wonderful capacity for making runs on bad wickets which marked his cricket in his school days and at Cambridge, and which has since developed in his long service for Yorkshire and for England. He went in first wicket down and, after Brown and Tunnicliffe had gone, Mr Taylor helped him to get a complete mastery of the bowling. Mr Jackson was batting rather more than two hours and hit nine fours, four threes and 13 twos . . .

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5880.html)

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

Beyond a little play before 1 o'clock cricket was made impracticable at Lord's yesterday by the heavy rains. The M.C.C. have secured a much stronger team to meet Lancashire than they put into the field against Yorkshire. While bowling Barnes renewed the old strain in his leg, and by mutual agreement Broughton came into the side for him.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 May, page 9)

When another almost blank day seemed inevitable at Lord's yesterday, the players came out at a quarter-past 5 and put in 75 minutes' cricket. And just as time ran out the last M.C.C. batsman was bowled.

The collapse of the M.C.C. team was caused by the bowling of Webb, who kept a nice length. Except Alec Hearne and Mr Doll, no one yesterday timed his slows with any degree of precision. In his second spell with the ball Webb got the last eight wickets in a dozen overs for 29 runs. The pitch was very dead, but the M.C.C. ought to have scored more runs, for the turf was too wet for the ball to turn much. There were only a few spectators and the wind blew strongly from the east.

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

With the prospect of an unfinished match always in view, little interest was shown by the public in the third day's cricket at Lord's. On a slow wicket Lancashire played a tolerably good innings against the fine length bowling of Jack Hearne and the varied pace of Trott, but the real batting excellence of the day came in the last two hours, when Dr Grace and Mr Murdoch were together.

The ball came along easily, and Mr Murdoch's driving and his play on the leg side produced quick results. Mr Murdoch made 68 out of 120 for the first wicket and was then cleverly caught in the slips, but Dr Grace played in his own superlative manner up to the end and was not out with 61; his best hit was a drive out of the ground for six . . .

8 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5881.html)

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

Despite the fact that the Australians included Mr Ernest Jones in their eleven yesterday against Notts, at Trent-bridge, they were kept in the field rather over five hours, while the Midland county ran up 287 by meritorious batting on a dull wicket on a ground which did not permit of the ball's travelling fast in the outfield.

Mr Jones, the Notts captain, batted brilliantly for 45 out of the 51 which had been recorded when he was captured at long on. After Iremonger and William Gunn had been dismissed cheaply in the same over, the outstanding feature of the day was the partnership of Shrewsbury and John Gunn, who became associated at 61 and carried the total to 200 before the former was bowled in trying to play Mr Trumper to leg.

Shrewsbury, who began with caution, took over an hour to complete his first dozen, but after luncheon showed much more freedom, and his exhibition was worthy of his best days. His driving was excellent and his cuts were as well timed as ever. During a stay of two hours and 35 minutes he made only one bad stroke. He hit seven fours, eight threes and five twos. His dismissal came about in a curious manner. He had cut Mr Trumper, and the ball failed to reach the boundary; Titchmarsh signalled four, and Shrewsbury, who had only run three, returned to his original crease and was bowled by the next ball but one.

J Gunn added seven, making his contribution 80 in two hours and ten minutes. He never offered the field anything like a catch, and though his mastery of the bowling was not so complete as Shrewsbury's the young professional played remarkably well, his batting on the leg side being particularly fine. He made half his runs by strokes to square-leg, placing the ball very cleverly. His chief strokes were ten fours, five threes and as many twos.

Mr Goodacre, who received a severe blow from a full pitch from Mr Armstrong, retired, but was allowed to resume his innings. He had a life at 14, but batted prettily, while Anthony, who was missed by Mr Gregory at cover point when 14, contributed 30 mainly by hard driving. Altogether Notts gave a good exhibition and the Australian bowling was severely treated. The Australian fielding, while creditable, was hardly up to their highest standard.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 May, page 9)

Although a storm of hail and rain broke over Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, shortly before 6 o'clock last evening and caused an abandonment of play, cricket in this match was in progress for five hours and 20 minutes, during which the Australians made 353 for the loss of seven batsmen, so that, with three wickets to fall, they hold a lead of 66.

At first the scoring proceeded briskly, for in 50 minutes the total was taken to 75, at which point Mr Trumper was bowled by a break back for a good and scientific 47, including seven fours. Mr Hill joined Mr Duff, but the South Australian was soon easily captured by third man at 104. Like Mr Trumper, Mr Duff failed to reach his 50; but his runs were made by sound, rather than by brilliant, cricket. When caught at mid-on Mr Duff had hit a five and four boundaries. Mr Gregory was quite feeble and was caught at short slip, while Mr Noble had just reached double figures when dismissed by a smart catch at point. Mr Darling, who had batted three-quarters of an hour for nine, and Mr Armstrong, not out five, were together at luncheon, when the total was 145 for five.

Mr Armstrong contributed a good 21 out of 38 for the sixth wicket, and his departure brought together Mr Darling and Mr Hopkins, who were not separated until they had added no fewer than 131 in an hour and a half. Mr Hopkins, who showed little form at Sydenham, rose to the occasion, for he proved a powerful batsman on the leg side and a vigorous driver to the off. He completed his 50 in an hour, and then his 20 from two overs by John Gunn. Eventually Mr Hopkins, playing forward to the same bowler, was beaten for an excellent 80, including 11 fours, three threes and seven twos. During this partnership the Notts figures were left behind and the total was advanced from 200 to 300 in 55 minutes.

When Mr Hopkins's career ended Mr Darling was 70, and he was still not out with 95 when stumps were pulled up. He gave a sharp chance to the wicket-keeper, Oates, when only four, and was twice missed by Wass at mid-on when 24 and 42. While much of his cricket was excellent, Mr Darling was never so attractive as at the Crystal Palace. At present he has been batting three hours and 40 minutes and has hit nine fours, six threes and seven twos, driving being his chief mode of scoring.

Notts tried five bowlers. Hallam and John Gunn bore the brunt of the attack, but the former was decidedly unlucky. Save for the mistakes already mentioned, the Notts fielding, especially their ground work, was excellent.

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

The Australians gained the first victory of their tour at Nottingham on Saturday, when they defeated the Midland county by an innings and four runs. On Friday they had scored 353 for the loss of seven batsmen, and the outstanding wickets on Saturday realized 121, so that the total was 474, these runs being compiled in a few minutes over seven hours.

Mr Darling, who was 95, took his figures to 128; but his good fortune of Friday, when he was thrice missed, still clung to him, for he played the first ball he received on Saturday morning on to his stumps without dislodging the bails, which was retribution for Wass, who allowed him to escape twice at mid-on. Mr Darling batted for four hours and 50 minutes, and seemed to have a charmed life. He was in while the total was carried from 116 to 425, but he never showed the freedom and power which distinguished his 92 against London County. He hit 13 fours, eight threes and nine twos.

Despite an injury to his right hand, which made hard hitting a painful matter, Mr Kelly played vigorous cricket for 66 before being caught at short slip, and he materially assisted Mr Darling to put on 119 for the eighth wicket. Mr Ernest Jones hit with tremendous vigour to the on for 38, included in which were six drives to the boundary. John Gunn and Hallam bowled well, but without much luck.

Notts, 187 behind, began so well that 80 runs were recorded with only Mr Jones out. But at that point Mr Darling gave Mr Armstrong the ball, with the result that he secured the next six wickets without a break. Mr Noble captured the eighth, but Mr Armstrong bowled Mr Dixon and Wass, ending both the match and the innings. Notts were out for 183, the last five wickets going down in 42 minutes for only 38. Excepting Iremonger and John Gunn the Notts batting was feeble.

Mr Armstrong, who had the advantage of being unknown to the batsmen, is a right hand slow medium bowler; he has a deceptive flight, varies his pace and appears to break either way. The batsmen could do little with him, and his taking eight wickets for 47 runs is a remarkable contrast to the punishment he received in the first innings. The Notts spectators was naturally disappointed, but they did not forget to cheer the victors, and especially applauded Mr Darling and Mr Armstrong. The latter has never been so successful in Australia as in this match.

8 May: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5882.html)

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

On a slow pitch at Birmingham yesterday the Warwickshire eleven batted with much success. Twice during the afternoon they seemed likely to be out for an ordinary score, two wickets being down for 26 and five for 130.

Devey and W G Quaife made the first stand, adding 91 runs in just over an hour, and after lunch Lilley and Charlesworth turned the fortune of the game. Playing steadily, but scoring at a good pace, they put on 68 runs in 50 minutes, and then the Surrey bowling was so severely punished that the last four wickets increased the score by 156 in an hour and a half.

Santall's steadiness was of much value. Mr Glover's 47 was obtained in 25 minutes. After this Hargreave and Santall hit up 45 in 20 minutes. All this rapid scoring gave the cricket its chief feature, but the best innings was that of Devey, who hit 12 fours in his brilliant 63. On the whole Surrey fielded smartly, and Captain Bush caught Charlesworth finely at cover point; the only serious mistakes were by Mr Jephson, who dropped two catches.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 May, page 9)

Rain set in at Brim yesterday at 2 o'clock, and prevented any cricket after the luncheon interval. Previously Surrey had taken nearly two hours and a half to score 116 runs for the loss of three more wickets, Abel having been dismissed overnight.

The Warwickshire bowlers did good work on a pitch still slow from Wednesday's rain, Hargreave being particularly difficult to score from. The fielding, however, was occasionally at fault, Hayes having two escapes. He alone punished the bowling at all freely, and with Baker added 50 runs for the second partnership.

Lockwood played the best cricket. Defending soundly for nearly an hour and a half, he hit hard whenever the bowlers lost their length, and the fact that he only scored 33 runs in that time is a tribute to the excellence of the home county's attack. Hayward was equally slow, his 19 occupying three-quarters of an hour. As the game was left Surrey are 211 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

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

There was never much possibility of any result but a draw at Birmingham on Saturday; and, although Warwickshire did their best to force a victory, Surrey had little difficulty in saving the game.

Some hard hitting by Mr Crawford, who was missed when at seven in the long field, scored 43 out of 61 in half an hour, and had most to do with the visitors' averting the follow-on. They were equally indebted to Lockwood, who took no risks and played sound defensive cricket for three hours, his 65 being quite faultless.

Leading by 98 runs, Warwickshire soon lost two wickets in trying to score rapidly, but Devey and Charlesworth put on 80 runs at a good pace. When the innings was declared closed only an hour and 50 minutes remained for play, so that, although the pitch had not entirely recovered from the previous day's rain, Surrey were in practically no danger of being dismissed.

Nor could they attempt to get the 201 runs necessary for victory. Abel and Baker played with great caution, only scoring ten in half an hour, and then, after Hayes had failed, Lockwood and Abel defeated so strongly that they remained together until the drawing of stumps.

Friday 9 May, page 12

MR L O S POIDEVIN. - It is announced that Mr L O S Poidevin, the New South Wales batsman, who has come to England to complete his medical studies and will be here for three or four years, intends qualifying for Gloucestershire.

Saturday 10 May, page 9

Mr Charles Arnold, of Sydney, N.S.W., who is at present visiting Derby, his native town, has presented the Derbyshire County Cricket Club with a cheque for 500 guineas. This interesting announcement was made at a meeting of the committee held yesterday, when there was also submitted a balance-sheet of the bazaar held in Easter week. This showed a net profit in favour of the club of £1,334 13s 2d.

12 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5883.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 May, page 12)

Cold and showery weather greatly marred the first day's play in this match at Bristol yesterday. William Gunn met with great success, his cutting and driving being particularly clean and well timed. Scoring his first 50 in an hour and 35 minutes, he made 100 in three hours; this is the first hundred he has ever obtained against Gloucestershire.

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

Although rain delayed play at Bristol, yesterday, for about two hours so much progress was made in this match that when stumps were drawn Notts had secured a commanding lead. Gunn gave a sound rather than a brilliant display, for he took four hours to get his runs. During that time he was never in serious trouble with the bowling, and his cutting and off driving were very good.

Gloucestershire were put out in an hour and 40 minutes by Wass and Gunn, who bowled remarkably well, Mr Sewell alone succeeding in making a stand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 May, page 14)

A very patient display by Mr Troup and some brilliant hitting by Hale enabled Gloucestershire to draw with Notts, at Bristol, yesterday. After following on against 278 they recovered so well that when the game ended they were 73 runs to the good and had six wickets in hand.

Mr Troup and Hale made a stand which lasted two hours and 25 minutes, and produced 206 runs. Hale's 135 is his highest score in a first-class match. Mr Troup batted four hours and 25 minutes for his 84, being missed when he had made nine, and Notts had to pay dearly for the mistake. Towards the close of the afternoon Mr Jessop scored 50 very quickly. He made one great hit over the football stand.

12 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5884.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 May, page 12)

Mr MacLaren reappeared in the Lancashire eleven at Leicester yesterday, and scored over 100 runs by admirable cricket. The home eleven batted first on a wicket affected by recent rains, although it

was never really difficult. Leicestershire were dismissed for 149 in two hours and 35 minutes, the only partnership of any note being 47 for the sixth wicket.

Lancashire, opening with Mr MacLaren and Ward, registered 90 for their first wicket. Hallows helped Mr MacLaren to play out time. Mr MacLaren reached three figures in the last over but one of the day. His display was sedate and sound rather than sensational, and he never gave a chance. He was not comfortable with Woodcock when the fast bowler first came on.

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

Lancashire yesterday completed their first innings against Leicestershire, in unsettled weather, for the addition of 86 runs for the outstanding eight wickets. Mr MacLaren, who added only seven to his overnight score, was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back. No protracted stand was made against Woodcock, who yesterday delivered 21 overs, getting six wickets at a cost of 35 runs.

The feature of the cricket during the afternoon was the defensive display of the left-hander King, who showed faultless cricket for his 68, scoring cleverly all round the wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 May, page 14)

After an exciting finish at Leicester yesterday the match was drawn, Lancashire with six wickets left wanting only 13 runs to win.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5885.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 May, page 12)

At Lord's, yesterday, there was not much play, owing to the bad weather. An injured foot prevented Dr W G Grace from appearing for London County.

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

The London County team played a very fair innings, at Lord's, yesterday, on a slow wicket and against much close fielding and good length bowling, and last night they were in a winning position. Jack Hearne bowled particularly well, getting six wickets, four of which were clean bowled. With three men out the M.C.C. are still 118 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 May, page 14)

London County won the match at Lord's yesterday by ten wickets. A brilliantly hit 75 by Trott for the M.C.C. was one of the best features of the game. Gill's double analysis for London gave him a record of 11 wickets for 116 runs.

12 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v H D G LEVESON-GOWER'S XII

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5886.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 May, page 12)

The Oxford team cannot congratulate themselves upon the cricket they showed on the University ground yesterday in the first of their important matches, in which they were opposed by a side which included ten of the side that lost to Cambridge by seven wickets on Saturday.

The feature of the day was the powerful batting of Mr Key, who made 90 of his 120 runs in 22 hits - a six and 21 fours. But Mr Marsham missed him at slip with his score at 15.

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

At Oxford, yesterday, the University team appeared to considerable advantage. In the morning they disposed of the last five wickets of Mr Leveson-Gower's side for the addition of 71 runs, and subsequently ran up a score of 289 for the loss of eight batsmen.

Unfortunately, they had failed so badly both in batting and in bowling on Monday that they were always playing an uphill game yesterday, and they left off last evening with every prospect of being well beaten to-day. Still it was something after being 284 runs in arrears to escape a single innings defeat. As the game was left last evening Oxford, with three wickets to go down, were only five runs to the good.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 May, page 14)

The Oxford team were beaten at Oxford yesterday by eight wickets, but they deserved considerable praise for the uphill game they played. Despite some creditable work on Tuesday, they found themselves yesterday morning only five runs on with eight wickets down.

So well did the last few men play up, however, that the overnight score of 289 was increased to 470. Mr Bonham-Carter, although let off twice in the slips, after making 60, hit brilliantly for his 86, and Mr Finlay, after batting carefully for a time, played with plenty of freedom. The last three wickets added no fewer than 208 runs.

Mr Leveson-Gower's team were set 187 to get to win. When three wickets had fallen for 75, Mr Bosanquet and Mr Weigall hit off the remaining runs. Mr Bosanquet hit 13 fours.

12 May: SURREY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5887.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 May, page 12)

The Oval authorities were so dubious as to the chances of cricket yesterday that the gates were not opened to the public until ten minutes to 4 o'clock. The heavy rains of the early morning had been followed by showers, and even when the game began at 20 minutes past 4, the turf was in a very heavy state. Only an hour and a quarter's cricket was obtained, and then, when another storm came, stumps were pulled up.

The Australians made the most of their time and scored 87 for one wicket. The ball cut straight through the soft pitch and the fielders were kind. The cold wind and the greasy ball had much to answer for; but still Hayward ought to have held the simple catch at short slip which Mr Trumper when 27 gave to him. This catch was off Richardson, who bowled exceptionally well, but with bad luck. The yorker with which he got rid of Mr Duff at 18 was a splendid one. Mr Hill and Mr Trumper batted hard and timed the bowling well. Mr Hill as usual was particularly strong on the leg side; but both he and Mr Trumper made several fine cuts.

Mr Dowson's presence brought the Surrey team up to almost its full strength. The Australians were without Mr Trumble, Mr Jones and Mr Kelly. There were about a couple of thousand spectators.

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

The Prince of Wales in the hour of his stay on the Oval yesterday afternoon saw cricket under its worst conditions. As he arrived the players were just renewing the game in a bleak north-east wind after an enforced delay by the rain. And the Prince had missed the real excellence of the day which had occurred when Mr Trumper was making the second century recorded for the new Australian team. His Royal Highness saw the fag end of the colonial batting before Mr Darling applied the closure, and stayed a little time while Abel and Baker began Surrey's attempt to save the game.

Royal visits to big cricket matches are now few and far between, although Prince Christian used to be a pretty regular spectator at the Oval; and yesterday the crowd forsook the cricket to give the Prince of Wales a hearty welcome. Mr Wildman Cattley, the honorary treasurer of the Surrey Club, and Mr Brodrick, M.P., who is a member of the Surrey committee, received the Prince on behalf of the club. Lord Wenlock, General Knollys and Sir Charles Cust were also present.

It was a poor day for cricket from beginning to end. Delayed by the weather in the morning, the players went on until late in the afternoon, when a promise of sunshine gave way to a drizzle and a bad light, and the wind was always keen. Mr Trumper's batting was extremely good to watch, and the wonder was the play all round could have been so good under the miserable conditions. Mr Trumper came down very hard on the ball and was strong on the leg side, and dealt relentlessly with any short bowling. Before he reached the thirties Hayward had missed two tolerably easy catches that he gave to short slip from Richardson, who was bowling very well.

Mr Trumper got his century in two hours and a half; his numbers of fours, threes and twos were nine; and he was fourth out, beautifully caught in the slips at 187. Other incidents of the afternoon were the return by Hayes from third man, which brought about the running-out of Mr Hill; the partnership of 89 by Mr Trumper and Mr Hill for the third wicket; and the free hitting in the last hour of the innings by Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong.

In three-quarters of an hour Abel and Baker scored 18 runs for Surrey. They made no attempt to force the play against Mr Armstrong and Mr Saunders, and nine of the first ten overs were maidens.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 May, page 14)

The Australians gained a brilliant victory over Surrey on the Oval, yesterday, by an innings and 78 runs. From the winning of the toss the Australians had all the luck; but they knew well how to profit by their chances, and the double dismissal of Surrey in a cricket day that began at 11.30 and lasted only until half-past 4 was, even allowing for the badness of the pitch, a great feat.

Mr Howell was almost unplayable with his varying pace and great break; he went on as second change in the first innings about midday, when only one Surrey man was out, and bowled unchanged. His aggregate bowling figures gave him 11 wickets for 56 runs.

After the effect of the morning's rolling had gone it was quickly seen that rain alone would save Surrey by making the turf easy; but the weather kept fine and with the wicket "sticky" to the end the bowlers made the ball break at will. With 93 on the board and only four men out there was some prospect of a fair score by Surrey in the first innings; but in less than half an hour the outstanding six wickets went down for three runs, made from a hit to leg by Mr Jephson. It was a sensational collapse.

In the second innings Surrey did a little better. Abel batted with great steadiness for an hour and a quarter; but eight men were out for 79, and after a little vigour by Mr Dowson and Stedman, who put on 43 for the ninth partnership, the end came quickly. Mr Trumper and Mr Howell were the heroes of the match - in which, from the time that Hayward dropped the two catches in the slips, the Australians played a strong winning game.

12 May: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5888.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 May, page 12)

Sussex began their game with the county champions on the Leeds Club's ground yesterday. The day's play was restricted by the bad weather to three and a half hours. The visiting side are without the assistance of K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr G Brann and Mr K O Goldie. A trial is being given to Mr R B Heygate and Mr R G Kenward, and to the Yorkshire-born professional Cordingley, who is qualified by residence.

Winning the toss and batting first on a slow but easy wicket, Yorkshire had three men out on 50 minutes for 52 runs, but Mr Taylor and Denton added 155 runs in an hour and 35 minutes. Mr Taylor scored 74 without giving a chance, hitting nine fours, four threes and five twos. Denton was missed

at second slip by Relf when 52. He was batting an hour and three-quarters for his 99 and hit 15 fours, four threes and eight twos.

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

Notwithstanding a brilliant first partnership by Mr Fry and Vine Sussex were 71 runs behind Yorkshire's first innings, at Leeds, yesterday. Mr Fry and Vine took the total to 121, when a momentary hesitation on the part of Mr Fry resulted in Mr Jackson's throwing his wicket down, and two runs later Vine was caught in the long field.

The other batsmen failed to play up to this brilliant start, and the whole side were out after about four hours' batting for 232. There was again most unseasonable weather for cricket and the match was twice delayed by snow showers.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 May, page 14)

Although Yorkshire were able to close their second innings at Leeds, yesterday, they were deprived of their victory over Sussex chiefly by the magnificent defence of Mr Fry. His team were set to face a deficit of 252 runs, with two hours and 50 minutes in which to bat, and Mr Fry was in for just over two hours, scoring an excellent innings of 70 out of 105 made in that time. He had a valuable ally in Marlow, and when the pair were parted by Hirst's bowling Mr Fry the game had been saved.

Earlier in the day Tunnicliffe contributed a good innings of 79, making no mistake until he had scored 72, when he should have been caught at cover-point.

13 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Potted score: NEXT XVI 263 (E W Mann 35, R P Godsell 48, R T Lambert 52, P L Hollins 23; E F Penn 5/91, E R Wilson 6/80) and 243 (E W Mann 63, H Chapple 47, D A Walker 23, E G McCorquodale 27; E R Wilson 14/73). FIRST XII 465 (E R Wilson 21, E F Penn 36, S S Harris 149, K R B Fry 46, F B Wilson 103, C T Rudd 28) and 52/4 (J Haviland 27' E G McCorquodale 4/5). First XII won by seven wickets.

Day 1 (no scorecard or report found from Tuesday 13 May, page 12)

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

The trial match between the Twelve and the next Sixteen began on Monday and was continued yesterday at Cambridge. The Twelve were not at full strength, Mr Dowson and Mr McDonell being away, the latter owing to an injury sustained last Friday when batting.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 May, page 14)

The First Twelve won the trial match at Cambridge yesterday by seven wickets.

15 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5889.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 May, page 12)

The Cambridge team, yesterday, followed up the victory which they gained last week over Mr Leveson-Gower's team with a capital performance against London County. Going in to bat after rain had delayed the start of the game for an hour, they ran up a score of 192, and then Mr Dowson and Mr Wilson bowled so well that in an hour and a quarter London County could only made 24 runs, and these at a cost of half their wickets. Thus, when play ceased last evening, with five wickets to fall, the visitors found themselves 168 runs in arrear. For their score of 192 the University were largely indebted to Mr Ebden, who batted in capital style for 50. Mr Dowson also played well and Mr Blaker was seen to advantage. Nearly all the bowling for London County was done by Dr W G Grace and Llewellyn, but W G Quaife, at the finish, took three wickets very cheaply. The University team is composed of four old Blues, five seniors and two freshmen.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 May, page 13)

Very little progress could be made at Cambridge yesterday, rain coming on just before 1 o'clock and stopping the University's second innings when only one over had been bowled. Mr Dowson and Mr Wilson, who had dismissed five of the visitors on Thursday for 24, got the rest of the side out for 49 more runs. Llewellyn made a few big drives, but was missed off one in the same over in which he was stumped, and there was little worthy of note in the batting.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 May, page 5)

On Saturday, at Cambridge, there was no cricket after luncheon owing to the rain. Mr Dowson batted vigorously and his 72 included ten fours.

15 May: ESSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5890.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 May, page 12)

The weather and the turf were such as to hold out little hope of cricket at Leyton yesterday, but towards the close of the afternoon Essex managed to get some two and a half hours' batting, and they scored 157 runs for eight wickets.

Their position at one time was quite strong. This was during the stand made by Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey, who put on 83. But when they were separated there was something like a breakdown in the batting. Mr Trumper was the bowler who brought about the change, and he was backed up by the usual good fielding. Mr Perrin took a little time to play himself in, but when he settled down he played splendidly. Mr McGahey batted with great steadiness and was only out to a clever catch. It was a dismal day for cricket and naturally the attendance was small.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 May, page 13)

No sooner had stumps been drawn on Thursday than heavy rain set in and it seemed doubtful whether further play would be possible at Leyton yesterday until late in the afternoon. Contrary to expectations, however, Essex resumed batting at 12 o'clock under very depressing conditions against Mr Trumper and Mr Noble. Russell and Mead shaped rather feebly and only 21 runs were added to the overnight score.

Mr Duff, who opened the Australians' batting in company with Mr Trumper, seemed quite at home with Mead and Young, but with the score at 24, Mr Trumper played on. Mr McGahey and Reeves were afterwards tried, but at the luncheon interval Mr Duff was credited with 32 and Mr Hill with 14. Heavy rain then set in, and at 4 o'clock stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 May, page 5)

There was every prospect of a good day's cricket at Leyton on Saturday. However, rain again interfered with play and the game was abandoned as a draw about 5 o'clock.

Up to that time the spectators had the satisfaction of seeing some brilliant batting on the part of Mr Hill, who scored 104. He was somewhat fortunate, as at 45 he gave a chance to Carpenter at midoff. Mr Hill's principal hits were ten fours. Mr McGahey was responsible for three brilliant catches. First he secured Mr Hill at forward short leg, and then caught Mr Jones and Mr Howell in the long field. Mr Perrin was an absentee, his place in the field being filled by Buckenham. With eight wickets down for 249 the Australians declared their innings closed. When Essex had scored 13 for two wickets play ceased owing to further rain.

15 May: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5891.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 May, page 12)

Very little play was possible at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, owing to the weather.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 May, page 13)

The players had only just renewed the match at Manchester yesterday when rain set in and there was no further play. Lancashire added two runs to their overnight score . . .

LANCASHIRE AND MR A C MACLAREN

Mr Eccles having expressed a wish to resign the position of captain of the Lancashire Eleven, Mr AC MacLaren will be in command of the team against Yorkshire at Sheffield on Monday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 May, page 5)

Lancashire managed to complete their innings, in which 30 runs had been made on the previous two days for the loss of Ward's wicket, at Old Trafford, on Saturday, and then the bad weather put an end to the match. Mr MacLaren played a steady innings, but after luncheon there was a collapse and the side were out for 169, the last five wickets adding only three runs.

15 May: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5892.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 May, page 12)

After a long delay through the rain some progress was made with the match at Lord's yesterday. Captain Douglas batted steadily, but the ball was difficult to get away on the soft turf and against the good length bowling. Middlesex in the brief time of cricket lost five wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 May, page 13)

The weather allowed Middlesex to finish their innings at Lord's yesterday, and that was all. Middlesex increased their overnight score from 83 for five wickets to 117, the last four men being dismissed at the same total. Captain A P Douglas batted with care to the end, and took two hours and a half to make his 34.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 May, page 5)

Mr J R Mason, the old Winchester captain, played a splendid innings on the soft wicket and against the good Middlesex bowling at Lord's, on Saturday, but the match had to be left drawn . . .

15 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5893.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 May, page 12)

The weather at Oxford yesterday was very unsettled and, after delaying the start until 20 minutes past 1, rain caused two interruptions later in the day. In the time available Oxford scored 165 runs for the loss of seven wickets, but for the most part the cricket was dull and uninteresting, Mr E W Dillon, who was making his first appearance for the University this season, alone showing any real capacity to cope with he bowling of Cranfield.

When he had made 41 Mr Dillon gave a chance in the slips, but apart from this his cricket was good. It was not until late in the day that he found in Mr Kelly a partner able to give him any material assistance. Owing to an injured hand Mr Findlay was unable to play for Oxford, and in his absence Mr Bomford will keep wicket. The teams are 12-a-side and Somerset are taking this opportunity to give a trial to Hardy, a young professional.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 May, page 13)

So much rain fell at Oxford yesterday that only an hour's cricket was possible. In that time the University's innings, in which seven wickets had fallen for 165, was finished off for the addition of 62 runs. Mr Dillon and Mr Kelly again hit freely and altogether added 88 for the eighth wicket. Apart from one chance when 41 Mr Dillon played soundly for three hours and three-quarters; he punished all the loose bowling severely, hitting 15 fours, seven threes and eight twos, and was out to a brilliant catch in the long-field by Mr Palairet.

Mr Kelly hit a six and five fours, his driving being very powerful. The University were out just before lunch, and nothing was done afterwards.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 May, page 5)

Although there was practically a full day's cricket at Oxford, on Saturday, it did not prove possible to finish the game. In the morning Somerset began their innings on a pitch that helped the bowlers, and five wickets were down at lunch time for 134. After the interval Mr Samson and Hardy added 93 runs for the seventh wicket.

When Oxford went in Mr Wyld and Mr Evans added 76 runs for the third wicket. Mr Evans hit in brilliant style, his innings including a five and nine fours.

15 May: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5894.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 May, page 12)

This match could not be started at the Oval yesterday owing to the weather.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 May, page 13)

A start was made in this match on the Oval yesterday, but after less than an hour's play rain stopped the game for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 May, page 5)

Some good batting by Mr Jephson was the feature of the little cricket that the weather permitted on the Oval on Saturday. The score of the abandoned game is given below . . .

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15 May: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE
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(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5895.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 May, page 12)

Although the weather was far from favourable for cricket the Yorkshire and Leicestershire elevens got through a capital day's work at Huddersfield yesterday. Honours were fairly even, Leicestershire making 228 and the champions losing two of their best wickets (Brown and Tunnicliffe) for 62. At no time during the day was the light very good, and play was twice interfered with by rain.

The distinctive feature of the visitors' innings was the fine stand made by Mr C J B Wood and Whitehead, who put on 125 for the first wicket. Whitehead was missed by Tunnicliffe when he had made 45, but the amateur, playing steady cricket, gave no real chance. With the exception of Mr C E De Trafford none of the remaining batsmen on the side gave much trouble.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 May, page 13)

Rain prevented any cricket at Huddersfield yesterday. Leicestershire's total was 228 and Yorkshire's 62 for two wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 May, page 5)

The drawn game with Leicestershire, at Huddersfield, concluded a week of disappointment for the champions, the weather completely ruining their encounters with Sussex and Leicestershire. Thanks to some rousing hitting by Denton, a patiently compiled 114 by Mr T L Taylor and a hard-hit 45 by Hirst, the game went well for Yorkshire. The Leicestershire total was passed with six wickets in hand.

Leicestershire were left with about two and a half hours before them in which to save the match. Shortly afterwards rain stopped play.

19 May: ESSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5896.html)

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

In a bowler's day, at Leyton, yesterday, Essex secured the better position, for at the drawing of stumps they were three runs ahead and had seven wickets left.

On the false pitch Kent could make no headway against Young and Mead. The former bowled better than he has done for a great time, and his feat yesterday revived memories of his triumphant entry into first-class cricket three years ago. The Essex fielding was very good.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 May, page 11)

Last evening, at Leyton, Essex gained a brilliant victory over Kent by an innings and 126 runs. Earlier in the day their batsmen had met with great success on the slow wicket. Mr Perrin's 70 was the result of particularly fine play, and it was his partnership of 114 with Sewell for the fourth wicket that turned the game.

Towards the close of the home innings the weather delayed the cricket, and when Kent went in the pitch was so bad that the Essex bowlers carried all before them. Mead was very difficult, and near the finish Reeves got two wickets at small cost. In the match Mead obtained ten wickets for 62 runs.

19 May: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5897.html)

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

Good progress was made with the match at Southampton, yesterday, and an even day's cricket left the score as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 May, page 11)

Derbyshire's second innings occupied the greater part of yesterday at Southampton, and Hampshire were left with 266 to get to win. Hulme then bowled with such effect that eight wickets fell for 37 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 May, page 5)

Derbyshire won this match at Southampton yesterday by 180 runs. The bowling of Hulme continued destructive to the end, and his record for the double innings showed 12 wickets for less than nine runs each.

19 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5898.html)

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

Bowlers had matters so much their own way at Leicester yesterday that, although play was restricted to two hours and three-quarters owing to several heavy showers, 14 wickets were obtained. It was a remarkable feature of the cricket that the chief success was met with by the fast bowlers. Mr Howell could not play owing to a trifling strain, but Mr Jones and Mr Noble dismissed Leicestershire in an hour and 50 minutes.

Mr Jones, bowling slower than usual, dismissed Knight, Mr de Trafford and Mr Crawford in one over, and Mr Noble followed this up by getting rid of Coe and Mr Odell in the next, five wickets falling in two overs for two runs. Mr Noble kept a splendid length and, varying his pace often, broke back a lot. Both the Australians bowled well enough to have dismissed their opponents even more cheaply, batsmen often being beaten by balls that missed the wicket.

When the Australians' innings began, after a prolonged luncheon interval owing to rain, Woodcock caused a sensation by dismissing Mr Duff and Mr Hill with the fourth and fifth balls of his first over, and he beat Mr Gregory with the first of his next. When Mr Trumper and Mr Darling had turned the game in their side's favour, the weather, which at times had been bright, broke up completely, and play was given up for the day at a quarter past 5.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 May, page 11)

No play took place at Leicester yesterday until half-past 2 but afterwards the sun shone brightly and the game proceeded under pleasant conditions. Leicestershire had a great opportunity of making a close fight, nine of the Australians being out for 77, but a mistake in the field enabled the visitors to gain a lead of 75.

Coe missed Mr Hopkins when eight, and he and Whitehead failed to take catches from King in the long field when Mr Jones was reaching double figures. Mr Jones twice drove King over the ring and made some hard cuts off Woodcock. Before this fierce hitting occurred the two Leicestershire professionals had bowled admirably.

When Leicester went in 75 runs behind the pitch had become rather faster and did not prove nearly so difficult as was expected. Mr Darling put on Mr Saunders and Mr Trumper, and both were freely hit by Mr Wood and Whitehead, who scored 54 in 35 minutes, both playing good sound cricket. The arrears were hit off in 70 minutes for the loss of three men; but afterwards the batting broke down, and when play ceased Leicester led by only 42 runs with four wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 May, page 5)

A victory for the Australians by seven wickets was the result of this match at Leicester yesterday, rather less than two hours' cricket bringing the game to a close. The pitch had become firmer, but the bowlers were still helped appreciably, and Mr Noble took the last four wickets in four overs and a ball at a cost of five runs. Only Knight played him with certainty, his length and break being too much for the other batsmen. In 35 minutes the county's innings ended for an addition of 25 runs, Knight being last out. He was batting nearly two hours.

Wanting only 69 runs to win, the Australians started indifferently, losing two wickets for 16, but Mr Trumper and Mr Gregory made the result certain by taking the score to 40.

19 May: LONDON COUNTY v ALL IRELAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5899.html)

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

The Irish team of gentlemen players got together by Sir Timothy O'Brien at the suggestion of Lord Cadogan, whose guests they are during their fortnight's tour in England, began the first of their matches at the Crystal Palace yesterday against London County. The bad weather reduced the playing hours to three; but on the slow wicket there was much good cricket.

Dr Grace's policy of winning the toss and of putting his opponents in first has so far not borne success. The wicket was kept easy by the rain which fell between half-past 1 and 3 o'clock, and All Ireland had lost eight wickets for 207 runs when stumps were drawn last night. The best innings of the day was that by Mr R H Lambert and the steadiest that by Mr Browning. Mr Lambert forced the game well; but Mr Browning, when he was easily caught at cover-point, had been at the wicket two and a quarter hours.

Considering that the ball travelled very slowly on the heavy ground, the average scoring rate of 70 runs an hour was good. Mr Brooks kept wicket excellently, and there was one beautiful catch in the outfield by Mr Norman.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 May, page 11)

The Irishmen had the better of the cricket at the Crystal Palace yesterday, and last evening, with seven wickets left in their second innings, they were 207 runs on. Dr W G Grace's policy of putting his opponents in first worked out unfortunately for his side, for the pitch instead of slowly ridding itself of the effects of the wet weather helped the bowlers more or less throughout yesterday.

Against All Ireland's very good innings of 241 Dr Grace and Mr Murdoch made a successful start. On the slow turf they played the bowling in their best style and the score reached 75 before luncheon. The interval was extended an hour beyond its usual time by the weather, and then in 50 minutes the balance of the innings was run through, the whole ten wickets going down for 17 more runs. Mr Harrington and Mr Ross kept a fine length and got considerable break on the ball.

London County just saved the follow-on, for had they been 150 behind it was Sir Timothy O'Brien's intention to put them in again. Mr Bell's slow bowling for London was very effective, and his record would have worked out better had all the catches been held. In the absence of Mr Oliver, whose name figured on the original list, the London side was completed by F E Smith, the ex-Surrey professional left-hand bowler. Less rain fell than on Monday, but the wind was cold and strong, and the light consistently dull.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 May, page 5)

The Irishmen gained a brilliant victory over London County at the Crystal Palace yesterday by 238 runs. From start to finish they played fine cricket alike in batting, bowling and fielding, and their victory was well merited.

The last day furnished some of the best points of the match. Mr L H Gwynn, who had failed in the first innings, did something yesterday to sustain his great reputation in cricket, and his 81 was numerically and intrinsically the best batting performance in the three days. Against much good bowling and on a pitch that handicapped batsmen he showed a fine variety of strokes; he got his 81 in less than two hours.

London were put in to get 313 in four hours. But they got less than a quarter of these, and the match was all over before 5 o'clock. The Irish bowlers made the most of the aid given them by the pitch and were backed up by strong fielding. To-day the Irishmen play Marylebone at Lord's, and next week they visit Oxford and Cambridge.

19 May: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5900.html)

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

Every season the Middlesex and Somerset match at Lord's is set apart for the benefit of some servant of the Marylebone Club, and this season the old Derbyshire professional George Hay had his turn. For nearly 20 years Hay has faithfully served the Marylebone Club. In the days when the late William Mycroft was at his best Hay frequently bowled with success for Derbyshire, and later he succeeded to the post formerly occupied by the late Tom Hearne as head of the ground bowlers at Lord's.

Although it was not thoroughly wet, the weather yesterday was not at all inviting for watching cricket, and in the circumstances the attendance of about 8,000 people was highly satisfactory. Somerset placed their full strength in the field, and Middlesex practically had their usual spring eleven, Mr Warner reappearing, while a trial was given for the first time to a right-hand fast bowler in Mr J H Hunt, an Old Wykehamist.

The wicket was naturally slow, and the bowlers, especially Braund, made the ball turn tremendously. Middlesex started badly by losing Mr Warner, bowled first ball, at one, and Mr Bedlam at eight. Mr Robertson played the best innings. Two hours and ten minutes sufficed to get Middlesex out for 115, Braund taking eight wickets for 49 runs. Mr Lionel Palairet ran Braund out at 13, just when the professional looked like giving trouble, but with his brother at the other end the old Oxford captain made some beautiful strokes on the off-side. Later Gill hit Trott over the grand stand and out of the ground for six. The end of the innings was remarkable for the success which attended the bowling of Mr Hunt, who obtained two wickets for four runs, while Trott took five for 63 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 May, page 11)

At Lord's yesterday, thanks to a magnificent display of forcing cricket by Trott and some steady batting by Mr Griffin and Mr Hunt, Middlesex obtained a decided advantage over Somerset. The earlier stages of the game were singularly even, and when the match entered upon its second stage Middlesex possessed a lead of 24 runs with ten wickets in their second innings left.

Mr MacGregor and Mr Griffin carried the score to 73 before the first wicket fell, but then there was a series of failures, and when the sixth Middlesex wicket was lost the home county were only 129 runs ahead with the pitch improving under the influence of a high wind. At this point, however, Braund missed Trott at slip and the game began to go against Somerset. Trott and Mr Hunt added 122 runs in 55 minutes. Trott was batting 70 minutes, and made 103 runs out of 136 scored while he was at the wicket. His chief hits were 17 fours.

Somerset require 230 runs to win with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 May, page 5)

There was a wonderful finish to this match at Lord's yesterday, and in winning by the bare margin of one wicket Somerset accomplished a great performance.

Overnight they had been left with 313 runs to get to win, and to begin with their prospects of victory were not bright with the brothers Palairet and Braund out for 13 runs. Lewis and Robson then made a fine stand at a critical moment; but Somerset still required 230 runs to win with seven wickets to fall when the game entered upon its concerning stage yesterday morning.

The pitch was fairly fast, but now and again a ball got up awkwardly, and the batsmen had to be continually on the watch. Lewis and Robson carried the score to 121 before the fourth wicket fell, and their invaluable stand realized 108 runs in an hour and a half. Lewis was batting an hour and 40 minutes, and gave one difficult chance to Mr Robertson at slip. His chief hits were ten fours.

After Lewis had gone Robson and Mr Woods hit out fearlessly, and all the Middlesex bowlers were treated severely. The ball frequently reached the boundary and in one over of Mr Hunt's Mr Woods hit three fours. In an hour and five minutes 65 runs were added, and then Robson was beautifully caught in the long field after a good innings of 76. When the points went to lunch Somerset were 19 runs short of victory with only Mr Newton and Cranfield to go in.

Hearne bowled Mr Newton soon after the interval, and Cranfield, the last man, went in with 11 runs still wanted. Cranfield kept steady and once hit a fast long hop from Trott to square leg for four. With three runs required Trott bowled Mr Woods a half-volley, and the Somerset captain, making no mistake, finished the game with a magnificent drive to the boundary. Somerset thus won the match by one wicket.

Mr Woods batted for a couple of hours, and his 88 not out included one five (four for an overthrow), eight fours, three threes and ten twos. The Middlesex fielding was not perfect during the second innings of Somerset, and Mr Warner missed Mr Woods rather badly at third man when the Somerset captain had scored 75.

19 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5901.html)

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

Cricket at Trent-bridge, yesterday, was restricted to three hours and ten minutes. Still, although the rain interfered greatly there was a fairly good attendance, of nearly four thousand. In the time available Notts did very well, scoring on a soft wicket 189 runs for the loss of only four wickets.

Mr Jones and Iremonger in the 65 minutes before lunch made 76 for the first wicket, and William Gunn helped to add another 63 in an hour for the second wicket. Both Gunn and Iremonger played correct and stylish cricket, but the best batting was that of Mr Jones, who was third out at 155, after a stay of two hours and 20 minutes. Shrewsbury subsequently played very nicely, but when 25 he was caught and bowled off a no-ball.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 May, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket at Trent Bridge went largely in favour of the Notts Eleven, who are to be congratulated upon coming through the afternoon so well. Increasing their overnight score of 189 for four wickets by another 70 runs, they did so well after lunch that when play ceased they had got rid of seven Surrey batsmen for 161.

At one point Surrey were in an even worse plight, for, with nearly an hour left for cricket, seven wickets were down and the score was only 117. Then, however, Lockwood and Brockwell, exercising great restraint, stayed until the close. Notts were without their fast bowler, Wass, owing to illness; but Hallam took six of the wickets that fell, always keeping a perfect length and making the ball break quickly. Mr Jephson alone batted with any degree of confidence, going in first and staying until the score was 101.

For Notts, Shrewsbury's innings, which extended over two hours and 50 minutes, was particularly good, containing hardly a false stroke. Among his hits were five fours. George Gunn, a nephew of William Gunn, came into the team instead of Wass, and for nearly two hours resisted the Surrey bowling. He has got patience, but at present does not seem to possess many strokes.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 May, page 5)

Expectations of a good struggle in the last stage of the match at Trent Bridge were not realized yesterday, the game ending quietly in a draw at a quarter past 6.

Surrey began the day from a bad position, as with only three wickets to fall they were 98 runs behind, and their prospects were not improved by Lockwood's leaving with only two runs added. Brockwell, however, found a useful partner in Stedman, and with the total ultimately falling only 38 short of that of Notts, Surrey found themselves fairly safe from defeat.

Lockwood and Brockwell practically turned the game, their partnership for the eighth wicket realizing 46 runs in an hour, while Stedman helped to score another 40. Brockwell batted admirably for an hour and 50 minutes, and apart from one mistake when 57 he did not make a bad stroke. Though punished slightly yesterday Hallam came out with a capital bowling record.

When Notts went in again no real attempt was made to force the pace; but for all that Mr Jones and Iremonger hit up 77 in 75 minutes before lunch, and altogether scored 105 for the first wicket in an hour and three-quarters. For the third wicket Mr Jones and Shrewsbury put on 66 in 55 minutes, the innings being declared closed shortly after half-past 4, when Mr Jones was out.

Less than an hour and three-quarters remained for play when Surrey with 228 to get went in, so that little interest remained in the subsequent proceedings. Captain Bush and Abel, however, batted very well and scored 97 without being separated. During the three days 8,867 people paid for admission.

19 May: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5902.html)

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

The bowlers held the upper hand yesterday at Brighton, none of the batsmen showing their customary confidence. Even Mr Jessop was frequently in two minds, while Board was so often in difficulties

that his score seems surprising. Even when they were being hit Tate and Relf kept such a good length and varied their pace so successfully that a change throughout the Gloucestershire innings was not thought necessary.

Nor did the Sussex batsmen fare any better. Mr Fry made several characteristic drives, but he chopped a ball into the wicket-keeper's hands. After he left the cricket became very slow. Vine was an hour at the wickets without scoring and was batting altogether an hour and a half. K S Ranjitsinhji met with a great reception, and he began his first innings this season by being badly missed, off his second ball, by Board standing back to Mr Jessop.

Although he was not out at the close Gloucestershire were in the better position, as Sussex, with four wickets to fall, are a hundred behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 May, page 11)

A fine bowling performance by Huggins at Brighton gave Gloucestershire a useful lead on the first innings yesterday, and this was followed by some resolute batting which left Sussex at 5 o'clock with a total of 354 to get to win. Huggins at one point bowled nine successive maidens for four wickets.

Mr Jessop was missed by Bland at mid-off from Tate before he had scored. This proved the turning point of the innings. Four wickets were down for 34 runs when Mr Brown joined his captain, and the partnership realized 117 runs in 65 minutes. Mr Jessop was batting 70 minutes, and after the mistake mentioned played brilliant cricket, his strokes being made more along the ground than is usual with him.

Sussex started in unpromising fashion, and with four of their best wickets down still require 317 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 May, page 5)

It was quite a forlorn hope which Sussex entered upon at Brighton yesterday, as with Messrs Fry and Heygate and Vine and Killick out they were in the fourth innings of the match 316 runs behind.

Despite numerous mistakes of the Gloucestershire fieldsmen they never looked like getting even a fair proportion of the runs. K S Ranjitsinhji was out at 58, Marlow caught at the wicket four runs later, Mr Kenward left at 96, Butt at 118 and Tate at 119. A tame finish resulting in a win for Gloucestershire by 211 runs. Relf was missed when he had made 32, but otherwise played sound cricket.

19 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5903.html)

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

At Worcester, yesterday, Arnold played a fine innings for the home county, but the batsmen subsequently met with little success.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 May, page 11)

An interesting day's cricket, at Worcester, yesterday, left the score in the following position . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 May, page 5)

After an excellent match Worcestershire beat Warwickshire yesterday, at Worcester, by 35 runs. Mr Simpson-Hayward's bowling in the last innings turned the game for Worcestershire.

6

19 May: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5904.html)

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

Showers of rain and hail, following upon a thorough soaking which the ground had received on the previous day, caused play in this match at Sheffield to be restricted yesterday to an hour - 50 minutes before lunch and ten minutes later in the afternoon.

Mr MacLaren reappeared as captain of the Lancashire team and, winning the toss, decided to bat first on the slow wicket. He and Ward found it so difficult to score against the bowling of Hirst and Rhodes, that only 15 runs were obtained in half an hour, and Mr MacLaren was then out leg-beforewicket in trying to turn a straight ball from Rhodes to leg. Tyldesley scored the next nine runs before being bowled by Hirst.

Ward was 50 minutes in reaching double figures. When the rain came at 20 minutes past 1 he and Hallows had taken the score to 34 for two wickets. It was a quarter to 5 before play was possible, and then it was for only ten minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 May, page 11)

The county champions scored a brilliant victory - their first of the season - over Lancashire, at Sheffield, yesterday. The rain of the previous day had made the wicket very difficult, and Yorkshire, putting their opportunity to good use, got 18 Lancashire wickets down during the day, completed an innings themselves and won the match a minute after the regulation hour for closing play by an innings and 22 runs.

On Monday rain had restricted play to an hour, during which Lancashire scored 34 for two wickets. Yesterday the Yorkshire bowlers captured the eight remaining wickets for an additional 38 runs. Ward and Hallows alone among the batsmen reached double figures, and the last seven could only make 19 runs between them. Rhodes and Hirst bowled well, but the greatest damage was done by Mr F S Jackson, who, on going on for Haigh when the score was 66, obtained three of the last four wickets for only five runs.

Yorkshire passed their opponents' total with only two wickets down, and looked like making a good score when 80 runs were made with eight wickets still to fall. At this stage, however, Barnes, who had been ineffective before luncheon, went on again and brought about a great change in Yorkshire's position. Bowling with a lot of break from leg, Barnes got rid of both Mr Taylor and Mr Jackson in one over, and of Hirst and Washington in a subsequent over. When the seventh Yorkshire wicket fell the score was [93], or only 21 ahead; but Lord Hawke, Rhodes and [Hunter] carried the total to 148, the two last-named adding 27 for the tenth wicket. The home side thus led on the first innings by 76.

As the last hour and a quarter's play proved, this was enough to give them a victory with an innings to spare. Haigh and Rhodes got rid of Mr MacLaren and Ward when only four runs had been scored, and three men were out at 21. Then Mr Jackson went on for Haigh and practically carried everything before him, taking a wicket with his first ball and winding up with the splendid analysis of five wickets for eight runs. His bowling record for the day was thus eight wickets for 13 runs. The play was witnessed by 15,000 spectators.

Thursday 22 May, page 5: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

The following team has been chosen to represent the M.C.C. against the Australians at Lord's next Monday: - Dr W G Grace, Mr C B Fry, Mr F Mitchell, Mr L C H Palairet, Mr P F Warner, K S Ranjitsinhji, Braund, Llewellyn, Storer, A E Trott and J T Hearne.

22 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5905.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 May, page 9)

Play yesterday was restricted to rather less than half an hour, during which time Yorkshire lost one wicket. Lord Hawke sent in Rhodes to open the batting with Tunnicliffe, against the attack of Mr E R Wilson and Mr E M Dowson, but with only 16 runs on the board Mr L T Driffield went on for Mr Dowson, and in his first over he got Rhodes well taken at point.

Rain stopped play at half-past 12, and at 4 cricket was abandoned for the day. Yorkshire are without Mr F S Jackson, Brown, Hunter, and Washington, and are giving a trial to a new wicket-keeper in Lowe, on North Yorkshire, and two second team players, Rudstone and Ringrose, both of the Hull Club.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 May, page 13)

Although fears were at one time entertained as to the possibility of play in the match between Cambridge University and Yorkshire at Fenner's yesterday the wicket recovered rapidly from the soaking it received during the previous night, and cricket was resumed shortly after half-past 2 o'clock.

The wicket was quite easy from the start, but the good bowling of Mr E R Wilson and Mr L T Driffield prevented runs from coming at anything but an average pace for the first half hour. The champions lost Lord Hawke and Tunnicliffe quickly, and with the total at 36 three wickets were down. Denton and Mr T L Taylor caused a wonderful change in the game, putting on 91 runs for the third wicket as the result of an hour and 40 minutes' batting. Neither gave a chance, and although changes were from time to time made in favour of Mr E M Dowson and Mr H C McDonell the batsmen were not separated until the total stood at 127. Mr Taylor then drove a ball hard back and the bowler held it.

It took the champions two hours to make their first century, and of this number 60 went to the credit of Denton, whose strokes were always well-timed. Denton was batting in all three hours and ten minutes, his best hits being eight fours, seven threes and eleven twos. For the greater part of the afternoon the University were without the services of Mr E F Penn, who slipped and sprained his left thigh while fielding.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 May, page 11)

Visitors to Fenner's witnessed a keen struggle in the final stage of the match between the University eleven and the champion county, and, thanks in the main to excellent individual performances by Mr Fry and Mr Dowson, the Light Blues managed to save the game.

Cambridge made anything but a promising start against the attack of Hirst and Rhodes. The fast bowler was seen quite at his best, and dismissed Mr Ebden and Mr Harris, the last-named filling the vacancy caused by the withdrawal of Mr Penn owing to injury sustained whilst fielding on the previous day. Hirst at an early stage of the game had captured three wickets for 11 runs.

Mr Wilson and Mr Fry put on 63 runs in rather less than an hour. Mr Wilson, who was finally caught at the wicket, played a fine defensive game. Mr Fry, who hit with great power, gave a difficult chance at 41 to Haigh running from point. His hits included eight fours and three threes.

In the last innings Cambridge had an hour and 50 minutes in which to get 158 runs. Mr Dowson saved the side in the second innings by his defence.

22 May: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5906.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 May, page 9)

Rain prevented a start from being made with the following matches fixed for yesterday: - . . . Lancashire v Kent, at Manchester . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 May, page 13)

At Old Trafford, yesterday, the ground was very heavy, and it was only by rolling out a new pitch on the far side that the match could be started about 1 o'clock. A dashing innings by Mr Burnup and the partnership of 73 between Mr Burnup and Seymour gave the Kent score what respectability it possessed. Lancashire have the better position . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 May, page 11)

This match was concluded by 4 o'clock on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for Lancashire by eight wickets. This was almost entirely due to the deadly bowling of Webb in the second innings of Kent. In ten overs and four balls he captured seven wickets for 17 runs. The Lancashire fielding was excellent, Mr Hartley being cheered for a magnificent catch made on the boundary at square leg while running at high speed.

22 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5907.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 May, page 9)

Rain prevented a start from being made with the following matches fixed for yesterday: - . . . Surrey v Leicestershire, at Leicester . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 May, page 13)

The grounds at Birmingham and at Leicester were unfit for cricket yesterday, and the beginning of Warwickshire v Gloucestershire and Leicestershire v Surrey had again to be deferred.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 May, page 11)

At Leicester, on Saturday, this game was drawn. There was no cricket on either of the two preceding days, and when at last the game began the pitch was soft and false.

22 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v ALL IRELAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5908.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 May, page 9)

Dr W G Grace captained a strong M.C.C. side at Lord's yesterday, and with Mr Murdoch made a good start in the batting on a slow wicket. The Irishmen bowled and fielded well; but at the end of an hour, when rain came and put a stop to play for the day, the batsmen were still together.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 May, page 13)

After waiting until well into the afternoon at Lord's, yesterday, the captains of M.C.C. and All Ireland decided to give up any idea of cricket. So far the M.C.C. have scored 57 for no wicket - Dr W G Grace, 37; Mr Murdoch, 20. The turf at Lord's is so badly saturated that the chances of a true wicket for the Australian match on Monday are poor.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 May, page 11)

It was a bowlers' wicket at Lord's on Saturday and there were many hours for the game; but such little progress had been made on Thursday and Friday that the lost time could never be made up and

the match was drawn. The M.C.C. made a bold attempt to win in the last 70 minutes; but the Irishmen exercised every care and lost only four wickets.

The best batting on Saturday was by Mr Chinnery and Trott, while the former and Mr Murdoch, when the M.C.C. wanted a few runs to secure a position so as to close the second innings, made 48 in 12 minutes.

22 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5909.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 May, page 9)

Rain prevented a start from being made with the following matches fixed for yesterday: - . . Nottinghamshire v Essex, at Nottingham . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 May, page 13)

The turf at Trent Bridge yesterday recovered so slowly from the rains of the previous day that a start was only possible after 4 o'clock. Even then the pitch was very bad, and the Essex batsmen made a poor show against the bowling of Wass, the side being all out before the drawing of stumps.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 May, page 11)

With only the Essex innings played up to Friday evening at Trent Bridge, there was not much chance of finishing the match on Saturday. In the last innings of Essex four wickets fell for 73; but Mr Fane and Mr Kortright added 120. Mr Fane was in more than three hours and played sterling cricket.

22 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5910.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 May, page 9)

Rain prevented a start from being made with the following matches fixed for yesterday: - Oxford University v the Australians, at Oxford . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 May, page 13)

A lamentable display was given by the Oxford eleven against the Australians on the Christ Church ground yesterday. It was not to be expected that they would make an even game of it with their powerful opponents, but something better than their form of yesterday was looked for.

On a wicket that was soft but not difficult, the Oxonians were actually put out in a little over two hours for a total of 77. Rain had prevented a ball from being bowled on Thursday, but the wicket yesterday was fit for cricket by noon. By winning the toss Mr Marsham appeared to have secured something of an advantage, for had the sun shone the pitch must have become difficult, but as it happened the weather remained dull and gloomy.

The start of the Oxford innings did not suggest such a disastrous termination, Mr Marsham and Mr Dillon scoring 42 for the first wicket. These men, however, were out for 43, and four wickets were down for 60 at lunch. After the interval there was a complete collapse, Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong carrying all before them.

On going in to bat, the Australians demonstrated in a most striking manner what a poor exhibition that of the Oxford team had been. The University bowling came in for such severe punishment that in two hours and a quarter 227 runs were scored for the loss of two wickets. Mr Trumper and Mr Duff put

on 108 runs for the first wicket in 55 minutes, and the form and Mr Hill added 105 for the second partnership in just under an hour.

The chief batting honours rested with Mr Trumper, who for the second time within a fortnight put together an innings of over a hundred. He made 50 out of 86 in 40 minutes and scored 121 out of 213 in two hours. His display was marred by two chances at 86 and 117 respectively, but for the most part his batting was delightful to watch. He drove well, pulled with certainty and scored skilfully on the leg side, his chief hits being 15 fours.

As the game stands, the Australians, with eight wickets in hand, are 150 runs on. The day's cricket was watched by about 2,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 May, page 11)

The Australians beat Oxford on the Christ Church ground on Saturday by an innings and 54 runs; but the Oxford team, although altogether outclassed, nearly succeeded in saving the game, only ten minutes being left for play when their last wicket went down.

Inasmuch as, with eight wickets in hand, they already held a lead of 150 runs, the Australians might very well have declared their innings closed before play began in the morning; but Mr Darling preferred that his side should go on batting, and in the course of an hour and 20 minutes the overnight score of 227 for two wickets was increased to 314 for six, the closure being put in force when lunch was taken by agreement at 1 o'clock.

There were three hours and 40 minutes still remaining for play, and the wicket was in a condition to give the bowlers some assistance; but Oxford made a very good effort to escape defeat and to a large extent retrieved their reputation. At first things went very badly with them, Mr Marsham, Mr Dillon and Mr Wyld being out in three and a quarter hours for 33.

After this the batting improved, Mr Voss and Mr Evans staying together for 40 minutes and adding 40 runs to the score. Mr Voss hit well, especially on the leg side, but Mr Evans was always in difficulties. By a quarter to 4 six wickets had been lost for 74, but Mr Williams and Mr Findlay, playing very good cricket, put on 44 in 35 minutes. Still, despite their efforts, Oxford, with an hour left, had only two wickets to go down.

At this point - half-past 4 - Mr Kelly became Mr Whately's partner, and it was not until ten minutes past 5 that these two batsmen were separated. Mr Kelly was missed in the slips by Mr Hill when he had made 19, but, apart from this one fault, the batting was excellent. It is probable that the match would have been saved if Mr Whately, becoming impatient, had not attempted to drive. He only half hit the ball and was caught in the slips. Ten minutes later Mr Kelly was out leg before wicket and the match ended.

The Australians were greatly indebted to Mr Saunders, who went on with the total at 53, and at a cost of only 67 runs took the last seven wickets.

22 May: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5911.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 May, page 9)

Less than two hours' play was practicable yesterday in the opening stage of this match at Brighton. The wicket did not appear to offer any difficulties, but none of the batsmen shaped at all well; the fielding, too, was bad, Mr Lionel Palairet being badly missed by Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji in one over, while his brother, when he had made a single, was let off by Relf.

Rain started at the luncheon interval and, continuing steadily, caused play to be abandoned at 20 minutes to 5.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 May, page 13)

The bowlers had the better of the play at Brighton yesterday and good progress was made with the match. Sussex were in a very bad position at one time with eight of the side out for 58, but Relf and Tate added 67 for the ninth wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 May, page 11)

To Relf and Tate the credit of the victory of Sussex over Somerset at Brighton on Saturday is due, as it was not until their partnership, after the fall of the seventh wicket, neared its conclusion that Sussex ever looked like getting the runs. In fact, excitement was maintained until the moment Tate, with the winning hit, secured the match for his side by three wickets.

On Friday the same pair of batsmen came to the rescue when the home county appeared likely to be considerably behind, and at the close of play the game was in a very even condition, Somerset being 85 ahead with five wickets in hand.

Continuing on Saturday Mr Woods again adopted the forcing game on the still difficult wicket, but, with the exception of Mr Johnson, could get no one to stop with him. The close of the innings left Sussex 122 to get to win. Mr Woods had played a fine innings in the circumstances and was last out.

The wicket was now rapidly recovering, but Sussex's start was most inauspicious. Mr Fry misjudged the extent of Braund's break and was bowled round his legs by the first ball sent down. With 13 on the board Killick played on, and three runs later Mr Heygate was bowled off his pads. K S Ranjitsinhji hit up 22 out of 24, but was taken at cover-point at 40, and Vine left at the same total.

The score reached 72 before the first bowling change was tried, and this proved remarkably successful, Cranfield taking the wickets of Marlow and Kenward in his first over. It was at this stage that Tate joined Relf. Too much credit cannot be given to the latter for his resolute batting, and indeed he has rapidly improved as an all-round player. He displayed a great variety of strokes and, although the wicket always assisted the bowlers, he scarcely made a bad hit.

22 May: WARWICKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5912.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 May, page 9)

Rain prevented a start from being made with the following matches fixed for yesterday: - . . . Warwickshire v Gloucestershire, at Birmingham.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 May, page 13)

The grounds at Birmingham and at Leicester were unfit for cricket yesterday, and the beginning of Warwickshire v Gloucestershire and Leicestershire v Surrey had again to be deferred.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 May, page 11)

It was not until nearly 2 o'clock that this match could be started on Saturday.

Friday 23 May, page 9: PROPOSED ENGLISH TEAM FOR NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, New Zealand, May 21.

A guarantee of £2,000 has been subscribed for the expenses of the proposed English cricket team for New Zealand. - Our Correspondent.

Saturday 24 May, page 13: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

We understood that Mr MacLaren will captain the English team in the first of the test matches against Australia at Birmingham next week, and that he will therefore be unable to assist Lancashire against Somerset at Bath. Preparation has been made for 20,000 people to view the test match in comfort at Edgbaston.

Monday 26 May, page 11: M.C.C. v THE AUSTRALIANS

The M.C.C. team to play the Australians at Lord's, to-day, will not include Llewellyn, who has had to retire from the side through illness. Thompson, of Northamptonshire, will probably take his place, but the final decision will be made this morning.

Other members of the team are: - Dr W G Grace, Mr F Mitchell, Mr C B Fry, Mr L C H Palairet, Mr P F Warner, K S Ranjitsinhji, Braund, Storer, Trott and J T Hearne.

26 May: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5913.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 May, page 12)

By reason of its rapid changes of fortune the cricket at Leyton yesterday, in the return match between Essex and Surrey, was of a most interesting character. Going in first on a wicket that was in excellent run-getting condition, Surrey did so well that when, just after half-past 4, the third wicket - that of Baker - fell the score stood at 237.

From this point the batting broke down so completely that in 50 minutes the innings was finished off for an addition of only 25 runs. This sudden collapse was largely brought about by Mr McGahey, who, keeping an excellent length, bowled his leg breaks with marked skill.

For the measure of success they met with Surrey were mainly indebted to Abel, who for close upon four hours played attractive cricket. When once he had thoroughly taken the measure of the bowling Abel hit with great brilliancy, making a large proportion of his runs by clean, hard driving. Except when he was beaten and nearly bowled by Mr McGahey when he had made 56 his innings was perfect. Abel's chief hits were a five (four for an overthrow), seven fours, 18 threes and 11 twos. In Hayes and Baker Abel found two very valuable partners. In an hour and a quarter Hayes helped him to put on 68 runs for the second wicket, while Baker assisted him to add 148 in two hours and ten minutes for the third.

Essex had 40 minutes' batting at the end of the day. They were fortunate, however, in not being in a worse position at the drawing of stumps, as, when he had made only five, Mr Fane gave an easy return chance to Richardson.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 May, page 14)

The splendid bowling of Lockwood enabled Surrey to gain a strong advantage over Essex at Leyton yesterday. When play ceased overnight Essex had lost two of their best wickets for 28 runs, and so feeble was the resistance offered that by a quarter to 2 the innings was at an end.

Bowling at a great pace and frequently making the ball break back, Lockwood carried all before him. Of the Essex batsmen Mr McGahey alone played Lockwood with any confidence. Going in second wicket down on Monday evening with the score at six, Mr McGahey was eighth out at 119, having played perfect cricket for two hours and 20 minutes. He made most of his runs by clean, hard driving, and among his hits were a six (three from an overthrow), four fours, two threes and nine twos. Mr McGahey found his most useful partner in Reeves, who assisted him to add 42 runs for the eighth wicket.

Holding a lead of 124, Surrey went in a second time after lunch, and fared so well that 112 was scored with only three men out. After this, however, the batting broke down badly, the remaining seven wickets falling in an hour and a quarter for an addition of only 65 runs. Mead was chiefly

responsible for this collapse. Owing to some injury to his leg, he was not put on until the score had reached 108, but then bowled with such effect that in an hour he dismissed five batsmen and had only 32 runs hit from him. The best batting for Surrey was shown by Captain Bush and Hayes, both of whom played bright, attractive cricket.

With the heavy task of getting 302 runs to win, Essex had half an hour's batting at the end of the day, and lost Mr Fane's wicket for 29, still requiring 273 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 May, page 12)

Surrey won easily at Leyton, yesterday, by 128 runs. The pitch was in better run-getting condition than on either of the two former days, but the Essex batting was for the most part very feeble, and Surrey were never in danger of defeat.

Carpenter alone met with any success. He went in first on Tuesday evening and was fifth out at 88, having played faultless cricket for an hour and three-quarters. The most productive partnership of the innings was that between Mr Owen and Russell, who put on 46 runs in 50 minutes for the eighth wicket.

26 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5914.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 May, page 12)

Cricket was played at Bristol yesterday under very pleasant conditions, and it attracted about three thousand spectators to the county ground. The wicket had quite recovered from the rain of last week, but the Lancashire bowling and fielding were so good that Gloucestershire took four hours and 50 minutes to make 250 runs. Lancashire had three-quarters of an hour's batting at the close.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 May, page 14)

Gloucestershire were greatly handicapped at Bristol yesterday by mishaps to Roberts and Paish, who were suffering from strained thighs sustained while batting. The former was unable to play at all and the latter could not appear after luncheon.

In the circumstances they did very well to dismiss Lancashire for 295. Three wickets fell on Monday for 44, and another was captured soon after the game was resumed. Then Tyldesley and Mr MacLaren made a long stand, advancing the total to 224. Both exercised great care, with the result that the play was nearly as slow as on the opening day. The professional took three hours and ten minutes over his 120. After being missed when 25, he never made another mistake, and his batting, though less free than usual, was marked by great power. Mr MacLaren was even more careful, for he spent two hours and ten minutes over his 65.

In the last hour and a half the play took a decided turn in favour of Lancashire. Hale was the only man who faced the bowling of Barnes with confidence.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 May, page 12)

Rain fell steadily in Bristol yesterday morning and prevented the game from being continued before a quarter to 3, but Lancashire won shortly before 5 o'clock by eight wickets.

Gloucestershire, whose batting broke down on Tuesday afternoon, when they lost seven men for 85, never had a chance of recovering their position. Hale made a great effort for his side, but the only man to render him any assistance was Huggins. Lancashire needed 89 to win, and 81 of these runs were obtained by Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley for the first wicket.

26 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5915.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 May, page 12)

The Australians had splendid weather for their visit to Lord's yesterday, and although they were so generous to their opponents as to drop some five catches they finished the day's cricket with little the worse of the game - 74 for one wicket may b rated a good start against an innings of 240.

As was to be expected after its soaking last week the Lord's turf had not recovered sufficiently to furnish a fast, true pitch. This was apparent at the very start when such batsmen as Mr Fry and Mr Palairet were in, and afterwards when no one but K S Ranjitsinhji and Dr Grace met the bowling with anything like confidence. Dr Grace might have been charged with slowness, but a lesson might have been learned from his methods of dealing with the ball on a bad pitch. The crowd - there were over 12,000 people on the ground - must have been a good deal disappointed with the play, particularly those who only saw the cricket after K S Ranjitsinhji had gone.

Marylebone had a fine side, but it seemed strange to fins Dr Grace so far down on the order. Cranfield played in the absence of Llewellyn.

It was just after mid-day when Mr Palairet and Mr Fry began the M.C.C. innings. To begin with Mr Palairet played a maiden over from Mr Jones, whose third ball, however, beat the batsman and just missed the top of the wicket. Mr Fry was almost bowled first ball from Mr Noble; he scraped forward at it and a bye was run. But after this ominous beginning the batsmen settled down, and except that now and again the break of the ball beat them they played good cricket. Mr Fry, however, was badly missed when he had scored eight from a hard hit to mid-on; the ball went straight to Mr Trumper's hands and slipped through them. Both then drove finely, and Mr Palairet was particularly good in cutting. The Australians' ground fielding was good; but the batsmen placed the ball so well that the score rattled along at a fine pace.

There was a big cheer for the 50, which went up inside the half hour; and then the game slowed down. The bowling was changed and Mr Howell and Mr Trumper with their length and spin caused the batsmen many anxieties. At 79 Mr Fry was leg before and Mr Palairet beaten by a break back. Mr Darling soon had Mr Jones and Mr Noble on again, and the former "yorked" both Braund and Mr Warner, while Mr Noble, placing his field with great judgment, soon got Trott caught at long-off. In the course of half an hour the game had changed so much that, while 79 had gone up without loss of wicket, the score was only 110 with five men out. Dr Grace joined K S Ranjitsinhji, who with his figures at 19 was badly missed by Mr Armstrong at short slip. This occurred just before luncheon.

After the interval K S Ranjitsinhji played in something like his best form, scoring quickly all round the wicket. It says much for the fielding side that Dr Grace should have only scored a single in his first three-quarters of an hour. K S Ranjitsinhji, with his powerful wrist action, got on easily at both ends; he lofted the ball more than usual, and as he neared his 50 he put one up between mid-off and cover-point that either Mr Darling and Mr Gregory should have caught.

At 183 Mr Armstrong's slows proved fatal to K S Ranjitsinhji, who mistimed a leg break. Mr Grace, who had begun to hit, made a fine pull from Mr Noble finished for four, but, in trying to hook another round, he was caught at mid-on. Seven for 189. Mr Mitchell stayed a long time, but he was constantly in difficulties and was twice let off - a return and a catch at wicket.

The Australians went in for 50 minutes and did well. Mr Trumper hit hard, but neither Mr Trumper nor Mr Duff showed any capacity for dealing with the leg-break bowling of Braund.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 May, page 14)

At Lord's, yesterday, the wicket rapidly recovered. The Australians more than once promised to establish a great advantage. Against the M.C.C. score of 240 they had 220 up with only four men out, and the Marylebone total was passed with half the wickets in hand. Then came a collapse.

The Australians, for the second innings of the M.C.C., bowled splendidly. Mr Palairet, K S Ranjitsinhji and Dr Grace played excellently; but the Australians seemed always to have the upper hand. The great feature of the day was the batting of Mr Trumper, who had gone in overnight and started the morning with 46 to his credit. In 70 minutes he made 59 more runs. Except that he timed Braund's leg breaks on Monday evening rather badly, his innings was marked by great precision. He got most of his runs by driving. The ground fielding of the M.C.C. had up to the fall of his wicket been sluggish. The bowling lacked sting and its only merit belonged to Hearne, who kept the runs down by his fine length.

After Mr Trumper had gone Mr Gregory and Mr Darling scored quickly for a little while, but a spell of success came to Trott's bowling, and at luncheon seven wickets were down for 256. Afterwards Dr Grace finished the innings off in a remarkably quick way, getting three wickets with 17 balls at a cost of only five runs. He bowled Mr Kelly and Mr Jones with successive balls, and placed the field so well that Mr Palairet had scarcely to move to make the catch at long-on which disposed of Mr Howell and ended the innings. Dr Grace was warmly cheered for his bowling.

Mr Palairet and Mr Fry made a careful beginning to the M.C.C. second innings; but after the bowling had been changed Mr Palairet made some beautiful hits from both Mr Howell and Mr Armstrong. However, the game soon ran strongly against the M.C.C. Mr Fry was beautifully caught low down at short slip; Braund was leg before, and at 93 K S Ranjitsinhji, who had made 26 in his own inimitable style, only half got hold of a bad ball from Mr Trumper and skied it to extra mid-off. Then at 105 a fast shooter from Mr Jones closed Mr Palairet's good innings, and at 122 Trott was wholly deceived by a swerving ball from Mr Hopkins which he tried to hit to leg.

After this there was steady and good cricket by Dr Grace and Mr Warner. Dr Grace made one particularly fine cut for four, and he was thoroughly set when he lost the flight of a full pitch from Mr Trumper which struck the batsman and fell on top of the wicket. Mr Mitchell and Mr Warner then carried the score from 163 to 190.

There was a crowd of about 12,000 on the ground.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 May, page 12)

The Australian and Marylebone match was left unfinished, at Lord's, yesterday, the Australians at the end being within 33 runs of victory and having seven wickets in hand. After struggling hard almost from the start the M.C.C. found their position sufficiently strong to close their innings before luncheon. Dr Grace certainly cut things finely against a strong hitting side, for he left his opponents three hours in which to get 250; but three-quarters of an hour of this time were cut off by rain. Even then the Australians made a big effort to win, and Mr Trumper once more earned distinction in batting.

It was often a dull match; and as a whole the play did not reflect any very great credit on the cricket capacity of the Marylebone side. Yesterday the weather became dull, with some showers and a strong westerly wind.

Mr Warner was out shortly after play began by a catch at the wicket. Mr Mitchell, who had been his partner for a good time on Tuesday evening, was missed by Mr Armstrong from Mr Noble's bowling when he had scored 16, and the blunder was almost as expensive to the Australians as that of Mr Armstrong when on Monday he let off K S Ranjitsinhji in precisely the same manner. Mr Noble soon had Storer caught in the slips, and with only Hearne and Cranfield to come in the M.C.C. score stood at 207.

Thereafter, however, the M.C.C. prospered. Hearne started with some snicks; but he soon got well in and drove with great success. The bowling remained good and the fielding possessed a leisurely excellence. Mr Darling changed his bowling with much judgment; but nothing tempted the batsmen to run risks. The wicket was true and easy, the ball was precisely timed, and runs came at below the normal rate. When the score had been carried to 280 for eight, the closure rule was put into force. Mr Mitchell and Hearne had made 73 for the eighth partnership. Soon after the innings had been declared rain set in and deprived the cricketers of any more play until beyond a quarter to 3.

The Australians had then two hours and 40 minutes in which to get the 250 necessary to win. Mr Duff and Mr Trumper began so well that they were in front of the clock when the 50 was reached. Dr Grace, who started his bowling with Trott, nearly bowled Mr Duff with his first ball, the off bail being just missed. The batsmen lost no chance of running, and both cut and drove well. There were some fine hits by Mr Trumper off Hearne and Trott. It was left to Cranfield to get the wicket, Mr Duff getting right under the ball and skying it to slip. The partnership of 91 had extended over 55 minutes. Mr Hill came in, but a sharp shower, which caused a delay of 30 minutes, made a draw almost certain.

When the players came out again the ball was greasy. The Australians had now to get 150 runs in 70 minutes. There was a spell of merry cricket before Mr Hill was bowled by a very good ball, and then Mr Gregory played steadily while Mr Trumper forced the game. As Mr Trumper entered the eighties the question arose as to his double century for the match. Such a feat is among the few things yet unrecorded by Australians against English bowling, but it was once done by an Englishman in Australia - Mr MacLaren getting 100 in each innings for Mr Stoddart's last team in the match with the New South Wales colonial eleven.

When in the eighties yesterday Mr Trumper grew cautious; but his was not a provident care, for he dropped his game and was beaten and bowled by Trott, who deceived him in the pace and flight of the ball. Mr Trumper had again played splendid cricket and was warmly cheered as he returned to the pavilion. Three wickets had now fallen for 161.

Only 20 minutes remained, but in this time the batting was merry. Mr Darling hit hard and, among other strokes, got a five (well run, on the leg side), while when K S Ranjitsinhji took a turn with the ball he made three big drives to the on boundary and was missed from a skier by Mr Mitchell at mid-on. This one over from K S Ranjitsinhji yielded 14 runs. Two overs later stumps were pulled up and the match was left drawn.

26 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v ALL IRELAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5916.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 May, page 12)

The Irishmen were fielding nearly all the afternoon at Oxford yesterday and, although at times their bowling came in for severe punishment, their work on the whole was fairly good, Mr Ross and Mr Harrington bowling well.

Mr Evans batted finely for a little over an hour, his 55 including seven fours. His hard hitting was followed by some brilliant cricket, Mr Bonham-Carter and Mr Williams batting so freely as to add 108 runs in an hour. Neither gave a chance and both played in attractive style. Mr Bonham-Carter hit eight fours in his 60 and Mr Williams made his 65 in about 70 minutes, while Mr Kelly hit up 43 in half an hour.

The University have the same eleven that lost to the Australians. The visit of the Irish team under the captaincy of the famous old Oxonian, Sir T C O'Brien, attracted a large company to the parks.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 May, page 14)

The Irishmen were completely outplayed at Oxford yesterday; except Mr S D Lambert, their batsmen failed rather badly against the University bowling. Apart from a chance when 36, Mr S D Lambert played good cricket for an hour and three-quarters, hitting a six and six fours in his 60 not out.

When Oxford went in the batting was most consistent. Mr Marsham played brilliantly, his 120 being the feature of the day's cricket. His only bad stroke was just after completing his 100. He punished all the bowling severely, scoring fast all round the wicket. Batting for two hours and 25 minutes, he hit with great freedom, his strokes including 23 fours. Mr Dillon helped him to score 55 the first partnership, and Mr Wyld forced the game so well as to make 40 out of 63. Mr Voss and Mr Bonham-Carter hit hard.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 May, page 12)

At Oxford, yesterday, the University beat their visitors by 62 runs. They were in a position to declare their innings closed first thing in the morning, leaving themselves the whole day to get the Irishmen out with little fear of defeat, as they led by 428.

Sir T C O'Brien, however, played a great innings, and for a long time it remained very doubtful if the University would win. Dismissing two men for 49, they were doing well, when Mr Marsham missed Sir T C O'Brien at slip. That mistake made a great difference, as before another wicket fell Mr R H Lambert had helped his captain to add 170, and Mr Browning gave such valuable help that 84 more runs were put on before Sir T C O'Brien left.

Fourth out at 303, the old Oxonian scored 167 with only one serious mistake - the chance referred to when he had made 36. He hit very hard and showed much of the skill of his best days in defence. His chief hits were a six and 23 fours. Mr Lambert hit 16 fours in his 81, and was out to a very good catch in the long field by Mr Williams.

26 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5917.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 May, page 12)

Yesterday at Worcester the bowlers had all the better of the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 May, page 14)

There was a great change in the cricket at Worcester yesterday, when the centuries by Knight and King placed Leicestershire in a winning position.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 May, page 12)

At Worcester, yesterday, Leicestershire won well by 175 runs. Wheldon and Mr Simpson-Hayward made one stand, adding 67, but most of the Worcestershire batsmen found run-getting a difficult matter against good bowling and smart fielding of the visitors.

26 May: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5918.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 May, page 12)

The Kent eleven, who are weakly represented on their short tour in the north, were outplayed by Yorkshire at Bradford, yesterday, and occupied a very difficult position when play ceased for the day.

Yorkshire's first innings occupied four and a quarter hours. The first hour's cricket was so slow that only 37 runs were scored, Mr Mason and Blythe bowling well, but afterwards the Kent bowlers all received very severe treatment. Tunnicliffe and Hirst and Lord Hawke, the latter of whom was twice missed, all did well. Tunnicliffe played one of the best innings of his career, driving with rare power and judgment, and never making a bad stroke or giving a chance during the three hours that he was at the wickets.

Kent went in at ten minutes to 6 in a bad light, which stopped play at 20 minutes past 6.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 May, page 14)

Kent suffered another defeat at Bradford yesterday, Yorkshire capturing their last wicket at a quarter to 5 in the afternoon and winning the match by an innings and 108 runs. The visitors never recovered from their bad start. Yesterday only Mr Mason, Mr Croft and Huish put any spirit into their batting, and the first innings was completed at 25 minutes past 1 for 237 runs less than the Yorkshire total. Following on, Kent started better, scoring 48 for the first wicket, but only Mr Burnup and Mr Mason offered serious resistance. Mr Burnup's batting in this match was the best seen on the Kent side in the match. He scored 64 out of 89 in an hour and a half, playing beautiful cricket and making no mistake.

Wednesday 28 May, page 14: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

Llewellyn has been asked by the committee of selection to accompany the Englishmen to Birmingham for the test match to-morrow, and a fast right-hand bowler will probably be requested to be in readiness to play. The committee last night could not definitely give the player's name. In The Times on Monday there was given a list of the other cricketers from which the England eleven will be chosen.

It is understood that Lockwood has been asked by telegram to be at Birmingham. Neither team will be finally decided upon until the morning of the match.

At a meeting of the Yorkshire county committee, held in the Bradford pavilion yesterday afternoon, 663 new members were added to the membership roll of the county club.

Thursday 29 May, page 12: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

In the first of the test matches, at Birmingham, to-day, the England team will be chosen this morning at the ground from the following 14 players: -

Mr A C MacLaren, Mr C B Fry, Mr F S Jackson, Mr J R Mason, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr G L Jessop, Lilley, Rhodes, Hirst, Hayward, Tyldesley, Braund, Llewellyn and Lockwood.

29 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v ALL IRELAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5919.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 May, page 12)

In the opening of their match with the University at Cambridge yesterday the All Ireland eleven gave a creditable display of batting, staying in until 6 o'clock in the afternoon and putting together a total of 339. During the earlier part of the day the batsmen proceeded with some degree of caution, but those who went in later hit with freedom.

Sir T C O'Brien played excellent cricket, but Mr Browning and Mr D O'Brien were in a long time for their runs. Mr Adair, Mr Ross and Mr Harvey put some life into the game, the last-named playing the brightest, as well as the highest, innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 May, page 14)

The Cambridge eleven played good, steady cricket on the soft pitch at Cambridge yesterday, and when rain stopped play the match was left in an interesting position.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 June, page 13)

The drenching rain of Friday was followed on Saturday by hot sun and the wicket was made very treacherous. All Ireland owed their strong position to the advantage established by them on the first innings, for on Saturday the bowlers carried all before them. In spite of the fine hitting of Mr Penn Ireland gained a victory by 58 runs.

This was the last match of the enjoyed tour of the All Ireland team, who were the guests of Lord Cadogan during their stay in England.

29 May: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5920.html)

(From our special correspondent)

Birmingham, May 29

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 May, page 12)

There were ominous-looking clouds hanging over Birmingham when the first test match was begun to-day, but it started in dry weather on an easy, but not very fast, wicket. The selection committee left out Hayward, Mason and Llewellyn, Hayward not yet being in form and not being considered to be at his best on a slowish wicket.

England won the toss and made a disastrous beginning, three wickets falling for 35, while Ranjitsinhji was apparently incapable of judging a run. Jackson and Tyldesley then showed admirable cricket, hitting well all round the wicket and scoring fairly fast, but running no risks. At luncheon they were undefeated, when the score was 99.

During the interval the air became chilly and the light indifferent, but later it improved. On resuming Trumper and Noble were the bowlers, but Jones afterwards bowled instead of Trumper. After some good play Jackson unluckily played on, having played admirably for 53. Tyldesley a little later was badly missed by Jones off Noble with his score at 43. Lilley was out to a weak stroke after a poor display. Tyldesley again was badly missed by Darling off Armstrong at mid-on, but both he and Hirst began to play well.

Runs now came faster, and 200 appeared on the board after four hours' play. The bowling began to deteriorate, Jones especially bowling several long hops and being freely hit by both batsmen. The ground fielding, however, continued good, Gregory and Noble doing grand work. After a short interval for refreshments, Trumper went on to bowl, and off his bowling Armstrong made a fine catch at short-slip, getting rid of Hirst, who had played a most useful innings of 48. He had with Tyldesley put on 91 runs since the fall of the previous wicket, and the two had played a great game.

After his dismissal Noble took up the bowling instead of Hopkins, who did not give the impression of possessing any merit. Jessop came in, but made no stay, being caught off a feeble stroke. Braund came next, and Tyldesley stuck a long time at 98, but got his 100 with two singles. The pace then began to slacken, but both played well. Jones was out on at the pavilion end and, after a beautiful stroke from Tyldesley, clean bowled Braund, who had played in good style.

Lockwood came in, and again the pace slackened. Considering the state of the game the batsmen ought to have run some risks. Just before 6 o'clock both batsmen began, however, to mend the pace, and Trumper and Howell took up the bowling. Finally, Tyldesley was 1-b-w to Howell. He had played grand cricket for 138, and his off-side play would not have been improved upon. He went in at a critical stage and with Jackson had saved England from possible disaster. When he had scored 43 he gave two easy chances, the missing of which proved terribly expensive.

Rhodes and Lockwood caused 300 to be put up, and both batsmen forced the game with some success. Noble bowled again, and again the play was needlessly slow. No object was achieved by slow play, and valuable time was lost, as it was obviously the game to make the colonials bat at the end of a long day's fielding. Runs came rather quicker just before stumps were drawn, and at the finish England had still a wicket to fall.

As the match stands, it seems that England can hardly lose, unless the weather should make the wicket difficult and an extraordinary collapse ensue. England may feel satisfied at making 351 runs after such a disastrous opening, and Jackson and Tyldesley are to be congratulated at the skill and nerve they showed. At first it looked as if the importance of the occasion was too much for the batsmen.

The Australians are greatly to be commiserated at the enforced absence of Trumble, whose bowling was greatly missed, and his loss takes away somewhat from the interest of the match. Jones has lost much of his old pace, and the wicket was a trifle too slow for him, the ball seldom rising above half the height of the stumps. Noble gave the most trouble, and he was unlucky in not getting more than one wicket.

Taken as a whole, the colonial bowling lacked variety of pace. Howell showed plenty of resource and Trumper was very useful as a change, though he cannot be called a good bowler. If the Australians had showed that they could hold catches as well as they had fielded on the ground, England would have been got out for probably under 200 runs. Never was there a more striking instance shown of the value of holding catches than was shown in the missing of Tyldesley, which made the difference of 100 runs in his score alone. It remains to be seen what show England can make in bowling, but the eleven, as a whole, ought to field well.

The shadow of a drawn match already hangs over the game, and it seems impossible to expect in these days of hood wickets for any other result. England should have forced the game at 5 o'clock. The weather looks unsettled, but rain held off, and there was a huge crowd of over 20,000 spectators. The arrangements of the county club were excellent, and it is to be hoped that they will have their reward by three days' full play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 May, page 14)

During Thursday night there was some rain at Birmingham, but no large quantity. At 11 o'clock this morning there was practically no rain falling, but the weather was cold and the whole outlook depressing. The wicket was not affected to any considerable extent, but cricket in these days appears to be out of the question if there is a suspicion of rain, and for some reasons, which to older cricketers seemed altogether inadequate, no attempt was made to begin the game before luncheon.

After luncheon the umpires ordered the game to be resumed at a quarter to 3. Their decision appears difficult to account for on any logical or consistent principles. It must be remembered that no rain to speak of had fallen since 10 o'clock in the morning, and there was practically very little difference in the condition of the wicket at 11 and at 3. Even if there was a little improvement in the condition of the wicket it cannot have been sufficient to justify play in the afternoon, assuming that play was really impossible in the morning. It may be that 30 years ago too little attention was paid to the condition of the wicket, and in those days when rain stopped play was resumed immediately; but we are now erring in a contrary direction.

Howell and Noble began the bowling, and Lockwood and Rhodes continued their innings, in the chilliest and bleakest weather, before about 6,000 spectators. Both played well, but neither appeared capable of scoring freely, and 40 minutes' batting only produced 25 runs. It was presumably MacLaren's object to see 30 runs put on in about half an hour's play, as England would then have been in a safe position; but the Australian bowling was quite good enough to stop fast scoring. The innings was declared closed at about 20 minutes to 4. The Australians, with the exception of two bad misses, had fielded excellently and Kelly had kept wicket very well.

The Australians had begun with Trumper and Duff, and the Yorkshiremen Hirst and Rhodes led off the bowling. The first noteworthy incident was a bad miss by Braund at short slip off Hirst, giving Duff a life when the score was seven. Directly afterwards Braund went on at Hirst's end, but only for one over, and Hirst and Rhodes changed ends. Duff was caught off Rhodes by point standing forward. Hill came in, but after a single was out to a grand catch at short slip by Braund off Hirst, a splendid bit of cricket. Gregory came in and was 1-b-w to Hirst for nil; and the Colonials, like their opponents on the previous day, had lost three good wickets for 14.

Darling succeeded, but was soon out, caught at cover-point off Rhodes. Four for 17. The English bowling and fielding, as might be expected, were first-rate. The wicket did not appear difficult at first, but seemed to get so as time went on. Noble then came in and was stumped off Rhodes. Trumper was batting beautifully, but Armstrong was caught at the wickets off Rhodes's first ball, and six wickets were down for 25. Rhodes was now bowling admirably, with excellent length, and making the ball turn a great deal.

After some quiet play by Trumper and Hopkins, Trumper was clean bowled by Hirst with a lovely ball, which came with the bowler's arm. Seven for 31. The wicket now seemed to favour the bowlers, and the two famous Yorkshiremen were evidently very difficult to play. Kelly was badly missed by Jackson at cover point off Rhodes, but the fielding generally was very good. Hopkins was caught at the wicket off Rhodes. Eight wickets were down for 35, and with Jones caught first ball at cover-point and Howell caught by Fry in the long field, both off Rhodes, the innings closed for 36 runs, the lowest score ever recorded in a test match.

The Australians were undoubtedly very unlucky in having all the worst of the wicket, and in addition the light was far from good; but at the same time the bowling was very fine. Rhodes bowled an

excellent length and kept the ball well up - an invaluable policy on such a wicket. He had the extraordinary analysis of seven wickets for 17; Hirst's three only cost 15, and he got the two best wickets, Trumper and Hill. Trumper showed the highest qualities as a batsman while he was getting his 18, and indeed nothing could have been better than his style of play.

Shortly after the Australians began their second innings the umpires stopped play on account of the light; rain began to fall and a melancholy day ended in wet and darkness.

The match so far has, of course, been spoilt by the weather and by the fact that all the luck has been on one side. In the first place, it was impossible to estimate the loss of Trumble, who is, according to some good judges, the best bowler in the world. In the second place the wicket was at its worst during the Colonial batting, while the intense cold must have affected the Australians after the hot weather of their own country.

The weather looked at the close of play so bad that any attempt to foretell what may happen on the last day would be futile. In the absence of any more rain the wicket can easily recover and the Australians may make a good score; but the English fielding is probably of such a high standard that run-getting will be difficult under any conditions.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 June, page 13)

In the final day of the first test match there was only an hour and a quarter's cricket, and this was probably only played for the benefit of a large Saturday crowd of nearly 10,000 who had stood patiently for some hours in the road outside the gates. In the short time of play Australia lost two wickets and added 38 runs, and England has to remain satisfied with the barren honours of a moral victory.

No ground in England dries so slowly as that at Edgbaston; and though for some hours there was a hot, baking sun, the wicket, according to the prevailing notions, was not fit for cricket at all. Bowlers had some difficulty in getting a foothold and batsmen found it hard work to make a boundary hit. The English fielding was again very smart.

It is probable that the Australians are not as good as they were in 1899. They have practically the same bowlers plus Saunders and Armstrong; but Jones is not by any means so fast or so accurate as he was, and though his colleagues think he will recover his old form, this is hardly likely. The difference this makes to the Australian bowling is incalculable. Trumper, Hill and Darling are three splendid bats, indeed at the present moment Trumper is probably the best in the world; but the Australians do not appear to have so many high-class bats as the best English eleven. Both sides field splendidly, but even in this respect the Englishmen seem slightly superior; all of them are good in the field and Jessop, MacLaren, Hirst, Tyldesley and Braund have never been surpassed.

Unsatisfactory in many respects as the first test match has been, the all-round fielding, the batting of Jackson, Tyldesley and Trumper, and the bowling of Rhodes and Hirst were all equal to the highest standards of cricket. It is to be hoped that the other four matches will be finished.

The arrangements were generally good, but it cannot be said that the pavilion accommodation is adequate for such a match. The attendance, considering the weather, was most satisfactory.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5921.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 May, page 12)

Cricket at Lord's yesterday was restricted to about three hours and a quarter, rain preventing a ball being bowled after half-past 4. The only batting of any note in the Kent innings was while Mr Burnup and Huish were together, who put on 43 runs in half-an-hour for the fifth wicket.

For the M.C.C. Carpenter and King played fine cricket, their partnership for the second wicket yielding 63 runs in 50 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 May, page 14)

In consequence of the rain, the cricket at Lord's yesterday occupied only two and a half hours. Marylebone's last seven wickets went for an addition of 66 runs, nearly half of which were made by Board. Kent fared badly again on the soft wicket and at present with six men left they are only 35 runs on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 June, page 13)

After a splendid finish at Lord's, on Saturday, the M.C.C. beat Kent by one wicket. Kent, who were 36 to the good on Friday night and had six men in hand, left Marylebone to get 84 in the fourth innings on a very false pitch.

The M.C.C. did badly and for a long time their chances of success were not bright. However, some vigorous play by King and a few hard hits by Trott and Board strengthened their position. Mead, the last man, arrived with two runs necessary to win, but he promptly hit a four and won the match. Early in the day the features of the cricket were the batting of Seymour and the bowling of Jack Hearne.

29 May: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5922.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 May, page 12)

A fine bowling performance by Cranfield, a masterly innings by Hallows and brilliant hitting on the part of Gill were the features of the opening day's play in this match at Bath yesterday.

The pitch always helped the bowlers, and when Lancashire lost half their wickets for 57 runs a small total appeared probable. The turning point of the innings came with the association of Hallows and Sharp, who added 78. Hallows made most of his runs in front of the wicket.

Somerset at the outset of their innings fared even worse than their opponents, six of their batsmen being out for 55; but Gill and Robson, by resolute hitting, improved the position of the home county. The first quarter of an hour of their partnership saw an addition of 50.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 May, page 14)

Only an hour and a quarter's play was possible at Bath yesterday. The remaining three Somerset batsmen added 29 to their overnight score. Gill, who was out to a catch in the slips, had played vigorous cricket.

Lancashire started their second innings badly, Ward and Mr Hollins being soon out; but Hallows and Mr Eccles hit freely until just before lunch, when the Lancashire captain was caught at slip. Immediately after the interval rain set in heavily, and just before 4 o'clock play for the day was abandoned.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 June, page 13)

Upon the saddened wicket it was found impracticable to make a start before 3.40 on Saturday. Lancashire were then 140 ahead with seven wickets in hand and, with the remaining batsmen forcing the game, five wickets quickly fell for nine runs. Barnes and Radcliffe put on 16, and when Mr Eccles declared Somerset were left with 166 to get to win.

Mr Palairet played brilliant cricket. The game was drawn as follows . . .

29 May: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5923.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 May, page 12)

There was a dull afternoon's cricket at Kennington Oval, yesterday. Hayward, Lockwood and Llewellyn were all at Birmingham. Hampshire were weakened particularly by the absence of Llewellyn and had all the worst of the play. Mr Sprot hit well, and with Webb added 45 for the second wicket. Richardson bowled very well, with much of his old pace and break; and Brockwell did nearly as good work.

For Surrey, Abel, Hayes and Baker all made their runs fast, hard, clean hits from the fast bowling of Mr Heseltine and Soar giving the close of play some brightness.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 May, page 14)

Owing to the wet state of the pitch play was only possible at the Oval, yesterday, between 4 o'clock and half-past. When Baker and Brockwell had added 47 runs heavy rain prevented any further progress.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 June, page 13)

Outplaying their visitors all through the match, Surrey gained an easy victory at Kennington-oval, on Saturday, by an innings and ten runs. Baker, who was unlucky to be run out when well set, batted more freely than usual, scoring his 65 in an hour and a half and hitting nine fours. Brockwell forced the game, although the conditions soon favoured the bowlers, and in his 80 there were eight fours, two threes and ten twos.

Hampshire went in a second time at 1 o'clock and, after losing Mr Robson and Mr Sprot for 19 runs, Webb, fifth out at 58, defended well for an hour and a quarter, and Mr Heseltine - missed before scoring - hit six fours, all off Lees, in his 30. As the wicket dried under the hot sun Brockwell and Lees bowled with great effect.

29 May: SUSSEX v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5924.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 May, page 12)

Killick played a fine innings at Brighton yesterday, scoring 133 in three hours by hard, clean hitting, his chief strokes being 12 fours and ten threes. He gave a chance when 24, but otherwise his batting was as sound as it was free.

Mr Simpson-Hayward bowled his lobs so successfully that Sussex lost three wickets for 37, and in the absence of Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji were in a serious position, when Marlow and Killick mastered the bowling and by splendid cricket added 133 runs in an hour and 40 minutes. Marlow hit seven fours in his stylishly played 52. Rain came on just after 4 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 May, page 14)

With the conditions favouring them at Brighton, yesterday, Sussex had all the better of the play. Before lunch they scored 150 runs in two hours and a quarter for the loss of Mr Newham and Mr Brann, the overnight not outs, and then, declaring their innings closed, dismissed seven of their visitors so cheaply that at the drawing of stumps Worcestershire, with only three wickets to fall, were 243 runs behind.

Heavy rain during the night had left the pitch easy, and Mr Brann and Tate hit finely, adding 102 runs in 80 minutes. The amateur was batting two hours altogether, and showed all his old power in driving; his chief strokes were six fours and five threes. Tate hit eight fours in his 52.

At the commencement of the Worcestershire innings rain caused an hour's delay, and after resuming Mr H K Foster and Arnold scored 105 for the second wicket in about an hour and a half. After Mr Foster left five men were dismissed for 34 runs. Mr Foster hit seven fours and seven threes.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 June, page 13)

Sussex won their match at the Hove ground on Saturday by ten wickets. At the beginning of the day Worcestershire quickly completed their first innings, and following on they had the hat-trick performed against them by Relf, who dismissed Mr Foster, Rowley and Wheldon with successive balls.

Six wickets were down for 83; but after luncheon there was a splendid stand by Cordon and Pearson, who added 103 runs in 80 minutes, while Wilson and Burrows put on 41 for the last wicket. Sussex had to go in again to get 39.

29 May: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5925.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 May, page 12)

The feature of the cricket at Dewsbury yesterday was the century by Mr T L Taylor. Going in at the fall of the second wicket, when his side had made anything but a promising start, Mr Taylor severely punished the Derbyshire bowlers.

He had the good fortune to be missed at point when 56, but apart from this made no mistake. He was at the wickets two hours and 35 minutes, and his chief strokes were 14 fours, six threes and nine twos. He and Haigh put on 141 runs in less than an hour and a half. The Derbyshire fielding was very slack.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 May, page 14)

Rain fell almost incessantly in Dewsbury yesterday, and as a consequence it was decided to abandon play for the day . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 June, page 13)

There was more rain at Dewsbury on Saturday and this match was abandoned, not a ball having been bowled since Thursday. Yorkshire made 393 and Derbyshire 23 for two wickets.

Friday 30 May, page 12

MR CHARLES ABSOLON. - A correspondent draws attention to the birthday of this veteran cricketer, who completes his 85th year to-day. Mr Absolon, who was originally a member of the Middlesex County Club, did not give up small club cricket until his 80th year, and even now the retention of his fine health enables him to attend many of the first-class matches. Mr Absolon is particularly well known at Lord's.

Mr Absolon, who was born at Wallingford, in Surrey, played his first match at Lord's in 1838, and his important cricket was associated with the Middlesex days when the county ground was at Smithfield – the old cattle market days of Middlesex – the history of which is well told in Mr Betsworth's book, "The Walkers of Southgate."

Monday 2 June, page 13: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	6	2	9	4	2	100.00
Surrey	8	2	0	6	2	100.00

Derbyshire	2	1	0	1	1	100.00
Leicestershire	4	1	0	3	1	100.00
Lancashire	6	2	1	3	1	33.33
Sussex	5	2	1	2	1	33.33
Essex	5	1	1	3	0	0.00
Gloucestershire	5	1	1	3	0	0.00
Notts	3	0	0	3	0	0.00
Somerset	3	1	1	1	0	0.00
Worcestershire	4	1	2	1	-1	-33.33
Warwickshire	3	0	1	2	-1	-100.00
Middlesex	2	0	1	1	-1	-100.00
Hampshire	2	0	2	0	-2	-100.00
Kent	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

2 June: LANCASHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5926.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 June, page 7)

In a bowler's day at Manchester, yesterday, the score was left as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 June, page 14)

So much progress had been made on Monday in the match at Old Trafford between Lancashire and Worcestershire that another day sufficed to finish off the game, and Lancashire gained a victory by 159 runs.

Mr MacLaren again gave a steady display of sound cricket, being in an hour and ten minutes for 46. Tyldesley hit brilliantly. The two batsmen put on 98 runs for the third wicket, and though five of the side had gone for 116, Ward, Mr Eccles and Barnes subsequently played such good cricket that the remaining half of the team added 122.

Worcestershire could do nothing with the slow off breaks of Mr Ernest Steel, who took eight wickets for four runs apiece.

2 June: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5927.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 June, page 7)

On a wicket that helped the bowlers, at Lord's, yesterday, there were two fine performances by Mr Jessop and Jack Hearne. The pitch assisted the bowlers, but the batting generally was bad. Mr Jessop bowled at a great pace. Jack Hearne kept a beautiful length.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 June, page 14)

There was a long delay in the renewal of the game at Lord's yesterday, owing to the soft state of the turf, which the early morning rainstorm had completely saturated.

When Middlesex went in again with a lead of 61 on the first innings, the cricketers were handicapped by the slippery surface of the ground. The play was dull and slow, but there is every prospect of a good match to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 June, page 11)

The grounds at Lord's and the Oval were so heavy from the rains yesterday morning that quite early it was decided to abandon cricket. Thus the matches Surrey v Kent and Middlesex v Gloucestershire were left unfinished. The detailed scores were given in The Times yesterday.

2 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5928.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 June, page 7)

Yesterday was a bowler's day at Trent-bridge.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 June, page 14)

Sussex beat Notts, at Trent-bridge, yesterday, by eight wickets. It was a bowler's match from beginning to end, and Nottinghamshire could never recover from their collapse on Monday.

Arthur Shrewsbury played a beautiful innings and completely sustained his reputation for getting runs on bad wickets. Tate's bowling figures were remarkable; his average for the match was 12 wickets for 78 runs.

2 June: SOMERSET v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5929.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 June, page 7)

In this match, at Bath, yesterday, the score was left as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 June, page 14)

A fine piece of batting by Gill was the outstanding feature of yesterday's play in this match at Bath. Overnight he was not out with a couple to his credit, and yesterday he hit with such vigour that in 35 minutes he scored 51, out of a total of 52.

Mr Hill batted so well for Hampshire that when the hundred went up with only two wickets down there appeared a chance of Somerset being set a fair number of runs to make. Mr Hill's dismissal at 115, followed by Webb's at the same total, however, dispelled his idea, and Somerset eventually won by ten wickets.

2 June: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5930.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 June, page 7)

Surrey had the better of the day's cricket on the Oval yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 June, page 14)

The splendid batting of Mr Burnup and Mr Mason at the Oval, yesterday, placed Kent almost on terms with Surrey. Both cricketers cut and drove in fine style. There was a long delay in starting, owing to the rainstorm which had soaked the ground. The position of the score points to an unfinished match to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 June, page 11)

The grounds at Lord's and the Oval were so heavy from the rains yesterday morning that quite early it was decided to abandon cricket. Thus the matches Surrey v Kent and Middlesex v Gloucestershire were left unfinished. The detailed scores were given in The Times yesterday.

2 June: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5931.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 June, page 7)

Over 30,000 persons witnessed the first day's play in the match between the Australians and the champion county at Leeds yesterday. It was with difficulty that the crowd were kept within bounds,

but it was a good-tempered crowd and, led by the teams, they joined in an impressive rendering of the National Anthem.

The beginning of play was delayed until ten minutes past 1 to allow the ground to dry. Rain had fallen heavily the previous day, and this delay, together with the time lost in clearing the spectators from the field of play, reduced the actual cricketing period to a little over three hours. That time proved sufficient for the Australians to complete an innings for 131 runs and for Yorkshire to lose three wickets for 48 runs.

The Australians, who are represented by the eleven that did duty for them in the test match last week, won the toss. They found that the wicket greatly aided the Yorkshire bowlers, and in the 50 minutes' batting before lunch they lost two wickets for 42 runs. Afterwards Hirst and Mr Jackson were backed up by such splendid work in the field that seven men were out with but 76 runs. Up to this point Mr Trumper was the only batsman who had batted with any confidence. He was at the wicket an hour and a quarter and scored 38 without fault.

The last three wickets increased the score by 55 runs. Some exceptionally brilliant fielding was seen on the Yorkshire side. Seven catches were made, all of them smart. The catch by which Washington dismissed the Australian captain at mid-on was wonderfully clever; the ball, which was travelling at a very fast pace, was taken close to the ground and wide out with the left hand as the fieldsman fell on his shoulder.

Yorkshire started badly, Tunnicliffe being out to a poor stroke to short slip in the third over with only five runs scored; Denton afterwards batted brilliantly and the score was carried to 47 before Brown was bowled. Denton was caught at third man in the last over of the day. Yorkshire, when play ceased, were 83 runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 June, page 14)

The Australian team suffered their first defeat at Leeds yesterday, Yorkshire beating them by five wickets. Some wonderful bowling was seen on the Yorkshire side, and it was this which brought about the Australian downfall.

The visitors bowled very well themselves in the forenoon, Mr Howell taking six wickets for 53 runs and Mr Noble four for 30. As the result of the efforts of these bowlers Yorkshire, who had lost three wickets on Monday for 48 runs, were all out in an hour and 20 minutes yesterday for an additional 59 runs. Mr Taylor was by far the most successful of the Yorkshiremen; he was not out without having scored when play ceased on Monday, and yesterday he was the last to leave, having kept up a steady defence for an hour and a half.

In 12 minutes' play before luncheon Hirst had Mr Duff caught at short leg before a run had been scored, and he bowled Mr Trumper at seven. After luncheon the wickets fell with extraordinary rapidity before the bowling of Hirst and Mr Jackson. Mr Hill was cleverly stumped at 13; a run later the Australian captain pulled a full pitch on to his wicket, and with the total at 20 Hirst clean bowled Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong with successive balls.

The close of the innings, however, was much more dramatic. In his seventh over Mr Jackson obtained four wickets in five balls. A single was scored off the first ball of the over; with the second Mr Hopkins was leg before, and with the third Mr Kelly was clean bowled; the fourth ball was stopped by Mr Jones, but the fifth bowled him, and off the sixth Mr Howell was caught at the wicket.

Thus the Australians were all out in an hour for 23 runs, the second lowest score for which an Australian team has ever been dismissed in this country, the actual lowest being 18 which Mr Trott's team scored at Lord's in June, 1896. Hirst and Mr Jackson bowled unchanged throughout the innings yesterday, the first-named taking five wickets for nine runs and Mr Jackson five for 12 runs.

Yorkshire needed 49 runs to win and, though they lost five wickets in obtaining them, the result was never in doubt. This is Yorkshire's first victory over an Australian team since 1893. The wicket, which had been spoiled by rain, undoubtedly aided them, but they played in a style quite worthy of their reputation as the champion county. About 18,000 people witnessed the day's play.

The bowling of Hirst and Mr Jackson in the second innings of the Australians was so extraordinary that we give it below set out in full detail: -

HIRST						
First over	-	-	-	wkt	-	-
Second over	-	-	4	wkt	3	-
Third over	-	-	-	1	-	-
Fourth over	-	-	wkt	-	-	-
Fifth over	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sixth over	wkt	wkt	-	-	-	-
Seventh over	-	-	-	-	-	-
MR JACK	SON					
First over	-	-	2	-	1	-
Second over	-	-	_	-	-	-
Third over	-	wkt	1	-	-	-
Fourth over	-	2	-	-	-	-
Fifth over	-	1	-	2	-	-
Sixth over	-	2	-	-	-	-
Seventh over	1	wkt	wkt	-	wkt	wkt

2 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY

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

Potted score: MR W S MEDLICOTT'S SIDE 254 (W S Medlicott 91, H M Worsley 41, G H A Collins 50; R C W Burn 6/89, M Bonham-Carter 3/29) and 120/4 (W H B Evans 57). MR R S DARLING'S SIDE 306 (B L Peel 22, C D Melver 21, R S Darling 50, M Bonham-Carter 30, Hon M Herbert 94, H Bomford 44; E G Whately 4/120). Match drawn.

Daily scorecards given, but no reports.

5 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5932.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 June, page 12)

On a slow pitch at Cambridge yesterday the University batted very creditably, scoring 255 for seven wickets before half-past 5, when stumps were pulled up because of the boat races. Surrey had not their best side, Lockwood being among the absentees.

After losing a wicket before a run had been scored, Cambridge batted very consistently. Mr Dowson and Mr Harper played particularly well, adding 115 in an hour and three-quarters. Mr Dowson hit eight fours in his 67 and Mr Harper five fours in his 55. Mr Blaker and Mr Sewell defeated skilfully under the somewhat difficult conditions and added 44 in 50 minutes without being separated. Except for a shower during the luncheon interval the weather was fine.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 June, page 13)

The wet weather prevented any cricket in the following matches yesterday: - . . Cambridge University v Surrey, at Cambridge . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 June, page 14)

In the time that cricket was possible at Cambridge, on Saturday, the University played well and had all the best of the drawn game with Surrey. Nothing had been done on Friday owing to the rain, and when Mr Blaker and Mr Sewell had added 38 runs on Thursday's score the innings was closed.

The Surrey batting broke down so badly before the bowling of Mr Dowson and Mr Wilson that a follow-on - 201 runs behind - was necessary. Holland and Mr Jephson each showed skilful defence for an hour

and, in company with Abel, the Surrey captain was again batting well when the match was abandoned at 5.30.

5 June: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5933.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 June, page 12)

The match between Derbyshire and Yorkshire, which began at Chesterfield, yesterday, is being played for the benefit of W Storer, the Derbyshire wicket-keeper, who has represented the county for nine years.

Heavy rain fell in the district overnight, and Mr Lawton, the Derbyshire captain, who won the toss, sent Yorkshire in first. Brown, Denton, Mr Taylor and Hirst ere dismissed for 24 runs, but a fine stand by Tunnicliffe and Washington followed, and in rather more than an hour's batting 73 runs were added to the score. Washington played beautiful cricket and, making the majority of his runs on the leg side, contributed 80, his best innings of the season. He was at the wickets an hour and 40 minutes, and his 11 fours. He gave no chance.

Yorkshire scored 150 runs in their first innings, and to this Derbyshire made a very poor response, being all dismissed by Hirst and Haigh, who bowled unchanged, for 64 runs. Except for some spirited hitting by their captain the home county's batting was very weak.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 June, page 13)

The second day's play in the match for Storer's benefit, at Chesterfield, yesterday, was remarkable for another fine innings for Yorkshire, the chief contributor being Mr Taylor, who carried out his bat. He had some luck, for he was twice missed, when he had made 23 and 47; but, considering that the wicket always helped the bowlers, his innings will rank among his best performances. He was batting three hours and 20 minutes, and his chief hits were 15 fours, nine threes and 17 twos. So far this season he has played three three-figure innings for his county.

Yorkshire finished their second innings with a lead of 395. Derbyshire did little against the attack of Hirst and Rhodes, and are now 375 runs behind with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 June, page 14)

. . . At Chesterfield Derbyshire only added four runs to their second innings score without losing another wicket against Yorkshire . . . These matches were given up drawn . . .

6 June: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5934.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 June, page 12)

Mr Bainbridge made one of his rare appearances in first-class cricket yesterday at Leyton, where he captained the Warwickshire team. Essex took first innings, and the start was sensational, Carpenter being caught at slip in Hargreave's first over and Mr Fane being dismissed also before a run had been scored.

Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey made a very valuable stand, 50 being scored before the third man was dismissed by Kinneir, who caught and bowled Mr McGahey. Mr Perrin and Mr Lucas made a further stand but, when Santall went on at 64, the turning point of the innings was reached. With the score at 70 he bowled Mr Perrin with a slow yorker, and in eight overs and two balls he dismissed six batsmen for 11 runs.

Warwickshire made an even worse start than Essex, half the side being out for 34 runs. Six wickets were down for 54, but then a determined stand by Devey and Santall, who put on 51 runs for the seventh wicket, gave Warwick the lead. Mr McGahey met with remarkable success with the ball towards the close, and in the end Warwickshire had a lead of 31 runs. Reeves, who bowled with fine judgment, was for a time almost unplayable. Devey's innings was an admirable display of sound defence, but he hit hard when occasion offered. He was batting altogether for nearly three hours, and made no mistakes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 June, page 13)

The wet weather prevented any cricket in the following matches yesterday: - . . Essex v Warwickshire, at Leyton . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 June, page 14)

. . . Essex scored 29 more runs in their second innings with Warwickshire, at Leyton, for the loss of two wickets. These matches were given up drawn . . .

5 June: LANCASHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5935.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 June, page 12)

Continuing their tour in the north, the Australians visited Old Trafford yesterday to play their first match with Lancashire. The sky was always overcast and in the afternoon there were two interruptions to the match, but about 10,000 people watched the play. The wicket remained easy throughout the day.

For the first time during the tour Mr Noble was unable to take the field owing to an attack of influenza, so that with Mr Saunders and Mr Trumble still indisposed the colonial attack was considerably weakened. Mr Carter, the reserve wicket-keeper, completed the side.

Mr Darling won the toss and, taking advantage of the easy wicket, the mediocre bowling and somewhat slack fielding of Lancashire, the Australians scored 356 runs for seven wickets in the space of four hours and 35 minutes' play. Mr Trumper scored 70 out of 109 runs in the course of 70 minutes. He opened the innings and his 51 out of 69 runs in 50 minutes.

Mr Hopkins's 31 included six fours. For the seventh wicket Mr Armstrong and Mr Kelly put on 131 runs in an hour and 45 minutes. Mr Kelly left at 334 for a vigorous 75, which included 11 fours. He made 51 out of 74 in 55 minutes, and was eventually bowled by a fast ball from Hallows which went off his pads. Mr Armstrong is still not out 87, but he was missed by Mr MacLaren when he had made 37. He was at the wickets for two hours and 45 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 June, page 13)

The wet weather prevented any cricket in the following matches yesterday: - . . The Australians v Lancashire, at Manchester . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 June, page 14)

There was no cricket on Saturday . . . at Manchester (Australians v Lancashire) . . . These matches were given up drawn . . .

5 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5936.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 June, page 12)

Some very interesting batting was witnessed at Leicester yesterday, Sussex having rather the better position at the close of play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 June, page 13)

At Leicester, yesterday, there was cricket after luncheon, and the score was left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 June, page 14)

This match at Leicester resulted in a draw. Saturday's cricket was curtailed by rain. Chiefly owing to some good batting by Relf, Sussex held a lead of 56 on the first innings.

Going in a second time Leicestershire fared so badly that half the side were out for 37 runs, but the batting of Dr Macdonald and Whitehead laid the foundation for an improved position, and the game was eventually left as follows . . .

5 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5937.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 June, page 12)

At Lord's, yesterday, Mr A O Jones, the Notts captain, after winning the toss, put Middlesex in, but the policy did not turn out well. The ground had not recovered from the effects of the recent rains and, as the morning was dull, Mr Jones probably hoped that the wicket would be better as the day wore on. Up to a point Notts did very well indeed, but in the last three-quarters of an hour the game went against them, and in the end they finished up 47 runs behind with only three wickets in hand.

Middlesex were batting for about three hours, and the chief feature of their innings was the stand for the fifth wicket by Mr Beldam and Mr Robertson, who in an hour and a quarter put on 78 runs. After a quiet start Mr Robertson played very bright cricket, his score including nine fours, while Mr Beldam batted very patiently for two hours and 20 minutes. Middlesex had 140 on the board with only four men out and the collapsed, Anthony sending down his last five overs and a ball for seven runs and five wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 June, page 13)

The wet weather prevented any cricket in the following matches yesterday: - Middlesex v Notts, at Lord's . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 June, page 14)

There was no cricket on Saturday at Lord's (Middlesex v Notts) . . . These matches were given up drawn . . .

5 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5938.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 June, page 12)

In the opening of their match with the University at Oxford yesterday the Kent eleven gave an excellent display of batting, staying in for the greater part of the day and putting together a total of 275. Mr Knowles had two lives in making his 92, but Mr Mason's innings was free from any serious

blemish. Mr Whately bowled very well, but was badly supported by the field, several mistakes being made.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 June, page 13)

The wet weather prevented any cricket in the following matches yesterday: - . . Oxford University v Kent, at Oxford . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 June, page 14)

When play had been in progress half an hour at Oxford, on Saturday, a thunderstorm burst over the ground and so saturated the wicket that it was decided to abandon the match as a draw. Mr Dillon, who had played so well on Thursday evening, was compelled to retire owing to a bad blow on the face.

5 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5939.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 June, page 12)

Worcestershire gained a decided advantage in this match, which was begun at Worcester yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 June, page 13)

The wet weather prevented any cricket in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Worcestershire v Hampshire, at Worcester.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 June, page 14)

There was no cricket on Saturday . . . at Worcester (Worcestershire v Hampshire) . . . These matches were given up drawn . . .

Saturday 7 June, page 13: CRICKET TEAM FOR NEW ZEALAND

Lord Hawke has received an invitation from the New Zealand Cricket Council, asking him to visit that colony with an eleven in the winter. The stipulation is that every member of the team must be a bona fide amateur. Travelling and hotel expenses will be defrayed by a guarantee fund now being raised in New Zealand, but beyond this the cricketers will receive nothing.

The trip will be more in the nature of a holiday than anything else, not more than about nine matches being played, two or three of which will be against a combined team representing New Zealand. Lord Hawke has not definitely decided whether he will be able to spare the time for the trip.

Monday 9 June, page 14: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The selection committee appointed by the Board of Control met yesterday at the Sports Club to pick the team for the next test match. There were present Lord Hawke, Mr G MacGregor, Mr H W Bainbridge, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr A G Steel, Mr C B Fry and Mr F S Jackson.

Twelve players were chosen for next Thursday's match at Lord's, and the actual side will be made up on the morning of the match. The eleven who played at Birmingham have been asked, and there is the addition of Mr T L Taylor, the old Cambridge captain, who has been playing so well for Yorkshire this summer. The names are: - Mr AC MacLaren, Mr F S Jackson, Mr C B Fry, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr G L Jessop, Mr T L Taylor, Lilley, Hirst, Rhodes, Lockwood, Tyldesley and Braund.

9 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5940.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 June, page 13)

At Cambridge, yesterday, the Australians had to take the field without Mr Darling, Mr Noble, Mr Howell and Mr Saunders, all of whom are suffering from influenza. Happily Mr Trumble had recovered sufficiently from the injury he met with more than five weeks ago to play; but to complete their eleven the Australians had to call upon Dr R J Pope, of Sydney, who appeared several times for the Australian team of 1886.

Handicapped as they were the Australians proved much too strong for the University, whom they dismissed for 108, and then in 50 minutes scored 87 for the loss of one batsman. Thus the visitors left off only 21 runs behind with nine wickets in hand.

Mr Trumble bowled with considerable success in the early part of the day, taking all four wickets which fell before lunch; but he did not go on afterwards, and in the course of the afternoon left the field suffering from a feverish cold.

Thanks to Mr Ebden Cambridge did fairly well up to the interval, scoring 74 for four wickets. Afterwards, however, Mr Armstrong dismissed Mr Blaker, and then Mr Trumper took the last five wickets in four overs and three balls for six runs. Mr E R Wilson and Mr Fry were clean bowled in one over with the score at 93, and ten runs later Mr Trumper, with successive balls, dismissed Mr F B Wilson and Mr Driffield. Mr Ebden, who went in first and was the last man out, gave no chance in his 53 and scarcely made a bad stroke.

When the Australians went in to bat Mr Duff hit out vigorously, and in half an hour scored 32 out of the first 49 runs. Mr Hill batted freely, 38 runs being added in the course of 20 minutes' cricket without further loss. Rain greatly interfered with the comfort of both players and spectators, and delayed the progress of the game four times.

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

So completely were the University eleven outplayed at Cambridge yesterday that the Australians won with the greatest ease by an innings and 183 runs. The University certainly had the worst of the wicket, which, always slow and difficult, became treacherous after lunch under the influence of the sun, but they contributed largely to their own misfortunes by frequent blunders in the field.

Thus Mr Trumper, who was twice missed from awkward chances overnight, was let off from an easy catch by Mr Fry when he had added a single only to his not-out 27. Ha this chance been accepted there would have been three men out for 88, but instead the third partnership produced 117 in 85 minutes, while Mr Trumper himself was fourth out at 252, when his score amounted to 128. Mr Trumper batted splendidly after his third mistake.

Mr Gregory, who made 72 in an hour and a half, was let off in the field when 32, and Kelly before he had scored at all. Ultimately the Australian innings terminated in Mr Trumble's absence, through illness, for 337, or 229 ahead.

It was feared that the Cambridge men would fare badly, but scarcely any one anticipated that Mr Hopkins and Mr Jones would dismiss them in about an hour for 46. This, however, is what happened, Mr Harper alone showing the slightest ability to cope with the difficulties of the bowling. Mr Hopkins, who made the ball break considerably and varied his pace with much judgment, accomplished the hat trick by getting rid of Mr Blaker, Mr Fry and Mr E R Wilson with successive balls. In the whole innings he took seven wickets for ten runs, the last six in three overs for four runs. (See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5941.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 June, page 13)

Owing to the fact that the wicket on the Spa ground at Gloucester had been carefully protected from the heavy rain of the last week, there was a full day's play yesterday. The pitch, however, was never good, and the bowlers had such a marked advantage that 18 wickets fell for 302 runs.

Gloucestershire took three hours to make 186, and they would have fared even worse but for the capital batting of Wrathall and Board. They became partners with four wickets down for 39 runs, and they were not parted till the total had been increased to 99. Board played in characteristic style for 44, while Wrathall showed better form than at any previous period of the season. He gave no actual chance during the two hours, in which he made 78.

Somerset fared even worse than the home side, for whom no one succeeded in equalling the performance of Wrathall and Board. Braund made a great effort to do so after four men were out for 42, and he was the seventh to leave at 78.

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

There was a close resemblance between the cricket at Gloucester yesterday and that of the opening day. The record worked out decidedly in favour of the home side, for they still hold a lead of 126, while Somerset have only three wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 June, page 14)

Somerset were beaten at Gloucester yesterday by 55 runs after a most interesting struggle. Mr Johnson and Mr Dunlop, who became partners on Thursday evening when seven wickets had fallen for 102, made a strong effort to save their side. They carried the total to 171 by some good batting.

9 June: LONDON COUNTY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5942.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 June, page 13)

Yesterday, at the Crystal Palace, Leicestershire kept the home side in the field the whole of the cricket hours. There were some interruptions by rain.

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

The fine innings of Mr W L Murdoch, at the Crystal Palace, yesterday, enabled London County to get the better position.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 June, page 14)

In the drawn game at the Crystal Palace yesterday the feature of the cricket on the last day was the batting of Knight for Leicestershire.

9 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5943.html) Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 June, page 13) At Lord's yesterday the bowlers were helped by the wicket. The M.C.C. team batted badly, but when Notts went in there was a fine innings by Iremonger, who, after two escapes, played sound cricket.

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

Nottinghamshire beat the weak M.C.C. side at Lord's yesterday by an innings and 43 runs. Beyond some hitting by Tate (of Hampshire) and Young for the club the second day's cricket was not of much interest.

9 June: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5944.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 June, page 13)

The feature of yesterday's cricket on the Oval was the batting of Abel. He went through the innings and was seen at his best, and his driving on the off-side was marked by all his well-known skill. He was a little lax after passing his hundred; but his few errors in timing the ball detracted little from the excellence of his feat. He was batting four hours and a quarter and made two fives and 18 fours.

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

There was a great innings by K S Ranjitsinhji on the Oval yesterday, which rescued his side from a bad position, for whereas five wickets were down for 70, Sussex managed to lead Surrey by nine runs on the first innings. His batting possessed splendid brilliancy and he made 135 out of 202, which the second half of the Sussex innings produced. His stay at the wickets was just over three hours and his chief hits were one five and 15 fours.

Butt and Cordingley played with judgment while K S Ranjitsinhji was forcing the game. At the close Surrey held a lead of only 40 with six wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 June, page 14)

Surrey saved their match at the Oval yesterday, the game being drawn with Sussex wanting 107 to win and six wickets left. After the fine batting of K S Ranjitsinhji on Tuesday, the closing day's crtm when Surrey had recovered themselves, possessed no special feature.

9 June: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5945.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 June, page 13)

At Birmingham, yesterday, the home side had the better of the day's cricket.

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

Yesterday's cricket at Birmingham left Warwickshire with almost certain victory in prospect. They want only a dozen runs to win and have nine wickets on hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 June, page 14)

Warwickshire beat Derbyshire, yesterday, at Birmingham, by nine wickets.

9 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5946.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 June, page 13)

Kent had the better of the cricket at Worcester yesterday.

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

The batsmen found runs difficult to make at Worcester yesterday, and the advantage which Kent had gained on Monday was fully maintained.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 June, page 14)

As was expected Kent easily won this match at Worcester yesterday. The actual result was a win by 98 runs.

9 June: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5947.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 June, page 13)

The first meeting of the season between Yorkshire and Middlesex took place at Bradford yesterday. The champions were at full strength, Mr Jackson coming in for Whitehead, but Middlesex were only moderately represented.

Heavy rains had fallen in the district on Sunday and the previous night, and it occasioned no small degree of surprise to find cricket possible at the appointed time. Mr MacGregor won the toss, but there was little, if any, advantage to be derived from going in first. The wicket always favoured the attacking side, and against the Yorkshire bowling wickets fell rapidly. Rhodes from the opening found the wicket to his liking, and before the score had reached double figures he dismissed Mr Bosanquet and Trott. The former was caught at the wicket and the latter fell to a remarkably fine catch by Hirst off the first ball sent down to him. For a moment it seemed as if Hirst would not reach the ball but, making a quick leap, he held the ball while at full length on the turf.

Mr Robertson and Mr Beldam found runs exceedingly difficult to make against Rhodes and Hirst. Yet both batsmen played steady cricket, and it was not until the fast bowler gave way to Mr Jackson and Rhodes crossed over that the bowlers really got the upper hand. At 23 Mr Beldam was taken in the slips, and nothing further was scored for the next 20 minutes. With the total at 29, however, Mr Foley, Mr Griffin and Mr Robertson were all beaten. Mr Littlejohn subsequently batted patiently for upwards of an hour.

The visitors' score was easily passed by Yorkshire. The feature of the home county's batting was the contribution by Tunnicliffe. He was badly missed by Mr Bosanquet at mid-off when 16, and the mistake cost Middlesex dear. Mr Jackson and Mr Taylor were quickly dismissed, but Hirst, Brown and Denton made useful scores and at the close of play Yorkshire, with four wickets in hand, were 79 runs on.

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

The Yorks eleven secured their third victory in the season's championship at Bradford yesterday, when they beat Middlesex by an innings and 22 runs. The wicket, though faster, was more difficult than on the previous day.

When Middlesex went in a second time Haigh bowled with such effect that five wickets were down in half an hour for 15 runs, and the total was only 26 at the fall of the sixth. Up to this point Haigh had bowled five of the six wickets and only ten runs had been scored from him. The match was over before luncheon.

Wednesday 11 June, page 9: THE TEST MATCH

Mr Darling and Mr Noble are reported to be benefiting greatly by their visit to Brighton and, though he did not bat at Cambridge, Mr Trumble was much better yesterday.

Mr Howell, who was not well enough to go with Mr Darling to Brighton, is, however, still confined to his room, and it does not seem likely that either he or Mr Saunders will be available for the test match to-morrow at Lord's.

Thursday 12 June, page 14: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

For to-day's test match at Lord's the English team will be made up this morning from the 12 players whose names were given in The Times of Monday.

Major Wardill informed The Sportsman last night that Mr Saunders, Mr Howell and Mr Trumble will be unable to play. The two first named will probably go to the South coast to recuperate, and Mr Trumble yesterday afternoon was still in bed at Cambridge. Mr Darling and Mr Noble returned yesterday from Brighton, feeling decidedly stronger, but it by no means follows that they will be equal to the strain of the three days' test match.

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN. - Mr C E Winter, the Cambridge University wicket-keeper, has been given his Blue.

12 June: DERBYSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5948.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 June, page 11)

At Glossop yesterday weather spoiled the cricket and the score was left as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 June, page 13) The wicket helped the bowlers at Glossop yesterday and the score was left thus . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 June, page 12)

Late in the afternoon on Saturday the ground at Glossop was considered fit for cricket, and Worcestershire were able to proceed with their second innings; but there was no time to finish the match, which was drawn . . .

12 June: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(From our special correspondent)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5949.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 June, page 11)

The weather of this so-called summer recalls that of 1860, 1879 and 1888. After three or four fairly fine days, rain began to fall about 7 o'clock yesterday morning and continued till nearly 12, and the umpires at Lord's ordered play in the second test match to begin after luncheon. Rain had then stopped, but the weather was very cold and of the gloomiest description.

Australia were again unfortunate is losing the services of Mr Trumble and Mr Howell, while neither Mr Darling nor Mr Noble has fully recovered from influenza.

England left out Mr Taylor and played exactly the same side as at Birmingham; and the English captain, after winning the toss, started the batting with Mr Fry to the bowling of Messrs Jones and Hopkins. A most disastrous start was made, vividly recalling the Birmingham match. Mr Fry in his first over from Mr Hopkins made a feeble hit at a ball well up on his legs and, instead of hitting it to the ropes, played it gently into the hands of Mr Hill at short-leg, while Ranjitsinhji was completely defeated by Mr Hopkins. It transpired that the batsman had touched the ball on to his legs and thence to the wicket, but from the pavilion it looked as if he had been completely beaten, and certainly the bowler deserved his success.

Again, as at Birmingham, did Mr Jackson save his side, though he had hardly played an over or so before rain stopped play for 20 minutes. When the game was resumed Mr Jackson scored the first run of the match, and then made a dangerous stroke off Mr Jones through the slips, while Mr MacLaren was batting for 25 minutes before making his first run. The total was only 19 when rain again stopped play till 5.15, but during the last hour and a quarter both amateurs played grand cricket; and when stumps were drawn the score was 102 for two wickets.

The batting was extremely good, Mr Jackson playing all round the wicket freely and well, though he ran no risks; while Mr MacLaren's runs were chiefly on the leg side, both the long hop and the good length ball to leg being exceedingly well times. Once, however, he might have been caught at short slip off Mr Trumper. The best bowling was that of Mr Hopkins, and the fielding was as usual both smart and safe; but there can be no doubt that the loss of Mr Trumble and Mr Howell severely crippled the side. Mr Jones bowled fairly well, but the wicket was too slow for him and Mr Saunders never found his length.

There is every probability that the match will be ruined by the weather, as the day closed with a most gloomy appearance. Great coats were in universal use, as the temperature was more like January than June; but nevertheless there was an attendance of about 8,000.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 June, page 13)

Owing to the rain there was no play at Lord's yesterday. The score was left on Thursday as follows . \cdot \cdot

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 June, page 12)

As at Birmingham so in London, but even more pitilessly, rain spoilt the match between England and Australia. On Saturday, as on Friday, not a ball was bowled at Lord's. The result is that the sixth out of the last seven test matches played in England was left drawn.

Only for one hour and three-quarters was cricket possible in the course of the three days. But brief as was the period of play, there was at least one moment of supreme anxiety in the match which will live in the memories of those who were present. It was when Mr Jackson offered s sharp chance in the slips and, for a second, there was the possibility that the score would read 1-3-1. How Mr Jackson, with his superb skill and self-reliance, once more retrieved the fortunes of England and with Mr MacLaren's watchful aid carried the score to 102 for two wickets is now a matter of history.

Five consecutive test matches have now been played in England and left drawn. On three of these occasions, at Headingley, Edgbaston and Lord's, this result has been due to the weather; on two, at Lord's and the Oval, in 1899, it was owing to the stubborn defence of the Australians. The absence of definite result naturally has raised the question as to the possibility of arranging to play the test matches to a finish. That were a consummation devoutly to be wished, but, from a practical point of view, there are many obstacles in the way of its attainment.

The competition for the county championship is so keen and the amount of cricket played in this country so great that the situation is not on all fours with that which obtains in Australia. There, where cricket is possible all the year round, six days can be set aside for each game; here, in our short season of five months, the counties which were called upon to dispense with their best players for more than a month and possibly for ten county fixtures would be so seriously handicapped that the committee would find themselves in a very difficult position. On the present occasion, the best that can be said of so disappointing an issue is that even if the match had been played to a finish and had resulted in a victory for the English eleven, it could not have been altogether satisfactory. The Australians, like Mr MacLaren's team in the winter, are suffering from a series of misfortunes, which has deprived them for the time being of the services of two of their best bowlers. Without Barnes and Blythe to bowl for us the test match in Australia was no test at all and, owing to the absence of Mr Trumble and Mr Howell, the supporters of Australia must have been tempted to feel the same with regard to the match at Lord's.

It remains, therefore, to hope for a fight to a finish in the three coming contests, and for a fight waged on both sides by teams truly representative and in full health and strength.

12 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5950.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 June, page 11)

Rain greatly interfered with the cricket at Gloucester yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 June, page 13)

Gloucestershire and Surrey could not proceed with their game, at Gloucester . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 June, page 12)

In addition to the test match, the following other matches were abandoned through the weather: - Gloucestershire v Surrey, at Gloucester . . .

12 June: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5951.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 June, page 11)

There was no play yesterday in the following matches: - . . . Hampshire v Leicestershire, at Southampton.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 June, page 13)

There was another blank day at Southampton yesterday in Hampshire v Leicestershire.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 June, page 12)

After two blank days at Southampton good progress was made with the match on the last afternoon. The bowlers met with much success and the game was drawn.

12 June: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5952.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 June, page 11)

The bowlers had the best of the play yesterday at Gravesend, but the weather interfered with the match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 June, page 13)

Very little cricket was possible at Gravesend yesterday owing to the rain.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 June, page 12)

In addition to the test match, the following other matches were abandoned through the weather: - . . Kent v Nottinghamshire, at Gravesend . . .

12 June: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5953.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 June, page 11)

There was no play yesterday in the following matches: - Lancashire v Somerset, at Manchester . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 June, page 13)

At Old Trafford, yesterday, nearly a full day's cricket was possible. Somerset, despite the weakness of their side, led by 13 runs on the first innings.

At one time it did not seem that they would do so well, for, though Robson hit up 29 out of 38, Webb and Mr Steel bowled so well that half the Somerset side was dismissed for 65. Then Mr Newton and Cranfield hit so well that the end of the innings was not reached until the total had been taken to 114.

Lancashire performed badly against the excellent bowling of Cranfield and Robson, backed up by smart fielding, and without I'Anson's well-played innings of 35 their total would have been small indeed. Sharp hit hard for 17, but on the whole the batting was distinctly disappointing.

Somerset did little better in their second innings, and at the close of the day, with four wickets in hand, they held a lead of only 100 runs. Lancashire fielded badly in the second innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 June, page 12)

Somerset, despite the weakness of their side, had the satisfaction of beating Lancashire at Old Trafford on Saturday by the narrow margin of nine runs. The Lancashire fielding was especially bad, and Somerset were enabled to increase the overnight score of their second innings from 87 for six to 125. Again Mr A E Newton hit hard and luckily for 20. Cuttell, who bowled well when a resumption was possible after lunch time, brought the innings to a close by taking three wickets at small cost.

Lancashire batted badly, and even Ward was lucky in getting 21, while Mr Eccles made many bad strokes in his 22. Mr Woods twice dropped Cuttell, who, with Mr Steel, put on 54 runs for the eighth wicket. The last-named batted in steady fashion for 34, but when he left at 129, following Cuttell out, ten runs were required to win. The same over saw Thomas brilliantly caught by Mr P R Johnson, who fielded finely throughout.

Cranfield, who in the match took 14 wickets for 126, bowled very well, and he had good support from Robson. Mr Newton kept wicket in splendid style.

16 June: AN ENGLAND ELEVEN v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5954.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 June, page 11)

There was scarcely a feature of interest during the opening stage of this match at Eastbourne yesterday. Owing to the ground's not having recovered from the rains of the previous day it was found impossible to begin play before lunch, but during the two hours and 50 minutes of play considerable progress was made.

The winning of the toss was a distinct advantage, as the wicket grew more difficult as the day advanced. Making use of their opportunities Mr Trumper and Mr Hill hit freely, the former getting his runs in half an hour and the latter in less than an hour. After they left the play became extremely slow.

Abel was the only English batsman who overcame the difficulties of the wicket. The bowling of Mr Trumble, who made his reappearance in the team, was very difficult to play. England with five wickets down are 125 behind.

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

Play was curtailed again at Eastbourne yesterday, but while the cricket lasted it was always bright. Abel, after adding six to his score, was finely caught at mid-on, and Arnold was bowled at the same total - 46.

The wicket was as bad as it could be when Mr Jessop was joined by Mr Crawford. The two amateurs forced the game splendidly. Mr Jessop allowed few chances of scoring to pass, but his partner made runs at the greater rate. While the first 50 occupied an hour and a quarter, the second was hit up in 22 minutes, and the partnership added 90 in 40 minutes. Mr Crawford was the first to leave, being caught in the long-field. When Mr Jessop was caught at square-leg the England eleven were only 16 behind their opponents.

The Australians fared none too well at the outset of their second innings, three wickets falling for 40 runs. Mr Hill and Mr Gregory, however, made a useful stand. At half-past 3 a heavy rain storm put a stop to play for the day. The Australians, with seven wickets to fall, have now a lead of 120 runs.

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

Yesterday, at Eastbourne, the Australians won their match against the scratch English team by 131 runs. Mr Gregory batted very well for the Australians.

16 June: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5955.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 June, page 11)

There was no play in the following matches arranged for yesterday: - . . . Tonbridge. - Kent v Lancashire . . .

Day 2 (no report or scorecard found from Wednesday 18 June, page 13)

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

Lancashire gained a great victory over Kent at Tonbridge yesterday by an innings and eight runs.

16 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5956.html)
Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 June, page 11)
There was no play in the following matches arranged for yesterday: . . . Leicester. - Leicestershire v Warwickshire.
Day 2 (no report or scorecard found from Wednesday 18 June, page 13)
Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 June, page 12)
It was a bowler's match at Leicester yesterday, and the game was drawn.
16 June: LONDON COUNTY v CAMERIDGE UNIVERSITY
(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5957.html)
Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 June, page 11)
There was no play in the following matches arranged for yesterday: . . . Crystal Palace. - London County v Cambridge University . . .

Day 2 (no report or scorecard found from Wednesday 18 June, page 13)

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

At the Crystal Palace yesterday Canterbury gained a victory over London County by five wickets. Cambridge went in to get 101 and after four wickets were down for 26 Mr Day and Mr Penn won the game by a fine piece of hitting.

16 June: MIDDLESEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5958.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 June, page 11)

There was no play in the following matches arranged for yesterday: -Lord's. - Middlesex v Essex . . .

Day 2 (no report or scorecard found from Wednesday 18 June, page 13)

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

A drawn match, at Lord's, yesterday, was the result expected, seeing that no play had taken place on Monday or Tuesday. Young, Mead, Trott and Hearne all bowled well and Hearne performed the hat trick.

16 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5959.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 June, page 11)

Without several of the players who are certain to appear in the University match at Lord's, Oxford yesterday were kept in the field the whole of the day. Surrey had average of their regular men absent, but Mr Key played.

The feature of the Surrey innings was the batting of Hayward, and apart from this the cricket of the day was commonplace.

Day 2 (no report or scorecard found from Wednesday 18 June, page 13)

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

The Oxford eleven gained a clever victory over Surrey in the Parks yesterday by two wickets. It was a fine finish and the University owed their success very largely to the batting of Mr R A Williams.

16 June: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5960.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 June, page 11)

There was no play in the following matches arranged for yesterday: - . . Brighton. - Sussex v Notts . . .

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

At the Hove Ground yesterday, Wass, always a difficult bowler on a sticky wicket, and Tate, who is doing better work this year perhaps than ever before for Sussex, bowled with great success. K S Ranjitsinhji was absent from the home side and Mr Fry failed in both innings.

Nottinghamshire, who hold such a commanding position that Sussex are 77 behind with seven wickets down in the second innings, were largely indebted in batting to Mr A O Jones, Shrewsbury and Iremonger.

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

Less than ten minutes' play sufficed to finish this match at Brighton yesterday, Nottinghamshire winning by an innings and 72 runs. The cricket was made remarkable by the fine bowling of Wass for the winners.

16 June: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5961.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 June, page 11)

The match at Sheffield yesterday was remarkable for the bowling of Mr Jackson and Braund. The Western county were strengthened by the inclusion of Mr Lionel Palairet and Braund; but batting first on a soft pitch they were dismissed for 86.

Mr Palairet batted in perfect style for 25, while Braund was top scorer with 31. The last-named had not a little luck, but although beaten time after time by Rhodes he remained at the wickets for upwards of two hours and gave far more trouble to the bowlers than any one else. The best work in bowling was done by Mr Jackson, who had the good average of six wickets for 29 runs. Rhodes also did well and bowled with judgment throughout. Yorkshire for once in a way gave a weak batting display, the majority of the eleven being puzzled with Braund's leg breaks. Braund varied his bowling in wonderful fashion and was responsible for the dismissal of half-a-dozen of the best batsmen for an average of five runs each. Somerset are 16 runs on with nine wickets in hand.

Day 2 (no report or scorecard found from Wednesday 18 June, page 13)

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

History repeated itself at Sheffield yesterday, when Somerset inflicted the first defeat of the season upon the champion county. It was at Leeds last year, it will be remembered, that Somerset scored their sensational victory over the unbeaten Yorkshire team.

It was after 1 o'clock yesterday when play was resumed. Once started, however, the game progressed quickly. Somerset batted first, and thanks to some steady cricket by Mr Palairet and plucky hitting by Gill they were in possession of a useful lead of 68 runs at the luncheon interval. After Gill had been bowled by Haigh, Braund further strengthened the position of the visitors. He left with the score at 105, and then came the sensational bowling performance by Haigh. He got Braund taken at mid-on and then bowled Mr Lee and Mr Newton with successive balls. Haigh's six wickets cost 19 runs, and five of his wickets were taken in 12 balls without a run being scored off him.

Somerset were all out for 106, and Yorkshire were set the task of making 119 to win. The wicket had become worse, and an hour and 40 minutes' play sufficed to give Somerset the victory. Braund, as in the first innings, proved the great stumbling-block to the Yorkshiremen. His nine wickets were captured at the cost of 41 runs.

19 June: DERBYSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5962.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 June, page 11)

The Australians outplayed the home side at Derby yesterday, and at the drawing of stumps they held a lead of four runs with six wickets in hand. The majority of the Derbyshire batsmen found the bowling too good for them, and only Mr Lawton and Storer met with any degree of success. Mr Howell took four wickets for two runs each.

When the Australians went in there were several failures, and it was entirely due to Mr Hopkins and Mr Darling that the Australians were left in such a favourable position.

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

There was no cricket in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Derby. - The Australians v Derbyshire . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 June, page 11)

The Australians easily beat Derbyshire at Derby on Saturday by eight wickets. Friday's rain had ruined the pitch and the county batting broke down badly before the bowling of Mr Saunders and Mr Trumble.

19 June: ESSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5963.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 June, page 11)

The best wicket of the season at Leyton proved profitable to Essex yesterday, for they won the toss against Lancashire and in five hours and a half scored 333 for nine wickets. Essex were largely indebted to Mr Perrin, who had scored 86 out of 140 when he was cleverly caught by Ward running back from third man. Mr Perrin never made a mistake and his driving was free and forcible. During his stay of two hours and 25 minutes he hit 13 fours, two threes and nine twos.

Mr McGahey's laboured and cautious style was in direct contrast to the attractive cricket of Mr Perrin. He ought to have been caught at the wicket by Thomas when he was only eight.

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

There was no cricket in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Leyton. - Essex v Lancashire . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 June, page 11)

The match at Leyton on Saturday was drawn. After the idle day through rain Essex closed their innings; but their attempt to get out Lancashire twice failed, mostly through the sterling batting of Tyldesley, who played the Essex bowlers with great skill on the slow wicket.

19 June: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5964.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 June, page 11)

Mr Mason's judgment in putting Gloucestershire in at Tonbridge yesterday proved a sound policy as far as the first day's cricket was concerned. The all-round cricket of Mr Mason and the batting of Mr Burnup, who has been showing such consistent form this season, went a long way to establish a lead for the home side.

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

There was a long delay yesterday at Tonbridge owing to the weather, but when the game was proceeded with everything went in favour of Kent. Their last few batsmen did well, and then Blythe and Alec Hearne rapidly got Gloucestershire out a second time. Mr Jessop hit hard, but the collapse was remarkable. Kent won by an innings and 23 runs.

19 June: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5965.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 June, page 11)

Mr Fry's century marked the cricket at Lord's yesterday. It was a splendid innings, full of that fine power on the off-side which Mr Fry so well developed after leaving Oxford. His timing of the ball was good from the start, and he hit 15 fours.

There was some brief but clever play by K S Ranjitsinhji, and Killick's left-hand batting as steady and profitable. Sussex, with 354 for eight wickets, hold a very strong position. The Middlesex men bowled and fielded fairly well on the easy turf, which seemed completely rid of the effects of the long spell of wet weather.

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

There was no cricket in the following matches yesterday: - Lord's. - Middlesex v Sussex . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 June, page 11)

There was some wonderful bowling by Tate, at Lord's, on Saturday, and this led to the defeat of Middlesex by Sussex by an innings and 224 runs. Tate bowled from the pavilion end and was kept on from start to finish, being responsible for 15 batsmen at a cost of 68 runs. The wicket suited Tate, who got on a great deal of break and was almost unplayable.

Sussex, whose batting absorbed the whole of Thursday, closed their innings at once on Saturday morning. Friday's rain had ruined the pitch.

19 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5966.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 June, page 11)

With the University match approaching there was a good company to see Cambridge on the Oval yesterday. Mr Ebden preserved his consistency in batting, and Mr Dowson, who went in second wicket down at 40 and took out his bat, played with much of that spirit which has marked his cricket since his school days at Harrow. Mr Jephson bowled his lobs effectively.

When Surrey went in Mr E R Wilson and Mr Penn put the University in the stronger position.

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

In the late hours on the Oval yesterday there was some very good cricket. Mr Jephson batted excellently and got his side on something like even terms with Cambridge. Mr Dowson's batting was again the feature of the University second innings. Cambridge are now 130 on with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 June, page 11)

The Cambridge eleven at the Oval on Saturday gained a clever win over Surrey by 44 runs. They set Surrey 226 to make in the fourth innings, and the early batsmen meeting with an average amount of success it seemed probable that the county would win; but with five wickets down 85 were still wanted. Before the bowling of Mr Dowson the home side steadily failed. Mr Dowson took 11 wickets in the match and scored 121 runs, so that his share in the Cambridge victory was very substantial.

There were a couple of delays on Saturday caused by the bad light and the rain; but Surrey ought to have done better when the wicket had been made easily by the wet. Mr Jephson's lobs were very effective in both the innings of Cambridge.

19 June: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5967.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 June, page 11)

The Yorkshire eleven established a strong lead over Warwickshire, at Birmingham, yesterday. The wicket had not recovered from the recent heavy rain, and until late in the afternoon the bowlers held the upper hand.

Mr Bainbridge, on winning the toss, decided to bat first, but his side were out in two hours and a quarter. Haigh was again in brilliant form, capturing six wickets at a cost of 48 runs.

Yorkshire made a moderate start, four men being out for 55 runs; the home side then had to pay heavily for a mistake by Mr Fishwick, who missed Denton at mid-off when that batsman had scored nine. Denton and Washington remained together for an hour and a half and increased the score by 96. Denton was at the wickets two hours and hit 11 fours. Mr Jackson was unable to play.

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

There was no cricket in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Birmingham. - Yorkshire v Warwickshire . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 June, page 11)

Haigh and Rhodes bowled with such success at Birmingham, on Saturday, that, although there had been a day lost by rain, Yorkshire beat Warwickshire by an innings and 63 runs.

19 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5968.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 June, page 11)

Somerset had the worst of the opening day's cricket at Worcester yesterday, and it was only the batting of Robson which saved the side from disaster. Bowley showed good batting form for Worcestershire, and at the close of play his side held a lead of 26 with three wickets still to fall.

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

There was no cricket in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Worcester. - Worcestershire v Somerset . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 June, page 11)

The match at Worcester on Saturday was drawn, the home county at the finish wanting 51 more runs to win and having only four wickets left. The bowlers had all the best of the last day's cricket, except in the case of Mr Lionel Palairet, whose grand innings really saved Somerset from defeat.

Friday 20 June, page 11: UNFINISHED TEST MATCHES

In answer to a correspondent who asked whether he was of opinion that the test matches between England and Australia should be played to a finish and not limited to three days as at present, Lord Harris has replied as follows: -

"Dear Sir, - I an directed by Lord Harris to say, in reply to your letter of June 17, that he does not see how any alteration could now be made in the arrangements for the test matches. He was of opinion that if the test matches were to be played to a finish they should be limited to three, but with weather such as we had last week and on a ground with the clay soil of Lord's, even six days would not have been enough; and he does not think that it would be possible to allot more than six days for these matches. Yours faithfully, F SEAWARD."

Saturday 21 June, page 9

THE UNIVERSITY MATCH. - It is understood that Mr C M H Ebden has been given his Blue by Mr Wilson, the Cambridge captain. Mr A C Von Ernsthausen and Mr M Bonham-Carter have been given their Blues for Oxford. The match is fixed for next Thursday week at Lord's.

7

Monday 23 June, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the competition is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Surrey	11	2	0	9	2	100.00
Leicestershire	7	1	0	6	1	100.00
Yorkshire	10	4	1	5	3	60.00
Somerset	8	4	2	2	2	33.33
Lancashire	10	4	2	4	2	33.33
Sussex	10	4	2	4	2	33.33
Gloucestershire	9	2	2	5	0	0.00
Derbyshire	5	1	1	3	0	0.00
Essex	8	1	1	6	0	0.00
Notts	7	1	1	5	0	0.00
Warwickshire	7	1	2	4	-1	-33.33
Kent	9	2	4	3	-2	-33.33
Worcestershire	9	1	4	4	-3	-60.00
Middlesex	7	0	3	4	-3	-100.00
Hampshire	5	0	3	2	-3	-100.00

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

23 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5969.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 June, page 7)

At Bristol, yesterday, Gloucestershire, with a weak side, were outplayed by Worcestershire. Bowley batted extremely well for the visitors, while Wilson and Arnold bowled unchanged.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12)

Some splendid batting by Mr Troup and Mr Jessop at Bristol yesterday enabled Gloucestershire to recover their position.

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

Worcestershire beat Gloucestershire yesterday by six wickets, at Bristol. Mr H K Foster batted extremely well for the winners.

23 June: HAMPSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5970.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 June, page 7)

At the drawing of stumps at Bournemouth, yesterday, Kent were 33 runs on with half their wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12)

At Bournemouth, yesterday, Kent won this match by nine wickets.

8

23 June: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5971.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 June, page 7)

Although at one time matters did not go well for Warwickshire in their match with Lancashire at Old Trafford yesterday, they finished off the day with a decided advantage.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12)

At the close of play at Manchester yesterday the scores were left in the following interesting state.

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

At Old Trafford, yesterday, Warwickshire beat Lancashire early in the afternoon by 102 runs. Tyldesley did his best for his side and hit up 60 runs, but he could get no one to stay with him. For Hargreave the match was a triumph. He took 14 wickets for 99 runs.

23 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v DERBYSHIRE (See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5972.html) Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 June, page 7) At Lord's yesterday the county had rather the better of the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12) The M.C.C. won this match at Lord's yesterday by six wickets.

23 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5973.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 June, page 7)

A good day's cricket at Nottingham, yesterday, left the score as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12)

An interesting day's cricket at Nottingham yesterday left the scores thus . . .

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

In a heavy scoring match which resulted in a draw, yesterday, at Nottingham, the feature of the closing day was the batting of Arthur Shrewsbury.

23 June: SURREY v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5974.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 June, page 7)

Yesterday's cricket at the Oval was not uninteresting. For Oxford Mr Dillon's batting was the best thing, although his score was exceeded by Mr Evans.

Surrey bowled and fielded fairly well and they established a strong advantage on the day, seeing that with nine wickets in hand they are only 110 runs behind. Abel completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season by his score yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12) Surrey did very well at the Oval yesterday.

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

The match at the Oval yesterday was quickly finished, Surrey winning by an innings and 96 runs.

23 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5975.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 June, page 7)

The wicket helped the bowlers at Brighton yesterday, and Tate again did well. The Cambridge batting was disappointing.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12)

Although Cambridge University did better yesterday at Brighton, Sussex were left in practically a winning position.

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

Sussex won their match at Brighton, yesterday, by seven wickets.

23 June: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5976.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 June, page 7)

The Australian Eleven met Yorkshire for the second time at Bradford yesterday. As was the case at Leeds three weeks ago it was a bowlers' wicket, and considerable progress was made.

The Australians batted first and were all out in an hour and a half for 106. They lost their first two wickets for three runs, but afterwards there was some brilliant batting by Mr Darling and Mr Hill, who scored 74 for the third wicket in 35 minutes. Mr Darling was very severe on Rhodes, hitting him for two sixes and three fours.

On going on a second time, however, Rhodes met with great success, getting rid of Messrs Hill, Noble and Kelly in four balls. Only Mr Duff of the last seven batsmen reached double figures, and he was missed by Tunnicliffe at short slip before he had scored. Haigh bowled admirably, taking four wickets for 18 runs. Rhodes took his last four for 18.

Yorkshire fared even worse than their opponents, Mr Trumble bowling so well that only 17 runs were scored off him for the capture of six wickets. There were eight Yorks wickets down for 49 runs, and

it was through some plucky hitting by Whitehead and Hunter that the score was brought within 29 of the Australians' total.

Going in a second time for an hour and 25 minutes' batting, the Australians again failed to make headway against the bowling of Rhodes and Haigh. When play ceased the Australians were 99 on with four wickets to fall. The weather was fine and 12,000 persons witnessed the play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12)

The Australians beat Yorkshire at Bradford yesterday by 44 runs.

Wednesday 25 June

M.C.C. AND GROUND v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY. - Owing to the postponement of the Coronation festivities, this match, which was fixed to be played at Lord's on Friday and Saturday, will be begum to-morrow and will, if necessary, extend over three days.

Thursday 26 June

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN. - Mr F B Wilson and Mr J Gilman have been given their blues for the match with Oxford.

26 June: DERBYSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5977.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 June, page 6)

Although Derbyshire made a good score at Derby yesterday, their batting was uncertain. It was due to the fine hitting of Mr Lawson and in a less degree to Storer that the total reached such respectable figures, for the rest of the side were only able to make 39 between them.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 June, page 4)

There was an even day's cricket at Derby yesterday.

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

The partnership of Mr Wood and Board at Derby on Saturday enabled London to beat Derbyshire by six wickets. London went in to make 260 to win, and after they had lost four batsmen for 60, Mr Wood and Board hit off the runs. Mr Wood had some luck, and ought to have been easily run out at 62.

26 June: AN ENGLAND XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5978.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 June, page 6)

The Australians scored heavily yesterday, at Bradford, in their hastily arranged match with a scratch side playing under the title of "An England Eleven." There were centuries by Mr Trumper and Mr Duff.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 June, page 4)

In a commonplace day's cricket at Bradford, yesterday, the scratch team were worsted, and to-day they will have to make 129 to save an innings defeat.

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

The Australians won their match at Bradford by seven wickets. Mr R T Crawford, with a fine piece of hitting, saved the scratch side from the ignominy of an innings defeat, and the Australians were put in to get 42.

26 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5979.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 June, page 6)

There was a great crowd at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, and the cricket went much in favour of Lancashire. Surrey batted badly, and the situation was saved only by the hitting of Richardson. Lancashire passed their opponents' total for the loss of two wickets, Tyldesley's fine batting turning the game for his side.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 June, page 4)

After batting for six hours the Lancashire Eleven completed their first innings against Surrey at Old Trafford yesterday for 556, the highest total made in the county championship this season. The previous best was the 395 by Sussex against Worcestershire. Needless to say such run-getting afforded a huge delight to the holiday crowd of 21,000 people.

Tyldesley increased his overnight figures by 60 runs in an hour, and he was then caught in the slips. This is the largest individual innings in the championship series this year. Tyldesley played bright and faultless cricket for nearly three hours, the certainty and vigour of his strokes, mostly cuts and off-drives, being marked by the fact that he hit 27 fours. There was a splendid partnership for the seventh wicket when Mr Eccles and I'Anson added 198 in two hours by forcible cricket. I'Anson completed his first hundred in first-class cricket in an hour and 50 minutes.

With a lead of 373 Mr MacLaren applied the closure, and on the good wicket Lancashire met with unexpected success, for half the Surrey side were out for 61 and four runs later Hayward was bowled. With seven batsmen out for 90 it seemed as if the match might not run into the third day, but Captain Bush and Mr Crawford offered a determined resistance, and when play ceased they had exactly doubled the score.

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

The stand of 188 by Captain Bush and Mr Crawford for the eighth wicket failed to save Surrey, and Lancashire won at Old Trafford on Saturday by an innings and 78 runs. The partnership ended when 98 more runs had been added to Friday's score, and then Lancashire quickly won. It was Captain Bush's first century in first-class cricket. Both he and Mr Crawford gave chances.

26 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/6980.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 June, page 6)

It was an ideal day for cricket at Lord's yesterday. Marylebone, who had a strong side, batted first on a beautifully true pitch and scored heavily, three of them making centuries. Mr Burnup and Mr Mason played the finest cricket. The Cambridge captain began with his trial bowlers, and neither Mr Dowson nor Mr Wilson went on until the 100 had been passed. There were 8,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 June, page 4)

The Cambridge batting at Lord's yesterday was disappointing. Mr S H Day played in his best style for an hour and a half, scoring a faultless 64. He drove well to the off and made some capital strokes to leg from Trott. Cambridge followed on, 417 runs behind, and shaped in poor fashion. Early in the day Trott punished the Cambridge bowlers severely.

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

Mr E R Wilson, the Cambridge captain, played a very fine innings at Lord's on Saturday; but his side could not recover from the bad position in which they found themselves at the close of the second day, and the M.C.C. won by an innings and 146 runs. Mr Wilson was the last out, his stay at the wicket having extended over three and a half hours. Over 1,000 runs were made in the three days.

26 June: SOMERSET v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5981.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 June, page 6)

In an interesting day's cricket at Taunton yesterday the score was left as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 June, page 4)

Worcestershire had the better of the day's cricket at Taunton yesterday. With all their wickets left in the second innings they want only 112 to win.

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

Worcestershire were indebted mostly to the fine batting of Mr H K Foster for their four wickets' victory at Taunton on Saturday. In both innings the old Oxford cricketer was seen at his best.

26 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5982.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 June, page 6)

The Hove ground was at its best yesterday, and the Oxford eleven had to bowl and field all day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 June, page 4)

The batting of Mr C B Fry was the best thing in the cricket at Hove yesterday. Sussex established a strong winning position, finishing the day with a lead of 320 with five wickets left in the second innings.

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

Sussex, after declaring their innings closed and leaving their opponents 381 to get and five hours to play, were beaten by Oxford University by five wickets with three-quarters of an hour in hand.

The Hove ground has furnished many remarkable feats in batting, but there have been few to equal that achieved by Oxford. Even without his best bowler (Tate) the Sussex captain seemed safe in trying to win the match with a lead of 380.

At first there was no prospect of what was to happen. Two wickets went for 80; but subsequently Mr Evans batted with splendid brilliancy and, helped by Mr Medlicott and Mr Findlay, soon got the game in hand. The third wicket yielded 94 and the fifth 102. Mr Evans, who was in two and a half hours, made 100 of his runs by fours. He was fifth out, and then Mr Findlay and Mr Bonham Carter got the last 80 runs very quickly.

26 June: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5983.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 June, page 6)

There were 10,000 spectators of an excellent day's cricket at Hull yesterday. It was a fast wicket. Yorkshire began badly by losing three men before 50; but then Mr Taylor and Washington put on 107 for the fourth wicket in an hour and a half. Mr Taylor was out to a beautiful catch at cover-point; and following his dismissal the last five wickets went for an addition of 23 runs. Anthony's bowling was particularly good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 June, page 4)

After an even first day's cricket at Hull Yorkshire established a strong position yesterday. This was mostly the work of Tunnicliffe, who played beautifully finished cricket. Nottinghamshire want 376 to win, with the fourth innings to play.

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

Nottinghamshire's task of getting 376 to win in the fourth innings at Hull proved too severe, and Yorkshire easily won the match by 227 runs. Iremonger and John Gunn batted well and Mr Dixon showed great patience. Yorkshire bowled and fielded excellently.

Monday 30 June, page 10: OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

Except that the last place in the Oxford Eleven has yet to be filled, the teams for next Thursday at Lord's are completed. The names are: -

Oxford. - Mr C H B Marsham, Eton, captain; Mr W Findlay, Eton; Mr E W Dillon, Rugby; Mr H J Wyld, Harrow; Mr G W F Kelly, Stonyhurst; Mr R A Williams, Winchester; Mr W H B Evans, Malvern; Mr W S Medlicott, Harrow; Mr A Von Ernsthausen, Uppingham; Mr M Bonham Carter, Winchester. It is understood that Mr R C W Burn, Winchester, and Mr E G Whately, Eton, are the candidates for the 11th place,

Cambridge. - Mr E R Wilson, Rugby, captain; Mr S H Day, Malvern; Mr E M Dowson, Harrow; Mr L V Harper, Rossall; Mr R N R Blaker, Westminster; Mr E F Penn, Eton; Mr C H M Ebden, Eton; Mr C E Winter, Uppingham; Mr J Gilman, St Paul's; Mr F B Wilson, Harrow; Mr L T Driffield, St John's, Leatherhead.

Play will begin on the first day at 11.30 and on the second and third days at 11 o'clock. Lunch will be taken each day at half-past 1, and stumps drawn at half-past 6 o'clock. If necessary, however, and the light be sufficiently good, play on Saturday will be prolonged till 7 o'clock.

THE THIRD TEST MATCH. - Lord Hawke stated on Saturday at Lord's that the English team to play next Thursday at Sheffield will not be made known until to-day.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages of the season up to the present are given below: -

BATTING

		Most in	Not	
Innings	Runs			Average
19	855	165	1	47.50
15	549	106*	3	45.86
30	1076	151*	4	41.38
21	610	80*	6	40.66
15	538	105	0	39.20
17	458	85	5	38.16
21	753	142*	1	37.65
25	856	122	1	35.66
12		142		35.58
				35.52
				34.94
				32.66
				32.35
				32.29
				31.24
				31.31 31.31
				31.26
				31.20
				31.18
-				31.00
				30.91
				30.66
20	571	145*	1	30.05
16	417	127*	2	29.78
11	324	119	0	29.45
19	578	133	1	29.33
16	433	106	1	28.95
13	310	85	2	28.18
et 16	419	103	1	27.93
23	528	74*	4	27.78
21	554	149	1	27.70
				27.41
				27.27
				27.00
				26.81
				26.31
				26.14
				26.00
				25.66
				25.60 25.33
				24.92
				24.55
				24.00
				23.84
				23.76
				23.71
		52*		23.53
13	282	72*	1	23.50
19	445	137	0	23.42
17	356	120	1	22.87
24	503	114	2	22.86
21	424	90	1	21.20
22	449	103	0	20.40
11	203	46*	1	20.30
10	182	53	1	20.22
18	300	142	3	20.00
16	274	64*		19.57
17	305	88*	1	19.06
	15 30 21 15 17 21 25 26 20 21 18 17 21 24 21 16 22 18 17 21 24 21 16 22 18 17 21 24 21 16 22 18 17 21 24 21 16 22 18 17 21 24 21 16 22 18 17 21 24 21 19 22 24 13 21 21 24 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 22 24 13 21 19 20 25 16 19 20 11 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 14 16 13 19 20 114 10 19 20 114 10 19 20 114 10 10 110 110 110 110 110 110 110	19 855 15 549 30 1076 21 610 15 538 17 458 21 753 25 856 12 427 26 817 20 664 21 588 18 550 17 549 21 605 24 689 21 501 16 469 22 656 18 409 16 372 13 371 15 460 20 571 16 417 11 324 19 578 16 433 13 310 21 554 19 468 22 546 23 528 21 421	1985516515549106*301076151*2161080*15538105174588521753142*258561221242714226817124*20664132215887218550126175491072160597246891612150194164696322656127184091121637279133711351546010020571145*16417127*1132411919578133164191032352874*215541491946810222546992456713013295101*21421691436612222546992456713013295101*21421691436612222546992456713013295101*2142480204421116<	InningsRunsinningscuts19 855 165 115 549 106^* 330 1076 151^* 421 610 80^* 615 538 105 017 458 85 5 21 753 142^* 125 856 122 112 427 142 026 817 124^* 320 664 132 421 588 72 318 550 126 117 549 107 021 605 97 224 689 161 221 501 94 516 469 63 122 656 127 118 409 112 216 372 79 4 13 371 135 116 417 127^* 211 324 119 019 578 133 116 419 103 123 528 74^* 4 21 554 149 119 468 102 2 21 546 99 123 528 74^* 4 21 554 149 122 600 97 0 24 567 130

BOWLING

DOWETHO					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr F S Jackson	139.5	50	255	34	7.50
Haigh	271.3	89	597	71	8.40
Tate	529.3	182	1056	100	10.56
Rhodes	461	150	931	85	10.95
Hirst	296.5	108	594	51	11.64
Hargreave	428.2	148	751	52	11.92
Wass	283	74	735	50	14.70
Mr G L Jessop	153.5	38	410	27	15.18
Blythe	350.1	115	855	55	15.26
J T Hearne	425.3	139	1005	63	15.95
Barnes	311.2	85	721	45	16.02
Cranfield	449	80	1252	78	16.06
Mead	413.1	185	862	51	16.70
Mr E R Wilson	388.5	134	773	45	16.80
Lockwood	290.4	78	734	43	17.05
Braund	476.3	101	1313	70	17.27
Llewellyn	685.5	196	1616	103	17.63
King	277.4	71	717	40	17.92
Mr J R Mason	204.4	81	398	22	18.00
Wilson (Worcs)	477	100	1288	70	18.40
Mr E E Steel	331.1	73	847	46	18.41
Dr W G Grace	350.1	119	703	38	18.50
Trott	470.5	79	1257	67	18.76
Mr E M Dowson	365.3	82	1057	65	19.21
Bestwick	308.4	104	777	40	19.42
Hulme	305.1	83	750	35	20.27
J Gunn	343.5	108	821	39	21.05
Mr D L A Jephson	167.4	27	451	20	23.05
Mr W M Bradley	245	76	604	26	23.23
Brockwell	304.2	60	850	34	26.17
Richardson	353	91	1011	35	28.03

THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING

DA.	TTTNG					
				Most in	Not	
		Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr	V Trumper (N.S.W.)	22	1024	128	0	45.54
Mr	J Darling (S.A.)	21	524	128	3	29.11
Mr	W W Armstrong (V.)	18	372	87*	5	28.61
Mr	R A Duff (N.S.W.)	24	523	182	4	26.15
Mr	S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	21	414	72	5	25.87
Mr	C Hill (S.A.)	21	458	104	1	24.40
Mr	J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	13	226	75	3	22.50
Mr	A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	20	334	80	1	17.57
Mr	E Jones (S.A.)	9	117	40	1	14.62
Mr	M A Noble (N.S.W.)	17	144	44*	3	10.28
Mr	H Carter (N.S.W.)	6	30	7*	2	7.50
Mr	W P Howell (N.S.W.)	14	49	16	3	4.45
Mr	J V Saunders (V.)	7	20	9*	1	2.33
Mr	H Trumble (V.)	5	9	8*	1	2.25

In one match - against Cambridge University - the Australians had the assistance of Mr R J Pope, who scored 2*.

BOWLING

DOWLING					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	118	40	234	33	7.09
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	152.1	25	486	37	13.13
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	286.4	85	669	43	15.32
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	99.3	28	280	18	15.55

Mr	М	A Noble (N.S.W.)	337.4	114	842	51	16.50
Mr	А	J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	281?	25	210	12	17.50
Mr	W	W Armstrong (V.)	196.5	66	416	20	20.80
Mr	Ε	Jones (S.A.)	229.3	73	572	26	22.00

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

According to the rules laid down by the M.C.C., the positions of the counties at present work out thus: -

thus: -						
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Leicestershire	8	1	0	7	1	100.00
Yorkshire	11	5	1	5	4	66.00
Sussex	10	4	2	4	2	33.33
Surrey	12	2	1	9	1	33.33
Lancashire	12	5	3	4	2	25.00
Somerset	9	4	3	2	1	14.28
Derbyshire	5	1	1	3	0	0.00
Essex	8	1	1	6	0	0.00
Warwickshire	8	2	2	4	0	0.00
Worcestershire	11	3	4	4	-1	-14.28
Kent	10	3	4	3	-1	-14.28
Gloucestershire	10	2	3	5	-1	-20.00
Notts	9	1	2	6	-1	-33.33
Middlesex	7	0	3	4	-3	-100.00
Hampshire	6	0	4	2	-4	-100.00

30 June: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5984.html)

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

There were centuries yesterday at Chesterfield by Mr Wright and Mr Ashcroft . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 July, page 8)

There was only a little play at Chesterfield yesterday, but in this time Derbyshire strengthened their position.

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

A heavy-scoring match at Chesterfield as drawn yesterday . . .

30 June: ESSEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5985.html)

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

At Leyton, yesterday, K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr W Newham accomplished a wonderful performance. When Essex had succeeded in getting six of the Sussex men out for 92, Mr Newham joined K S Ranjitsinhji. In a partnership lasting over four hours they added 332 runs, and at the close of play were still together.

K S Ranjitsinhji batted superbly. He showed all his old cleverness in placing the ball and drove with his usual vigour. Mr Newham, too, gave a wonderful display. The Essex fielding was hardly up to the mark and more than one chance was missed. Sussex are strongly represented, but Essex are hardly at full strength.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 July, page 8)

The great partnership between K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr W Newham ended quickly at Leyton yesterday. It realized 344. Mr Newham, who was then caught at short-leg, played beautiful cricket, and the fact that K S Ranjitsinhji was quite himself in the excellence of his strokes all round the wicket is sufficient description of his play in making the first double century of the season.

When Essex went in they began fairly well, but the storm put an end to cricket just before 4 o'clock.

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

Some good batting by Essex at Leyton yesterday enabled them to save the game. When stumps were pulled up and the match left drawn, Essex with eight wickets in hand still required 67 runs to save an innings defeat.

Mr McGahey batted splendidly in the first innings of Essex, and Mr Fane and Sewell played free cricket when a draw was inevitable.

30 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5986.html)

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

Scoring was low yesterday at Bristol, where the return match between these counties was begun in fine weather, 15 wickets falling for 317 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 July, page 8)

Mr L D Brownlee, who batted so well at Bristol on Monday, increased his score from 66 to 103. As this was only his fourth appearance for the county, his performance was all the more remarkable. Rain considerably delayed the game.

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

Kent gained a remarkable victory over Gloucestershire at Bristol yesterday by 93 runs. Owing chiefly to some patient batting by Hearne, Seymour and Blythe in the morning, the total of their second innings was taken from 46 for two wickets to 225.

Gloucestershire thus needed 214 to win with nearly three hours left for play. This task they might have accomplished if some of their batsmen had been able to cope with the admirable bowling of Mr Mason, but Wrathall was the only one who made any material headway, and he took an hour and 35 minutes to make 52. In spite of all he accomplished, seven men were out for 80, with an hour and a quarter left for play.

Then Langdon and Huggins, by the exercise of the utmost caution, made a stand. The latter was missed when three, and helped by this escape the pair kept together till the score was 120 and only ten minutes remained. Mr Burnup brought about a separation, and also bowled Spry. Before another run was added Huggins was caught in the slips, and Kent won the match at 25 minutes past 6. Mr Mason's bowling was the leading factor in their success.

30 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5987.html)

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

There was a poor day's cricket at Lord's yesterday. The club had the average side that turns out on these occasions, but the game was commonplace. Lord Hawke was lucky and played only a fair game. The Oxford bowling and fielding were slovenly, but only seven of the men chosen to play at Lord's next Thursday were in the team. Mr Findlay and Mr Wyld hit freely.

It is only a two days' match. Soon after stumps were drawn last night heavy rain set in.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 July, page 8)

The match at Lord's yesterday was drawn, being limited to two days. There was some fair cricket in the early hours of the day, before rain set in.

The Oxford captain, Mr Marsham, batted carefully and well on a slow wicket. But there was never a serious interest in the match and this seemed felt by the spectators.

30 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5988.html)

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

Mr J A Dixon's splendid innings at Trent Bridge yesterday established an advantage for Notts. The Lancastrians bowled and fielded well on a good wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 July, page 8)

In the play possible at Trent-bridge yesterday the best thing was the batting of Mr MacLaren.

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

Mr MacLaren's splendid batting again marked the cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday. He made his 174 out of 290 in three hours and a half, and hit one six and 17 fours.

30 June: WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5989.html)

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

Warwickshire outplayed Hampshire at Birmingham yesterday when there was fine batting by Charlesworth and Quaife.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 July, page 8)

Warwickshire easily won this match at Birmingham yesterday by an innings and 33 runs.

30 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5990.html)

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

Continuing their northern tour the Surrey eleven began the first of the season's matches with Yorkshire at Leeds yesterday. Clode, the left-hand slow bowler, was included in the team in preference to Baker, while Ringrose played in place of Lord Hawke in the Yorkshire side.

Surrey won the toss and batted first on a wicket that had been slightly affected by rain. They had half their wickets down for 59 runs, and at the luncheon adjournment the score was 88 for six. Mr V F S Crawford afterwards played a brilliant forcing game, scoring 86 out of 127 in an hour and threequarters. His only mistake was a chance to Hirst at mid-off when he had made 45. The innings lasted three hours and a quarter and realized 188 runs. Rhodes took five wickets for 76 runs.

Yorkshire lost Tunnicliffe's wicket by a weak stroke in the slips in Lockwood's first over, and three wickets were afterwards down for 63 runs. Mr Taylor and Mr Jackson then batted brilliantly. They took the score to 109 and had not been separated when play ceased for the day. Yorkshire are now 79 runs behind and have seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 July, page 8)

There was no play at Leeds yesterday owing to the heavy rains. The score remains as set out in The Times of yesterday.

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

There was a very exciting finish to this match at Leeds yesterday. Yorkshire won ten minutes before the time for the close of play by an innings and 102 runs.

The Surrey bowling was made to look very weak by the home batsmen, notwithstanding the fact that the wicket was soft and slow from the preceding day's rain. In less than three hours Yorkshire put on 253 runs for the fall of five wickets. This made their score 362 for eight wickets, and, being 174 runs ahead, they closed their innings.

3

Washington and Hirst had a very profitable partnership for the sixth wicket, scoring 134 in an hour and a quarter. Hirst was lucky, being twice missed, but Washington gave no chance. The innings was prolonged until he had scored his first century in first-class cricket. This he made in two and a half hours, his principal strokes being 12 fours, four threes and ten twos. Hirst hit 13 fours and made his 84 runs in an hour and a quarter.

Surrey needed 174 runs to save an innings defeat and had three hours in which to bat. Special caution was shown by all the batsmen. It was not until nearly two hours had passed that Yorkshire appeared to have a prospect of forcing the match to a definite issue. Captain Bush, who was unwell and had been unable to field, made a plucky effort to save the game. He was ninth out at a quarter past 6, and five minutes later Richardson was leg-before-wicket to Haigh, and Yorkshire had won.

Tuesday 1 July, page 5: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The committee announced last evening that the England team at Sheffield next Thursday would be chosen from the eleven which played at Lord's, with the substitution of Abel for Mr C B Fry and Haigh for a bowler. Therefore the side will be made up on the morning of the match from Mr A C MacLaren, Mr F S Jackson, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr G L Jessop, Abel, Braund, Tyldesley, Lilley, Hirst, Lockwood, Rhodes and Haigh.

GENTLEMEN V PLAYERS

The following teams were announced at Lord's yesterday for the match next Monday: -

Gentlemen. - Mr A C MacLaren, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr C B Fry, Mr F S Jackson, Mr D L A Jephson, Mr G L Jessop, Mr T L Taylor, Mr A E Newton, Mr E M Dowson, Mr J R Mason and Mr T C Ross.

Players. - Abel, Lockwood, Braund, Rhodes, Hirst, hunter, Denton, Tunnicliffe, Tyldesley, Iremonger and Tate.

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

Mr R C W Burn, of Winchester, has been given his "blue" for Oxford against Cambridge at Lord's, next Thursday, and with this addition the sides are completed. The full list was given in The Times yesterday.

Wednesday 2 July, page 8

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE MATCH. - Yesterday afternoon after he had completed his innings of 103 Mr L D Brownlee had a telegram asking him to be at Lord's on Thursday in readiness to assist Oxford if require. Mr Brownlee is a freshman at Oxford this year. Last year at Clifton College he scored 333 runs with an average of 33.

Thursday 3 July, page 10: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

K S Ranjitsinhji will be unable to play at Sheffield to-day, owing to an injured leg, and Mr C B Fry or Mr T L Taylor will probably take his place. The team this morning will be made up at Bramall-lane from the following: -

Mr A C MacLaren, Mr F S Jackson, Mr G L Jessop, Mr C B Fry, Mr T L Taylor, Abel, Braund, Tyldesley, Lilley, Hirst, Lockwood, Rhodes and Haigh.

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

The teams at Lord's to-day will be as follows: -

Oxford. - Mr C H B Marsham, Oxford, captain; Mr W Findlay, Eton; Mr E W Dillon, Rugby; Mr H J Wyld, Harrow; Mr G W F Kelly, Stonyhurst; Mr R A Williams, Winchester; Mr W H B Evans, Malvern; Mr W S Medlicott, Harrow; Mr A Von Ernsthausen, Uppingham; Mr M Bonham Carter, Winchester; and Mr R C W Burn, Winchester.

Cambridge. - Mr E R Wilson, Rugby, captain; Mr S H Day, Malvern; Mr E M Dowson, Harrow; Mr L V Harper, Rossall; Mr R N R Blaker, Westminster; Mr E F Penn, Eton; Mr C M H Ebden, Eton; Mr C E Winter, Uppingham; Mr J Gilman, St Paul's; Mr F B Wilson, Harrow; Mr L T Driffield, St John's, Leatherhead.

Play will begin at 11.30, and on the second and third days at 11 o'clock. Lunch will be taken each day at half-past 1, and stumps drawn at half-past 6 o'clock. If necessary, however, and the light be sufficiently good, play on Saturday will be prolonged till 7 o'clock.

3 July: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5991.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 July, page 10)

The third of the series of five test matches opened yesterday at Bramall-lane, Sheffield - the most historic of Yorkshire cricket grounds. The matches have so far been failures, as the grounds at Birmingham and Lord's were ruined by the weather. But yesterday everything augured well. The Australians put their best side in the field, the weather was gloriously fine and Bramall-lane was at its best, if we except the rough parts of the outfield. There was a company of about 20,000 present.

Mr C B Fry, who had failed in both the other matches, was called upon to play in the absence of K S Ranjitsinhji, owing to an injury. Barnes, the Lancastrian, was also drafted into the team. Abel finds a place for England, but Lockwood, although he was at the nets in the morning, stood down.

For a long time yesterday the cricket went strongly against the Australians. The pitch bumped a good deal from the effects of the late rains, but the fielding and bowling were excellent. Barnes with his long run did very well, but it seems strange to find such a great bowler so little known to the English public.

The Australians may be said to have muddled through a fairly respectable innings. When England batted, the sturdiness of Abel made itself felt and there was a brief but brilliant exhibition by Mr MacLaren. On the whole, England may be said to have had the better of the day's play. Abel and Tyldesley were very good, but the pitch had recovered by the time that England's turn came to bat. Abel's innings was thoroughly characteristic of his reputation.

It had just turned the regulation hour when the Australians began their batting on a nice easy wicket. Hirst and Braund were the first bowlers to Mr Trumper and Mr Duff, and in Braund's first over Mr Trumper played right round a ball and was bowled, leg stump. One wicket for three runs.

Mr Hill joined Mr Duff. For the moment there was beautiful batting, and this was confronted by equally fine fielding. Both Mr Duff and Mr Hill were strong on the leg-side, but with the ground fielding close scoring kept slow. Hirst was bowling very fast, and both he and Braund had the field well placed. Mr Fry in the deep country had much to do on the rough ground.

The batsmen plodded on, although Braund's leg breaks troubled them a good deal. The score went steadily on to 38, and then Barnes took up the bowling at Braund's end. His second ball (a short one) Mr Hill mistimed and was caught at short leg. Two for 39 was the score at the end of 45 minutes' play.

The first ball Mr Darling received he got right outside an off break from Barnes and was easily caught by first slip. Barnes's first over had yielded two wickets, only one run having been scored from him. Mr Gregory and Mr Duff soon had the 50 up, and then, at 52, a catch at wicket got rid of Mr Duff. Lilley took the ball well up on the off-side. Mr Duff had played extremely well for an hour. Four for 52. Mr Noble, who followed, nearly turned an extra fast one from Hirst on to his stumps. Barnes had so far done particularly well, and had got three wickets in three overs for seven runs. Hirst had meanwhile been bowling at a great pace. With the score at 59 Rhodes, who was fielding deep third man, drooped an easy catch from Mr Gregory off Barnes. Braund just after this took up the bowling at Hirst's end. The fielding had been close, and the fine length that the bowlers kept accounted for the slowness of the scoring; and at the end of an hour and a half the score was only 71. The total was only 73 when Mr Gregory mistimed a shortish ball from Barnes and cut it into the hands of Abel, who was fielding rather deep at point.

With half the side out for 73, the Australians were in a bad way. Mr Noble was nearly caught at third man off Barnes, Mr Jackson, who was a little too near in, failing to reach the ball. Three runs were made from the stroke. Barnes had had bad luck for some time. Mr Noble got well over a couple of half-volleys from Braund, and both went to the boundary; but after this the play became dull. Mr Noble batted in his old Manchester method.

Mr Jackson had a turn from the end from which Hirst and Braund had been bowling, and then, at 93, amidst a big cheer, Mr MacLaren at last put on Rhodes. Mr Hopkins kept up his end while Mr Noble did most of the scoring, and at the adjournment the score was 98 for five.

After luncheon the bowlers were Barnes and Rhodes. The latter sent down a loos over that was hit for four, and then appealed unsuccessfully against Hopkins for leg-before, the ball going for four [leg-] byes. Mr Noble played some superb strokes from Rhodes. There was one remarkable over on which Mr Hopkins was missed at short-slip by Braund and got two lucky fours behind the wicket. The score was only 129 when Mr Noble fell to a catch at short slip. He had played superbly against good fielding and bowling, and was heartily cheered as he returned. Six for 129.

There was some good fielding by Mr Jessop in the slips. Mr Hopkins got in his off-strokes very well, but he was lucky in getting a three from a cut which was well covered by Mr Fry, but the ball was overthrown. Mr Hopkins was well caught in the slips, and a break back from Barnes disposed of Mr Kelly at 137.

Mr Armstrong and Mr Trumper batted steadily, and there were several bowling changes. After playing steadily the batsmen hit more freely, and 57 had been added for the wickets before Mr Armstrong was cleverly caught and bowled by Braund, and Mr Trumble gave a skier back to Mr Jackson. The wicket played much easier after lunch, but with better luck Barnes would have had a much finer analysis. It was just before 4 o'clock when the innings closed.

When England went in Mr MacLaren and Abel started excellently. Mr Trumble and Mr Saunders were the first bowlers. The latter did not find his length and was well hit by Mr MacLaren. Mr Trumper took up the bowling and Mr Trumble changed ends; and at the end of an hour's sterling cricket, which had yielded 61 runs, Mr MacLaren was bowled.

Tyldesley and Abel did their best for the side, but the game was dull and the bowling required a great a deal of watching. So good was the length that in a 40 minutes' partnership only 25 runs were added. Abel then went forward to a short ball and Mr Noble, deceiving him in the flight, easily bowled him. The score was now 86.

England had a very bad last half-hour. The century was passed with only two men out, but at 101 Tyldesley was beautifully caught high up in the slips and Mr Jackson gave cover-point a hard drive that was held, and finally Mr Saunders tempted Mr Fry with a ball that he tried to make a halfvolley, and he was stumped.

England finished with the score of 102 for five wickets, or 92 behind. The bad light caused the stumps to be drawn a quarter of an hour earlier than usual.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 July, page 13)

There was a wonderful day' cricket yesterday at Bramall-lane, Sheffield. The weather was splendidly fine and the ground good. The fine cricket of Mr Clement Hill and Mr Trumper placed the Australians in a strong position. England were left with 339 to get to win, and when stumps were pulled up last night 73 of these had been hit off with only one wicket down. Abel's loss is bad, but Mr Jessop poll splendidly.

England's first innings was finished off with Australia in a far better position than was expected. Mr Noble and Mr Saunders bowled splendidly on a wicket that was a trifle slow, and their work revived memories of their feats against Mr MacLaren's team in Australia. Then in the last few hours of the day came splendid batting by Mr Hill and Mr Trumper. It was after luncheon that the game went so strongly in favour of the Australians. The fielding was brilliant to the end. It was a glorious day for cricket and the crowd was very enthusiastic.

Play began at 11.5, the Englishmen continuing their first innings. Overnight they had lost five wickets for 102 runs. Lilley and Braund were the batsmen, and neither had scored. Mr Saunders and Mr Noble bowled. Lilley hit the latter finely to leg for four. Braund, however, failed to score, being beaten in playing forward to a ball from Saunders which broke away to the off. Six for 106. Hirst followed, but Lilley, after making a fine straight drive to the boundary from Mr Noble, had his middle stump upset in the same over. Seven for 110.

Mr Jessop then joined Hirst and scored from every one of the first five balls he received, among his hits being a stroke through the slips to the boundary. Hirst, in the same over, hit Mr Saunders to leg and off-drove him, each time for four, 13 runs altogether coming from the over. The partnership, though a merry one, was brief, for Mr Jessop, who had made 12 of the 20 runs, jumping out to drive Mr Noble, skied the ball and was easily caught by Mr Saunders. Eight for 130.

Rhodes went in next, but with only one run added Hirst was easily caught by Mr Trumble off Mr Saunders at slip. Barnes came in last, and Rhodes made a splendid long on-drive to the boundary, while Barnes smartly off-drove Noble for four. When 14 runs had been added for the wicket, Barnes played a ball from Mr Saunders up to mid-off and was easily caught by Mr Darling, the innings coming to an end a little after a quarter to 12 for 145. Five wickets had fallen during the morning for an addition of only 43 runs.

The Australians began their second innings at five minutes past 12 with a lead of 49. Mr Trumper and Mr Duff were opposed by the bowling of Hirst and Rhodes. Mr Trumper at once began scoring confidently, among his hits being a five on-drive for four from Rhodes. Mr Duff was easily caught by Hirst off Rhodes, having been in 20 minutes for a single. The total was however 20 when his wicket fell.

Mr Hill went in first wicket down and soon cut Rhodes for four. Mr Trumper, with his score at 18, sent a ball from Rhodes only just wide of being a catch to slip, and it travelled to the boundary. At 32 Barnes went on for Rhodes, who crossed over to Hirst's end. Mr Trumper, however, scored 12 runs and Mr Hill one from Rhodes's next over, and 50 went up after 32 minutes' batting.

Mr Trumper made a bad stroke off Barnes when 45, skying the ball over slip's head; he soon afterwards completed his 50 by a three, cut from Barnes, and made three other capital strokes, all boundaries, from that bowler. Mr Jackson went on bowling at 79 and, after Mr Hill had made a single from him, he got Mr Trumper caught by Lilley. Two for 80.

Mr Darling joined Mr Hill, but again failed to score, being caught by Braund at slip off Barnes's bowling. It was a very good catch, the fielder taking the ball low down and falling forward in so doing. With Gregory in Mr Hill hit 14 runs from one over from Mr Jackson, ho retired in favour of Rhodes at 95. The 100 appeared after 75 minutes. At lunch time the total was 115, Mr Hill not out 45 and Mr Gregory not out 5.

Play was resumed at 2.20, Braund and Hirst bowling. Mr Hill completed his 50 after batting 70 minutes, and subsequently batted in free and lively style, making three boundary strokes in one over from Hirst. He was, however, missed from that bowler when 74 from a very hot left-handed chance to Braund high up at slip. Rhodes was given another trial for Braund. In his second over Mr Hill gave a difficult chance to Mr Fry at long-on, but the fielder failed to hold the ball, which came to him low down. Mr Jackson relieved Hirst at 175. At 187 Mr Gregory, who had made 29, was cleverly run out, Mr Fry from third man throwing down the bowler's wicket. Four men were now out, the last partnership having produced 107 runs in 65 minutes.

Mr Noble then partnered Mr Hill, who soon afterwards completed his 100 after batting a little less than two hours. After the innings had been in progress two hours and three-quarters Mr Jackson bowled down Mr Noble's leg stump and Mr Hopkins came in. The newcomer, when three, gave a righthanded chance to Braund at slip off Mr Jessop. The batsman who had gone in first wicket down was sixth out, having made 119 runs.

Mr Armstrong then joined Mr Hopkins. Rhodes supplanted Mr Jackson at 277 and bowled Mr Armstrong with the first ball he sent down. Mr Kelly, who was in while ten runs were made, failed to score. In the same over Rhodes clean bowled Mr Trumble and nine wickets were down for 287. Mr Saunders went

7

in last and, after each batsman had scored a single from Braund, Rhodes bowled the last comer, the innings closing at 4.45 for 249. Rhodes had taken the last four wickets without a run being scored from him.

England, requiring 330 runs to win, began their task at five minutes past 5 with Abel and Mr Jessop. Mr Trumble, who had hurt his thumb while batting on Thursday, was unable to field, so Mr Jones acted as substitute. Mr Noble and Mr Saunders opened the Australian bowling. The first over of Mr Saunders produced 13 runs, but in Mr Noble's second over Abel, having scored eight out of 14, was caught at slip, Mr Hill falling in making the catch.

When 31 had been scored from four overs since the start Mr Trumper went on bowling for Mr Saunders. Nevertheless the score rose rapidly and 50 appeared after 30 minutes' play. With dark clouds overhead the light was bad, but at 5.45 an appeal against it by the batsmen was unsuccessful. Mr Jessop when 49 gave a very difficult chance off Mr Noble at long-off to Mr Duff, to whom the ball came very low. Shortly after 6 the stumps were drawn for bad light.

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

The third test match was won by Australia, at Sheffield, early on Saturday by 143 runs. It was a substantial margin, but deserved in every way by the course of the cricket. The conditions were even, and the Australians are to be warmly congratulated on their success.

When Mr Jessop had set such a strong standard on Friday evening there was a prospect of a fine finish; but the great English batsmen failed at the crucial point, and, with the pitch slightly worn, never developed their game before the wonderful bowling of Mr Noble and Mr Trumble. The former's figures came out remarkably well, and when he went on [a] second time during the fine partnership of Mr MacLaren and Mr Jackson he worked out a record of five wickets for 20 runs.

Of course 339 is a big fourth innings for any side, but something better than 195 was expected in any circumstances. Splendid weather again favoured the cricket, and the Bramall-lane ground executive are to be congratulated on the finished measure of excellence that marked the arrangements for the match.

When the game was resumed just after 11 o'clock there was a big crowd present, and as the wicket was only a trifle worn there seemed every prospect of a hard fight. England with nine wickets left wanted 286 more runs to win, and with so much talent in the side the chances were rather even. But a startling beginning at once wrecked the hopes of England. Mr Jessop, who was not out with Tyldesley with scores of 53 and 11, was faced by Mr Trumble and, after making a couple from the first ball, he mistimed the second and was leg-before.

Mr Jessop had played a characteristic innings of 55 in about three-quarters of an hour; and forced the game in great style; Mr Trumble followed up this success by getting Tyldesley at 84. The fall of these two wickets for an additional 11 runs put England in a losing position, which was made worse by the dismissal of Mr Fry leg-before at 93. The Australians were fielding and bowling with unerring accuracy and the game seemed to be in their hands.

Mr Jackson and Mr MacLaren, however, checked disaster for a time. Mr Trumble still needed a lot of playing, and Mr Saunders, who was bowling in pace of Mr Noble, as constantly puzzling the batsmen. But the two Harrovians put a better face on things for their side. There were some fine strokes in front of the wicket by Mr MacLaren, who survived an appeal for leg-before from Mr Trumble. The game was very closely watched, and there was tremendous applause for a fine piece of batting by Mr MacLaren, who scored 21 runs in five hits - four fours and a five (two from an overthrow). Mr MacLaren had more cheers when he ran into his 50, contributed out of 67 runs added in 40 minutes.

There were some bowling changes, Mr Noble coming back for Mr Saunders and Mr Trumble going on at the other end. These alterations checked the scoring and the fielding continued excellent. The partnership had yielded 64 inside an hour, when Mr Jackson was bowled off his body, and at 165 Mr MacLaren gave short leg an easy catch. Mr MacLaren had played beautifully and he was warmly cheered.

Six for 165 was a record that left little hope for England. With 174 still wanted there were a few good bats left, but neither Braund nor Lilley gave much trouble. Mr Noble bowled Lilley with a yorker at 174 and bowled Hirst first ball, and after that the end came quickly. Braund was caught at point and Barnes was bowled. The total was 195 and England were beaten by 143 runs.

8

SUMMARY OF RESULTS - ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

Date of	Won	by		
first match	Eng	Aust	Drawn	Total
1877	6	8	2	16
1880	6	1	2	9
1882	7	9	0	16
1884	2	1	3	6
1884	4	2	2	8
1884	2	3	0	5
1899	0	0	1	1
1899	0	0	1	1
1902	0	0	1	1
1902	0	1	0	1
-	15	20	2	37
	12	5	10	27
-	27	15	12	64
	first match 1877 1880 1882 1884 1884 1884 1884 1899 1899 1902	first match Eng 1877 6 1880 6 1882 7 1884 2 1884 4 1884 2 1899 0 1899 0 1902 0 1902 0 15 12	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	first match Eng Aust Drawn 1877 6 8 2 1880 6 1 2 1882 7 9 0 1884 2 1 3 1884 4 2 2 1884 2 3 0 1899 0 0 1 1899 0 0 1 1902 0 0 1 1902 0 1 0

3 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5992.html) Day 1 (report from Friday 4 July, page 10) A quiet day's cricket at Leicester left the score in this return match as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 July, page 13)

The bowling of Wass at Leicester proved too good for the outstanding wickets and the home side lost any advantage that they might have gained on the first innings. Subsequently the batting of Mr Jones and Iremonger, who put on 119 for the first wicket in the second innings of Notts, enabled the visitors to finish off in the better position.

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

Leicestershire were easily beaten by Notts, at Leicester, by 181 runs. Wass again bowled with great success.

3 July: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5993.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 July, page 10)

It is as a rule safe to assume that the University match will show the superiority of batting over bowling; but, as far as it has gone, the 68th match between the two universities at Lord's seems to be an exception to this rule, as yesterday the bowling was as a whole distinctly better than the batting.

Neither eleven can be said to be strong, though no doubt the season has been much against the development of skill in batting. But there have been several good matches played by both elevens, notably by Oxford against Sussex and by Cambridge against Surrey both at Cambridge and at the Oval; and Cambridge perhaps were slightly the favourites at the opening of the match.

As far as can be judged by the look of the weather and the appearance of the wicket, there was every probability of a long scoring match; and when Oxford won the toss nobody would have been surprised to

see the total reach 350 runs. Though the wicket seemed to be slow and easy, runs appeared to be got with difficulty. Mr Dillon and Mr Findlay opened the batting to the bowling of Mr Dowson from the Nursery end and of Mr Wilson from the pavilion.

Steadiness and sobriety were the characteristics of the play, and the first two Oxford Bristol were both not out at luncheon time, Mr Dillon with 51 and Mr Findlay with 44. The rather large number of 16 extras made the total at the interval 111. Both batsmen played well and Mr Findlay showed himself to be an excellent judge of length. Nobody could present a straighter bat than he in playing forward, but it cannot be denied that a less picturesque player has seldom been seen.

An extraordinary change came over the game after luncheon, as a fine catch by Mr Dowson off his own bowling got rid of Mr Findlay with the score at 119. Mr Wyld was stumped four runs later. The next batsman, Mr Evans, only made 16, but he showed a style superior to that of any other player on either side. There were now three wickets down for 150.

The two Cambridge bowlers had never been really collared. They kept a good length with some work on the ball. Mr Wilson, with the total at 171, got rid of Mr Dillon with a really fine ball. Mr Dillon had played a thoroughly sound innings of 85, and had only given two real chances, neither of which was easy.

After Mr Dillon's dismissal the Oxford men, with the exception of Mr Marsham, collapsed; and not only were very few runs scored, but there was no distinction in the play of any of the batsmen. In fact, worse batting has not been seen in the University match for 20 years. The total at the end of the innings was 206, of which 160 were contributed by three batsmen. Of the remaining 46 runs 21 were extras. Both Mr Wilson and Mr Dowson are good bowlers, and the fielding all through was safe and showed as much brilliancy as the very tame batting allowed. Mr Winter kept wicket well.

Cambridge had two hours' batting before the close of the day's play. Mr Harper and Mr Ebden opened the innings to the bowling of Mr Ernsthausen from the pavilion end and of Mr Burn from the Nursery. The start was very different from that made by Oxford, and Mr Harper and Mr Day were both bowled by Mr Ernsthausen with the score at eight. The bowling was decidedly good at the start. Mr Ebden and Mr Dowson played steadily and took the score up to 64, when Mr Dowson was well caught at the wicket off Mr Kelly, and Mr Wilson and Mr Ebden then played out time. Mr Dowson, though too much addicted to using his legs to leg-break bowling, played well; and, as the match was in a critical position when he went in, he was right in adopting a steadier game than he usually plays.

Mr Kelly has an ugly bowling action with a long run, but he was the only bowler who could make the ball get up. The Oxford bowling was fairly good, but not so good as that of the two Cambridge slow bowlers.

Six hours were taken to score an aggregate of 277 runs, and it is impossible to put this down entirely, or even mainly, to the excellence of the bowling. Mr Dowson is probably the best all-round man in the two elevens, with Mr Wilson not far behind; but as a bowler Mr Wilson is the better. The contrast between them is striking. Mr Wilson relies on a good length, while Mr Dowson is full of dodges and bowls more for catches, showing a praiseworthy indifference to being hit. There are not many bowlers who realize so fully as he that it is worth while being hit freely to get a wicket. Mr Ernsthausen began bowling very well and does not appear to be easy to drive, nearly all the runs off his bowling coming from glides to leg.

The fielding was good all day. The match is an even one so far, for Cambridge are not a strong batting side all the way down, and two of their best bats are out.

The attendance of members was good, but not more than 8,000 paid at the gate. This is not a large number considering the fine weather.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 July, page 8)

Had not Mr R N R Blaker come to the rescue with a really good innings of exactly 50 runs it might truthfully have been said that the cricket of yesterday was as dull and uneventful as that of Thursday. Mr Blaker dashed out at the ball as if he longed to meet it, with the result that he ran up a score of infinite value to his University.

But the cricket, as far as batting went, was, with this exception, most uneventful, as most of the players who were not out early seemed to think that as long as the ball was gently patted to the

bowler the batsman's duty had been fulfilled. Mr Ebden, of Cambridge, was slow, yet some of the Oxford men were even slower; but while Mr Findlay and Mr Dillon were in and had scored no more than 65 runs in 85 minutes the remark made by a lady seemed to be justified - "I suppose the poor things are dreadfully tired."

One fact remains, and it is equally true of both sides, that no one except Mr Blaker seemed to realize that on an absolutely perfect and easy wicket it was possible to hit moderate bowling. This does not argue well for the future of amateur cricket, which has for years been famous for its enterprise. When dash and enterprise disappear in the case of the rising generation we who are of the present shall look back sorrowfully to the day when only Barlow, Hall, Scotton and Alec Bannerman, the Australian, were powers in the land for slowness. I have no hesitation is saying that the less-trained players of the Regent's or Battersea Parks would have turned to far better account the half volleys and long hops of the last two days than did the crack batsmen of our two Universities.

One matter requires explanation, the fact that Mr Penn, who is technically a fifth-year man, is playing, contrary to the agreement that exists between the Universities on the point. He has, however, spent two years in fighting his country's battle in South Africa, and, as these years were not counted by the University authorities in connexion with students' degrees, they were also regarded as *non arni* by special agreement between the captains of the two University elevens.

To pick up the thread of the story, Mr Ebden and Mr E R Wilson resumed the Cambridge batting yesterday morning, but to no great purpose, as the former was cleverly caught at the wicket and the latter was stumped soon afterwards, the piece of play that led to his dismissal being extraordinary in its badness. Mr Penn hit out, however, with commendable freedom for a brief period, but Mr Gilman failed ignominiously, as did Mr F B Wilson; so that the stand of the innings only came when eight men had been sent back and Mr Driffield was associated with Mr Blaker.

The latter, an old Westminster boy, was the first man to realize that the bat is an instrument destined for offence; and he took ample and rapid advantage of the somewhat loose Oxonian bowling, which he hit with the most praiseworthy power and discrimination till a really clever catch by Mr Medlicott at cover-slip sent him back to the pavilion when he had scored just half a hundred runs. Mr Winter soon succumbed, and Oxford was left with a lead of 20, a very useful nest-egg.

Mr Dillon and Mr Findlay opened the batting; and we have seldom assisted at a morning dismal performance; for the latter batted for 85 minutes and scored but 24 runs in all that time, having been twice morally bowled by Mr Dowson in one and the same over, the balls beating both batsman and wicket-keeper and yielding six runs in the form of byes. A neat catch by Mr Baker off Mr Driffield ended the partnership, Mr Findlay retiring after playing an innings so dull that it reminded men of Rock's performance in the middle "eighties."

Mr Wyld for the second time failed, but after Mr Dillon left, clean bowled, Mr Evans and Mr Marsham made a good stand against some useful bowling and vigilant fielding. But the scoring proceeded at a painfully slow rate and hardly averaged one run per minute, the driving being especially deficient in power and boundary hits few and sparse. It was especially notable that no man on either side seemed able to make the ball travel at any pace, notwithstanding the beautiful condition of the turf; the ball seemed to be "killed" instead of being propelled in a succession of lively bounds.

Mr Winter, however, the Cambridge wicket-keeper and the son of an old wicket-keeper who only just did not keep wicket for Cambridge, now had a series of successes, catching Mr Marsham very cleverly and stumping Mr Evans and Mr Medlicott very deftly. Mr Evans, however, had played with much skill and some freedom for his total of 67. The telegraph now showed that six wickets had fallen for 232 runs, and the afternoon was waning away when Mr Kelly appeared and the field spread out on the boundary in the hope of catches. But the big hitter was in no form whatever; and, after a few minutes' cessation of play, owing to a severe blow which the wicketkeeper experienced, he was bowled, apparently off his pads, by a ball which he never attempted to play with his bat.

It had been a matter of previous comment that the growth of pad-play was likely to be further encouraged by the evil example set by University men, who should be the first to purify cricket of this contemptible practice; and the bowling out of Mr Kelly was considered as a good instance of retributive justice. Few, indeed, of the players could plead "Not guilty" to the charge, but Mr Blaker was an honourable exception, and his dashing, plucky hitting was all the more appreciated because he disdained all the meretricious assistance on which so many modern players seem to rely. As the result of the day's play Oxford are leading by 264 runs and have three wickets in hand, so that a full and interesting day's play may be anticipated.

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

Soon after half-past 4 on Saturday afternoon the Cambridge men had gained a victory by five wickets, which measure of success fairly represents the merits of the two sides, as the Light Blues held a slight but marked advantage in each of the three departments of the game.

In batting the "tail," the last four, of the Oxford side only contributed 11 runs in their eight attempts, while the corresponding number of Cambridge men made 79 in only four innings; nor were the earlier Cambridge points in any way inferior to the corresponding men of the rival side. In bowling Oxford undoubtedly had a greater variety than the other side, which had no bowler with any claims to pace, while Mr Bonham-Carter and Mr Kelly bowled at good speed and Mr von Ernsthausen was faster than Mr Driffield.

But it was only in quantity that the Oxonians could claim superiority; for in Messrs Wilson and Dowson Cambridge had two slow bowlers, right-handed and left-handed, of considerable skill and merit, who took respectively eight and ten wickets each, at the cost of less than 15 and 17 runs. A good fast bowler of the class, say, of Mr Woods would have made the eleven very strong.

In fielding there was not as much difference between the sides as one had been led to expect; but most experts considered tat, though neither side was perfect, yet Cambridge were safer both as catchers and as ground-fielders. The Oxford wicket-keeper, Mr Findlay, certainly outshone his rival, some of his work on the leg-side being so admirable as to call forth much applause. He only gave away five byes to Mr Winter's 27; but the wicket-keepers accounted for five men apiece, a very fair "bag."

Taking into account the fact that neither side was oppressed with a plethora of bowlers, one cannot say truthfully that the batting showed up well. Several men, it is true, made plenty of runs, Messrs Dillon, Findlay, Evans and Marsham of the one side, Messrs Ebden, Day and Dowson of the other being the more notable scorers. But there was a distinct lack of strenuousness in the methods of them all with limited the pace to about one run per minute. This is by no means a brilliant record under the conditions of perfect wicket - hard ground, close-cropped turf and moderate bowling.

In anxiety and nervousness may possibly be found the cause of the slow scoring, especially in the second innings, when a formidable total had to be faced. However, that total was not only faced but exceeded, high praise being due to all the batsmen concerned, but especially to last year's captain, Mr Day, who made 117 runs and carried out his bat. He had thrice made over 50 runs in previous inter-University matches, and is a first-class fieldsman as well.

The two Oxonian wickets which had not been taken overnight added seven runs in a quarter of an hour, Mr von Ernsthausen falling to a very clever catch at mid-off; and in due course the Cambridge men, represented by Messrs Wilson and Ebden, set to work to wear down the Oxford attack and knock off the requisite number of runs, 272. They started coolly and quietly, time being no object. At 46 Mr Wilson fell, cleverly taken behind the wicket, and at 112, just before the luncheon interval, Mr Ebden shared a like fate, having played sound and quiet cricket as his captain had done before him.

Mr Day and Mr Dowson were then together and added 47 runs, when the latter hit out at one of Mr Dillon's slow balls and was very dextrously caught at deep long-on. In the circumstances it was a little rash to risk so much on a single stroke; but Mr Dowson had done good work and may well feel pleased with himself both as a bowler and as a batsman, while he has the additional satisfaction of knowing that he alone of the two sides has been selected for the Gentlemen's Eleven that encounters the Players to-day.

Mr Harper followed, saved his "spectacles," and was neatly caught at square-leg, close in; while Mr Penn, who succeeded him, was promptly bowled all over his wicket, the total being then 197 and with five wickets down. The latter figure was never altered on the board, for Mr Day had so stalwart a supporter in Mr Gilman that no further wicket had fallen when, at about a quarter to 5 o'clock, a loud cheer announced that a good hard hit from Mr Gilman's bat had given Cambridge a decisive victory.

The score sheet shows the exact contributions rendered to the score by the various players, but beyond the formal "not out, 117" it will convey no information as to the excellence of Mr Day's

innings, which furnished a fine example of skill, coolness and decision. Had he failed, Cambridge might well have lost the match; but he did not fail and, what is more, never looked like failing. At one time he seemed to be in difficulty with the fast bowling, failing to time it with complete nicety; but this is the worst that can be said of so good an innings - an innings that practically won the match.

Much credit is due to the Oxford men for the good fight they made, for the bowlers bowled splendidly and the fieldsmen worked so hard that every run was fought for. Mr Marsham, too, handled his bowling and placed his field with abundant ingenuity, though people marvelled why so little use was made of Mr Burn's bowling. It was on bowling that the result of this match mainly depended, and Oxford suffered defeat from having many bowlers but little bowling.

[Note: University batting and bowling averages follow. Oxford played 10 matches (won 3, lost 4, drawn 3) and Cambridge 11 matches (won 4, lost 4, drawn 3).

3 July: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5994.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 July, page 10)

Scoring was slow at Bath yesterday when the return match between these counties began. The wicket was in good order, but throughout the day batsmen were never seen at their best.

Somerset, who, like their opponents, were considerably below full strength, had the first innings. A singular feature of the innings was the fact that eight men were bowled. Roberts bowled remarkably well, although he only took three wickets. Gloucestershire, with four wickets in hand, are now 53 behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 July, page 8)

Mr W H Rowlands, tried by Gloucestershire for the second time in their match with Somerset, at Bath, distinguished himself yesterday by scoring 104. He made 31 of that number on Thursday afternoon when the game was going badly for his side, six wickets having fallen for 110.

Upon resuming he played with confidence, and got his runs out of 147. He was strong on the leg side and made some good cuts, but his forward play was weak and his driving lacked power. Still there were only two bad strokes in his score. Mr Manners and Huggins also made useful contributions, and a total of 293 was reached, which gave Gloucestershire a lead of 83 on the first innings.

Somerset fared badly when they went in a second time, three wickets falling for 44. Mr Woods, Gill and Mr Samson, however, made a plucky effort for their side and a score of 225 was made. This left the visitors to get 141 to win. In the last half-hour of the day, when the light was bad, they scored eight of these for the loss of Wrathall's wicket.

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

The match at Bath was finished before luncheon on Saturday, Gloucestershire winning by three wickets. The 133 runs necessary in the morning were steadily got. Mr Rowlands for the second time in the game batted excellently, and there was also a good innings by Mr Troup.

3 July: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5995.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 July, page 10)

At the Oval yesterday Surrey kept Derbyshire in the field all day, and at the close of play had scored 307 for the loss of half their men.

Mr Jephson, who with Hayward caused 100 to be sent up for the first wicket, played a good but slow innings of 94. Mr Crawford played fine free cricket for his runs, and is still in. Captain Bush also hit well and helped Mr Jephson to increase the score by 96.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 July, page 8)

Surrey, with half their men out, had run up a big score against Derbyshire when play ceased on Thursday. The last men failed to uphold this advantage and the innings closed for 440. Mr Crawford only increased his overnight score by five before he retired, having injured his finger. Brockwell played very attractive cricket.

Derbyshire made a poor start; but Mr Ashcroft and Mr Wright helped to make up a respectable total of 217. In following on the visitors scored 66 for the loss of Mr Ashcroft's wicket, so that they still require 157 to save the innings defeat.

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

There was no striking feature in the finishing day of this match on the Oval, when Surrey won by seven wickets. Mr Lawton hit hard and there was good, steady cricket by Needham and Storer. Surrey had only to make 31 in the fourth innings of the match.

Saturday 5 July, page 8: PRESENTATION TO MR MacGREGOR

At Lord's yesterday, in the secretary's office, Mr Gregor MacGregor, and famous old Cambridge University cricketer and present captain of Middlesex, who is shortly to be married, was presented with a handsome silver salver subscribed for by the whole of the county players who have appeared with him during the last ten years.

The salver was engraved with some fifty names, including the professionals, and the presentation was made by Mr MacGregor's predecessor in the Middlesex captaincy, Mr A J Webbe.

Monday 7 July, page 7: THE AVERAGES

The list of the chief averages up to date is given below: -

BATTING

DAIIING					
			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	13	601	230	1	50.68
Tyldesley	22	906	165	1	43.14
Mr W Findlay	12	345	78	4	43.12
Mr A C MacLaren	21	767	174	2	40.30
Mr T L Taylor	22	619	142*	1	39.00
Brockwell	25	701	80*	7	38.94
Abel	34	1149	151*	4	38.30
Mr P Perrin	17	458	86	6	38.16
Mr S H Day	12	381	117*	2	38.10
Iremonger	19	723	108	0	38.05
Mr C McGahey	17	478	104	4	36.61
Mr W H B Evans	14	510	142	0	36.42
Mr C J B Wood	29	914	124*	3	35.15
Mr W L Murdoch	20	664	132	1	34.94
Mr A O Jones	19	652	100	0	34.31
Mr V F S Crawford	d 25	840	191*	1	33.23
Mr E M Dowson	23	657	72	3	32.85
Mr C B Fry	28	876	122	1	32.44
Knight	23	701	145*	1	31.83
W G Quaife	17	505	100	1	31.56

Mr C J Burnup	28	757	101	2	31.54
Mr C H B Marsham	20	527	120	3	31.00
Devey	17	493	63	1	30.81
Mr E M Ashcroft	10	308	104	0	30.80
Mr J R Mason	19	579	107	0	30.47
Dr W G Grace	23	633	97	2	30.14
Relf	22	510	94	5	30.00
Tunnicliffe	23	656	127	1	29.81
Mr G L Jessop	22	623	126	1	29.66
W Gunn	11	324	119	0	29.45
Killick	20	558	133	1	29.38
Mr B J T Bosanquet	18	468	103	2	29.25
Mr D L A Jephson	25 23	549	94 74*	6	28.89
Arnold	23 19	528		4	27.78
Washington	-	443	100*	3	27.68
Mr W Troup Mr E W Dillon	20 26	495 647	127* 114	2 2	27.50 26.65
Dr R MacDonald	26 12	647 214	62	2 4	26.65
Mr A E Lawton	24	608	62 149	4	26.75
Mr F S Jackson	24 16	356	149	2	26.14
Mr R T Crawford	10	495	91	0	26.10
Denton	23	495 568	91 69	1	25.81
King	23	508 615	139	3	25.62
Mr H J Wyld	16	368	85	2	25.62
Lockwood	21	477	102	2	25.10
Hirst	23	496	84	3	24.80
Capt H S Bush	23	537	111	2	24.80
Marlow (Sussex)	17	316	67	4	24.30
Mr C H M Ebden	21	510	137	0	24.28
Mr H K Foster	19	453	60	0	23.84
Mr L C H Palairet	20	475	82	0	23.75
Braund	22	521	104	0	23.68
Board	29	574	95*	4	22.96
Mr S M J Woods	19	401	88*	1	22.27
Mr L G Wright	15	330	101	0	22.00
Mr R N R Blaker	17	324	64*	2	21.60
J Gunn	18	385	80	0	21.36
Mr G W Beldam	16	312	60	1	20.80
Mr A Eccles	23	393	56	4	20.68
Mr M Bonham-Carter	19	328	85	3	20.50
Hayward	25	481	90	1	20.04
Mr E R Wilson	20	330	142	3	19.94
Lilley	16	289	72*	1	19.93
Wrathall	25	496	78	0	19.84
A E Trott	23	450	103	0	19.56
Vine	25	406	52	3	19.45
Hayes	29	514	50	1	18.25
Mr G W F Kelly	14	233	46*	1	17.92
Lord Hawke	19	300	107*	2	17.64
Mr J Gilman	16	237	44*	2	16.92

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr F S Jackson	186	63	359	43	8.53
Haigh	296.4	99	645	74	8.71
Tate	698.3	208	1194	107	11.15
Rhodes	542.1	178	1120	93	11.42
Hargreave	429.2	158	849	71	11.95
Hirst	348.5	117	742	55	13.49
Wass	357.2	94	933	64	14.57
Mr G L Jessop	193.3	45	617	38	15.66
Blythe	417.1	125	897	57	15.73
J T Hearne	455.3	147	1057	67	15.92
Barnes	395.2	115	938	58	16.17

Mr E R Wilson	450.4	160	892	54	16.51
Mr J R Mason	260.5	101	485	29	16.72
Cranfield	514.5	112	1416	83	17.06
T C Ross	160.5	49	438	25	17.52
Braund	451.3	105	1406	78	18.01
Llewellyn	717.5	202	1903	105	18.12
Mead	450.1	140	831	54	18.18
Lockwood	309.4	79	803	44	18.25
G A Wilson (Worcs)	477	100	1258	70	18.40
Trott	444.3	81	1326	71	18.67
Dr W G Grace	251.1	122	750	40	18.75
Mr E M Dowson	434.3	97	1223	65	18.81
Mr E E Steel	340.1	75	857	46	19.28
King	358	90	937	48	19.58
Bestwick	377.5	123	967	47	20.57
Arnold	339.2	99	997	47	20.78
Mr D L A Jephson	215	86	583	28	20.82
J Gunn	395.4	121	847	43	22.02
Huggins	426	149	907	41	22.12
Hulme	389.1	104	891	40	22.27
Mr W M Bradley	294	95	711	31	22.93
Richardson	488.1	100	1260	48	26.25
Mr A C von Ernsthausen	260.1	78	795	26	30.57
Mr R C W Burn	227.2	39	674	22	30.63

THE AUSTRALIANS

ΒA	ТΤ	ING	
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DAI	TING					
				Most in	Not	
		Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr	V Trumper (N.S.W.)	24	1087	123	0	45.24
Mr	R A Duff (N.S.W.)	27	647	182	4	28.13
Mr	C Hill (S.A.)	24	646	119	1	28.08
Mr	W W Armstrong (V.)	21	432	87*	5	27.00
Mr	S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	24	484	72	5	26.00
Mr	J Darling (N.S.W.)	24	625	128	3	25.00
Mr	A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	23	448	80	3	22.40
Mr	J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	15	225	75	3	18.75
Mr	M A Noble (N.S.W.)	20	258	59	3	15.17
Mr	E Jones (S.A.)	10	132	40	1	14.66
Mr	H Trumble (V.)	7	41	32	1	6.83
Mr	H Carter (N.S.W.)	7	30	7*	2	6.00
Mr	W P Howell (N.S.W.)	15	49	16	3	4.08
Mr	J V Saunders (V.)	10	22	8*	2	2.75

BOWLING

DOMITING					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	157.5	63	304	37	7.21
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	182.4	29	611	42	14.54
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	226.4	68	659	43	15.32
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	220	28	246	16	15.37
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	390.4	126	876	63	15.49
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	109.3	29	307	18	17.05
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	210.5	72	436	22	19.81
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	246.3	77	610	30	20.33

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The position of the competition worked out under the M.C.C. rules is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	12	6	1	5	5	71.42

Sussex	11	4	2	5	2	33.33
Lancashire	13	5	3	5	2	25.00
Warwickshire	9	3	2	4	1	20.00
Surrey	14	3	2	9	1	20.00
Somerset	10	4	4	2	0	0.00
Essex	9	1	1	7	0	0.00
Kent	11	4	4	3	0	0.00
Leicestershire	10	1	1	8	0	0.00
Notts	11	2	2	7	0	0.00
Worcestershire	11	3	4	4	-1	-14.28
Gloucestershire	12	3	4	5	-1	-14.28
Derbyshire	7	1	2	4	-1	-33.33
Middlesex	7	0	3	4	-3	-100.00
Hampshire	7	0	5	2	-5	-100.00

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS. - For the annual match at Lord's to-day, the teams have undergone no change since their publication in The Times last Tuesday.

7 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5996.html)

(From our special correspondent)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 July, page 12)

In ordinary circumstances this annual match at Lord's is the high-water mark of the season's cricket; but nobody could fail to perceive a change this year. The test matches overshadow everything and, at any rate in the pavilion, a feeling of disappointment prevailed at the result of the match at Sheffield. Yesterday's cricket seemed to be a sort of continuation of what occurred in Australia last winter and at Sheffield last week, and there seems to be something amiss with English batting.

The wicket seemed perfect and the conditions very favourable, and the Gentlemen won the toss, but the innings total was only 187; and it may be safely said that there was not one really good display of batting. Mr MacLaren played well as long as he was in, but Mr Fry cannot get into his form at all, while Messrs Jackson and Taylor, having apparently played themselves in, were both out to balls that ought to have been driven to the boundary. Mr Mason was the highest scorer with 37, but he did not play a good innings and was batting for more than an hour and a half for his runs. Of the batting of the rest there is nothing to be said, but nobody appeared to be at home.

It is the common belief that Braund likes to bowl on a hard wicket, and his bowling yesterday seemed to prove it. He bowled decidedly faster than usual and "tied up" all the batsmen; and his analysis for five wickets for 29 runs in 11 overs on a fast, easy wicket has probably not been excelled this season. Tate, whose first appearance it was in these matches, bowled very steadily and Huish kept wicket very finely - and to take Braund properly is a high test for any wicket-keeper.

The Gentlemen finished their innings shortly before 4, and Abel started the Orange Free State batting in company with Tunnicliffe. Abel has frequently scored hundreds against fast bowlers, but such bowlers have more than once been too much for him at Lord's, and Mr MacLaren was probably mindful of this fact when he started with Mr Jessop from the Nursery end. Partly by luck and partly, perhaps, by a little prudent exercise of judgment in running, Abel was generally to be found playing to Mr Jackson from the other end, but Mr Jessop, bowling very fast, got both Tunnicliffe and Tyldesley dismissed by catches in the slips. Tunnicliffe, however, played in good style during the short time he was at the wickets.

Abel's turn came next, as Mr Jessop, bowling his fastest, sent in a good length ball on the leg stump, and not even Abel's correct eye could stop such a ball when the batsman, standing some way towards short leg, played with such a very crooked bat. Iremonger was cheaply dismissed for a dozen, and in the meantime Mr Mason replaced Mr Jessop and Mr Ross (the bowler from Ireland) Mr Jackson. Mr Ross bowled Iremonger with a ball he tried to pull instead of playing straight, and the very next ball to Hirst certainly looked to be a clear case of leg-before-wicket, but the umpire thought otherwise. Hirst then played a lively innings of 24, being especially severe on Mr Dowson. Mr Dowson as a rule shows much skill in placing his field, but he will find it pay when bowling to Hirst to put an active field at deep square-leg. Mr Jackson then got Hirst caught at the wicket, and a short adjournment took place for tea.

The last three-quarters of an hour's play was the best and most attractive batting of the day. Both Denton and Braund, in different styles, treated the bowling with scant respect. Denton cuts and drives to the off well, but Braund hit with great freedom of wrist all round the wicket, and showed also that he understood the art of playing lobs. Both were not out at the drawing of stumps - Denton not out 51 and Braund not out 31, and the total was brought up to 156 for five wickets.

The match has so far been satisfactory inasmuch as scoring has been kept in proper limits and there appears to be every prospect of a definite result; but not until the last half-hour was any really good batting shown, and it certainly does not speak well for English batting that the picked eleven of amateurs, no fewer than five of whom had played for England in one or other of the test matches, could not on such a perfect wicket have produced one first-class innings. Braund's bowling, of its kind, was, indeed, as good as any that has been seen; but yesterday's play seemed to point to the expediency of trying some change to strengthen the batting of the English eleven in the next test match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 July, page 12)

A hot sun and a slight breeze made the wicket at Lord's yesterday perhaps a trifle faster than on the third day, but the contrast between the batting of the Players and that of the Gentlemen was most marked. Braund, Denton and Lockwood treated the amateur bowling with scant courtesy, and it cannot be denied that, with the exception of Mr Jackson's, it all looked very plain. Nor was the fielding quite up to the mark, and Mr Newton at the wicket, probably owing to the condition of his hands, was by no means at his best and missed more than one chance.

At the same time the three professionals played admirable cricket and proved how impotent all bowling is when perfection of wicket goes beyond a certain point. Some of the public who appear to judge the game from the standpoint of batting only may have thought that the day's play was both good cricket and interesting to watch; but it is to be hoped that in this respect the public are improving, for no cricket can be interesting when the bowler can get no work on the ball or get it to rise much above half-stump high. It is a melancholy fact, but undoubtedly true, that when we get real summer weather cricket immediately becomes dull and uninteresting, except to those who think that only run-getting ought to be considered.

Overnight the Players were left in slightly the better position, as both Denton and Braund had shown themselves to be masters of the bowling and the wicket was bound to play faster and easier. Both played well, but Braund with nothing like the freedom that he had shown the previous evening, and Denton was missed at the wicket. Still the score rose, and the pair kept their wickets up till they had brought the total up to 307.

Lockwood succeeded, and immediately put on runs fast; but he was missed by Mr MacLaren at slip with his score at nine, a mistake that proved most expensive. Braund had scored 40 runs when Lockwood came in, but the latter scored twice as fast as the former and reached his century before Braund, when he was clean bowled by Mr Jackson. Lockwood was missed at slip and at the wicket, but he had played fine cricket and drove especially well. Play on the on side is much neglected in these days, but Lockwood is an exception to this rule and he showed himself able to hit all round the wicket. His innings has so far been the best of the match.

There was nothing very distinctive about the Players' batting after Lockwood was out, but Braund, after batting for four and a half hours, was caught at cover-point for 141 and the total reached 444. the captain of the Players would have acted wisely if he had instructed the last few batsmen to play a quicker game after Lockwood had got out, to make, if possible, the Gentlemen go in at about 4 o'clock. A side is always handicapped by having to bat at about 4 o'clock after so much fielding, and the Players had made quite enough runs. As it was Braund had taken four hours and a half in making his runs at a rate of about 30 runs an hour, which is too slow for such a fine free player as he can be when he chooses.

Mr Jackson had a great deal of bowling and had not the best of luck, but it certainly looked as if he was the only really good bowler on the side. Mr Jessop began well, but evidently cannot stand the

strain of bowling very fast for more than a few overs. Mr Ross, who is new to cricket of this class, keeps a fair length and varies his pace, but wants some help from the wicket - which he certainly did not get.

The Gentlemen began their second innings at about 5 o'clock and made a most disastrous start, losing the wickets of Messrs Jephson, Taylor and Jackson for 19 runs, all to Lockwood's bowling. Lockwood may be somewhat past his prime and is not too sound in limb, but on a perfect wicket he is about the only fast bowler in England who can make the ball get up and come back. He got Mr Jackson's wicket with a short ball that Mr Jackson apparently tried to cut, but it whipped back and clean bowled him.

Mr Fry and Mr Mason then came together and stopped the rot, but the bowling and fielding were both good, and for the first time in the day was seen the pleasant sight of batsmen having to fight for their runs. Both played well, especially Mr Fry, who would, however, have been run out if Huish had handled a somewhat bad throw-in from Hirst, who fielded the ball finely. Hirst and Lockwood were replaced by Tate and Braund and Rhodes. Neither batsman appeared quite comfortable to Braund, who bowled much slower than in the first innings.

The Gentlemen want 173 runs to save the one innings defeat and have seven wickets to go down. Mr MacLaren injured his hand and was unable to field. Still, there may be some good cricket, especially if Messrs Ranjitsinhji and Jessop can rise to the occasion.

At Kennington Oval to-morrow the Players will have the following excellent side: - Abel (Surrey), Brockwell (Surrey), Hayward (Surrey), Iremonger (Notts), Lilley (Warwickshire), Tyldesley (Lancashire), Quaife (Warwickshire), Trott (Middlesex), Lockwood (Surrey), Hargreave (Warwickshire) and Barnes (Lancashire). It will be seen that of the members of this eleven only Abel, Lockwood, Iremonger and Tyldesley are playing in the match now in progress at Lord's.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 July, page 12)

The end of the second day's play found the amateurs in practically a hopeless position, and to make matters even worse Mr MacLaren, owing to the injury to his hand, was unable to bat. This left the amateurs with 175 runs to get to save a one-innings defeat and only six wickets to go down, and Lockwood had shown that he could get the ball to work, and none of the Gentlemen had played Braund with any confidence.

Abel wisely began the bowling with Lockwood and Braund, and, as the slight slope which still exists at Lord's from north to south made it more suitable for Braund to bowl from the Nursery end, Lockwood bowled from the Pavilion; and except his performance the previous year in the same match nothing finer in the way of bowling on a good wicket has been seen this, or, indeed, any season.

Messrs Fry and Mason, who were not out, found run-getting an extremely difficult matter, and as a matter of fact never looked at home to either bowler. Mr Mason was caught in the slips off Lockwood. K S Ranjitsinhji, who was very lame, came in and played somewhat better than he did in the first innings, but never looked like making a big score; while Mr Fry was clean bowled by a lovely ball that broke almost the whole breadth of the wicket and sent the leg stump flying. There was nothing else worthy of mention except a most meritorious bit of hitting by Mr Jessop, who in all his remarkable career has probably never hit such high-class bowling so well.

The Gentlemen were beaten in one innings and 68 runs, and a majority of critics will say that the batting was feeble. Very likely this is correct, but at the same time it was obvious that Lockwood was exceedingly difficult to play yesterday morning. It did not matter which end he bowled; he made the ball turn and get up both from the Nursery and the Pavilion end. No doubt Lord's, from some cause or other, is a harder ground than any; and it would seem to suit Lockwood, for in the last two Gentlemen v Players matches there he has brought off a splendid feat of bowling.

At the same time it cannot be said that the amateurs are strong in batting. It is never fair to compare Dr W G Grace with any other batsman, but there appears to be a falling off to those who remember at different times Mr R A H Mitchell, Mr Yardley, Mr Frank Penn, Mr A P Lucas, Mr A G Steel and Mr Stoddart. On such a wicket as that on which this last Gentlemen v Players match was played no side ought to be dismissed by any bowling, however good, for under 200 runs in each innings.

As has been said before, the selection committee for the test matches have chosen some 14 or 15 names for the eleven to play against the Australians, and no fewer than seven of these were found in the

amateur eleven that has just been so badly beaten. This certainly looks as if more use ought to be made of the professionals, even in the way of batting, than of the amateurs.

Looking back over a long series of these great matches it would be difficult to find two greater individual performances than those of Lockwood and Braund in this last match. Both scored centuries, and Lockwood took nine wickets for 106 runs and Braund seven for 91. If the wicket was easy to bat on, it must have been difficult to bowl on, and no praise can be too high for these two great feats.

For the match at Kennington Oval to-day the Gentlemen will have the following side: - G W Beldam (Middlesex), W M Bradley (Kent), R B Brooks (London County), C J Burnup (Kent), A Eccles (Lancashire), W G Grace (London County), D L A Jephson (Surrey), G L Jessop (Gloucestershire), C McGahey (Essex), E E Steel (Lancashire) and W Troup (Gloucestershire).

The Players' side was given in The Times of yesterday.

7 July: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5997.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 July, page 12)

With their three greatest players away at Lord's Sussex did excellently at Hove yesterday. There was splendid batting by Vine, Mr Newham and Mr Brann, all of whom were in their best form on one of the truest of Brighton wickets . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 July, page 12)

In a hard day's cricket at Hove, yesterday, the Sussex eleven maintained their advantage, and finished the day with a lead of 281 and four wickets left in the second innings. Mr A J Hill played the best cricket for Hampshire, and when Sussex went in again there was fine batting by Relf and Vine.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 July, page 12)

Yesterday at Hove this match, after a close finish, was drawn. Hampshire had only one wicket in hand and were 122 runs behind.

7 July: WARWICKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5998.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 July, page 12)

The fine bowling of Mr Armstrong marked the cricket at Birmingham yesterday, when Warwickshire had the worst of the game. Mr Armstrong kept a fine length and was particularly effective after the luncheon interval.

Mr Trumper, Mr Gregory and Mr Darling all batted well for the Australians, who finished with a strong lead on the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 July, page 12)

The Australians maintained their advantage at Birmingham yesterday, and secured a lead on the first innings of 192 runs. Warwickshire made a good attempt to save the game. The bowling and fielding of both sides were excellent. Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 July, page 12)

There was very little cricket at Birmingham yesterday, and the match was drawn owing to the heavy rain.

Tuesday 8 July, page 12

THE WORCESTERSHIRE ELEVEN. - Mr R E Foster, who last year was captain of Worcestershire, will play for his county against the Australians, at Worcester, next Thursday, and probably will be available for the county during the remainder of July. The team opposing the Australians will also include Mr H K Foster (captain), Mr W W Lowe (his first match this season), Mr G H Simpson-Hayward, Arnold, Bird, Bowley, Gaukrodger, Wheldon, Wilson and Pearson or Burrows, according to the state of the wicket.

10 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5999.html)

(From our special correspondent)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 July, page 10)

In the few hours allowed for cricket yesterday at the Oval the Gentlemen were batting on a wicket made easy by the rain. Dr Grace and Mr Beldam hit freely, and the bowling and fielding were good. There was only a small company to see the play.

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

There was a splendid day's cricket at the Oval yesterday. Dr Grace and Mr Beldam again batted excellently, making 119 for the first wicket. Dr Grace will complete his 54th year this month.

Afterwards the Gentlemen's batting broke down badly. The chief cause of this was the bowling of Hargreave. He met with no success until the last time that he went on yesterday, and then he had the wonderful figures of six wickets for 16 runs. His slow left-hand bowling completely puzzled the batsmen.

Towards the end of the day there was a wonderful innings by Hayward, who on the off-side was as good as ever. He gave a couple of chances, but neither of them was easy. At the close of play the Players had all the better of the position, seeing that they were only 27 runs behind with half their wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 July, page 11)

Time alone saved the Gentlemen from defeat at the Oval on Saturday, for, when stumps were pulled up and the match left drawn, they were only 21 runs ahead with four wickets in hand.

Chiefly through the good batting of Hayward and Lilley the Players increased their overnight score of 184 for five wickets to 359. Hayward was seventh out at 312. His cricket throughout was marked by all his old skill, his driving being quite brilliant, and it was, indeed, a pleasing feature that such a sterling batsman should have at last regained his form. Altogether Hayward was batting some four hours and a half, and his 177 included no less than 25 fours.

After the close of the Players' innings nearly all interest in the match had gone. But on going in a second time the Gentlemen, who were 148 behind, fared so badly that six wickets were down for 96, and there was a possibility that they might be beaten in a single innings. However, at the critical time, Mr Jephson joined Mr McGahey, and not only were the arrears hit off, but the batsmen stayed together until they had placed their side in a safe position when stumps were drawn at a quarter-past 6.

Mr McGahey was in nearly two hours and three-quarters, and his steady cricket went a long way to the saving of his side from defeat.

10 July: HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6000.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 July, page 10)

In an even day's cricket at Portsmouth yesterday the score was left as follows . . .

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

Hampshire beat Somerset at Portsmouth yesterday by five wickets. For their victory the home side were chiefly indebted to Barton and Llewellyn. Mr Woods and Gill made a great effort to save Somerset, but they received inadequate support.

10 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6001.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 July, page 10)

After a good day's cricket at Leicester yesterday the score was left as follows . . .

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

At Leicester, yesterday, Derbyshire had the better of the day's cricket. This was mostly due to the good batting of Mr Ashcroft.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 July, page 11)

At Leicester, on Saturday, Derbyshire won this match by 242 runs.

10 July: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6002.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 July, page 10)

Having played a drawn game at Leeds in the opening moth of the season, the Yorkshire and Sussex elevens met for the return game at Brighton yesterday. Three changes were made in the constitution of the home county's side, Mr Collins, Bean and Marlow giving way to K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr C B Fry and Tate. Yorkshire made two alterations from their regular team, Mr F S Jackson and Hunter being displaced by Brown, of Mexborough, and Higgins. The last-named is the Dewsbury Club wicket-keeper.

The weather unfortunately was very unsettled, rain falling at intervals throughout the day, stopping play on no fewer than four occasions. However, the wicket at no time presented any real difficulty and was occupied by Yorkshire throughout the day.

The feature of Yorkshire's batting was the carefully-made 76 by Brown. It is his highest score this season. Although rather slow at times, he played with much of his old skill. Except for a difficult chance to Tate in the slips when 64, he made no mistake.

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

22

The feature of a remarkable day's cricket at Hove, yesterday, was the determined stand by Haigh and Rhodes for Yorkshire. Batting on a wicket of varying pace, the visitors on the opening day scored 227 runs for eight wickets. It was none too good an exhibition for so strong a side, but on the resumption Haigh and Rhodes (not out overnight) gave an exceptionally fine display.

Haigh was missed by Bland (mid-off) when he had scored eight, and the blunder, a most serious one, cost Sussex dear. The escaping batsman defied the attack for upwards of two and a half hours, he and Rhodes putting on no fewer than 173 runs before a well-judged catch by Mr Newham in the deep field effected their separation. Haigh was first to leave, having made 85 as the result of three and a quarter hours' batting. His chief strokes were ten fours, a three and eight twos.

Rhodes did even better, carrying out his bat for 92. This is his highest contribution in a championship match, though he scored 105 against the M.C.C. during the Scarborough festival last September. Rhodes was at the wickets for two hours and 35 minutes; his best hits were 13 fours, the majority of them being made on the off-side.

When Sussex went in Mr Fry batted fully an hour for 25 runs, but K S Ranjitsinhji played beautiful cricket, being not out 65 at the close of the day's play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 July, page 11)

Remarkable as the cricket was on the second day at Brighton, it was even more so during the closing stage. Sussex not only passed their opponent's total, but finished off with a lead of 83 runs on the first innings.

K S Ranjitsinhji, who was not out 66 overnight, had only scored two more when he lost his wicket through a smart piece of fielding by Rhodes, who threw down the wicket from cover-point. Mr Newham and Mr Brann, however, continued to punish Yorkshire's bowling in all parts of the field, their performance being almost identical with the determined stand made by Haigh and Rhodes on the previous day. Lord Hawke had recourse to a great many bowling changes during the partnership, but the pair were together at the interval and ultimately added 179 for the sixth wicket.

Mr Brann was batting two and a half hours, and Mr Newham an hour and a quarter longer. Both played excellent cricket, giving no real chance during the whole of their long partnership. When they had been dismissed, W Brown did a fine piece of bowling, sending down five overs and five balls (three maidens) for 12 runs and three wickets.

With only two hours left for play, the game appeared certain to be drawn, but the Yorkshire batsmen opened badly. Brown and Tunnicliffe were both bowled for singles by Bland, and, Denton being speedily captured in the slips, three wickets were down for seven runs. Mr Taylor, however, went in to play steady cricket, and, exhibiting stubborn defence, kept at the wickets for the remainder of play. Yorkshire lost six wickets before the deficit was wiped out, and the game was left drawn.

Mr F S Jackson and Hunter will rejoin the Yorkshire team for the match with Essex at Bradford to-day.

10 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6003.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 July, page 10)

The weather yesterday at Worcester was showery. The Australians scored heavily at first and before luncheon made 129 for two wickets. Afterwards Bird bowled with great effect.

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

Although the home side did better than was expected at one time at Worcester, yesterday, they finished up with the worse position. It was an ordinary day's cricket and the score speaks for itself.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 July, page 11)

The Australians had established such a substantial lead overnight that their victory of Saturday, at Worcester, by 174 runs was thoroughly expected. Going in to make 272 in the fourth innings the county team, with the one exception of Bowley, cut up badly before Mr Jones and Mr Armstrong.

Monday 14 July, page 11: The AVERAGES

Below is a list of the chief averages: -

BATTING

BATTING					
	Innings	Runs	Most in innings	Not outs	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	17	708	230	1	44.25
Mr C McGahey	19	568	104	5	40.57
Mr W Newham	13	485	153	1	40.41
Tyldesley	24	929	165	1	40.39
Mr A C MacLaren	22	720	174	2	39.00
Shrewsbury	19	612	106*	3	38.25
Mr P Perrin	17	458	86	5	38.18
Brockwell	26	725	80*	7	38.15
Mr T L Taylor	25	835	142*	2	35.87
Abel	36	1170	151*	4	35.65
Iremonger	21	752	106	0	35.80
Mr G Brann	12	386	108	1	35.69
Mr W L Murdoch	20	664	132	1	34.84
Mr C J B Wood	31	963	124*	3	34.46
Mr A O Jones	19	652	100	0	34.21
Mr V F S Crawford	25	809	101*	1	33.23
Knight	25	732	145*	1	33.00
Mr C B Fry	31	965	122	1	32.16
Relf	25	638	94	5	31.90
Mr W H B Evans	18	558	142	0	31.56
Dr W G Grace	25	722	97	2	31.39
Mr J R Mason	21	654	107	0	31.14
Mr C H B Marsham	20	527	129	3	31.00
Mr E M Dowson	25	674	72	3	30.83
Mr C J Burnup	28	784	161	2	30.15
W Gunn	11	324	119	0	29.45
Mr B J T Bosanquet	: 18	453	103	2	29.25
Mr D L A Jephson	29	611	94	6	29.09
Mr G L Jessop	26	685	126	2	28.25
Lockwood	23	595	102	2	28.33
Killick	23	619	133	1	28.13
Washington	21	504	100*	3	28.00
Denton	26	692	90	1	27.68
Tunnicliffe	26	697	127	1	27.48
Braund	25	687	141	0	27.48
Arnold	25	569	74*	4	27.09
Hayward	26	658	177	1	26.32
Mr K R B Fry	14	368	127	0	26.14
Mr H J Wyld	16	368	85	2	25.57
Mr W Troup	22	508	120*	2	25.48
Mr F S Jackson	13	405	101*	2	25.31
Mr S M J Woods	21	501	82*	1	25.05
Mr A E Lawton	26	625	140	1	25.00
King	29	649	130	3	24.96
Capt H S Bush	24	537	111	2	24.40
Dr R MacDonald	14	244	62	4	24.40
Mr R T Crawford	21	506	81	0	24.09
Mr L C H Palairet	22	516	82	0	23.45
Hirst	26	533	84	3	23.89
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Vine	28	575	72	3	23.00
Board	29	574	96*	4	22.96
Gill	25	522	80	2	22.69
Lilley	19	385	72*	2	22.64
Mr L G Wright	17	384	101	0	22.58
Mr H K Foster	21	468	80	0	22.29
Mr G W Beldam	18	374	60	1	22.00
J Gunn	18	385	80	0	21.28
Marlow (Sussex)	19	326	52*	3	20.37
Bowley	23	466	62	0	20.28
Llewellyn	25	464	90	2	20.17
Haigh	21	362	85	3	20.11
Mr A Eccles	25	400	85	4	19.04
Trott	24	457	102	0	19.04
Storer	23	508	61	1	18.74

BOWLING

BOWLING					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Haigh	323.4	103	754	77	9.79
Mr F S Jackson	223	72	475	45	10.46
Rhodes	602.1	202	1224	99	12.39
Hargreave	532.2	177	1024	82	12.48
Tate	670	225	1378	110	12.52
Wass	357.2	94	933	64	14.87
Blythe	417.1	125	897	57	15.73
J T Hearne	435.3	147	1067	67	15.82
Hirst	404.5	118	894	58	15.96
Mr E R Wilson	450.4	180	892	54	16.51
Barnes	445	127	1028	62	16.58
Cranfield	525.5	115	1440	85	16.94
Mr G L Jessop	228.3	63	628	36	17.18
Lockwood	360.4	68	975	56	17.41
Mr J R Mason	281.5	108	564	32	17.62
Gill	273.5	65	708	43	17.81
Mead	460.1	140	981	54	18.16
Braund	507	117	1628	88	18.47
G A Wilson (Worcs)	513	105	1414	74	18.85
Mr T C Ross	169.4	55	514	27	19.03
Llewellyn	795.1	220	2172	113	19.22
Dr W G Grace	285.1	128	769	40	19.22
Trott	474.3	90	1400	72	19.44
Mr E M Dowson	447.3	101	1287	65	19.49
King	380.2	95	1045	52	20.09
Mr E E Steel	383.1	79	980	48	20.43
Bestwick	422.5	135	1075	52	20.67
J Gunn	306.4	121	947	43	22.02
Arnold	411.2	102	1058	48	22.04
Hulme	403.1	121	957	43	22.25
Mr D L A Jephson	237	40	654	29	22.55
Mr W M Bradley	326.3	100	803	35	22.94
Richardson	488.1	100	1250	48	26.15
Relf	491.3	154	1229	43	28.58
Vine	395.3	90	1091	38	28.71
Brockwell	342.2	68	1054	36	29.27

THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING

BAIIING					
			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	25	1122	128	0	45.28
Mr R A Duff (N.S.W.)	30	783	182	4	30.11
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	24	490	87*	7	28.82

Mr	S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	27	633	68	5	28.77
Mr	C Hill (S.A.)	27	743	119	1	28.57
Mr	J Darling (N.S.W.)	27	751	128	3	23.79
Mr	A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	26	500	80	3	22.60
Mr	J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	15	225	75	3	18.75
Mr	M A Noble (N.S.W.)	23	333	59	3	16.90
Mr	E Jones (S.A.)	13	165	40	1	13.75
Mr	H Carter (N.S.W.)	10	62	31	3	8.65
Mr	H Trumble (V.)	7	41	32	1	6.83
Mr	W P Howell (N.S.W.)	17	57	16	3	4.07
Mr	J V Saunders (V.)	13	28	8*	2	2.54

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	157.5	63	304	37	8.21
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	207.4	35	663	43	15.41
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	274.1	92	545	35	15.60
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	304.3	31	254	18	15.77
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	419.4	130	1089	65	16.01
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	309.4	94	780	44	16.38
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	109.3	29	307	18	17.05
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	317.1	89	827	45	18.37

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Below are the positions of the counties: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	13	6	1	6	5	71.42
Sussex	13	4	2	7	2	33.33
Lancashire	13	5	3	5	2	25.00
Warwickshire	9	3	2	4	1	20.00
Surrey	14	3	2	9	1	20.00
Derbyshire	8	2	2	4	0	0.00
Essex	9	1	1	7	0	0.00
Kent	11	4	4	3	0	0.00
Notts	11	2	2	7	0	0.00
Somerset	11	4	5	2	-1	-11.11
Worcestershire	11	3	4	4	-1	-14.23
Gloucestershire	12	3	4	5	-1	-14.23
Leicestershire	11	1	2	8	-1	-33.33
Hampshire	9	1	5	3	-4	-66.66
Middlesex	7	0	3	4	-3	-100.00

14 July: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6004.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 July, page 12)

After a good day's cricket at Derby, yesterday, the score was left as follows . . .

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

Iremonger and William Gunn each ran into three figures when batting at Derby yesterday, and their long partnership turned the game for Nottinghamshire, who in the end held a winning advantage.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 July, page 10)

At Derby, yesterday, Notts won this match by nine wickets.

14 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6005.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 July, page 12)

Mr Trumper accomplished another fine performance at Bristol yesterday in the match with Gloucestershire. Going in at 5 o'clock, he scored 83 before stumps were drawn at 6 o'clock without making anything approaching a bad hit.

When 12 stood to his credit he might have been run out, but this was the only blemish in a remarkable display of resolute, but perfectly safe, hitting. His off-driving was brilliant, though quite the best of all his strokes were some of his hits to leg. None of the bowlers gave him any trouble. His innings and the steady play of Mr Duff enabled the Australians to get within 44 of the county total without losing a wicket.

The home team gave a disappointing display on a true and fast wicket. They batted with so much caution that they only made 155, although their innings lasted three hours and 40 minutes.

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

The Australians accomplished a remarkable performance at Bristol yesterday, when they made their highest score of the present tour. Going in on Monday afternoon for one hour, after they had dismissed Gloucestershire, they made 111 runs without losing a wicket, and they so improved upon this excellent start that when stumps were drawn at the end of the second day they had 545 to their credit with only five men out.

Mr Trumper, who laid the foundation of this large total, played by far the best cricket that the game has so far produced. He left with the total at 134, of which his share was 92, made in 75 minutes without a mistake. After Mr Duff's patient display was closed, Mr Hill and Mr Noble added 205 in two hours and 20 minutes. Both were lucky; the former was missed when 16, and again at 87, while Mr Noble could have been caught and bowled at 57 and taken in the slips at 81. Apart from these mistakes Mr Noble made few faulty strokes, but Mr Hill was often in trouble.

Towards the end of the day Mr Hopkins punished the tired bowling with such severity that in the course of an hour and a half he made 100 out of 143 and was still not out at the finish.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 July, page 10)

At Bristol, yesterday, the Australians defeated Gloucestershire by an innings and 222 runs, and so secured the most decisive victory of their tour. Thanks to the brilliant work done on Tuesday by Mr Trumper, Mr Hill, Mr Noble and Mr Hopkins, they had secured a total of 545 for the loss of five wickets. This gave them a lead of 390 runs, and they were so content with it that they promptly closed their innings.

In the course of two hours and 25 minutes they dismissed their opponents for 168. It was a disappointing exhibition and at no time did Gloucestershire look like giving serious trouble. They lost two wickets for five runs, and though Mr Jessop made 21 out of 25 during a little over a quarter of an hour, it was left to Langdon, Board and Mr Sewell to do the best batting of the day. The first-named hit with much more freedom than usual, and was shaping very well when he pulled a ball from Mr Howell into his wicket. Mr Armstrong again bowling successfully and in the match took seven wickets for 64.

14 July: KENT v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6006.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 July, page 12)

There was some high scoring for Kent at Tunbridge Wells, yesterday afternoon, when Mr Dillon and Mr Burnup both made centuries. The batting was brilliant, and the cutting and driving of each man very strong. Kent established through this a long lead on the day, for Hampshire had figured badly in the first innings.

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

Kent beat Hampshire, yesterday, at Tunbridge Wells, by an innings and 195 runs.

14 July: LONDON COUNTY v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6007.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 July, page 12)

The best thing in yesterday's cricket at the Crystal Palace was the batting of Mr Wood. His play was hard and he timed the ball with easy accuracy. Sir Conan Doyle was strong all round the wicket and there was some good bowling by Mr May.

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

At the Crystal Palace yesterday, Dr W G Grace achieved a feat that no other cricketer is ever likely to equal. He made over a hundred runs for the two hundredth time in his career. All his old skill and vigour were shown in his innings, which naturally was greatly appreciated. Mr Wood and Mr Poidevin also batted well for their big scores. The Marylebone Club are still a long way behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 July, page 10)

London County won the match at the Crystal Palace yesterday by an innings and 43 runs. The M.C.C. strove hard to save the game, and there was a good effort by Rawlin, who showed strong play all round the wicket.

14 July: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6008.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 July, page 12)

Mr C B Fry was seen at his best at Hastings yesterday. During a stay of three hours and 50 minutes, he not only compiled his highest innings this season, but made his runs by splendid all-round cricket without the semblance of a chance. He obtained more of his strokes than usual on the off-side, his late cutting being a string feature. His partnership with Vine for the first wicket resulted in 238 being scored before the professional was caught at cover. Vine at the outset of his innings batted with his customary caution, but as he neared the century he hit with more than usual freedom, and his anxiety to score undoubtedly lost him his wicket.

After Mr Fry left at 282, finely caught at cover, Killick and Relf put on 49 for the third wicket, but with the latter out a change came, Killick going at the same score, and Mr Newham and Brann three runs later. Killick had batted finely, his cutting being beautifully clean. K S Ranjitsinhji, however, quickly mastered the bowling, and at close of play had been batting 55 minutes.

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

Yesterday, at Hastings, Sussex put together the biggest total ever compiled by the county, their former best innings being 686, similarly for eight wickets, made at Leicestershire at Leicester three years ago. The score is also the highest by the narrow margin of one run ever made against Surrey.

Over night K S Ranjitsinhji and Cox were not out 54 and 22, and, with a perfect wicket showing not the least sign of wear, the batsmen continued to maintain supremacy. Assisted by the easy boundary runs came fast, K S Ranjitsinhji completing his century after batting an hour and a half. When Cox was caught at slip the partnership had realized 192 in less than two hours. Butt, after being missed at mid-on, was taken at slip in the same over; but Tate assisted his captain to make another protracted stand.

K S Ranjitsinhji reached his 200 under three hours, and at the luncheon interval, with the batsmen still together, the innings was declared closed. K S Ranjitsinhji during his three hours and 20 minutes' stay never made anything approaching a bad hit. His innings is the highest this season, and must be classed among the finest of his career. The character of his hitting is best illustrated in the fact that he made 39 fours.

The Surrey batsmen continued the abnormal rate of scoring, Abel and Hayward compiling 246 for the first wicket in two hours and three-quarters before the latter was finely caught at mid-on after a splendid innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 July, page 10)

With the wicket wearing as well as at the start of the match the batsmen at Hastings, yesterday, again found run-getting an easy matter. Upon resuming Abel and Captain Bush, who were not out, continued to make such good use of the favourable conditions that when the latter was well caught on the boundary from a straight drive the partnership had realized 197 runs in just under two hours.

Afterwards, although runs always came at a good pace, no other protracted stand was made; and at the termination of the innings Surrey, who at one time looked like coming to equal terms with their opponents, just failed to avert the follow-on. Abel, who was third out, was at the wickets just over five hours, during which he hit 28 boundaries. His strong strokes were always well times and no fault can be found with his innings except that there was an opportunity of stumping when he had made 137.

As Sussex had no chance in the two hours left for play of again dismissing their opponents, K S Ranjitsinhji decided to save his bowlers by batting again, and a draw thus became inevitable, Sussex at the finish being 323 on with six wickets in hand.

During the three days 1,427 runs were scored for the loss of 21 wickets. This aggregate is the highest ever compiled in England, the former record being 1,410 obtained in the match between Sussex and Oxford University at Brighton in June, 1895.

14 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6009.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 July, page 12)

On a nice, easy wicket at Worcester, yesterday, the home batsmen batted well and Lancashire had to field all day.

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

The Lancastrians played a fine uphill game at Worcester yesterday. Mr MacLaren was quite himself; but it was curious that in such a heavy scoring match no century has yet been made. At the close of play Lancashire were only 17 runs behind with three wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 July, page 10)

The match at Worcester was left unfinished yesterday. Heavy scoring marked the play to the end, and at no time was there any prospect of reaching a definite issue.

14 July: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6010.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 July, page 12)

The return match between Yorkshire and Essex began at Bradford, yesterday, in beautiful weather. Essex had a strong team, and on the Yorkshire side Mr F S Jackson and Hunter displaced W Brown and Higgins.

A heavy dew made the wicket difficult at the start; but Lord Hawke decided to bat first, and events proved that he had not been lacking in judgment. J T Brown and his captain were both clean bowled by Young early in the game; but the pitch was quite easy after the first hour. Tunnicliffe and Mr T L Taylor batted cautiously until the former spooned a ball to mid-off, and, following this, Mr Jackson and Mr Taylor put up the 100 after an hour and 40 minutes' batting. Mr Jackson was beaten by a capital ball from Mr Tosetti just before luncheon.

Mr Taylor was badly hit by a bumping ball by Buckenham, and then was caught at forward short leg. He played beautiful cricket for some two hours, his contribution of 60 including eight fours. After his dismissal the brightest cricket of the day was played by Denton and Hirst. They hit vigorously from the start and, despite frequent bowling changes, the score was increased rapidly. Denton was first to make three figures, in two hours, but Hirst reached his century in 90 minutes.

The partnership realized exactly 200 runs. Denton ultimately had his wicket thrown down by Mead from cover-point. He had been batting two and a half hours and hit 20 fours. Hirst was missed by Mr Kortright at 100, but otherwise made no mistake. He was given out leg-before to Mr Perrin from the last ball of the day.

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

The heavy scoring done by Yorkshire on the opening day of the match with Essex at Bradford was supplemented yesterday by further fine cricket on the part of Hirst and Rhodes. This pair punished the Essex bowlers so severely that 59 were added for the eighth wicket in less than half an hour.

Haigh made his 50 in as many minutes, and ultimately fell to a good catch almost on the boundary. He hit nine fours. Rhodes too played attractive cricket, always scoring freely on the off-side. The innings had been in progress six hours when the fifth century was hoisted, but Buckenham, taking up the attack in place of Young, quickly brought matters to the close. Mr Tosetti made a brilliant catch at second slip which dismissed Rhodes.

Essex were called upon to make 355 to save the follow-on and, as was generally expected, the task proved too much for them. Mr F L Fane, however, played beautiful cricket, scoring his second century of the season in faultless style, without giving the semblance of a chance. He went in first with the Essex captain and was not out 35 at the interval, and with Mr Perrin as partner took the score up to 93 for the fall of the second wicket. Mr Fane made his hundred in three and a quarter hours, but after adding six more he was taken at the wicket. His best strokes were 13 fours.

Mr Tosetti afterwards hit freely all round the wicket, twice lifting a ball from Rhodes over the football pavilion for six. The remaining batsmen on the side gave little trouble, and being in a minority of 223 the visitors followed on. They lost two wickets for 27, and are 196 behind with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 July, page 10)

When the match between these counties reached its final stage at Bradford yesterday, Essex were in a bad position. They required 196 to escape an innings defeat and, as had been generally anticipated, the task proved too much for them. The weather was beautifully fine but the attendance was very small.

Mr F L Fane, as in the first innings, played careful cricket and was again the highest scorer on the visitors' side. He and Young put on 75 runs for the third wicket as the result of 70 minutes' batting. It is only fair, however, to Hirst and Rhodes to state that the batsmen had some good luck. Young was caught at mid-on for a hard hit 37. Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey were quickly got rid of, and Haigh did Yorkshire an excellent turn by bowling Mr Fane.

Essex required 68 runs to save an innings defeat at the luncheon interval, and half-an-hour's additional play completed the game. Mr C J Kortright played steadily for a time and made a number of capital off-drives, but when he was caught at the wicket off Rhodes the innings quickly terminated. Mead, the last man to go, lifted Rhodes over the football pavilion, but in the succeeding over Rhodes threw down Buckenham's wicket with a fine shot from mid-on.

At a quarter to 3 Yorkshire won by an innings and 30 runs. Rhodes took five wickets for 72. There will be one change in the Yorkshire team to meet Notts to-day, Higgins displacing Hunter as wicketkeeper.

Wednesday 16 July, page 12

THE TESTIMONIAL TO THOMS. - At the annual dinner of the Incogniti Cricket Club on July 25 at the Café Royal, when Sir Augustus Hemming will be in the chair, the testimonial to Robert Thoms, the veteran cricketer and umpire, will be presented. 17 July: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6011.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 July, page 10)

Although the wicket at Tunbridge Wells, yesterday, appeared hard and true, it played a trifle slow and always gave the bowlers some assistance. The Kentish batsmen throughout their innings adopted cautious methods, no one scoring with any degree of freedom. Mr Mason was at the wickets two hours and ten minutes, and Mr Burnup an hour and three-quarters. Cox troubled the batsmen considerably, sending down at one period ten overs for five runs, and on another occasion five overs for no runs and one wicket.

During the Sussex innings the bowlers continued to maintain their mastery, the ball getting up awkwardly at times. The Sussex batsmen started forcing the game and for a time their tactics appeared likely to be successful, Mr Fry and Vine putting on 44 in 20 minutes. Relf gave two easy chances before being bowled, but K S Ranjitsinhji played finely.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 July, page 14)

When play ceased yesterday this match was in an interesting position, as Sussex, with two wickets to fall, required 13 runs to win. Bland, who did not bat on Thursday and was out of the field yesterday through sunstroke, is still unwell, so it is probable the result will depend upon Tate and Butt.

Overnight Sussex had lost five wickets for 119, and the innings was finished off in 25 minutes. K S Ranjitsinhji alone played with confidence, and it was unfortunate for Sussex that he was thrown out. In the Kent second innings Tate took his last six wickets in 18 balls for 13 runs.

Sussex only required 113 to win. Mr Fry was batting 80 minutes, and Relf and Killick 85 each for their runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 July, page 12)

When this match entered upon its final stage at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, Sussex with two wickets in hand required 13 runs to win. It was stated overnight that Bland was still under medical treatment through the effects of sunstroke, but fortunately for Sussex, as it happened, he was able to bat. Tate was bowled without adding to his score, but in the end Sussex won by a wicket.

17 July: LANCASHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6012.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 July, page 10)

The Essex eleven acquitted themselves well at Old Trafford yesterday. Mr Tosetti and Mr Perrin in an hour and 40 minutes put on 115 runs, when the latter was caught in the slips for 90. He played in his usual easy style, but he was missed by Ward when 40, and a run later by Mr MacLaren, both chances being given in the slips.

Mr Tosetti, who was 69 when Mr Perrin left, carried out his bat for a good innings of 132. He offered no catch, but he made a bad stroke over the head of mid-on when he was 94, though I'Anson could not quite reach the ball.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 July, page 14)

At Old Trafford, yesterday, Lancashire had considerably the worse of the game with Essex, as with seven wickets down they were still requiring 30 to avert the follow-on. At this stage, however, I'Anson and Sharp became associated, and by hitting up 54 in just over half an hour did their county a remarkably good turn. The last three wickets accounted for 100 runs. Tyldesley completed his thousand runs for the season. He was batting over two hours and ten minutes.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 July, page 12)

A fine victory for Lancashire, who won this match by three wickets, was entirely brought about by Tyldesley, who played one of the greatest innings of his career at Old Trafford on Saturday. In an hour Essex added 63 more runs for their outstanding four wickets, so that they left the Northerners requiring 289 to win.

Mr Potter and Ward put on 49 for the first wicket of Lancashire, while Ward and Tyldesley took the total to 125 before the former was bowled for a free and faultless innings. Tyldesley stayed until he made the winning hit. Tyldesley showed magnificent cricket, and though he almost placed a ball into his wicket when 65 and was nearly stumped when 124 his defence was sound and his hitting perfect. He hit 19 fours, four threes and nine twos. There was great enthusiasm at the close of the match.

17 July: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6013.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 July, page 10)

Middlesex scored heavily at Lord's yesterday. For their fine innings they were indebted mostly to Mr G W Beldam, a not very attractive batsman to watch, but one of great value to his side. Mr Headlam helped him to add 130 for the last wicket. The wicket was easy and the fielding moderate.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 July, page 14)

It was a good day's cricket at Lord's, yesterday. Hayes played splendidly for his runs, making 114 out of 181 in two hours. Mr Dowson also showed good form.

When Middlesex went in a second time there was a wonderful change in the play. Lockwood, on a wicket that had broken a bit, carried everything before him, taking eight wickets for 25 runs. He varied his pace and his fast ball came back with telling effect.

Surrey now wanted only 57 to win with an innings to play. There was a big company and the cricket was the brightest seen at Lord's this year.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 July, page 12)

Surrey beat Middlesex, at Lord's, on Saturday by ten wickets. They had only 57 to make with an innings to play, and Hayward and Abel quickly hit these off.

17 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6014.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 July, page 10)

The Notts eleven made a good start in their return match with Yorkshire, at Nottingham, yesterday. They kept the Yorkshire team in the field for four and a half hours, and scored 328 runs. Play was curtailed half an hour before luncheon by a shower, but the rest of the day was beautifully fine and the attendance was the largest of the season. The wicket, too, was the best either team has played upon this year.

A magnificent innings by Mr Dixon was the leading feature of the Notts batting. He was at the wickets for three hours and scored 123. The only blemish in his performance was a chance off Haigh

to Brown, at short slip, when 72. He hit 14 fours, four threes and ten twos. The innings is the first of three figures Mr Dixon has scored off Yorkshire bowling.

Shrewsbury also batted finely. He scored 66 in two hours and 20 minutes, and with Mr Dixon added 115 runs for the fourth wicket. Rhodes was the most successful Yorkshire bowler, taking five wickets for 91 runs. Haigh and Hirst also bowled well, but Mr Jackson was erratic and Brown's slows were expensive. The fielding of the Yorkshire team generally was not quite up to its usual high standard.

Yorkshire had ten minutes' batting at the close, and scored 16 without losing a wicket. They are now 312 runs behind with practically a full innings to play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 July, page 14)

The Notts team were kept in the field for nearly six hours at Nottingham yesterday, and Yorkshire wound up the day's cricket with a lead of 115 runs, with three wickets still to fall. Bad fielding contributed to the loss of so much ground by the Notts team, six chances being dropped, and, in addition, the ground fielding was not smart.

For the second time within the week two members of the Yorkshire team scored centuries. Mr Taylor scored 120 in three hours, hitting eight fours, eight threes and 19 twos, and, although he was missed when 34 and 98, he played free and pleasing cricket. Tunnicliffe was four hours in making 104. When 76 he was badly missed by Wass at mid-on. He hit eight fours and 18 twos. Hirst played the liveliest cricket of the day, scoring 63 within an hour.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 July, page 12)

The Notts Eleven succeeded in making a creditable draw of their match with Yorkshire at Nottingham on Saturday. Yorkshire were 115 runs ahead at the commencement of play with three wickets to fall. In an hour the three wickets were obtained for an additional 54 runs.

Notts thus had to enter upon their second innings at 1 o'clock 169 runs behind. They lost Mr Jones after 46 had been scored in three-quarters of an hour. Then Iremonger and W Gunn put on 89 runs in an hour and a quarter for the second wicket. With Shrewsbury as Iremonger's partner the arrears were wiped off at half-past 4 with eight wickets in hand. The cricket was not of a serious character after this, it being obviously impossible to finish the match. When stumps were drawn Notts had established a lead of 86 runs with only two wickets down.

During the afternoon Iremonger made his total for the season into 1,000 runs. He scored 100 out of 183 in three hours without giving a chance, but should have been caught in the slips off Denton when 105. His steady play undoubtedly was responsible for Notts being able to make a favourable draw of the match. Tunnicliffe, owing to a sprained knee, could not field, and will not be able to play today against Gloucestershire at Leeds.

17 July: SOMERSET v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6015.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 July, page 10)

The Australians are always well received at Taunton, and yesterday over 4,000 spectators saw the beginning of their match with Somerset. Very pleasant weather prevailed and the cricket proved most attractive.

The home side took three hours and a quarter to make 274, and though the highest individual score was 52 much of the batting was excellent. In the course of an hour and three-quarters' play before lunch 116 runs were obtained for the loss of Mr Lionel Palairet and Braund, while the remaining men were dismissed after lunch for the addition of 158 runs. Mr Palairet, in spite of a quiet start, gave one of his best displays, his driving being beautifully timed and his hitting leg stronger than usual.

Braund was not quite so sound, and Mr Martyn, the old Oxonian, whose period of qualification is just completed, also gave a chance when 12. Still he played dashing cricket, making 52 in an hour, and twice drove balls from Mr Saunders out of the ground.

The Australians scored even more rapidly than the home side, as in the closing 75 Messrs of the day they compiled 128, and only lost Mr Trumper and Mr Darling. Mr Duff, who went in first, was not out with 75 to his credit. His partnership with Mr Noble yielded a like number of runs. The fielding was as good as the batting, very few mistakes being made, while much of the work was brilliant.

Mr Carter, Mr Hill and Mr Howell stood out of the colonial eleven, while Somerset, in addition to Mr Martyn, had the assistance of Hardy, an ex-Surrey player who is qualifying for them.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 July, page 14)

Two good batting performances marked yesterday's cricket at Taunton and kept it well up to the high level which it attained on the opening day. Mr Duff, who did so much to give the Australians the better of Thursday's play, continued his innings without any loss of form, and was not dismissed until he had made 183, thus beating the 182 he scored at Bradford against an England team, which has stood as the highest individual total of the tour. He did not make a bad stroke and was at the wickets three hours. He hit 34 fours.

Mr Palairet, on the other hand, displayed rare brilliancy, to start with securing 50 in 40 minutes mainly by the aid of 11 fours. It took him rather more than two hours to reach 90. The only other noteworthy feature of the day's work was the bowling of Gill, who dismissed five men at a cost of 80 runs.

Somerset cleared off that deficit for the loss of one wicket, but were only 85 to the good at the drawing of stumps, with half the side out.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 July, page 12)

When rain began to fall at Taunton on Saturday afternoon it ruined what promised to be an extremely interesting finish, for not a ball could be bowled after 25 minutes to 4. The Australians at the finish required 226 runs to win and had nine wickets in hand.

This result was brought about by the consistent scoring of the last five Somerset batsmen, who in the course of two hours and ten minutes carried the total from 159 to 315. Mr Johnson received valuable assistance from Gill and Hardy, while with the aid of Mr Newton he wound up his excellent work by putting on 42 in 25 minutes. He batted an hour and 40 minutes for his 62 and, though he made two or three bad strokes through the slips, he did not give a chance.

The Australians started their last innings at a quarter past 3, so they would have had to score at a rapid rate to get the 242 runs required.

17 July: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

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

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 July, page 10)

At Birmingham, yesterday, Kinneir and Devey made a good start by putting on 123 for the first wicket, but the batting honours were carried off by Quaife, who played sound if rather tedious cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 July, page 14)

Warwickshire at Birmingham, yesterday, established a strong lead. Leicestershire still wanted 144 to save a single innings defeat with seven wickets in hand. The bowling of Field was the chief cause of Leicestershire's breakdown in their first innings.

Warwickshire easily won the match at Birmingham on Saturday by ten wickets. The losers never recovered from their bad performance in the first innings.

Monday 21 July, page 12: THE AVERAGES

BATTING

BATTING					
	Innings	Runs	Most in innings	Not outs	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	20	932	234*	2	54.55
Mr E M Ashcroft	14	662	162	0	47.28
Tyldesley	27	1181	165	2	47.24
Iremonger	25	1052	148	1	43.83
Mr T L Taylor	23	1065	142*	2	40.96
Shrewsbury	22	737	105*	4	40.94
Abel	39	1387	179	5	40.79
Mr A C MacLaren	25	901	174	2	39.17
W G Quaife	21	733	153*	2	38.57
Mr S H Day	12	381	117*	2	38.10
Mr C J B Wood	34	1173	176	3	37.83
Mr P Perrin	21	589	90	6	35.81
Mr C B Fry	34	1175	159	1	35.80
Dr W G Grace	28	653	131	2	35.64
Brockwell	28	742	80*	7	35.33
W Gunn	15	492	120	1	35.14
Mr W Newham	15	489	153	1	34.92
Mr C McGahey	23	619	104	5	34.38
Devey	21	643	89	2	33.84
Mr J R Mason	24	604	107	0	33.50
Mr W L Murdoch	21	667	132	1	33.35
Mr V F S Crawford		809	101*	1	33.33
Knight	27	859	145*	1	33.03
Relf	29	790	94	5	32.91
Hayward	29	887	144	2	32.65
Mr C J Burnup	31	931	161	2	32.10
Mr F L Fane	21	575	108	3	31.94
Mr A O Jones	22	701	100	0	31.88
Denton	28	845	127	1	31.29
Mr E W Dillon	29	839	137	2	31.07
Tunnicliffe	28	823	105	1	30.48
Mr E M Dowson	27	730	72	3	30.41
Mr D L A Jephson	21	600	94	9	30.00
Hirst	28	735	134	3	29.40
Mr G Brann	16	441	108	1	29.40
Mr G W Beldam	21	555	155*	2	29.21
Lockwood	24	656	102	2	28.90
Mr W H B Evans	20	574	142	0	28.70
Arnold	27	658	74*	4	28.39
Killick	27	707	97	2	28.28
Capt H S Bush	26	673	122	2	28.64
Mr G L Jessop	28	729	126	2	28.03
Braund	27	745	141	0	27.59
Needham	13	301	65	2	27.36
Washington	23	643	100*	3	27.15
King	33	813	130	3	27.10
Mr L C H Palairet		650	90	0	27.08
Mr C H B Marsham	23	537	120	3	26.35
Bowley	25	632	122*	1	26.33
Mr K R B Fry	14	356	127	0	26.14
Mr H J Wyld	16	358	85	2	25.57
Mr S M J Woods	23	540	88*	1	24.54
Mr A E Lawton	28	657	140	1	24.33

Mr B J T Bosanquet	20	486	103	2	24.30	
Mr C H M Ebden	21	510	137	0	24.28	
Mr W Troup	24	531	127*	2	24.13	
Dr R MacDonald	16	289	62	4	24.08	
Vine	32	697	92	3	24.03	
Kinneir	20	429	98	2	23.63	
Mr F S Jackson	20	424	101*	2	23.55	
Mr R T Crawford	23	537	91	0	23.34	
Haigh	23	457	85	3	22.65	
Board	31	610	65*	4	22.59	
Lilley	20	392	72*	2	21.77	
J Gunn	21	432	80	1	21.60	
Mr H K Foster	23	493	80	0	21.43	
Mr M Bonham-Carter	19	328	66	3	20.50	
Llewellyn	27	503	90	2	20.12	
Mr E R Wilson	20	339	142	3	19.94	
Mr C J Kortright	15	278	53	1	19.85	
Lord Hawke	21	335	107*	3	18.61	
Mr A Eccles	28	439	95	4	18.29	
Trott	28	510	103	0	18.21	
Mr G W F Kelly	14	233	48*	1	17.92	
J T Brown	24	428	76	0	17.75	

BOWLING

BOWLING					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Haigh	392.3	118	958	84	11.40
Hargreave	599.2	200	1178	87	12.96
Tate	762.5	254	1613	124	13.00
Rhodes	722.1	220	1679	116	13.35
Mr F S Jackson	285	83	640	46	13.91
Blythe	494.1	147	1088	74	14.70
Mr J R Mason	322.2	121	655	40	16.37
Mr E R Wilson	460.4	160	852	54	16.51
J T Hearne	438.5	151	1156	60	16.75
Wass	444.2	105	1241	74	16.77
Mr G L Jessop	226.3	53	618	36	17.16
Gill	299.2	69	851	49	17.36
Lockwood	423.2	93	1166	67	17.40
Hirst	474.3	137	1027	62	17.69
Cranfield	537.5	115	1516	85	17.83
Braund	580.2	121	1706	91	18.74
Barnes	556	146	1344	70	19.20
Llewellyn	824.1	230	2260	114	19.82
Hallam	442.2	145	914	46	19.88
G A Wilson (Worcs)	550	110	1544	77	20.05
Mr E E Steel	355.1	79	981	48	20.43
Mead	524.1	163	1178	57	20.66
Trott	555.5	104	1701	81	21.00
Mr E M Dowson	494.3	108	1492	71	21.01
Dr W G Grace	435.1	135	952	45	21.15
Mr W M Bradley	363.3	113	894	41	21.80
J Gunn	460.1	140	1118	46	24.30
Richardson	514.2	103	1451	54	25.87

THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING

			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	28	1234	128	0	44.07
Mr R A Duff (N.S.W.)	33	1039	183	5	37.10
Mr C Hill (S.A.)	28	808	123	1	32.07
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	26	540	87*	7	28.42

6

Mr	A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	28	677	105*	4	28.20
Mr	S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	28	633	83	5	27.52
Mr	J Darling (N.S.W.)	29	604	128	4	24.18
Mr	M A Noble (N.S.W.)	25	491	100	3	22.31
Mr	J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	16	232	75	3	17.84
Mr	E Jones (S.A.)	14	166	40	1	12.76
Mr	H Carter (N.S.W.)	10	62	31	3	8.85
Mr	H Trumble (V.)	8	42	32	1	6.00
Mr	W P Howell (N.S.W.)	17	57	16	3	4.07
Mr	J V Saunders (V.)	14	30	9*	3	2.72

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average	
Mr H Trumble (V.)	204.5	70	390	39	10.00	
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	344	116	655	43	15.46	
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	419.4	130	1089	68	16.01	
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	335.4	101	790	48	16.45	
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	335.3	89	355	22	16.52	
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	112.3	29	326	19	17.15	
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	244.4	43	824	48	17.16	
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	410.3	108	1141	58	19.67	

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are now as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	15	7	1	7	6	75.00
Sussex	15	5	2	8	3	42.25
Lancashire	15	6	3	6	3	33.33
Warwickshire	10	4	2	4	2	33.33
Surrey	16	4	2	10	2	33.33
Notts	13	3	2	8	1	20.00
Kent	13	5	5	3	0	0.00
Somerset	11	4	5	2	-1	-11.11
Worcestershire	12	3	4	5	-1	-14.28
Gloucestershire	12	3	4	5	-1	-14.28
Derbyshire	9	2	3	4	-1	-20.00
Leicestershire	12	1	3	8	-2	-50.00
Essex	11	1	3	7	-2	-50.00
Hampshire	10	1	6	3	-5	-71.42
Middlesex	8	0	4	4	-4	-100.00

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The fourth test match will be played at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Thursday next and following days.

Lord Hawke, Mr Gregor MacGregor and Mr H W Bainbridge, with advice from Mr F S Jackson and Mr A G Steel, the president of the M.C.C., have selected the eleven for England, with the condition that the side may be changed on the morning of the match. The additional players called upon to attend in case their services should be required are not yet for publication. Provisionally the following cricketers are chosen: -

Mr A C MacLaren (captain), Mr F S Jackson, Mr Lionel Palairet, K S Ranjitsinhji, Tyldesley, Abel, Lockwood, Hirst, Rhodes, Braund and Lilley.

Of the above eleven Mr MacLaren, Mr Jackson, Tyldesley, Hirst, Rhodes, Braund and Lilley were in the team at Birmingham, Lord's and Sheffield; Lockwood was in the side at Birmingham and Lord's, but gave place at Sheffield to Barnes; Abel played at Sheffield without having been chosen in either of the previous matches; and Mr L C H Palairet now comes in for the first time. K S Ranjitsinhji played at Birmingham and Lord's, but after being picked for Sheffield had to stand out of the match owing to an injured knee. Mr C B Fry and Mr G L Jessop, after having been in the eleven on the three previous occasions, now drop out, but, of course, one or other of them may be among the players yet to be added.

21 July: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6017.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 July, page 8)

In this match, which began at Liverpool yesterday, Lancashire played Mr W Findlay, the Etonian and Oxford wicket-keeper, as well as Silcock, a good bat and medium left-hand bowler, who is engaged at Leyland, both Ward and I'Anson having been injured in the Essex match.

The start was by no means auspicious, but Tyldesley played brightly. He was, however, caught at third man when the total was 96, having scored 54 in an hour and 20 minutes, chiefly by the aid of nine fours and two threes. Mr MacLaren seemed well set when he was beaten by a good-length ball, while Mr Findlay was carefulness itself for 55 minutes.

The feature of the latter part of the innings was a spirited display by Sharp and Silcock, although the former was missed by Mr Warner at player when 28. He played a dashing game and the ninth wicket realized 85 runs in just over 35 minutes. Sharp, who has not made over 50 before this season, hit 11 boundaries. Without another run being added Silcock was bowled for a meritorious 43, which included six fours.

Middlesex had an hour and 35 minutes' batting late in the afternoon. Runs came very slowly, and with 29 on the board Silcock handed the ball to Sharp, who got Mr Warner caught at third slip after nearly 40 minutes' play. Without any alteration in the total Beldam was unfortunately run out in attempting a third run for a late cut. Ahsan-ul-Hak batted most cautiously for an hour and a quarter.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 July, page 12)

Only a little over an hour and a half's play was possible at Liverpool, yesterday, and in that time the visitors added 103 for the loss of four more wickets. Mr Bosanquet made his highest score for the county this season, and Hearne played cautiously.

Trott, who went in when five wickets had fallen for 122, obtained his 35 in 35 minutes. He ought to have been caught at deep square-leg by Mr Potter when only 11.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 July, page 8)

Heavy rains in the morning so abbreviated play in the match that a draw was always assured at Liverpool. Yesterday, instead of resuming at a quarter-past 11 as arranged, the game could not be continued until half-past 2, and Middlesex completed their innings in half-an-hour for the addition of 15 runs . . .

21 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6018.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 July, page 8)

Mr Perrin's 121, at Leicester, yesterday, was the foundation of the fine Essex score. He got most of his runs by driving, and with Mr McGahey put on 123 runs in an hour and a half for the third wicket. Mr A P Lucas played in splendid style for his runs. The weather was cheerless and the company small.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 July, page 12)

At Leicester, yesterday, there was a short day's cricket. The weather only permitted Leicestershire to increase their score for 11 for no wicket overnight to 129 for three. Whitehead batted well on the easy pitch and King also showed good form.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 July, page 8)

This match at Leicester was abandoned as a draw without a ball being bowled yesterday . . .

21 July: LONDON COUNTY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6019.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 July, page 8)

Yesterday's play in this match at Crystal Palace was uninteresting. The weather was showery and dull, with the result that play was twice adjourned, while owing to bad light the interval between the innings extended over an hour.

Some rain had fallen overnight, so Dr Grace, although without Llewellyn, who was absent from the field throughout the innings, put Derbyshire in. The visitors gave only a moderate show against the two Somerset bowlers. When stumps were drawn London County, with eight wickets to fall, were 166 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 July, page 12)

Rain curtailed play in this match at the Crystal Palace yesterday. Two hours only were allowed to cricket, and the score was left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 July, page 8)

At the Crystal Palace yesterday a low scoring match resulted in Derbyshire defeating London County by 99 runs.

21 July: SURREY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6020.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 July, page 8)

Abel's century was the feature of the cricket in the first day of Surrey's second match on the Oval with the Australians. He played with great steadiness on the slow wicket and dealt with the bowling with great skill, showing a reach for a man of his stature quite wonderful, particularly when playing Mr Saunders.

Abel went in first. His best partners were Hayward, Hayes and Brockwell for the first, second and fourth wickets, which yielded 45, 85 and 59. Abel was fourth out at 219, caught in the slips. His is the third 100 made against the Australians. The other two were by Braund and Tyldesley. Hayward played well; but Brockwell is quite out of form just now and got his runs rather luckily. Mr Leveson-Gower's batting in the closing hour was among the best features of the day.

In view of the test match, Mr Darling saved his best bowlers, Mr Noble and Mr Howell, as much as possible, and Mr Armstrong and Mr Saunders did most of the work. Indeed, the score was at 172 for three wickets before Mr Noble went on for the first time. Mr Howell was tried at 162 and bowled faster than usual. Mr Jones, Mr Kelly and Mr Trumble were rested in view of the Manchester match.

Taken as a whole, the cricket, in spite of Abel's big innings, was dull, and there was little enthusiasm among the crowd of 8,000 people. The weather was cheerless. Mr Crawford and Mr Dowson were absent from the Surrey side.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 July, page 12)

There was no cricket on the Oval, yesterday, until after 4 o'clock. Then on the wet wicket Mr Howell got the last two Surrey batsmen in one over, and the Surrey innings, which had lasted some five hours, yielded 296.

Mr Trumper and Mr Duff made a splendid start for the Australians, and in a partnership of an hour and ten minutes scored 142 for the first wicket. Mr Trumper forced the game in great style all round the wicket. Surrey saved their bowler Lockwood, who did not go on until 123, and then got two wickets for three runs. There is little prospect of a finish to the match, and to-day stumps will be drawn at half-past 5 in order to enable the Australians to get comfortable time for their train to Manchester.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 July, page 8)

The match at the Oval yesterday was drawn. On an easy wicket Mr Hill played a very fine innings and Mr Darling hit hard, the two in their partnership making 90 in three-quarters of an hour.

After luncheon there was quite a large company to see the play, when Mr Saunders achieved the feat of getting six wickets for nine runs. Stumps were pulled up at half-past 5 and the match was drawn . . .

21 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6021.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 July, page 8)

At the close of a quiet day's cricket at Worcester, yesterday, there was little to choose between the positions of the sides. Gaukrodger again proved his consistent usefulness to Worcestershire by his free scoring.

For Sussex Cox and Tate bowled with great effect, and in batting Relf and Vine made a fine start. Neither K S Ranjitsinhji nor Mr C B fry was able to help Sussex.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 July, page 12)

Little headway could be made with the game at Worcester, yesterday, and the score was left as follows \cdot . \cdot

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 July, page 8)

A brilliant innings by Mr H K Foster marked the cricket at Worcester yesterday, and the game was drawn as follows . . .

21 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6022.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 July, page 8)

The Gloucester team made a disastrous start at Leeds yesterday. They were without Mr Troup, Mr Sewell and Mr Brown, and, in addition, had to bat a man short. After Yorkshire had completed an innings for 253, to which Tunnicliffe, Mr Taylor, Hirst and Washington were the principal contributions, they got Gloucestershire out in an hour and five minutes for 46 runs. Mr Taylor and Hirst had a very bright partnership for the fifth wicket; they were together an hour and scored 112. Five of the Yorkshire wickets were down for 222, and the remaining five fell for 31.

Spry had the splendid record of eight wickets for 83 runs, but he took the last six for only 12 runs. He is a slow right arm bowler engaged on the Bristol ground staff. Most of his Querl were obtained with a lofty delivery, which quite deceived the batsmen. The Gloucestershire fielding was not good, otherwise Yorks would have been out for a much smaller score. Both Mr Taylor and Tunnicliffe were twice missed.

Haigh and Rhodes for Yorkshire bowled with deadly effect. The first two wickets put on 36 runs, and only ten were afterwards scored. Gloucestershire followed on in a bad light, and they now require 203 to save the innings defeat with nine wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 July, page 12)

Rain prevented a resumption of play in this match at Leeds yesterday; the downfall was slight, but persistent, and it was not until 3 o'clock that the captain decided to postpone the game until this morning. Gloucestershire, with a wicket down in their second innings, need 203 to escape an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 July, page 8)

Yorkshire won their match with Gloucestershire at Leeds yesterday by an innings and 91 runs. No play had taken place on Tuesday owing to rain.

Yesterday the wicket rapidly became very difficult under the hot sun. Gloucestershire needed 203 runs to escape an innings defeat and had nine wickets in hand. Wrathall and Board during a stand of 70 minutes took the score from four to 84. Board was then bowled by Haigh. Wrathall was sixth out, caught in the slips, for 65. The other batsmen made a very feeble resistance against the bowling of Rhodes, who took six of the last seven wickets for 36 runs.

Wednesday 23 July, page 12: THE CRICKETERS' NATIONAL WAR FUND

Mr A G Steel, the president of the M.C.C., and Mr F E Lacey, the secretary of the M.C.C., have issued the following letter: -

"Now that the cricket season is drawing to a close the committee of the M.C.C. desire to recall attention to their circular of March 26, with regard to the Cricketers' National War Fund, in the hope that cricket clubs and cricketers in general will contribute to this charity in response to the Queen's appeal. Although the war has come to an end, there are still thousands of our troops still in South Africa, and of those who have returned large numbers are unable to find employment, and there is consequently urgent need of assistance for their families."

THE YORKSHIRE TEAM. - The champion county will be without their test match reps in the match at Worcester to-morrow. Mr E R Wilson, the Cambridge University captain, will fill one of the vacancies, and the other places will be filled by W Brown and L Whitehead, the reserve being Oyston, of Leeds. J T Brown, of Darfield, the fast bowler, was asked to play, but had to decline owing to a sprained leg.

Thursday 24 July, page 8: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Below will be found the present position of the counties in the championship competition: -

The positions of the counties are now as follows: -

Played Won Lost Drawn Points Percentage

Yorkshire	16	8	1	7	7	77.77
Sussex	16	5	2	9	3	42.85
Lancashire	16	6	3	7	3	33.33
Warwickshire	10	4	2	4	2	33.33
Surrey	16	4	2	10	2	33.33
Notts	13	3	2	8	1	20.00
Kent	12	5	5	2	0	0.00
Somerset	11	4	5	2	-1	-11.11
Worcestershire	13	3	4	8	-1	-14.28
Derbyshire	9	2	3	4	-1	-20.00
Gloucestershire	13	3	5	5	-2	-25.00
Leicestershire	13	1	3	9	-2	-50.00
Essex	12	1	3	8	-2	-50.00
Hampshire	10	1	6	3	-5	-71.42
Middlesex	9	0	4	5	-4	-100.00

ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA

The fourth of the five test matches begins to-day at Old Trafford, Manchester. The provisional English team was published in The Times on Monday; but the side will not be definitely made up until this morning. Tate, of Sussex, has been asked to attend.

24 July: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6023.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 July, page 10)

At Derby, yesterday, Essex kept Derbyshire in the field for nearly the whole of the cricketing hours. The feature of the Essex batting was the form shown by Buckenham. Mr Ollivierre, who is now qualified for Derbyshire, made his first appearance in county cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 July, page 13)

The feature of yesterday's cricket at Derby was the batting of Mr Wright, who was seen at his best. Mr McGahey bowled with great success for Essex.

When Essex went in a second time, Hulme took five wickets for 18. As the game now stands, there is every prospect of a close finish.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 July, page 11)

At Derby, on Saturday, Essex won this match by 120 runs. When Derbyshire resumed their innings they required 224 to win, but any chance that they might have had of success was destroyed by rain on Friday night. Mead and Reeves made the most of their opportunities and the match was over before half-past 1.

24 July: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6024.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 July, page 10)

There was a fine day's cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday. The game opened badly for England both in the field and in bowling. Once after luncheon, when Rhodes was difficult, they looked to have a good chance, but all the luck was with the Australians.

Mr Trumper played a grand innings and made his sixth century for the team. His innings was marked by splendid hitting on the leg side and his placing on the off side was remarkable. He is certainly the finest cricketer on all wickets that we have had from Australia since Mr Massie and the late Mr Percy McDonnell.

It was an easy and slow wicket at starting, but by the time the Englishmen went in the ball was aiding the bowlers tremendously and just suited Mr Trumble. In the early hours the ball came along quite truly, and Mr MacLaren was unable to put on Lockwood until the score was advanced towards a good total. There had been some rain in the early morning, but the wicket was considered playable by the usual hour of starting, and the long day at the wicket was followed with interest by a crowd of quite 20,000.

The dull morning was succeeded by a gloriously fine afternoon, and it was the effect of the sun on the pitch that turned the game, and Mr Darling was fortunate in winning the toss. England have a poor chance of saving the game, seeing that they are 229 behind with half the side out.

Great excitement has been aroused in Manchester by the match. The Australians played precisely the same side that won the match at Sheffield, leaving out Mr Howell, Mr Jones and Mr Carter. The English committee brought up only one reserve man, Tate, of Sussex, and he displaced Hirst.

It was just after 11.30 that the game began. The Australians, who won the toss, quickly grasped the advantage of batting first on the wet wicket and made a splendid start. The Old Trafford wickets are very good this season and the ball came along quite easily. Rhodes and Mr Jackson began the bowling. They kept a nice length, but Mr Trumper and Mr Duff scored quickly and at a wonderfully even rate, and at 70 the score was 35 all.

After a change of bowling, Braund was played easily and well and Tate could never get a length. Mr Trumper cut him severely and 13 were made in one over from him. The fielding was excellent, but the batting was so true that the score mounted quickly. Mr Trumper got his 50 in 55 minutes and Mr Duff reached 50 just inside the hour.

After the century had gone up inside the hour, the batting was more brilliant than ever. Mr Trumper was particularly strong. The wicket was so soft that Mr MacLaren did not put on Lockwood until 129, and his first two overs were full of incidents. Braund made a big attempt to catch Mr Duff at short slip. He lunged out with his right hand, but fell and lost the ball. Then Mr Trumper was nearly thrown out by Rhodes from cover-point in going for a second run.

With the score at 135 the first wicket fell, Mr Duff being caught at the wicket in Lockwood's second over. It had been a wonderful partnership of only 80 minutes' duration. Mr Hill came next. Mr Trumper completed his century in 100 minutes out of 168, and the score at luncheon was 173 for one wicket.

After lunch there was a check on the Australians' success. Rhodes found his length at once and, the wicket helping him, he got three wickets in his first four overs. Mr Trumper was cleverly caught at the wicket and Mr Noble gave a return catch that Rhodes only just held as he fell in taking it. The striker appealed, and Moss, at the bowler's end, referred to Mycroft, umpire, and the batsman was given out. Mr Gregory was caught at the wicket in feeling for an off break from Rhodes. Mr Trumper got his runs in less than two hours. He played beautiful cricket and made 14 fours. Four for 183.

The wicket was now helping the bowlers and there seemed just a chance of the game changing. Rhodes was bowling very well, but Mr Darling and Mr Hill soon put the Australians in a good position again. Mr Darling made most of his forcing powers. His driving was very strong, and he hit one half-volley from Rhodes straight out of the ground for six and drove the same bowler over the ring twice.

Mr MacLaren varied his bowling, but Tate, Braund and Mr Jackson were of no effect. Lockwood came on again, and when 73 had been added in three-quarters of an hour he got Mr Hill cleverly caught by Rhodes at mid-off. The batsman got too far back to hit a short ball and altered his stroke at the last moment.

After Mr Hill and Mr Darling had been separated Mr Hopkins was soon out, and the pace of run-getting slackened. Mr Darling became quiet, and the fielding and bowling were keen and good. Braund had a turn at both ends, but his varied pace and break were of no use. Mr Darling made one grand drive over the ring from him. With Rhodes on, Mr Darling started hitting again, and another fine drive of his carried the ball over the fence near the railway.

Mr Armstrong was bowled with a break-back from Lockwood at 268. The wicket had for some time been palpably helping the bowlers, and the batsmen deserved every credit for their methods in dealing with the ball. Mr Darling was at length caught at mid-off from a skier. His was a fine forcing innings of 90 minutes' duration. The style of his play may be judged from the fact that he hit two sixes and five fours in his 51.

After the adjournment for tea there was nothing to mark the close of the innings. Trumble was caught at moon in going forward to a short ball, and Mr Saunders was bowled by a ball that kicked up and just took the off bail. The innings was over juts before 5 o'clock for 290. Lockwood came out with a splendid analysis, his six wickets costing 48.

England went in at a quarter past 5. Mr Palairet and Abel started briskly with some good hits in front of the wicket. Mr Saunders and Mr Trumble were the bowlers, and their length and break were excellent. Abel was caught in the slips with only a dozen runs on the board, and Mr Palairet was secured at point, while a break-back from Mr Trumble spreadeagled Mr MacLaren's wicket. Mr MacLaren entirely mistimed the ball which was coming in and which he tried to meet on the crease. Three for 14.

Tyldesley and K S Ranjitsinhji made a short stand, but the Australian bowling and fielding were tremendously keen. K S Ranjitsinhji was out in trying to turn a ball off his leg stump, and Tyldesley was caught at third man through hitting forward at a short ball. Five for 44.

Mr Jackson and Braund played steadily and the bowling was good to the end. The score was left so that England require another 80 runs to save the follow-on.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 July, page 13)

In a wonderful day's cricket at Manchester, yesterday, the English Eleven retrieved the game, and now, with only two wickets left, the Australians are but 122 runs on.

There were three great features of a great day's play - Mr Jackson's batting, Braund's stand with him and Lockwood's bowling. But above everything else, the batting of Mr Jackson was the feat of the match. Mr Jackson was always, from his Harrow days, a great batsman, full of resource, courage and nerve, but in his long series of successes he has never done better than he did yesterday. He forced the game at the proper time; he went in when England were in an almost hopeless position and he got his runs without a bad stroke. His late cutting was wonderful and his shortened off drive just beyond cover point was worthy of Dr Grace. Braund, too, played beautiful, steady cricket.

When the Australians went in a second time, Lockwood's bowling was very good; the ball came back at a great pace and his five wickets have so far only cost 28 runs. There was a crowd of 25,000 people and the weather was beautifully fine. The present condition of the match holds out a fine prospect for an exciting finish to-day.

On Thursday night it was generally expected that the wicket, after its cutting up in the morning, would not last, for the sun had baked the pitch, as was observable throughout the afternoon. However, there was a heavy dew, and in the early hours of yesterday, although there had been no more rain, the ball came along quite easily. Mr Trumble and Mr Noble found their length at once, but Mr Jackson and Braund, the overnight not-outs, played steadily and well. Mr Jackson was particularly good, being very strong in his play on the leg side.

Mr Saunders soon came on for Mr Noble. The Australians fielded keenly, Mr Gregory at deep cover and Mr Noble at point doing some splendid work. There was a great cheer when the hundred went up, but how great the difficulty of scoring was can be seen from the fact that the runs had taken more than an hour and three-quarters to make. The bowling was wonderfully true. Mr Trumble sent down 30 overs for 24 runs and two wickets.

Braund and Mr Jackson batted so strongly on the leg side that the bowlers altered their field. Mr Jackson gave Mr Saunders a very hot return to his right hand when 41, but this bowler soon gave way to Mr Noble. The field was splendidly placed, but Braund managed to get a clever four through the slips, while Mr Jackson pulled a bad ball from Mr Trumble for four. Mr Jackson and Braund were now thoroughly set, and with the score at 124 Mr Darling at last took off Mr Trumble, who had been bowling altogether two hours and a quarter at a stretch. The batting triumphed, and there were many cheers for the 150, which meant the saving of the follow-on. The batsmen continued to score and the many bowling changes trouble them not a whit. Mr Darling did his best and had Mr Trumble and Mr Saunders back. There was one great attempt by Mr Darling to catch Mr Jackson at Mid-off from Mr Saunders, but he just failed to reach the ball with his left hand. Mr Noble and Mr Trumper were tried at the ends at which they had not originally bowled.

Just before luncheon, with the score at 185, Mr Noble deceived Braund with a slow one that whipped back off the pitch at a great pace. Braund went forward to it, but was completely beaten. The partnership thus dissolved had yielded 141 runs. Braund had a splendid reception for his very fine innings, made at a critical moment. Lilley came in, and the score was 186 before luncheon.

When the game was resumed, Mr Noble and Mr Saunders were the bowlers. Everybody was intent on the chances of Mr Jackson's making a century. He played one good over from Mr Saunders in a remarkable way. A half-volley he hit hard to Mr Trumper at mid-off, where it was beautifully fielded. He then tried an impossible run and only just got back in time; he then made a lucky stroke that went out of reach of Mr Trumble, and got four for it. There was a roaring cheer for the two hundred, which was reached by a good hit on the leg-side by Lilley. Three runs later Lilley was bowled leg-stump by a break-back from Mr Noble that did not disturb the off bail. The third wicket had yielded 17 runs.

Lockwood made some fine strokes on the leg side, and then at 214 he sacrificed his wicket for Mr Jackson's sake. Mr Jackson had cut a ball from Mr Noble, and Mr Duff only half stopped it; Lockwood and Mr Jackson each started, went back and started again, and this hesitancy left a wicket to be sacrificed. Lockwood went on chivalrously and lost his wicket. If was an unfortunate blunder and Lockwood had a great reception for his self-sacrifice. Eight men were now out for 214.

The Australians did their best to get out Rhodes, and both Mr Noble and Mr Trumble gave him plenty of short stuff to hit. Rhodes, however, kept up his end, and at last, with a cleverly judged single, Mr Jackson got his century, amid a wonderful scene of enthusiasm. The total was then 222, and he had made his hundred out of 192 put on while he was in.

Rhodes was easily caught and bowled at 235, and then Tate came in as last man. Mr Jackson forced the game hard and did his best to get most of the bowling. The sharp running and the hard hitting disturbed the usual equanimity of the Australian field and both batsmen were missed - Mr Jackson at cover by Mr Gregory and Tate by Mr Trumble at short slip.

But at last Mr Jackson was caught in the long field, Mr Duff bringing off a good running catch. His grand innings had lasted four hours and a quarter, and he hit 16 fours and seven threes. The innings was over just before 4 o'clock and England were only 37 behind. Mr Jackson had a wonderful reception on his way in, the crowded company on the pavilion rising to greet him. The Australians had bowled and fielded splendidly, although their display was a trifle marred by the errors in the last few minutes.

The Australians went in again at a quarter past 4. Mr Trumper and Mr Duff were the batsmen, and Braund and Lockwood the bowlers. In Lockwood's second over, when the score was only seven, Mr Trumper was cleverly caught in the slips. Then, in Lockwood's third over, Mr Hill and Mr Duff were out. The former was clean bowled and the latter cut the ball into his wicket. Thus three wickets were down for ten runs.

Next Mr Darling and Mr Gregory were together, and the score was only 16 when Mr Darling was badly missed at deep square-leg, almost on the boundary, by Tate, who, after judging the ball well and making it look quite an easy catch, dropped it. Braund and Lockwood were bowling with great judgment, but the bad miss altered the aspect of the game.

The batsmen played very steadily after this. There was a clever four on the leg side by Mr Gregory off Lockwood, and then at 38 Mr MacLaren made the first change in his bowling, Rhodes going on and Braund crossing over to Lockwood's end. Mr Gregory, when only 19, was nearly caught at short-slip by Braund off Rhodes's bowling.

Afterwards there was a period of dull cricket so far as scoring was concerned. Mr Darling still hit hard, but the fielding was keen and his placing was not so good as usual. Tate was given a chance at 62, and he quickly got out Mr Gregory, who mistimed a short one that he was trying to pull. The fourth wicket fell at 64, and Mr Noble joined Mr Darling, who continued his great defence; but at 74 the Australian captain was out to a wonderful catch by Mr Palairet. The ball was coming to the fieldsman from a low raking drive and he took it running backwards. Half the side were now out for 74.

Lockwood came back to bowl when Mr Hopkins was in, and he quickly got the wickets of both Mr Hopkins and Mr Noble. The former was out from a feeble stroke to mid-on and the latter was taken at the wicket. Seven wickets were down for 77, and a few minutes later Rhodes bowled Mr Armstrong with a break-back that it was impossible to time.

Eight for 79 was the score when Mr Kelly and Mr Trumble were together. The score slowly advanced, in spite of much fine bowling on the part of Lockwood and Rhodes, and the finish left Australia with 85 for eight wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 July, page 11)

Australia won an extraordinary match at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Saturday, by three runs. The result was the more surprising as at one period the Englishmen seemed to have the match in hand. But the Australians played a fine uphill game and their bowlers were supreme. Mr Trumble's length and Mr Saunders's pitch and break were wonderful.

England had the game in their hands before luncheon and the 100 went up with only five men out. But then the side collapsed. The wicket certainly helped the bowlers, but it looked as if the Englishmen should have won quite easily. Mr Darling seemed to upset the whole English side by the placing of his field. He got his men close in, even for such forcing players as Mr Jackson and Mr MacLaren, and his bowlers kept up too good a length to be hit. The Englishmen seemed to become afraid. Instead of going forward and hitting the bowlers off their pitch, they played back cautiously at everything.

Mr Trumble and Mr Saunders were remarkable in their break and length, and the Englishmen, having once dropped their game, could not recover it. The occasion was too much for them and it was quite pitiful to see such a splendid side going to pieces in the way they did. In fact, England failed as they did at the Oval 20 years ago in the game of 1882. They made a splendid start and, after getting the game quite in their hands, lost it.

The Australians have now won the rubber of the test matches, but no doubt the Oval match in August will attract great attention. The executive of the Lancashire County Club are to be congratulated on the excellent arrangements they made for the comfort of the 20,000 spectators of the match on Saturday.

After the heavy night's rain the ups, Moss and Mycroft, considered the pitch unplayable for an hour after the arranged time. The game was renewed at midday, when Mr Trumble and Mr Kelly, the not-outs, went on with the batting. The wicket was very soft and a foothold was difficult to get. Rhodes sent down a maiden to Mr Kelly, and then from the last ball of Tate's first over at the other end Mr Trumble was leg-before, a decision of Moss's that met with much apparent dissatisfaction from the batsman. Nine wickets were down for 85.

Mr Saunders joined Mr Kelly, and after four maidens had been sent down Mr Kelly got a single, and then Rhodes got Mr Saunders caught in the long-field by Tyldesley, a beautifully judged catch. Rhodes had immediately before appealed for a return catch, but Moss, umpiring at short-leg, gave the batsman in. The balance of the innings had lasted 20 minutes for the odd single. Lockwood's bowling figures were unaltered from those given in The Times of Saturday, but Tate finished with a good analysis, making amends to some extent for missing Mr Darling on Friday.

England wanted 124 to win, and went in at 20 minutes to 1. Mr MacLaren and Mr Palairet started with great care. The English captain soon seemed at home and got rid of some very difficult bowling. Mr Noble and Mr Trumble bowled superbly and the score was still only 12 at the end of half an hour. Mr Noble once quite beat Mr Palairet, the ball coming along at a great pace and just missing the off stump. In the next over from Mr Trumble, Mr Palairet made a bad stroke to short-leg (Mr Gregory just missed it) and Mr MacLaren, after being appealed for leg-before, drove Mr Trumble almost to the boundary, but the ball was well fielded by Mr Duff just in front of the screen.

After this there was no particular incident in the cricket for a few overs. The score was up to 24 at the end of half an hour, when Mr Darling changed his bowling and put on Mr Saunders at Mr Noble's end. There were some clever short runs. The wicket was helping the bowlers tremendously and Mr Trumble and Mr Saunders were keeping a fine length and getting much work on the ball. Mr Palairet was nearly caught at short-leg by Mr Gregory, who made a great effort to get to the ball with his right hand and fell in making the attempt.

Mr MacLaren and Mr Palairet showed courage and resourcefulness and, although constantly beaten, they struggled on to 36, as the result of 50 minutes' batting before luncheon. With the weather threatening England still wanted 88 to win.

After luncheon Mr Trumble starting the bowling from the lower end, and from the fifth ball of the over Mr MacLaren made a drive to the boundary. At 44 Mr Palairet was bowled by a break-back from Mr Saunders. Tyldesley came next, and then Mr Trumble, who was getting a lot of work on the ball, nearly got Mr MacLaren caught at short-leg by Mr Gregory. Tyldesley made a beautiful cut for four from Mr Saunders, and got a clever single on the leg side. The 50 was reached in just over an hour, by means of a clever stroke by Tyldesley to leg.

Mr MacLaren made a grand drive for four from Mr Saunders, and was then twice beaten without the ball hitting the wicket. Mr Trumble overpitched one to Tyldesley that was promptly hit for four. But with the field well placed on the leg side there were some narrow escapes. Tyldesley was caught at short-slip at 68, getting forward to a short one. There was a great cheer for K S Ranjitsinhji, but almost directly Mr MacLaren, who had been batting for more than 75 minutes, was out to a well-judged catch at long-on. Three for 72.

Abel was next in and the score was speedily taken to 76, when a sharp shower drove the cricketers to the pavilion for a quarter of an hour. England had now only 48 to get with seven wickets left, and the wicket was scarcely affected by the rain.

Mr Trumble and Mr Saunders were the bowlers. Abel got a couple of pretty strokes on the leg side for two each, and then getting to the other end he got two nice hits from Mr Trumble, who, with a beautifully placed field, tried to get him at long-on. Abel hit hard and the ball each time cleared Mr Duff. K S Ranjitsinhji was not at home, and shortly afterwards was leg-before to Mr Trumble at 92.

Mr F S Jackson had a splendid reception. At 97 Abel hit across at a break-back from Mr Trumble and was bowled. Five for 97. The pitch was now obviously helping the bowlers and the fielding was strong. The 100 had gone up, but the ball was very difficult to get away. Mr Saunders sent down a couple of maidens and then came a lucky three through the slips to Braund. The score reached 107, and then Mr Jackson hit too quickly at a full pitch and gave mid-off an easy catch.

Lilley came in next, England wanting 27 to win. Braund got a fluky three in the slips that fell just short of Mr Armstrong. At 100 Braund was beautifully stumped. Rain then began to fall. Mr MacLaren had been saving Lockwood for emergencies; and the famous old Surrey player was very much cheered when he went in. Mr Trumble, after an ineffectual appeal for leg-before, bowled him completely, leg stump, with the third ball, and eight wickets were down for 109.

Rhodes came next, and hit a short one from Mr Saunders over the ropes. Lilley was missed being run out through a bad return by Mr Hill, but in the same over the latter secured him by a grand catch at deep square-leg. Nine for 116. A heavy shower drove the players to the pavilion and there was no more play for three-quarters of an hour. Tate, the last man, hit the first ball he had from Mr Saunders for four, but in the same over his off stump was bowled down, and amid great excitement Australia won the game by three runs.

24 July: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6025.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 July, page 10)

Middlesex at Beckenham yesterday, upon a wicket which always appeared to play easy, made a very poor show against Kent, the side being dismissed in two hours and three-quarters. Mr Mason and Blythe bowled well, and although Mr Robertson and Trott were both missed the fielding generally was admirable.

Kent made a capital start. Mr Dillon and Mr Burnup during a partnership of two hours put on 146 for the first wicket. The former made one or two bad strokes at the outset of his innings, but afterwards settled down to good cricket, and Mr Burnup throughout displayed excellent form. At the close of play Kent, with nine wickets to fall, were only 18 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 July, page 13)

At one stage of yesterday's play in this match at Beckenham, a victory appeared imminent for Kent. Middlesex in their second innings with six wickets down were but 51 runs on, but a useful contribution by Mr Nicholls and an eighth-wicket partnership by Mr Foley and Hearne considerably improved the visitors' prospects. The last-mentioned pair put on 55 in the same number of minutes, both playing free, attractive cricket, and when the innings closed Kent were left to get 147 runs to win on a wicket wearing in places.

Kent had half an hour's batting before drawing stumps, and in this time they lost Mr Burnup; and with nine wickets to fall they require 124 to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 July, page 11)

By the small margin of five runs Middlesex, at Beckenham on Saturday, gained their first victory of the present season. It was any one's game up to the fall of the last wicket. This was thrown away through Huish's calling Mr Bradley for what appeared to be an impracticable run.

24 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6026.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 July, page 10)

Except the Mr Townsend played in place of Mr Collett, Gloucestershire relied upon the same team at Nottingham, yesterday, that Yorkshire defeated so badly on the previous day at Leeds. The reappearance of Mr Townsend came at an opportune time, as the Gloucestershire batting just now is exceedingly weak. Fortune, however, did not favour him.

Gloucestershire lost the toss, and could not dismiss their opponents until a total of 296 had been scored. That was not an exceptional number, considering that the wicket was decidedly easy. Spry again bowled with success, taking seven wickets at a cost of less than 20 runs apiece. He suffered considerably during the two hours and 40 minutes that Shrewsbury was batting. The celebrated professional was seen quite at his best; his timing and placing was so correct that the only bad stroke he made was the one off which he was caught. Mr Jones and Mr Dixon also scored from him freely, but not in such good style, and he beat them both in the end.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 July, page 13)

Mr Jessop accomplished one of his best batting performances of the season when, at Nottingham, yesterday, out of a total of 272 he made 126 in an hour and 35 minutes. His side had lost three wickets for 43 when he went in and, in spite of all he could do, five were down for 88. Then he found a useful partner in Mr Rowlands and afterwards in Huggins, the professional showing surprisingly good form.

To begin with the Gloucestershire captain played very carefully; he was missed by Wass when four, and he took 50 minutes over his first 50, but he got his second in 15 minutes. His hitting at this stage was brilliant, and one over from Mr Dixon yielded him 19, every ball being scored from. As usual, his driving was marked by great power, but his cutting and leg hitting were the best features of his display. He made 24 fours, four threes and four twos. Owing chiefly to Mr Jessop Notts only had a lead of 24 on the first innings. Wass bowled with considerable success, while Oates kept wicket well.

Going in a second time at half-past 3, the home side fared well, for they now lead by 244 and have six wickets in hand. Mr Jones and Shrewsbury were again the leading scorers, but the former was not seen at his best.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 July, page 11)

Notts beat Gloucestershire, at Nottingham, on Saturday, by 208 runs. They certainly deserved their success, for they played better cricket at all points; their superiority in batting was most marked, although it was largely confined to one man.

Shrewsbury indeed achieved a great personal triumph, for he followed up his 101 in the first innings by carrying out his bat for 127 in the second. When stumps were drawn on Friday he had 77 to his credit, and he took another 40 minutes to secure the balance he needed for complete his second 100 for the match. No other Notts batsman has ever accomplished this feat, and only once has it been done before against Gloucestershire. These things rendered the performance of the veteran all the more noteworthy. All told, he was at the wickets three hours and 35 minutes, and it was mainly his great effort which enabled the Nottingham captain to close his innings when six men were out for 327.

This left Gloucestershire in a minority of 351. They never stood a chance of getting these runs or of lasting through the four hours and 40 minutes left for play. Rain had fallen heavily during the night. Wass bowled splendidly upon the damaged wicket and Gloucestershire were disposed of for 83.

14 June: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6027.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 July, page 10)

Great progress was made with this match at the Oval yesterday, for 23 wickets fell for just over 15 runs apiece. Surrey on going in could do little with the bowling of Gill and Cranfield, who shared the wickets between them, and they were all dismissed by a quarter to 2 for 87.

At one period it seemed probable that Somerset would do little better. Mr Woods and Mr Hill put on 39 for the first wicket. Then there came such a collapse that six of the side were out for another ten runs. Mr Martyn, however, came to the rescue with some free cricket.

On going in a second time Surrey did better, and at the close of play they were 91 runs ahead with seven wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 July, page 13)

Surrey beat Somerset at the Oval yesterday by 91 runs. For this result Surrey were chiefly indebted to Mr H D G Leveson-Gower and Richardson. Mr Leveson-Gower, who is too seldom seen in the Surrey eleven now, played a beautiful innings of 88, for which he was batting some two hours and a quarter. His cricket was marked by every variety of stroke, and he hit 12 fours.

Somerset were set to get 214 to win, a total which was larger than at one time seemed probable. This task, however, proved beyond their capabilities, and at no time did they look like saving the game. Richardson, on a wicket which gave him some assistance, bowled splendidly, and was well supported in the field. The match was over at 25 minutes to 5.

24 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6028.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 July, page 10)

Although considerably depleted in their forces by the test match, Yorkshire took a strong lead in their game with Worcestershire at Worcester, yesterday. The best innings of the day was contributed by Brown, who was batting for upwards of two hours. He gave no chance and always played a correct game. Mr E R Wilson played steadily for upwards of an hour, and his contribution of 63 was only marred by a difficult chance in the slips when he had made 30.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 July, page 13)

The batting of Arnold enabled Worcestershire to improve their position in the match with Yorkshire at Worcester yesterday. He made his 50 in an hour and 35 minutes, and hit up 92, Hunter then stumping him. Some spirited hitting by Wilson and Bannister resulted in 42 being added for the last wicket, and Worcestershire finished only 27 behind the Yorkshire total.

The feature of the Yorkshire second innings was the batting of Brown, senior, who is at present in his best form. He made his 50 in an hour and 20 minutes, and was in two and a half hours. He and Washington put on 118 in an hour and a half. Washington's contribution of 50 included 11 fours. Like Brown, he made the majority of his runs on the leg side. As the game now stands, Yorkshire are 283 on with two wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 July, page 11)

This match at Worcester on Saturday was abandoned as a draw. Only two overs were bowled and rain then put a stop to further play.

Monday 28 July, page 11: THE AVERAGES

BATTING

	Innings	Dung	Most in innings	Not outs	Auorago
Shrewsbury	24	Runs 965	127*	5	Average 50.78
K S Ranjitsinhji	24	938	234*	2	49.40
Tyldesley	30	1273	165	2	45.45
Iremonger	27	1074	146	1	41.30
Abel	43	1523	170	5	40.07
	43 31	1138	142*	2	39.17
Mr T L Taylor	21	733	153*	2	38.57
W G Quaife Mr P Perrin	24	730	121	2 5	38.42
Mr A C MacLaren	24	931	174	2	37.73
	20 35	1195	124*	2	37.73
Mr C J B Wood Mr C B Fry		1195 1175		3 1	
	34		159	1 5	35.60
Mr C McGahey	28	731	104	5 7	34.80
Brockwell	30	787	89*		34.21
W Gunn	16	513	120	1	34.20
Dr W G Grace	28	839	131	2	34.19
Mr A O Jones	24	816	100	0	34.00
Devey	21	643	85	2	33.84
Mr W L Murdoch	21	667	132	1	33.35
Mr V F S Crawford	-	800	101*	1	33.33
Relf	31	856	84	5	32.92
Mr E W Dillon	31	948	127	2	32.63
Mr C J Burnup	33	1109	161	2	32.54
Knight	28	858	145*	1	32.14
Hayward	33	935	107	2	32.09
Denton	31	916	127	2	31.68
Mr J R Mason	26	820	107	0	31.53
Hirst	29	791	134	3	30.42
Arnold	29	757	92	4	30.23
Tunnicliffe	31	902	127	1	30.05
Mr E M Dowson	29	771	72	3	29.65
Mr F L Fane	24	608	106	3	28.95
Mr G L Jessop	33	857	125	2	28.90
Mr W H B Evans	20	574	142	0	28.70
Mr G Brann	17	454	103	1	28.37
King	34	849	130	4	28.30
Capt H S Bush	28	673	122	2	28.04
Killick	29	756	133	2	28.00
Hon F S Jackson	22	559	123	2	27.95
Washington	26	641	100*	3	27.91
Mr G W Beldam	24	593	155*	2	26.95
Braund	31	835	141	0	26.93

Mr B J T Bosanquet	23	561	103	2	26.71
Mr D L A Jephson	35	676	94	9	26.07
Lockwood	28	677	102	2	26.03
Mr C H B Marsham	25	570	129	3	25.90
Mr L C H Palairet	26	673	90	0	25.88
Bowley	23	575	122*	1	25.00
Vine	34	745	74	4	24.83
Mr W Troup	24	531	127*	2	24.13
Kinneir	20	429	83	2	23.83
Mr S M J Woods	25	570	89*	1	23.75
Mr L G Wright	23	549	101	0	23.73
Mr H K Foster	25	610	80	0	23.46
Mr R T Crawford	23	537	91	0	23.34
Mr A E Lawton	32	708	149	1	22.83
Hayes	35	775	114	1	22.79
J T Brown	27	594	91	0	22.00
Board	35	680	95*	1	21.83
Humphries (Derby)	22	349	43	6	21.81
Mr E R Wilson	23	408	142	3	21.47
Haigh	26	489	85	3	21.26
Hallows	27	501	109	3	20.87
Wheldon	27	478	63	4	20.78
J Gunn	23	455	80	1	20.63
Ward	25	494	89	1	20.58
T Russell	20	325	54	4	20.37
Mr L Walker	22	405	80	2	20.25
Wrathall	31	626	78	0	20.19
Lilley	22	403	72*	2	20.15
Gill	31	564	89	2	20.13
Llewellyn	27	503	90	2	20.12
Mr W P Robertson	19	378	60	0	19.89
Marlow (Sussex)	21	231	57	4	19.47
Trott	31	600	103	0	19.33
Gaukrodger	23	357	59	3	18.85
Whitehead (Leics)	27	499	62	0	18.43
Tait	21	257	61*	7	18.35
Lord Hawke	24	354	107*	4	18.20
Mr A Eccles	29	452	95	4	18.03
Storer	34	593	81	1	17.96
Langdon	23	392	62	1	17.81
Corden	22	338	64	3	17.78
G A Wilson (Worcs)	25	293	54	8	17.52
Geeson	24	329	63	5	17.31
Sharp	21	328	61	2	17.25
Mr R N R Blaker	22	345	64*	2	17.25
Mr T S Fishwick	18	307	68	0	17.05
Rhodes	29	342	92*	8	16.26
E Robson (Somerset)	26	423	84	0	16.28
Seymour	25	353	60	2	16.00
Pearson	21	303	53	2	15.94
Hulme	23	316	47	3	15.80
Lewis	26	404	82	0	15.53
	16	233	50*	1	15.53
Mr W Smith Mr G Simpson-Haywar		308	46	1	15.40

BOWLING					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Haigh	452	129	1116	98	11.62
Rhodes	790.5	247	1787	125	12.55
Hargreave	599.2	200	1128	87	12.96
Tate	818.5	267	1789	130	13.76
Blythe	625.4	164	1161	79	14.69
Hon F S Jackson	293	63	696	46	15.17
Lockwood	464.3	103	1260	80	15.75

358.2	131	748	47	15.91
491.2	113	1295	87	16.03
464.4	165	912	54	16.88
216.2	63	576	34	16.94
360.3	90	1122	66	17.00
522.5	195	1354	73	17.25
230.3	64	633	35	17.63
577.5	122	1650	93	17.74
351.3	151	643	36	17.83
455.3	138	1124	63	18.12
281.5	64	700	38	18.65
575.3	152	1375	72	19.09
600.5	133	1934	100	19.34
472.2	156	989	60	19.78
824.1	230	2160	114	19.22
584.1	182	1329	67	19.83
609	122	1725	86	20.05
485.3	138	1154	57	20.24
210.2	54	569	28	20.32
581.4	163	1382	68	20.32
266.1	79	981	48	20.43
664.2	127	1935	95	20.57
484.3	108	1492	71	21.01
435.1	135	952	45	21.25
	22			21.68
	53			21.73
				22.11
				22.76
			-	22.65
			-	22.93
				23.43
			-	23.59
				23.94
		-	-	24.80
	-			24.95
				25.10
	-			25.17
				26.10
				26.86
				20.00
				27.55
				30.65
				31.17
				33.28
101.2	15	1000	01	55.20
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THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING

DATIING					
			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	31	1427	128	0	46.03
Mr R A Duff (N.S.W.)	36	1153	183	5	37.19
Mr C Hill (S.A.)	31	1021	123	1	34.03
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	30	570	87*	8	25.50
Mr J Darling (N.S.W.)	32	724	128	4	23.85
Mr S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	31	600	83	5	25.38
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	31	685	105*	4	25.36
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	28	497	100	3	19.88
Mr J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	18	238	75	5	18.30
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	14	166	40	1	12.76
Mr H Carter (N.S.W.)	11	62	31	3	7.75
Mr H Trumble (V.)	10	48	32	1	5.11
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	19	65	15	3	4.33
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	18	41	9*	4	2.92

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	272.5	96	518	49	10.57
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	394	133	767	46	16.67
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	341.3	67	1071	64	16.73
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	374.4	112	904	54	16.74
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	466.4	147	1194	71	16.81
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	342.3	41?	390	22	17.68
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	132.3	36	355	20	17.75
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	410.3	108	1141	58	19.67

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are now as follows: -

3 4	7.77 2.85
	2.85
3 4	
-	2.85
3 3	3.33
2 3	3.33
2 3	3.33
-1	-9.09
-1	-14.28
-2	-20.00
-1	-20.00
-2	-33.33
-3	-33.33
-2	-50.00
-3	-50.00
-5	-71.42
	3 3: 2 3: 2 3: -1 - -2 - -1 - -2 - -3 - -3 -

28 July: ESSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6029.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 July, page 12)

Essex had a great day at the Leyton ground yesterday. Only five wickets fell during the day and 311 runs were scored. There was a large crowd and the enthusiasm was great. The wicket played easily and there was fine batting by Mr Fane, Mr McGahey and Mr Kortright.

Mr Fane played better than he has done since he left Oxford, and got the majority of his runs on the offside. He was batting three hours, and was out to a catch at mid-off at 177. Mr Kortright's hard hitting and Mr Lucas's classic style gave variety to the day's play. The Australians fielded keenly and well, and their bowlers kept a fine length on an easy wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 July, page 12)

Mr Trumper gave another fine batting display yesterday at Leyton. He went in first and got his 109 out of 159. This was his seventh century for the Australians.

The Australians were in a bad way at one time when Mr Tosetti was put on to bowl. He got Mr Hopkins caught at slip at 192. With the next ball he bowled Mr Kelly, and then he threw out Mr Trumble. With eight wickets down four runs were still wanted to save the follow-on; but these were easily got. Mr Darling was dismissed by a fine catch. The fieldsman ran from long-on and held the ball high up with the left hand. The Australians bowled and fielded splendidly in the last hour. Mr Lucas batted as well as ever, and it was only in the last over of the day that Mr Trumble bowled out Mr Fane. Essex, with nine wickets in hand, are now 143 runs on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 July, page 10)

After a very interesting day's cricket at Leyton yesterday, this match was left drawn. The feature of the play was the batting of Mr Trumper, who, for the second time in the match, exceeded the hundred. His 119 is his eighth score of three figures. Although the list of English cricketers who have accomplished this feat is rather a lengthy one, Mr Trumper is the first Australian to do so in this country.

During the early hours Mr Lucas played splendid cricket for his 50, and Mr McGahey hit freely, his 59 only taking him some 40 minutes to make. Essex had five minutes' batting after lunch and then, with a lead of 297 and two hours and three-quarters left for play, Mr Lucas declared their innings closed. When stumps were drawn and the match left drawn, the Australians, with four wickets in hand, still required 45 runs to win.

28 July: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6030.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 July, page 12)

Mr Robson's policy of putting Surrey in at Southampton yesterday so far has met with great success, for when stumps were pulled up Hampshire held a lead of 72 runs and still had three wickets to fall. Owing to rain a start was not made until 1 o'clock, and then Surrey failed very badly against the bowling of Llewellyn, who took six wickets for 22 runs.

When Hampshire went in the wicket was not so difficult and runs from the first came at a good pace, Mr Hill in part playing splendid cricket. The fixture is a benefit match for Barton.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 July, page 12)

Hampshire beat Surrey at Southampton, yesterday, by ten wickets. Overnight Hampshire held a lead of 72 runs with three wickets in hand. The innings was finished off yesterday for another 52; thus, Hampshire were 124 runs ahead at the end of an innings apiece.

The wicket still remained difficult, but Surrey made a poor attempt to save the game - in fact, they were only able to set their opponents nine runs to get to win. For this state of affairs Hampshire were chiefly indebted to the bowling of Barton, who took five wickets for just over six runs each, and to Llewellyn. The necessary runs were soon hit off by Webb and Mr Bodington, and the match was over early in the afternoon. The quick conclusion of the match was most unfortunate for Barton, who is to receive the proceeds of the game as a benefit.

28 July: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6031.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 July, page 12)

At Maidstone, yesterday, Kent scored 200 for seven wickets. Heavy rain on Sunday had rendered the wicket very soft, and though up to lunch time the weather was fine, a heavy storm delayed play in the afternoon.

After Mr Dillon had been dismissed in the first over Mr Burnup and Mr Marsham made a capital stand, both scoring freely all round the wicket, and the hundred went up after an hour and a quarter's play. The pitch helped Braund almost too much, for, time after time beating the batsmen, the ball broke wide of the wicket. Mr Marsham was smartly stumped by Mr Martyn after making 68 by fine cricket. Both batsmen were missed more than once, and Kent should have been all out before stumps were drawn for the day. Huish and Humphreys, who are both not out, made a good stand for the eighth wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 July, page 12)

At Maidstone, yesterday, the Somerset batting broke down badly before Hearne and Blythe, and the Western shire were beaten in a single innings. Huish and Humphreys, the overnight not-outs, stayed together till the score reached 253, and the former batted well for his runs.

After a poor start Mr Woods and Braund made some resistance, but no one else did much. Following on, the visitors fared even worse and were all out for 97. Kent thus won by an innings and 102 runs.

28 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6032.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 July, page 12)

In the return match between these counties, at Old Trafford, yesterday, Gloucestershire, batting first, occupied the wicket some five hours, while they made such a useful total as 322. Mr Jessop played admirably for 55 minutes while he scored 68 by faultless cricket. Then he edged the ball into the hands of first slip. While he was at the wicket only 18 other runs were recorded.

Mr Troup showed unwonted vigour for 32, driving very hard on both sides of the wicket; but Langdon came out with the highest score. This young professional took an hour and three-quarters to make 50 out of 105, but afterwards he added 34 in 25 minutes, driving and pulling to the on and to square-leg in splendid style. Eventually he was smartly caught at point.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 July, page 12)

When this match was continued at Old Trafford yesterday in unsettled weather Lancashire had a very bad experience. In the first hour they lost Mr MacLaren, Mr Findlay, Tyldesley, Hallows, Holland, Mr Potter and Silcock for 45, and five of these wickets fell to Spry, whose slows on a pitch which gave him some assistance proved all too deadly for his opponents, with the exception of Sharpe and the colt Crabtree, of Colne, who added 77 for the eighth wicket in 50 minutes.

Sharpe, who was the highest scorer, batted well, but Crabtree, who was taken in the slips when one short of his 50, showed himself a most valuable recruit. Cuttell also punished the bowling freely in his effort to avoid the follow-on. Mr Jessop exercised his option by sending Gloucester in again, although they had a lead of 156.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 July, page 10)

Throughout the third day of this match at Old Trafford yesterday Gloucestershire continued to outplay Lancashire, who were decidedly lucky to escape with a draw. When Barnes, the last man in, joined Hallows the home county still required 108 to win. There was only time for Barnes to receive three balls from Spry and, although the fielders gathered round him, he kept his wicket intact and so saved Lancashire from defeat.

Continuing their innings early in the day the visitors forced the game, Langdon making 67 in 70 minutes and Mr Jessop 68 from 53 balls in 45 minutes. Mr Jessop hit ten fours. He stopped the innings when 354 ahead.

Lancashire were saved by Mr Findlay and Hallows. The Oxonian showed fine defence for two hours and a quarter as well as great punishing power.

28 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6033.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 July, page 12)

At Leicester yesterday Worcestershire had slightly the better of the opening day's cricket, and at the close of play they were 28 runs on with two wickets to fall. Although the Leicestershire total reached respectable dimensions, it was chiefly the work of Mr Crawford and Mr Odell, who put on 160 while they were together. Mr Crawford was batting an hour and 50 minutes, and in one over from Burrows he scored 18 runs. Arnold had the good figures of five wickets for 52.

The Worcestershire batting was in marked contrast to that of Leicestershire, is only for its consistency. Mr R E Foster again played a beautiful innings, and it was the best item in an interesting day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 July, page 12)

The feature of yesterday's play at Leicester was the batting of King; but he received such small support from the rest of the side (except Mr Wood) that to-day Leicestershire will have to fight hard to avert defeat, seeing that Worcestershire require only 121 to win with an innings to play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 July, page 10)

Worcestershire beat Leicestershire, at Leicester, yesterday, by eight wickets. Some such result was expected from the position of the game overnight, for Worcestershire with a complete innings to play only required 121 to win.

They, however, made a disastrous start, losing Bowley and Pearson for 11. Then Mr R E Foster and Arnold came together and by some splendid batting soon put the result beyond doubt, the match being over at a quarter-past 1.

28 July: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6034.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 July, page 12)

A capital wicket had been prepared upon the Saffrons, Eastbourne, for the return match between these counties, but throughout yesterday's play the batsmen failed generally to do themselves justice. Mr Warner, who was batting two hours and 35 minutes, should have been caught at slip when he had scored 40, and two runs later was missed at point.

Mr Robertson's display was the sounder. He was especially strong on the off. His partnership with Mr Warner realized 95 in 90 minutes. Trott hit freely, scoring 15 in one over from K S Ranjitsinhji, but the other Middlesex batsmen shaped badly before the Sussex captain, who met with considerable success.

With the home side in the cricket became very tedious, only 30 runs being scored in the first hour. Mr Fry was caught at the wicket through attempting to cut a rising ball, and Killick taken low down at point. K S Ranjitsinhji had a quarter of an hour's batting, and in this time obtained his aggregate of a thousand runs for the season. When stumps were drawn Sussex, with seven wickets in hand, were 142 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 July, page 12)

Although the conditions at Eastbourne yesterday were favourable for run-getting, the outstanding Sussex batsmen, with the exception of Vine, did little against the bowling of Hearne and Trott. Overnight Sussex had lost three wickets for 65, K S Ranjitsinhji being not out 13 and 29. The former, with 32 added, was caught on the boundary, and so much doubt was expressed regarding the legitimacy of the catch that the fieldsman himself was appealed to. Vine, however, continued to show strong defence and succeeded in going through the innings. His display lasted three hours and ten minutes, and was only marred by a very difficult chance at short leg. The Middlesex professionals bowled finely, Hearne keeping a splendid length with plenty of spin, while Trott mixed his bowling well.

Middlesex, on batting a second time, thanks mainly to a fine innings by Mr Warner, gained the upper hand and at the close were 336 runs on with five wickets to fall. Mr Warner was batting three hours and a half, and hit 19 fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 July, page 10)

Although confronted with the huge total of 431 to get to win, yesterday, at Eastbourne, magnificent batting by Mr Fry, Vine and Killick not only soon placed all chance of defeat beyond doubt, but at the close Sussex, with eight wickets in hand, only required 120.

Mr Fry and Vine put on 105 in an hour and five minutes, and after the departure of the latter Killick stopped for two hours and 20 minutes, while the total was increased by 157. During the early stages of the innings runs came at such a rate that had it been maintained Sussex might have won. Fifty were scored in the first half hour, and subsequently Mr Fry hit out brilliantly. At times Killick, however, by his defensive play, killed any chance of success.

Mr Fry was batting altogether four hours and gave nothing approaching a chance. He treated the eight bowlers alike, his driving being beautifully clean. With the ball which disposed of Killick Trott secured his 100th wicket of the season. He is the fifth so far to accomplish the feat.

28 July: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6035.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 July, page 12)

Although they won the toss and batted first in their match with Warwickshire at Sheffield, yesterday, Yorkshire had distinctly the worse of the day's play. Most captains would probably have put their opponents in when the wicket was calculated to suit bowlers best, but Lord Hawke has a rooted objection to experiments of this kind, and accordingly decided to go in. Rain had fallen heavily in the district during the previous day, and the sun shining brightly made the wicket very treacherous. The home county lost their first four wickets for 13 runs. Hirst and Haigh played the best cricket on the Yorkshire side, scoring 37 and 33 respectively.

Warwickshire lost Devey and Charlesworth very quickly, but then came a determined stand by Kinneir and Quaife, who were together at the close of play. Kinneir should have been run out when 30, and Tunnicliffe missed him in the slips off Rhodes when 51. Quaife, on the other hand, gave no chance, his innings being marked by characteristic coolness. As the game stands at present Warwickshire are only 21 runs behind with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 July, page 12)

The Warwickshire eleven more than held their own in the match with Yorkshire at Sheffield yesterday, and as matters stand at present they have an excellent chance of victory. With two wickets down Warwickshire got within 21 runs of the Yorkshire score on the opening day, and thanks to a patient innings of 91 by Quaife they led Yorkshire by 72 on the first innings.

Kinneir was batting two hours and 50 minutes for 64 runs, and was the only batsman besides Quaife to offer any serious resistance to the Yorkshire attack. Haigh was the best bowler on the Yorkshire side, capturing five wickets for 29 runs.

Yorkshire started badly in their second innings, having three of their best batsmen dismissed for 19 runs. A regrettable incident occurred when Washington was given out leg before wicket to Hargreave, the spectators hooting the umpire and behaving in a very ill-mannered fashion. The fourth wicket fell at 45, but a partnership of 39 by Hirst and Denton enabled Yorkshire to hit off the arrears. Another determined stand by Mr Ernest Smith and Hirst further improved matters for the home county, who were 48 runs on with five wickets down at the close of play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 July, page 10)

After fighting an up-hill battle for two days Yorkshire accomplished a fine performance at Sheffield yesterday by defeating Warwickshire by 100 runs.

The feature of the Yorkshire innings was Hirst's 93. He was batting for three hours and 25 minutes and his 12 fours, four threes and six twos. Mr Ernest Smith and Hirst played steady cricket for upwards of an hour and a half, the partnership realizing 106 runs. Mr Smith was finally caught at slip for a most useful contribution of 50, and then followed another excellent stand by Hirst and Rhodes, who hit up 53 in 40 minutes. The Yorkshire innings closed for 270, having lasted four hours and 20 minutes.

Warwickshire were set the task of getting 199 to win in three and a quarter hours. This they failed to do, Rhodes being in particularly fine form. The visitors lost Kinneir with the score at 18 and Devey two runs later. Charlesworth and Quaife played steadily for some time and 50 was signalled as the result of an hour's batting. Haigh was then called upon and got Charlesworth given out leg before wicket.

Quaife was run out through a fine piece of fielding on the part of Hirst, and with the departure of this batsman the midland county abandoned all hope of saving the game. Rhodes sent man after man back almost as quickly as they appeared and finished the day by capturing six wickets for 33 runs. Warwickshire were all out for 98.

Wednesday 30 July, page 12

BENEFIT TO TUNNICLIFFE. - At a meeting of the Yorkshire committee yesterday, at Sheffield, it was decided to give Tunnicliffe a benefit match next year.

31 July: ESSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6036.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 August, page 6)

It was a dull day's cricket at Leyton yesterday, in which Essex proved the stronger. The rain of the previous evening had slightly affected the pitch, which was never easy. The only stand of note in the Middlesex innings was that between Mr Beldam and Mr J Douglas for the second wicket, when 81 runs were scored. Mr Douglas was interesting to watch, in spite of some rather slow play.

Essex made a useful start with Mr Fane and Mr Perrin, the former showing the better form. Both, however, were out at 55. Then Mr McGahey and E Russell, by some slow cricket, kept their ends up until the close, when with eight wickets in hand Essex were only 76 behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 August, page 11)

The batting of Mr McGahey and Mr J Douglas were the features of an interesting day's cricket at Leyton yesterday. Essex were able to claim a lead on the first innings of 138, and it was when Middlesex went in a second time that the batting of Mr J Douglas brought them back to an even position. At the close Middlesex held a lead of 107 with six wickets still to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 August, page 9)

After fighting a losing match for nearly two days Middlesex were able to save their game with Essex in fact, they were in the better position when stumps were drawn. Essex then required 207 runs to win and had only four wickets to fall.

The great change in the play was wrought by Mr Wells and Mr Douglas and, in a lesser degree, by Trott. The two old Cambridge men cut and drove splendidly and during their partnership for the fifth wicket put on 208. There was some hard hitting by Trott before Middlesex closed their innings just before luncheon.

Essex began badly in the last innings of the match, but after Mr Perrin, Mr Fane and Mr McGahey had been cheaply dismissed, there was much steady batting and the match was drawn.

31 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6037.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 August, page 6)

A fine innings by the Oxford captain, Mr Marsham, marked the cricket at Nottingham yesterday. He played wonderfully well on the off-side and hit with much of that vigour which was characteristic of his school days at Eton. John Gunn bowled well for Notts.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 August, page 11)

At Trent-bridge, yesterday, there was some splendid batting for Kent by their chief amateurs, which has made the game practically safe for them. Kent are now 275 on with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 August, page 9)

Rain made the hours for cricket very brief at Trent-bridge on Saturday, and the game was drawn. Notts had to make 380 to win, and on the wet wicket Mr Jones and William Gunn gave a fine display of batting.

31 July: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6038.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 August, page 6)

There was a fine day's batting by Yorkshire on the Oval yesterday. Brown, Mr Taylor and Mr Jackson all played splendidly; then came a great stand by Lord Hawke and Haigh. The Yorkshire score of 387 for seven was a splendid demonstration of their capacity.

But Surrey's fielding was very bad. Mr Jackson should have been caught from Lockwood in the slips when he was 46 and 54, and Lord Hawke was missed when only nine. These were the principal errors, but they show at once what was the cost to Surrey on the slow wicket. The ball came along fairly easily, but Lockwood bowled wonderfully well and Richardson, too, did excellently. But the fielding in the slips was deplorable, and this was where the disasters mostly overtook Surrey.

Brown has been playing carefully of late, and yesterday one missed his splendid cut, although he practised many great strokes on the other side of the wicket. Mr Taylor, the old Cambridge captain, played cricket quite worthy of Uppingham School. Mr F S Jackson, as ever, delights to get runs on a wicket helping the bowlers, and although he had some luck he played splendid cricket until he was caught at short slip. His cutting and off-driving were very good.

David Denton hit hard; but it was after Mr Jackson was caught, at 266, that the easiest batting of the day came. Lord Hawke hit hard and with Haigh added 121 before stumps were drawn. It was a great day for Yorkshire, but Surrey, who were captained by Mr Leveson-Gower in the absence of Mr Jephson, threw away their chances by missing catches. There was a great attendance and Tom Hayward has every prospect of a good benefit.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 August, page 11)

There was a dull day's cricket at the Oval yesterday. Yorkshire had to finish their innings, and they finished it well. Lord Hawke and Haigh made 165 for the eighth wicket and played fine free cricket. It was Lord Hawke's ninth century for Yorkshire, but he never showed better powers of hitting than he showed in this innings.

When Surrey went in the wicket had entirely recovered its trueness. Yorkshire bowled and fielded admirably and Surrey had to fight very hard for their runs. Hayward's was the best innings of the afternoon, but Mr Dowson and Mr Leveson-Gower also played well. There is every prospect of a long day's cricket for the finishing stage. There were 20,000 people present at the Oval yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 August, page 9)

The Surrey and Yorkshire match, after heavy scoring on both sides, was drawn at the Oval on Saturday. The early morning play was marked by the continued fine batting of Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Crawford, and this partnership of 99 for the seventh wicket really saved the game for Surrey.

When Yorkshire sent in the second time their men played splendidly, particularly Mr Taylor and Mr Jackson, who had made 155 for their partnership, when the game was abandoned. As over 27,000 people paid during the three days Hayward must have secured a substantial benefit.

A section of the crowd was disorderly on Saturday because Yorkshire did not close their innings; but Lord Hawke had every reason to save his bowlers, seeing that there was no chance of bringing the match to a definite issue.

31 July: SUSSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6039.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 August, page 6)

With half their wickets down for 152 runs this match at Brighton appeared to be going adversely for the Australians, but a stand by Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong completely changed the aspect of the game, and at the close of play the visitors were left in practically a safe position.

A little rain had fallen during the early morning, but the wicket was not affected. The ball came along easily from the start, 50 being scored in the first half hour, at which stage Mr Trumper was beaten by a good ball. Then for a time runs appeared more difficult to obtain. At 71 Mr Duff and Mr Darling were out, the latter being caught at second slip off his first ball. With 19 added Mr Hill was caught at third man, and at 152 Mr Hopkins was smartly thrown out by Mr Fry from extra mid-off.

It was at this stage that Mr Armstrong joined Mr Noble and the bowling was thoroughly mastered. Mr Armstrong's methods were not attractive; he made full use of his pads in playing Vine's leg-breaks; but Mr Noble's batting was bright and vigorous. Most of his runs were obtained by powerful driving, and his innings, which so far has lasted four hours and ten minutes, contained only two bad strokes. The partnership up to the drawing of stumps had added exactly 200 in two hours and three-quarters.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 August, page 11)

On the Hove ground, yesterday, the Australians compiled their biggest score of the season. Overnight five wickets had fallen for 352, Mr Noble having made 161 and Mr Armstrong 76. Yesterday the batsmen again mastered the bowling, and they were not separated until they had scored 428 in the space of five hours and 50 minutes. This performance is only inferior to the 554 of Brown and Tunnicliffe and the 448 of Abel and Hayward. It also ranks as a sixth-wicket record, the previous best being the 411 made by Major Poore and Captain Wynyard at Taunton in 1899.

Mr Noble was at the wickets seven hours and a quarter. Only twice has Mr Noble's total been exceeded by an Australian batsman in England. At Brighton Mr Trumper scored 300 not out in 1899, and Mr Murdoch 286 not out in 1882, both scores being made against Sussex. Mr Armstrong's cricket was never so attractive as that of his partner.

After the Australians declared Sussex had an hour and 40 minutes' batting, and fared none too well, requiring at the close 347 with seven wickets in hand to save the follow on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 August, page 9)

Although outplayed at every point of the game, Sussex succeeded in drawing the match with the Australians at Brighton on Saturday, the county at the close, with nine wickets in hand, still requiring 285 runs to avert the single innings defeat.

Overnight Sussex had lost Mr Fry, Vine and Relf for 64, and continuing on Saturday the remainder of the eleven, with the exception of Killick, shaped like a beaten side. Killick, however, had some good fortune, being missed overnight when he had made seven and again by Mr Duff in the slips when 55. He was batting two hours and 40 minutes, and the feature of his display was attractive cutting.

Sussex, when they followed on 305 behind, had about two hours and a half left for play, and with 25 on the board Mr Fry was out. Vine and Killick, however, making full use of their strong defence, saved the situation. Their partnership realized 107 in an hour and a half, stumps being pulled up at half-past 5. Both the professionals, while taking no risks, played good cricket.

Friday 1 August, page 6: TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - One point connected with the four test matches has not yet, as far as I know, received attention. Each side has lost 52 wickets in the series, but, while the Australians have scored 950 runs, England has scored 1,200, leaving a majority of 250 in our favour. To be "two down" and to have lost the rubber under these conditions is rather hard. Certainly the figures seem to show that we are not so utterly inferior to our rivals as some people seem to think.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently, W J FORD Lord's Cricket Ground, London, N.W., July 30. Monday 4 August, page 9: THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

DATIING			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings		Average
Shrewsbury	28	1011	127*	6	50.55
K S Ranjitsinhji	24	1035	234*	2	47.09
Tyldesley	32	1324	165	2	44.13
Mr T L Taylor	35	1309	142*	3	40.50
Iremonger	29	1127	146	1	40.25
W G Quaife	23	841	153*	2	40.04
Mr P Perrin	28	876	121	6	39.81
Mr C McGahey	30	990	126	6	39.60
Mr C B Fry	38	1304	169*	2	38.72
Abel	46	1572	179	5	38.34
Mr C J B Wood	37	1269	176	3	37.32
Mr A O Jones	26	900	100	1	36.00
Mr AC MacLaren	30	992	174	2	35.42
Brockwell	30	787	80*	7	34.21
Dr W G Grace Hon F S Jackson	23 24	689 717	131	2 3	34.19
Mr C J Burnup	35	717	128	2	34.14
Mr W L Murdoch	21	1157 667	161 132	2 1	34.02 33.35
W Gunn	18	564	120	1	33.17
Mr P F Warner	16	492	139	1	32.80
Hayward	36	1113	177	2	32.73
Mr V F S Crawford	29	878	101*	1	32.51
Mr C H B Marsham	28	812	120	3	32.48
Mr G L Jessop	34	1003	128	3	32.35
Hirst	32	988	134	3	32.34
Mr E W Dillon	34	1031	137	2	32.21
Relf	34	875	84	6	31.25
Devey	23	654	86	2	31.14
King	36	858	130	5	30.90
Killick	33	925	133	3	30.83
Arnold	32	829	92	5	30.70
Knight	30	886	145*	3	30.65
Denton	34	973	127	2	30.40
Mr J R Mason	29	856	107	0	29.51
Mr F L Fane	28	735	106	3	29.40
Mr W H B Evans	21	609	142	0	29.00
Tunnicliffe	35	969	127	1	28.50
Mr E M Dowson	32	815	72	3	28.10
Capt H S Bush	26	673	122	2	28.04
Vine Washington	38	923	92	5	27.86
Washington	30	744	100*	3	27.55
Mr G W Beldam	28	688	135*	2 2	26.84
Mr B J T Bosanquet Mr G Brann	23 18	601 454	103 108	2 1	26.71
Braund	33	434 876	108	0	26.70 26.64
Mr R T Crawford	25	636	90*	1	26.50
Lockwood	31	729	108	2	25.13
Mr W Troup	26	577	127*	3	25.08
Kinneir	20	493	88	2	24.80
Mr D L A Jephson	37	682	94	9	24.71
Haigh	29	592	85	6	24.66
Mr L C H Palairet	28	660	80	0	24.28
Mr C J Kortright	22	402	66	2	24.10
Bowley	30	685	122*	1	24.00
Mr W P Robertson	23	549	52	0	23.96
Mr L G Wright	23	545	101	0	23.73
2					

Mr S M J Woods	27	615	88*	1	23.	65
Needham	17	353	66	2	23.	53
Mr H K Foster	27	622	80	0	23.0	
Mr A E Lawton	32	708	149	1	22.8	
Hallows	29	570	109	4	22.	80
J T Brown	31	704	91	0	22.	
Langdon	25	543	84	1	22.	
Lord Hawke	27	511	126	4	22.2	
J Gunn	24	500	80	1	22.1	-
Hayes	38	815	114	1	22.0	
Trott	35	748	108	1	22.0	
Humphries (Derby)	22	349	43	6	21.8	
Wheldon	28	523	63	4	21.	
Mr E R Wilson	22	408	142	3	21.4	
Dr R MacDonald	19	295	62	5	21.0	
Board	37	656	95	4	21.0	
Ward	25	494	89	1	20.	
Wrathall	33	677	78	0	20.	
Sewell (Essex)	23	429	99	2	20.4	
Mr L Walker	22	405	80	2	20.2	
Gill	33	623	80	2	20.0	
Llewellyn	28	514	90	2	19.	
Marlow (Sussex)	21	331	67	4	19.	
T Russell	23	345	54	5	19.1	
Gaukrodger	24	400	69	3	19.0	
Tate (Sussex)	23	283	61*	8	18.	
Sharp	23	394	61	2	18.	
Lilley	24	405	72*	2	18.4	
Mr A Eccles	29	452	95	4	18.0	
Storer	34	593	61	1	17.	
Charlesworth	21	356	106	1	17.8	
Seymour	27	450	60	1	17.	
Mr G H Simpson-Hayward	22	364	56	1	17.3	
Geeson	24	329	63	5	17.	
Whitehead (Leicester)	29	500	62	0	17.2	
Rhodes	32	392	92*	9	17.0	
G A Wilson (Worcester)	26	306	54	8	17.0	
Mr R N R Blaker	25	287	64*	2	16.8	
Anthony	20	333	89	0	16.	
Mr C Robson	17	248	36	2	16.	
E Robson (Somerset)	26	423	84	0	16.2	
Mr T S Fishwick	20	322	68	0	16.1	
Lewis	26	423	82	1	15.8	
Hulme	23	316	47	3	15.8	80
BOWLING						
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wi	lckets	Average
Haigh	509.4	148	1251		103	12.14
Rhodes	887.2	283	1948		140	13.34
Hargreave	689.2	210	1265		92	13.18
Blythe	569.5	161	1295		91	14.23
Tate	914.3	284	2100		140	15.00
Hon F S Jackson	312.2	85	738		49	15.06
A Hearne	265.2	97	500		37	15.13
Lockwood	533.2	113	1502		92	16.32
Mr J R Mason	358.2	137	857		52	16.48
I'Anson	215.2	63	576		34	16.94
Gill	401.3	96	1153		66	17.46
Wass	550.4	124	1603		91	17.61
Mr G L Jessop	239.3	56	654		37	17.87
Cranfield	712.5	130	1755		98	17.90
Spry	210.3	29	703		38	18.50
Bird	290.5	67	724		39	18.56
J T Hearne	712.5	246	1617		86	18.80

Llewellyn	862.2	243	2359	124	19.02
Cuttell	382.3	165	744	39	19.07
Barnes	628.5	165	1553	81	19.17
Braund	633.5	145	2013	104	19.35
Hirst	558.3	100	1289	67	19.38
Hallam	513.2	171	1084	55	19.70
Hulme	485.3	136	1154	57	20.24
Bestwick	551.4	162	1382	68	20.32
Mr E E Steel	368.1	79	981	48	20.43
Field	216.5	57	675	33	20.45
G A Wilson (Worcester)	647	123	1865	90	20.72
Mr G H Simpson-Hayward	247.1	28	905	43	21.04
Dr W G Grace	435.1	135	952	45	21.15
Mead	662.5	184	1526	72	21.19
Arnold	637.1	128	1441	66	21.83
Trott	762.5	153	2247	101	22.24
Mr E M Dowson	522.3	109	1610	71	22.80
Mr W M Bradley	435.5	127	1113	48	23.18
Roberts	339.2	112	814	35	23.25
J Gunn	522.1	159	1260	52	24.23
Mr C McGahey	336.3	73	832	34	24.47
King	493	125	1348	55	24.47
Bland	269	71	840	34	24.70
Richardson	633.2	125	1875	71	26.40
Young	460.1	98	1215	46	26.41
Mr D L A Jephson	284.4	51	830	31	26.45
Mr W W Odell	523.3	110	1592	58	27.44
Reeves	283.4	56	916	33	27.75
Huggins	669	187	1292	45	28.71
Relf	577.2	182	1509	48	31.43
Vine	495.3	114	1355	41	33.04
Brockwell	437.2	75	1350	40	33.75

THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING

DATIING						
			Most in	Not		
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average	
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	34	1676	128	0	48.29	
Mr R A Duff (N.S.W.)	39	1206	183	5	35.47	
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	31	742	172*	9	33.72	
Mr C Hill (S.A.)	34	1108	123	1	33.52	
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	30	814	284	4	31.80	
Mr S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	33	681	83	5	24.57	
Mr J Darling (N.S.W.)	35	756	128	4	24.38	
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	34	722	105*	4	24.06	
Mr J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	20	246	75	6	17.57	
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	16	191	40	1	13.64	
Mr H Carter (N.S.W.)	11	62	31	3	7.75	
Mr H Trumble (V.)	12	56	32	2	5.60	
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	19	65	16	4	4.33	
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	19	41	9*	4	2.73	

BOWLING

BOWLING					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	389.5	129	774	57	13.67
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	374.4	112	904	54	16.74
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	407	140	774	46	16.82
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	360.4	78	1217	71	17.14
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	481.4	149	1281	71	18.04
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	352.3	44?	432	22	19.63
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	145.3	40	398	20	19.90
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	488.4	128	1340	67	20.00

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are now as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	19	9	1	9	8	80.00
Sussex	17	5	2	10	3	42.85
Lancashire	17	6	3	8	3	33.33
Notts	15	4	2	9	2	33.33
Surrey	19	5	3	11	2	20.00
Warwickshire	11	4	3	4	1	14.28
Kent	16	6	6	4	0	0.00
Worcestershire	15	4	4	7	0	0.00
Essex	14	2	3	9	-1	-20.00
Somerset	13	4	7	2	-3	-27.27
Derbyshire	10	2	4	4	-2	-33.33
Gloucestershire	15	3	6	6	-3	-33.33
Hampshire	11	2	6	3	-4	-50.00
Middlesex	12	1	4	7	-3	-60.00
Leicestershire	14	1	4	9	-3	-60.00

Monday 4 August, page 9: TEST MATCHES

(From our special correspondent)

The great test match that was finished at Manchester on July 26th was possibly the greatest and most interesting cricket match that has ever been played. Both elevens were thoroughly representative, there was not the huge run-getting that proves such an unhealthy predominance of batting over bowling, and, lastly, there was a finish that for excitement has never been surpassed except by the great University match of 1870, when Cambridge snatched a victory by two runs.

Seldom has a side been in a much more unpleasant condition than England was when stumps were drawn at the end of the first day's play; the weather was broken and, with five of her best batsmen out, England looked like being compelled to follow their innings. The second day's play, when the wicket was certainly not helping the bowlers to an undue extent, was the great day as far as England was concerned, for, at its close, three great individual performances had exactly reversed the positions.

The batting of Mr Jackson and Braund, and the bowling of Lockwood, had made it practically certain than unless rain came in the night England must win. The rain did come; and, instead of an easy task, this country on the third day was confronted with the great difficulty of making 124 runs on a thoroughly broken and difficult wicket against the best bowling and fielding in the world.

That England was only beaten by three runs is a fact that is as much to her credit as the victory was to the Australians; and it was indeed a cruel stroke of fortune that the eccentricities of weather should have deprived this country of a victory after the splendid performances of the second day. At the same time, never have the Australians shown mornings conspicuously their well-known qualities of grit and the power of making the most of their opportunities.

Nothing could have been finer than the way Messrs Trumper, Duff and Hill forced the game when the wicket was slow and easy at the beginning of the first day's play, and just the same praise is due to them for the way they bowled and fielded when the wicket was helping them in England's last innings. Every fieldsman was in the right place, nothing was missed and every run had to be fought for; and we are glad to know that the crowd, disappointed though they were at the result, cheered the Australians again and again for the splendid cricket they had shown.

The Australians have now carried off the honours in this country both in 1899 and 1902; and, however humiliating it may be to confess it, confessed it must be that at the present time Australia is first and England second, and the colonists deserve every congratulation on this fact. It is probable that our players have been demoralized by the easy wickets that the hot, dry weather of the last eight or nine seasons has produced; and it is certain that none of our batsmen, when they have to play on slow and tricky wickets, show anything like the skill that Mr Steel, Mr Lucas and Mr Webbe and, greatest of all, Shrewsbury did in former days. If Shrewsbury, now in his forty-seventh year, had played last week at Manchester, England would probably have won the match.

No doubt this year luck has been overwhelmingly on the side of the Australians; but still it is probable that on all kinds of wickets Australia is the better side. After these remarks, our motives will not be misconstrued if we examine rather closely into the conditions that exist with regard to the test matches both here and in Australia, for at present the conditions are much in favour of Australia.

It is common knowledge that it is the ambition of every Australian cricketer to form part of any Colonial eleven that visits this country, and it is always in the power of the Melbourne Club to select absolutely the best thirteen or fourteen players to represent their country. This never has been the case with our teams going to Australia. Some of our leading amateurs do not care to go through the hard work that an Australian tour in tropical weather demands; others have got business; and so it happens that our teams in Australia are not much more than scratch elevens.

Again, every eleven is subject to the danger of having one or more of their side disabled by illness or accident. But if this casualty happens to our team in Australia - as it did to Barnes last winter - matches out there are played to a finish and the loss of, perhaps, your best bowler or best bat in nine cases out of ten means the loss of the match. The Australians had to play the first test match at Birmingham this year without Mr Trumble; but it is quite possible to save a match that is limited to three days without your best bowler even if bad weather does not assist you, as it did assist the Australians at Birmingham; and there is all the difference in the world between any sort of draw and a defeat.

This system of playing matches to a finish in one country only is one-sided and wrong, and must be of considerable advantage to the Australians, because it is in their own country that it prevails, where hitherto they only have had to meet more or less scratch elevens.

Another great point of difference is in the management. In Australia the team is chosen with the greatest care by a small committee of the most experienced cricketers, and the whole tour is under the management of the Melbourne Club, whose paid secretary accompanies the cricketers and undertakes the business details.

In the same way no English tour in Australia is undertaken except on the invitation of the Melbourne Club; but then, instead of arranging with the Marylebone Cricket Club, a sort of private bargain is made with somebody like Mr MacLaren, for instance, who invites anybody he may choose to take part in the your and always meets with some refusals. Last autumn, for example, Mr Fry, Mr Mason, Hirst and Rhodes, from some cause or another, could not go; and the result was a scratch eleven. But this scratch team has to play five so-called test matches, all played to a finish, and in such circumstances they do very well to win one match out of five.

Last summer the Marylebone Club were approached by the authorities in Australia to send over a team; but the club were confronted by difficulties at the very outset and they took no further part in the matter at all. Mr MacLaren then took it up, and the result was another eleven in Australia which everybody on this side knew was only a scratch lot, but which was taken seriously in Australia, and the usual and inevitable result ensued.

We have now come to a delicate point in the argument, but it is perfectly well known that the initial difficulty that met the M.C.C. was the question of money terms with some of the amateurs, and it is most deplorable that this should be the case. No amateur ought to get more than his expenses; to provide this ought to present no difficulty; and the fact that it does has left a most disagreeable impression.

The test matches between England and Australia are not only the great matches of the age, but, as far as can be seen, they are permanent institutions. The time has come, therefore, when the M.C.C. and some representative body from Australia should come to some agreement and make some conditions binding on the two countries; and one or two points seem clear.

In the first place, the management, selection and control of the English teams both here and in Australia ought to be in the hands of the M.C.C. Secondly, matches in both countries must either be played to a finish or limited to three days; to have one system in one country and another in another is one-sided and absurd. My own opinion is that the system of playing matches to a finish is a thoroughly bad one; if so many runs are scored that three days is not enough to finish a match, the rules ought to be altered so as to bring about a reduction in the run-getting.

8

Lastly, both here and in Australia there are too many of these periodical visits. The M.C.C. have in this country such a position and prestige that, though they will not be able absolutely to select the best team possible to go to Australia, still they have a better chance of doing so than any private individual can have. But, though on patriotic grounds our leading amateurs may be persuaded to go to Australia once in six years, they will not go oftener. It will be sufficient if alternate visits every three years are arranged; the Australians are here in 1902, the next tour ought to be in Australia in 1905, and in 1908 the Australians could come here, and so on.

These criticisms and suggestions are made solely in the interests of the greatest matches of the greatest game of the world. The test matches are too important to be conduced on any conditions other than the fairest and best, and it is the duty of the authorities in both countries to take steps to ensure that this is done.

4 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6040.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

Mr A E Lawton's brilliant century was the feature of yesterday's cricket at Derby. His driving was very powerful. Derbyshire generally did well on a nice, easy wicket.

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

Llewellyn's century marked the cricket at Derby yesterday, and the match is left in an interesting state, for Hampshire, with all their wickets in hand, want 237 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 August, page 10)

The heavy rain prevented the finishing of several matches yesterday. The detailed scores have already been given in The Times. Abandoned matches were: -

. . . Derbyshire v Hampshire, at Derby . . .

4 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6041.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

Mr C L Townsend, who has played little first-class cricket during the last two seasons, accomplished a fine performance at Bristol yesterday. Upon a pitch which was slow and by no means in favour of the batsmen he with the aid of Mr R W rice scored 206 runs for the first wicket.

He was not very comfortable to start with, and was missed by Vine when 28; but afterwards he played sterling cricket, though he scarcely scored so freely as formerly on the off-side. He showed all his old ability in dealing with leg balls, while his driving was powerful and skilful. He got his first 50 in 65 minutes, reached his hundred after batting two hours and 20 minutes, and was only dismissed when he had been at the wickets three hours and ten minutes. He hit one five, 19 fours, six threes and 15 twos.

Mr Rice, who lasted five minutes longer, batted with almost more than his customary patience. The value of his work, however, became apparent as the afternoon advanced, for of the batsmen who succeeded him Langdon alone made any stand.

Sussex, who are without K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr C B Fry, had five minutes' batting at the close of the afternoon without losing a wicket. In spite of the dull weather the attendance numbered about 7,000 persons.

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

Yesterday's cricket at Bristol went in favour of Sussex, who, when stumps were drawn, were most favourably placed. At lunch time it hardly looked possible for them to equal Gloucestershire's total, for their seventh wicket had fallen with only 157 on the board. Of that number Butt, who was sent in to start the innings at the close of Monday afternoon, had contribution 64, while Vine had made a careful 31. Butt later, like Mr Collins and Mr Newham, had fallen before Roberts, who bowled very well.

A capital stand by Mr Brann and Mr Heygate, however, proved the turning point of the game. They put on 76 before Mr Brann was bowled, and 78 were added for the ninth wicket. Then Mr Heygate was dismissed. He had batted in good style and never made a mistake during the hour and 40 minutes he was in. He showed that he possessed a number of excellent strokes and he deserved all the runs he made. The same can hardly be said of Mr Smith, who was missed at 11 and again at 25. The excellent work done by the later batsmen enabled Sussex to secure a lead of 40 on the first innings.

Before Gloucestershire had cleared off the arrears they lost five wickets. There was nothing in the state of the ground to account for this collapse. It was faster and truer than ever. Langdon and Board made a brief stand, but so badly did the home men fare during the last 70 minutes that they are only 33 on with four wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 August, page 10)

Gloucestershire made a great effort at Bristol yesterday to recover the ground that they had lost by their poor batting on Tuesday afternoon. They succeeded so well that they were able to effect a fairly creditable draw. Sussex in the end wanted 53 to win with five wickets in hand.

There was a heavy fall of rain in the morning, which prevented the match from being proceeded with till after lunch. Then, thanks to a sterling display by Langdon and a steady innings by Mr Brownlee, the home score was advanced from 73 for six wickets to 131.

This left the visitors to get 98 to win in an hour and three-quarters. At no time did they appear likely to succeed. The pitch had begun to show the effects of the bright sun. The score of the drawn game is given below . . .

4 August: KENT v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6042.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

Excellent arrangements were made for the 61st annual week at Canterbury, and the only necessity for success was fine weather. Unfortunately after an hour and 35 minutes' cricket had taken place in the presence of about 5,000 spectators, rain came on at 20 minutes to 2 and prevented any further progress.

With the University contingent available the changes from the side at Nottingham were - Mr Day and Mr Marchant for Seymour and Humphreys. Kent had about their strongest available eleven, and in winning the toss they certainly gained a great advantage. First Mr Burnup and Mr Dillon scored 28 in something under 25 minutes, next the former and Mr Marsham contribution 58 in 50 minutes, and lastly Mr Burnup and Mr Day advanced the total to 105.

Then a severe storm of rain flooded the ground. The rain continued for about an hour and left the pitch saturated, the consequence being that there was a long wait for it to recover. Just as things appeared most promising the rain came on again at about 4 o'clock, and at 5 the umpires pulled up the stumps and postponed the resumption until this morning at a quarter past 11.

With regard to the social adjuncts to the festival, the Old Stagers (professionally assisted by Miss Sybil Carlisle, Miss Adelina Baird and other ladies) played The School for Scandal last night at the theatre, and will repeat the performance on Thursday; while to-night and Friday they will play The Importance of Being Earnest. In addition there are the usual promenade concerts on the Dane John and the county halls at St Margaret's-hall to-morrow and Friday.

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

In strong contrast to the rain of Bank Holiday, which prevented much more than an hour and a half's cricket in the opening of the first match, the weather yesterday turned out bright and fine, especially after luncheon, and there was a full day's play of absorbing interest in the presence of some 5,000 spectators.

Kent, having made excellent use of their limited opportunities on Monday by scoring 105 for the loss of two wickets, proceeded to increase these figures to 273 before the side were all out shortly after 3 o'clock. The overnight not-outs, Mr Burnup and Mr Day, were separated at 140, of which number the former contributed 60 in exactly two hours, without making a bad stroke. Mr Day, who had aided him to the extent of 54 during the third wicket partnership, was out five runs later. Other useful stands were those of Mr Mason and Hearne with 42 for the fifth wicket, by Hearne and Mr Marchant with 36 for the sixth wicket, and by Mr Blaker and Blythe with 35 for the ninth.

So much wet had fallen that with the sun shining it was generally anticipated that the Essex batsmen would find the pitch difficult; but, curiously enough, it never seemed worse than slow, and the bowling looked fairly easy. For all that, the batting of Mr Fane and Mr Lucas was admirable, and their 81 in an hour before the latter was out was sufficient to put the others on good terms with themselves. Thus, after Mr Lucas was caught behind the wicket, Mr Perrin helped Mr Fane to contribute another 101 runs, and at the close of the day, with Mr Perrin and Young out in the last over, Essex had four men out for 211 and were within 62 of their opponents' aggregate.

Mr Fane's display was superb, characterized by hard clean hitting all round the wicket, and containing 14 fours. Mr Lucas played with all his usual elegance and power, and Mr Perrin's 54 included some brilliant drives.

It must be added that the Old Stagers opened their 61st season at the theatre on Monday night with a creditable performance of The School for Scandal, while last night they played The Importance of Being Earnest.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 August, page 10)

Owing to the rain, which, setting in overnight, fell persistently for hours during the morning, all chance of bringing the first fixture of the Week to a definite issue was lost. Indeed, the downpour was so heavy that on many grounds cricket would have been impossible, but the St Lawrence ground recovers very quickly and play was practicable from half-past 2.

Between that time and 5 o'clock the Essex men were batting, and increased their previous score of 211 for four wickets to 331. Mr McGahey and Mr Kortright played steadily and contributed 80 runs for the fifth partnership, but, once they were dismissed, the last four wickets only added 27 runs. Mr Kortright batted with some approach to freedom, but Mr McGahey's display, which occupied a couple of hours, was more remarkable for steadiness than dash; he made few hits of any importance.

When the Essex innings was complete, Kent had to face a majority of 58, but, as it had been arranged to draw at 6 o'clock, there was, of course, no further interest in the game. Indeed, neither captain took it seriously. Mr Mason changed his batting order and Mr Lucas tried quite unusual bowlers. With all the life gone out of it, the match went on until Kent had wiped off the deficit for the loss of three wickets, and then the game was abandoned shortly before 6.

4 August: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6043.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

The return match which began at Manchester yesterday is set apart for the benefit of Albert Ward, who, after playing in four matches for his native county - Yorkshire - in 1886, joined Lancashire in 1889, and has been a regular member of the team since. The success of the benefit is already assured, for about 22,000 persons paid for admission to the ground yesterday, and with members the attendance was about the largest ever seen on the Old Trafford enclosure. Mr Ernest Smith played for Yorkshire in place of Lord Hawke, who received an injury to his thumb in the match with Surrey last week.

Lancashire won the toss and were at the wickets four and a half hours, scoring 243 runs. The best scorers were Mr MacLaren and Mr Steel, each of whom made 53. Mr MacLaren played faultless cricket, but Mr Steel's was a fortunate innings. Sharp contributed 48 without a mistake. Haigh was the most successful of the Yorkshire bowlers. On being put on for the fourth time in the innings he captured the last four wickets for only 14. Yorkshire had three-quarters of an hour's batting.

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

Some remarkable scoring was seen in Albert Ward's benefit match at Manchester yesterday. The Yorkshire eleven, who had scored 31 for one wicket overnight, kept possession of the wickets all day and added 468 for the loss of but four other batsmen.

Until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon the scoring was of a steady character: Tunnicliffe, Washington, Mr Taylor and Mr Jackson all played well. Denton and Hirst, on becoming partners at the fall of the fifth wicket, about 5 o'clock, scored at a great pace; they made 178 runs in an hour and a half and were not out at the close of the day's play. Each batsman reached three figures before stumps were drawn.

During the day there were three separate stands producing three figures. Washington and Tunnicliffe made 100 for the second wicket, Messrs Taylor and Jackson 105 for the fourth wicket, and the total for the sixth wicket has already reached 178. Tunnicliffe, Denton and Hirst, also, each completed his thousand runs aggregate in the season's cricket during the day. The Lancashire bowling grew weak as the day advanced, but the fielding was always good.

Yorkshire are now 256 runs ahead with five wickets to fall. About 15,000 persons were present, so that Ward will have a successful benefit.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 August, page 10)

The heavy rain prevented the finishing of several matches yesterday. The detailed scores have already been given in The Times. Abandoned matches were: -

. . . Lancashire v Yorkshire, at Manchester . . .

4 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6044.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

In a quiet day's cricket at Leicester yesterday the score was as follows: -

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

There was some wonderful scoring at Leicester yesterday by Leicestershire, when in addition to Knight's 190 there was a century by Coe.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 August, page 10)

The heavy rain prevented the finishing of several matches yesterday. The detailed scores have already been given in The Times. Abandoned matches were: -

. . . Leicestershire v London County, at Leicester.

4 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6045.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

Play was only possible at Taunton yesterday during the two hours before lunch, rain falling so heavily during the interval as to prevent further cricket. Mr James Douglas looked like making another good score until well caught at long leg, and Mr Beldam as unfortunate in treading on his wicket. Mr Robertson played a capital innings.

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

Somerset at the close of yesterday's play held an advantage, as with four wickets down in their second innings Middlesex were still 44 runs behind. The visitors' four outstanding wickets fell for an addition of 27. Cranfield secured three for 15 runs and at the same time raised his aggregate to 102 for the season.

The wicket began to show signs of wear when Somerset began batting and grew worse as the day proceeded. Mr Palairet and Braund made a capital start, putting on 94 for the partnership. The former batted in his best style. Hearne had now found a spot, the ball coming back very awkwardly, and little could be done with him. But Mr Woods, in the first place, and subsequently Mr Hill forced the game. Mr Wells and Trott came in for considerable punishment.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 August, page 10)

For the second time this season Middlesex have sustained defeat at the hands of Somerset, the return match at Taunton ending in a win for the western county yesterday by seven wickets. Middlesex were completely outplayed at all points, a strong contrast being noticeable in the fielding.

Mr Warner, who was not out overnight with 13, gave a skilful display, getting his runs in fine style in front of the wicket, while after their captain left Mr Wells and Bosanquet hit vigorously. But Middlesex never retrieved the bad start on Monday, and when the innings closed Somerset were left with only 87 to get to win.

Rain had fallen during the early morning, necessitating a late resumption, and, under a hot sun, the wicket became difficult. The runs were hit off in 80 minutes; but mistakes in the field were numerous. Mr Palairet and Robson were each twice missed, and Braund, taking plenty of risks, made several bad strokes.

4 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6046.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

There was the usual big crowd, running to some 20,000, at the Oval yesterday to see the start of the Bank Holiday match between Surrey and Notts, which for so many years has been the feature of the Surrey county card. It was an appreciative cricket crowd and there was an absence of that noisiness which commonly marks the event. At about half-past 1 there was a nasty drizzle for three-quarters of an hour; but the game was resumed juts before 3, and afterwards the afternoon remained fine.

On the bumping slow wicket Surrey had the worst of the cricket. The great feature of the play was the bowling of Wass, who makes the most of his fine physique and comes down at a rare pace from a high delivery. His slow ball, too, is effective. None of the Surrey batsmen played him well

yesterday, and he bowled right through the innings, which began at midday and lasted until half-past 4. After taking the first eight wickets he finished with the fine analysis of nine for 91.

Hayward played the best innings for Surrey. He went in first with Abel, who was dreadfully slow, and made 52 out of 83. He mistimed the ball a good many times, as was only natural on the false pitch. He was fourth out, caught at the wicket. Subsequently there was nothing particular about the Surrey batting. The fielding was excellent, and that of Mr A O Jones particularly so. Lockwood, who was down to play in the original card, gave way to Mr Jephson, in consequence of an injury that he sustained while playing against Yorkshire last week.

Nottinghamshire made a good start, and Iremonger helped Mr Jones to score 48 for the first wicket, when he was well caught in the deep field. Mr Jones played beautifully and was well cheered for his fine hitting on the off-side. When he was out at 75 there was a splendid spell of batting by Shrewsbury and William Gunn. Shrewsbury was missed by Mr Jephson at mid-off when only ten, and the two professionals have already carried the score from 75 to 127.

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

After a keen day's cricket on the Oval yesterday Nottinghamshire are left in a winning position, for with all ten wickets to fall they want only 144 to win; a task that should be performed by such a good lot of batsmen as they possess, for the wicket should roll out easier this morning.

Yesterday it was a bowler's pitch all day. W Gunn and Shrewsbury who had done so well overnight were soon separated yesterday morning. Their batting had been superb on the sticky turf, and then, when Notts equalled the Surrey score with five wickets left, it seemed probable that they would finish with a big advantage on the innings. But the last five wickets went for an additional 25 runs.

The batsmen had always to fight hard for their runs, and William Gunn, although scoring slowly, played great cricket. The fielding was good and the bowling fairly so, but it ought to have been better, considering the assistance the turf gave to it.

When Surrey went in a second time there was some fine free hitting by Hayward and Hayes to begin with, and the 100 went up with only two men out. Then came a slight check, and four wickets were down for 103. But a splendid piece of forcing by Mr Crawford put Surrey well ahead. Mr Crawford was fifth out at 156. Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Jephson played courageous cricket against much good fielding and bowling and added 44. Then the end came quickly, and Notts were left with 189 to get to win.

Mr Jones, with the field very skilfully placed for him at both ends, refrained from hitting; but Iremonger scored freely. Mr Jephson varied his bowling well; and even Abel was tried for an over, but the batsmen kept up their ends to the last.

It should be mentioned that the Notts men brought off some wonderful catches, particularly those which got out Mr Dowson, at mid-off; Mr Crawford, deep on the off-side; Mr Leveson-Gower, at mid-on (a one-handed catch high up), and Clode, at cover-point. Wass again bowled well. A storm threatened all day, but it never broke, and the 15,000 people enjoyed the game in comfort.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 August, page 10)

The heavy rain prevented the finishing of several matches yesterday. The detailed scores have already been given in The Times. Abandoned matches were: -

Surrey v Notts, at the Oval . . .

4 August: WARWICKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6047.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

Rain curtailed the hours of cricket at Birmingham yesterday.

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

In an interesting day's cricket at Birmingham yesterday the score came out as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 August, page 10)

The heavy rain prevented the finishing of several matches yesterday. The detailed scores have already been given in The Times. Abandoned matches were: -

. . . Warwickshire v Worcestershire, at Birmingham

4 August: GLAMORGAN AND WILTSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/96/96997.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

The bowlers did well in this scratch match at Cardiff yesterday, and the Australians were only 27 runs on at the end of an innings each.

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

The Australians won the match at Cardiff yesterday by six wickets. The pitch was always favourable to the bowlers.

4 August: MIDDLESEX II v ESSEX II

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/251/251325.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 August, page 10)

The brilliant hitting in the second innings of Middlesex by Mr F B Wilson, of this year's Cambridge eleven, was the feature of this match at Lord's yesterday. In 40 minutes he scored 89 runs out of 123 made while he was batting. Mr Bevington for Middlesex and Mr McIver for Essex also showed good form. Benham took five of the Middlesex wickets for ten runs, and Mr Lewis took the same number of Essex wickets for nine.

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

Essex won this match at Lord's, yesterday, by six wickets. The second innings of Middlesex closed for 180, leaving the visitors 141 to win. They made the runs before half-past 1 for the loss of four men. Mr J W H Douglas, for Essex, took five wickets for 24 runs and played a good innings of 53, a score that included six fours. Freeman also batted well, making 44 in half an hour.

7 August: ESSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6048.html)

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

Owing to the rain a start could not be made in the following matches: - Essex v Notts, at Leyton . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 August, page 11)

Some sensational cricket was witnessed at Leyton yesterday, where, after a blank day on Thursday, Essex were outplayed from start to finish.

Essex had first innings, but failed utterly before Wass and J Gunn. Tremlin and Mead for the last wicket increased the score from 53 to 76 by some free hitting. A long and determined stand was made by Iremonger and W Gunn, which was not closed until the score stood at 114.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 August, page 16)

The match at Leyton was drawn on Saturday after steady cricket.

7 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6049.html)

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

There was a dull day's cricket at Bristol yesterday. The wicket had been rendered extremely slow, and the only time when runs were scored with anything approaching freedom was between the showers, which fell frequently towards the close of the afternoon. Middlesex were batting at that period and, with the bowlers handicapped by having to use a wet ball, Mr Warner and Mr Douglas met with sufficient success to secure rather the better position for Middlesex. Mr Douglas, however, enjoyed a large share of luck, for he twice escaped being run out and gave two difficult chances before he had scored 12 and another when 27.

The work this pair accomplished would not have amounted to much but for the fact that the Gloucestershire innings only realized 165. Mr Wells and Trott bowled with considerable success and, in spite of a brief but bright display by Mr Jessop and a very patient exhibition by Mr Rice, who took two hours and a quarter to get 39, six wickets were down for 114. Then Mr Fowler and Roberts made an invaluable stand, which carried the total to 165. The amateur forced the game extremely well, particularly after he had been twice missed. Only once before had he met with an equal measure of success.

Much of the Middlesex fielding was excellent, several clever catches being made. The weather during most of the day was dull, but it was only during the last hour and a half that play was interrupted by rain.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 August, page 11)

Play at Bristol yesterday was limited to ten minutes. In that time Middlesex advanced their total from 68 to 70 and lost Mr J Douglas.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 August, page 16)

Middlesex gained a decisive victory over Gloucestershire at Bristol on Saturday by an innings and 67 runs. They owed their success, in about equal proportions, to the weather and the bad fielding of their opponents.

7 August: HAMPSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6050.html)

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

In a shortened day's cricket at Southampton yesterday the Australians had the better of the game, for when stumps were pulled up they held a lead of 45 with six wickets in hand. On a pitch affected by

the rain Hampshire fared none too well against the bowling of Mr Noble, who dismissed six batsmen for between five and six runs apiece. Subsequently some splendid batting by Mr Darling enabled the Australians to finish up the day with a useful lead.

Major Poore made his first appearance for Hampshire since 1899. Owing to the Coronation the match is confined to two days.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 August, page 11)

The Australians easily won their match at Southampton yesterday by an innings and 79 runs. Mr Trumble and Mr Saunders bowled splendidly.

7 August: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6051.html)

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

Although some brief showers fell at Canterbury before luncheon they only curtailed yesterday's cricket by a few minutes and, with the weather turning out bright and fine subsequently, the ladies' day of the festival was a brilliant success, there being between eight and nine thousand spectators. On the previous evening the County Ball had attracted a large attendance, and last night the chief entertainment was at the theatre, where the Old Stagers repeated a creditable performance of the School for Scandal.

Yesterday's cricket was a great triumph for the Kent eleven, who batted from mid-day until nearly 6 o'clock to complete an innings of 389. They were four hours and 40 minutes making the runs, and they scored at the rate of over 80 an hour all through. The most noteworthy partnership was that of Mr Burnup and Mr Marsham, who contributed 148 in 80 minutes for the second wicket. Mr Burnup, who went in first, was out second at 161, of which his proportion was 60.

Mr Marsham had some luck, being bowled by a no-ball when eight and missed from a difficult chance at slip when 18; but for all that his all-round hitting was quite the feature of the day. He made his 92 in a trifle over an hour and a half, and hit a five, 12 fours, four threes and five twos. Another determined stand was that of Mr Mason and Hearne for the fifth wicket, which produced 95 runs. Hearne's exhibition was without a mistake up to 50, but he gave two chances afterwards. His 73 included 13 fours.

Surrey lost a wicket for eight runs in the last few minutes of the afternoon, so that they have a formidable task to face to-day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 August, page 11)

With the surface of the ground drier than on Thursday, Surrey had a formidable task to face at Canterbury yesterday. From the outset batsmen were in difficulties, and no one except Hayes, who hit at everything, and Captain Bush showed any ability to cope with the bowling of Blythe, Mr Mason and Humphreys.

Hayes and Mr Dowson added 37 to the score before Mr Dowson was bowled by a ball he never attempted to play. Hayes was seventh out for a vigorous 48, made in 45 minutes, which included seven fours. Rain fell during the luncheon interval and it was not until a quarter past 4 that Surrey could go in again. Only 20 minutes' further play was possible, during which Abel was bowled.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 August, page 16)

Badly as the Surrey batting broke down on Friday at Canterbury, the display on Saturday was even worse, for in a trifle over an hour's cricket their last five wickets fell for an addition of 53 runs, and Kent were left with a brilliant victory by an innings, with 191 runs to spare.

17

The rain had left the turf soft, but there was no sun worth mentioning and the pitch seemed easy. Hayward and Hayes increased the score from six to 55 before Hayes left, but with that total unaltered Hayward, Captain Bush, Mr Dowson and Mr Crawford were all dismissed, and six men were out at 56, and the innings closed for 59. Blythe took five wickets for three singles in the course of four overs, and Mr Mason the other four for one run.

The Old Stagers brought their 61st season at the theatre to a close with a second performance of The Importance of Being Earnest and the production of an original epilogue entitled Pax Vobiscum, by Lieutenant-Colonel Newnham Davis and Mr W H Leese.

7 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6052.html)

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

Owing to the rain a start could not be made in the following matches: - . . . Leicestershire v Yorkshire, at Leicester.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 August, page 11)

There was no play yesterday in the following matches owing to the bad weather: - . . Leicestershire v Yorkshire, at Leicester . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 August, page 16)

This match had to be abandoned at Leicester on Saturday without a ball having been bowled.

7 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6053.html)

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

Play was possible for an hour and ten minutes only at Taunton yesterday. Sussex having won the toss did none too well on a slow wicket, as Mr Woods going on at 27 for Vine caught at short slip and Killick at short leg in his first over. With four added Relf's wicket was sacrificed, and Mr Heygate and Mr Latham slightly improved matters by putting on 30 for the fourth wicket before the former was bowled.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 August, page 11)

As on Thursday, a heavy rain storm visited Taunton yesterday before the luncheon interval, rendering all idea of further play out of the question. During the 55 minutes cricket was in progress Sussex added 43 to their overnight total for the loss of three wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 August, page 16)

The match at Taunton was drawn on Saturday.

7 August: WARWICKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6054.html)

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

Owing to the rain a start could not be made in the following matches: – . . . Warwickshire v Lancashire, at Birmingham . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 August, page 11)

There was no play yesterday in the following matches owing to the bad weather: - Warwickshire v Lancashire, at Birmingham . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 August, page 16)

Rain ruined the cricket at Birmingham, and the match was drawn as follows . . .

7 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6055.html)

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

Owing to the rain a start could not be made in the following matches: – . . . Worcestershire ${\tt v}$ Derbyshire, at Worcester.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 August, page 11)

There was no play yesterday in the following matches owing to the bad weather: - Worcestershire v Derbyshire, at Worcester.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 August, page 16)

Although there was no prospect of bringing the match to a definite issue at Worcester on Saturday, there was some splendid batting by the brothers Foster, who punished the Derbyshire bowling unmercifully.

Saturday 9 August, page 11: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The England team at the Oval on Monday in the fifth and final test match will consist of Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire) (captain), Mr F S Jackson (Yorkshire), Mr L C H Palairet (Somerset), Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire), Lockwood (Surrey), Hayward (Surrey), Rhodes (Yorkshire), Hirst (Yorkshire), Lilley (Warwickshire), Tyldesley (Lancashire) and Braund (Somerset).

Three changes have been made from the side beaten by three runs at Manchester a fortnight ago, Mr Jessop, Hayward and Hirst taking the places of K S Ranjitsinhji, Abel and Tate.

A new departure will be made at the Oval on Monday - the first day of the test match. In order to give the spectators the earliest intimation of the result of the toss, a board will be placed in front of the pavilion directly the toss has been made signifying by letter (E for England, A for Australia) which side is going in first. This will be repeated from the other side of the ground.

Monday 11 August, page 16: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The last of the test matches will be started this morning on the Oval. The names of the English team were given in The Times of Saturday.

YORKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE. - Lord Hawke will not be able to play for Yorkshire at Harrogate to-day against Worcestershire owing to a damaged thumb. There will thus be four of the regular Yorkshire team absent, Mr Jackson, Hirst and Rhodes being engaged in the test match. The substitutes will be Mr Ernest Smith, Mr T W Elam, of the Leeds Club, Oyston, a Leeds professional, and J T Brown, jun., or Whitehead.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

BATTING					
	Innings	Runs	Most in innings	Not outs	Average
Shrewsbury	28	1080	127*	7	51.42
K S Ranjitsinhji	24	1036	234*	2	47.09
Tyldesley	24	1418	163	3	45.74
Mr E M Ashcroft	20	834	162	1	43.89
Iremonger	32	1243	146	2	41.43
Mr T L Taylor	36	1364	142*	3	41.33
W G Quaife	24	901	153*	2	40.95
Mr S H Day	15	480	117*	3	40.00
Mr C B Fry	38	1394	158*	2	38.72
Mr P Perrin	31	962	121	6	38.08
Mr C McGahey	23	1050	126	5	37.85
Mr A O Jones	29	959	100	2	37.51
Mr C J B Wood	38	1290	176	3	37.11
Knight	31	1076	190*	2	37.10
Mr P F Warner	19	659	139	1	35.61
Hon F S Jackson	26	789	128	3	35.31
Hirst	33	1050	134	4	35.20
Mr A C MacLaren	31	1045	174	2	36.03
Abel	50	1600	179	5	35.55
Mr C J Burnup	38	1277	161	2	35.47
Mr C H B Marsham	30	945	120	3	35.00
W Gunn	20	655	120	1	34.47
Brockwell	29	787	80*	7	34.21
Mr W L Murdoch	22	711	132	1	33.55
Denton	35	1081	127	3	33.78
Dr W G Grace	29	907	131	2	33.59
Hayward	40	1237	177	2	32.55
Arnold	33	907	92	5	32.39
Devey	35	727	86	2	31.60
Mr F L Fane	31	884	108	3	31.57
Mr V F S Crawford	32	940	101*	1	30.96
Mr G L Jessop	38	1082	125	3	30.91
Mr E W Dillon	36	1048	137	2	30.82
Braund	36	1070	141	1	30.57
King	37	961	130	5	30.03
Mr J R Mason	31	930	107	0	30.00
Tunnicliffe	36	1078	127	1	29.87
Mr W H B Evans	21	609	142	0	29.00
Washington	31	803	100*	3	28.85
Killick	37	910	133	4	28.78
Relf	38	921	94	6	28.78
Mr B J T Bosanquet	26	639	103	3	27.78
Vine	42	999	92	6	27.75
Mr W Newham	21	544	153	1	27.20
Bowley	32	837	122*	1	27.00
Capt H S Bush	28	697	122	2	28.80
Mr A E Lawton	34	882	149	1	28.72
Mr G Brann	22	500	108	3	26.31
Mr E M Dowson	36	868	72	3	26.24
Mr R T Crawford	26	652	89*	1	26.08

Mr S M J Woods	29	724	86*	1	25.8	
Mr G W Beldam	31	744	156*	2	25.	
Mr H K Foster	29	737	112	0	25.	
Mr C J Kortright	25	579	66	2	25.	
Mr L C H Palairet	31	775	90 95	0	25.0	
Haigh Mr D. I. A. Jophson	29	592 724	85 94	5 9	24.	
Mr D L A Jephson Kinneir	39 23	724 509	94 86	9 2	24. 24.2	
Langdon	23 29	509 662	84	2	24.	
Lockwood	33	783	103	2	23.	
Dr D MacDonald	20	354	82	5	23.	
Mr W P Robertson	26	612	52	0	23.	
Sharp	25	510	68*	3	23.1	
Needham	19	304	56	2	23.1	
Hayes	42	947	114	1	23.0	
Mr L G Wright	25	571	101	0	22.8	
J T Brown	32	723	91	0	22.	
Lord Hawke	27	511	126	4	22.2	21
Hallows	30	537	109	4	22.	19
Trott	28	614	103	1	22.0	00
Mr W Troup	30	652	127*	3	21.	92
J Gunn	26	545	80	1	21.8	80
Llewellyn	31	629	109	2	21.	
Wheldon	30	541	63	4	20.8	
Gaukrodger	27	453	59	5	20.	
Ward	27	535	89	1	20.2	
Board	41	724	95*	4	19.	
Lilley	25	421	72*	2	18.3	30
BOWLING						
	Overs	Maidens		Wi	ckets	Average
Haigh	535.5	156	1313		108	12.15
Rhodes	929.2	293	2033		149	13.64
Hargreave	733.5	241	1363		99	13.76
Blythe	650.4 426.5	155 152	1481		105 62	14.10
Mr J R Mason Hon F S Jackson	330.2	87	936 784		62 51	15.09 15.37
Tate	936.3	267	2171		140	15.50
Woodcock	226.2	74	537		32	16.78
Lockwood	556.2	117	1564		93	17.03
Wass	670.3	151	1895		111	17.07
Cranfield	672.1	147	1920		111	17.29
I'Anson	232.2	68	597		34	17.55
Gill	470.3	89	1201		68	17.65
Santall	280	111	579		32	18.09
J T Hearne	513.2	231	1752		93	18.28
Mr G L Jessop	297.3	77	804		43	18.89
Bird	305.5	71	757		40	18.92
Cuttell	407.3	170	773		40	19.32
Hirst	578.3	165	1317		67	19.55
Llewellyn	942.3	262	2676		136	19.87
Braund	718.5	109	2245		112	20.04
Barnes	674.5	183	1677		82	20.45
Hallam	564.2	183	1213		59	20.55
G A Wilson (Worcs)	668	132	1925		92	20.92
Mead	728.5	282	1662		79	21.03
Arnold	560.3	133	1473		70	21.04
Mr E E Steel	356.1	84	1038		49	21.18
Bestwick Mr. C. Simpson-Hauward	566.4 265 1	170	1506		71	21.21
Mr G Simpson-Hayward	265.1	59 164	968 2453		45 114	21.46
Trott Poberts	827.5 357.2	164 123	2453 965		114 44	21.51
Roberts Field	237.1	59	965 743		44 34	21.70 21.82
Dr W G Grace	456.1	143	1021		34 46	22.19

Spry	260.3	36	893	40	22.32
J Gunn	578	179	1357	62	22.37
Hulme	534.3	149	1330	58	22.93
Mr E M Dowson	540.3	110	1680	71	23.68
Mr W M Bradley	449.5	129	1158	48	23.83
Mr C McGahey	368.3	83	811	28	23.97
King	501	127	1386	55	25.20
Young	521.1	114	1336	53	25.20
Richardson	653.4	138	2050	78	26.28
Mr D L A Jephson	264.4	51	820	31	26.45
Mr W W Odell	539.3	118	1630	60	27.16
Relf	633	196	1629	56	29.08
Huggins	610	198	1448	47	30.80
Vine	509.3	119	1375	42	32.73
Brockwell	437.2	75	1350	40	33.75

BATTING

2111 1 1110						
				Most in	Not	
		Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr V Trump	per (N.S.W.)	35	1694	128	0	48.40
Mr R A Dui	Ef (N.S.W.)	41	1215	183	5	34.02
Mr M A Nob	ole (N.S.W.)	32	927	284	4	33.10
Mr C Hill	(S.A.)	37	1170	123	1	32.66
Mr W W Arr	nstrong (V.)	33	761	172*	9	31.29
Mr J Darl:	ing (N.S.W.)	35	802	128	4	27.25
Mr A J Hop	okins (N.S.W.)	36	789	105*	5	25.45
Mr S E Gre	egory (N.S.W.)	36	744	83	5	24.00
Mr J J Kel	lly (N.S.W.)	23	286	75	7	18.00
Mr E Jones	s (S.A.)	17	239	40	1	14.37
Mr H Carte	er (N.S.W.)	14	73	31	4	7.80
Mr H Trumb	ole (V.)	15	98	22	2	7.53
Mr W P Hov	well (N.S.W.)	18	65	16	4	4.64
Mr J V Sau	unders (V.)	21	50	9*	5	3.12

BOWLING

DOWITING					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	477.3	155	956	69	13.25
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	426.4	143	810	53	15.28
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	374.4	112	904	54	16.74
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	530.4	161	1410	82	17.19
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	460.4	100	1363	76	17.47
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	252.3	64	432	22	19.63
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	505.4	131	1358	68	19.29
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	145.3	40	398	20	19.90

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are now as follows: -

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
20	9	1	10	8	80.00
19	5	2	12	3	42.85
19	6	3	10	3	33.33
17	4	2	11	2	33.33
13	4	3	6	1	14.28
21	5	4	12	1	11.11
18	7	6	5	1	7.69
17	4	4	9	0	0.00
15	5	7	3	-2	-16.66
16	2	3	11	-1	-20.00
12	2	4	6	-2	-33.33
17	3	7	7	-4	-40.00
	20 19 17 13 21 18 17 15 16	20 9 19 5 19 6 17 4 13 4 21 5 18 7 17 4 15 5 16 2 12 2	20 9 1 19 5 2 19 6 3 17 4 2 13 4 3 21 5 4 18 7 6 17 4 4 15 5 7 16 2 3 12 2 4	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

Middlesex	14	2	5	7	-3	-42.85
Hampshire	12	2	6	4	-4	-50.00
Leicestershire	14	1	4	9	-3	-60.00

Owing to rain, the match Leicestershire v Yorkshire, at Leicester, was abandoned without a ball being bowled, and is therefore not included in the above list.

11 August: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6056.html)

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

(From our special correspondent)

The last test match of the season began yesterday, in fairly bright but very cold weather, before a huge crowd of about 20,000 spectators at Kennington Oval.

The excitement might have been greater if England had won the great match at Manchester and honours had been easy at the end of the fourth match; but there was no lack of enthusiasm, and the Australians had no reason to complain of any partiality of the crowd. An appreciable number of Australian soldiers in their picturesque uniforms formed an attractive group at the south-east corner of the pavilion, and the hitting of Mr Kelly at the end of the day gave great delight to these gallant Volunteers.

Though during the last week plenty of rain had fallen, the cold wind had prevented the wicket from becoming difficult and, if there is no change in the weather and the English batting does not completely break down, there is every probability of a draw. The wicket was a very easy one to bat on, and might be described as an impossible wicket for bowlers. Not many balls broke and not one got up - all came easily, half stump high, and it was no fault of either the bowling or fielding that when the tenth Australian wicket fell the large score of 324 had been made. The Australians again showed their capacity to score almost down to the last man, but for most of the time none of them had any apparent desire to force the pace, except Mr Trumper at the beginning and Mr Kelly at the end of the day.

Mr Darling won the toss, and Mr Trumper and Mr Duff began the batting for Australia. They played good and fast cricket, and 45 runs were scored in half an hour. Not even Lockwood could make the ball get up nor Rhodes make it break. But Hirst, who took up the bowling at Rhodes's end, met with considerable success. He bowled admirably and got all the first five wickets. Mr Trumper played, as he has done all the season, most attractive and excellent cricket, and so in a less degree did Mr Duff; but neither Mr Hill nor Mr Darling ever got set. Although Mr Noble was none too comfortable at first, still he and Mr Gregory stopped the fall of wickets and brought the score at the luncheon interval to 107 for four wickets.

The scoring after the fall of Mr Darling's wicket was extremely slow, one hour's play producing only 38 runs. Soon after luncheon Mr Gregory was clean bowled by a rather short ball of Hirst's that he tried to cut. Mr Noble now began to play a free game, but after receiving some valuable help from Mr Armstrong, who was clean bowled by Mr Jackson, was himself caught by the same bowler off a hot return. Mr Noble went in at a critical time for Australia and played a thoroughly sound and good innings. His style was far more attractive than was the case in 1899. He took some time to play himself in, but he had the best of the bowling to play. Much depended on him, and he took two hours in compiling his score.

Six wickets were now down for 174, by no means a large score in these days on such a very easy wicket. The troubles of England began when Mr Trumble and Mr Hopkins came together. Mr Hopkins had only scored four when a very confident appeal for 1-b-w, off Rhodes, was given in his favour, but from behind the bowler's arm in the pavilion he certainly appeared to be out. In the next over from Mr Jackson, Mr Trumble was missed at the wicket.

After these two events everything went in favour of Australia. By extremely slow and accurate play the two batsmen gradually wore down the English bowling. It was no doubt the right game to play and it certainly answered. The fielding never became slack and the batsmen took not the slightest risk. In fact, Mr Trumble, whose play is entirely in front of the wicket, seldom attempted to play Rhodes's bowling when outside the off stump. The two men added 81 runs and the whole aspect of the game was altered. Rhodes had not the best of luck, for though the almost painful easiness of the wicket prevented him from getting much work on the ball, he kept an admirable length and Hirst, not unnaturally, seemed to tire. At length Mr Hopkins was caught off Lockwood after an excellent innings of 40.

Mr Kelly then came in and, after some slow play, began to hit in a most refreshing manner, scoring 39. At the end of the day's play the Colonials were in an almost impregnable position. Mr Trumble had, no doubt, most to do with this result. He seemed to set himself the sole task of wearing the bowling down, and he succeeded. He was batting for two hours and a half and only gave one chance. Mr Hopkins, who most ably assisted him, looks as if he might be l-b-w every over, for he gets in front more than any player now before the public; but he hits the ball and his second line of defence is not therefore called upon. Mr Kelly played an exceedingly good game and, altogether, is a most valuable man to go in tenth.

The extremely easy wicket was too much for the English bowlers. The early Australian batsmen played a fairly free game, and when this is the case, though runs may come freely, there is a chance of getting wickets. And this happened yesterday. But the later batsmen concentrated their efforts on keeping their wickets intact, and the lack of sting in the wicket made their task comparatively an easy one.

The Australians are to be congratulated on the way in which they again demonstrated their capacity to take advantage of their opportunities. Even on such an easy wicket their total of 324 as an excellent performance, having regard to the fact that only one chance, and that at the wicket, was missed during the whole day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 August, page 10)

At the end of the first day's play in the fifth test match England had the worse position, but there was every prospect of a good score and a drawn match. Again, however, did the eccentricities of the English climate overthrow all calculations, for rain fell in the night and the result was a wicket in favour of the bowlers. This was the case more or less all day yesterday, but very much so in the morning.

This was ill-luck for England. But the cricket was far more interesting than on Monday, and the impartial spectator had much to admire in the bowling, batting and fielding. The wicket was most difficult in the morning, and it would have surprised nobody if England had fared even worse than she did.

The bowling of Mr Trumble could not have been surpassed, and he took every advantage of the wicket. The fielding was accurate and the field was judiciously arranged. Mr Saunders bowls a very difficult ball, but some very bad ones also, and Tyldesley and Mr Palairet made some beautiful strokes. No discredit is imputed to the English batting in stating the fact that it was not good enough for the bowling on such a wicket. The ball hung, got up and turned. Indeed, some judges of the game thought that the match would be finished during the day and that the Colonials would win in one innings. When the sixth wicket fell the score was only 83, but after a few overs, in the course of which there were some remarkable performances with the ball, the luncheon interval came with Braund and Hirst not out.

The interval of 45 minutes brought a change in the condition of the wicket, which gradually improved, and during the rest of the day, though it was always rather in favour of the bowlers, it presented no insurmountable difficulty to a really good bat. To Hirst is mainly due the credit of saving England's position, though Braund and Lockwood both played well and helped to avert the follow-on. Hirst never played a pluckier innings. He did not take undue liberties, but pulled Mr Saunders from the off to leg with great success, and hit most vigorously. On one occasion he hit a ball from Mr Trumble into the pavilion. He gave no chance and, out of the total of 54 runs obtained since he went in, scored no fewer than 43.

Lockwood then joined Braund and played good cricket; but, fortunately for him, and England, too, he was missed when he had got 11 runs in the deep field by Mr Hill. The catch was not exactly an easy one, but it ought to have been held; and, if it had been, there would have been a probability of England's following on and having more than two hours' play on a rather difficult wicket. The follow-on was then saved, and the total after all came to 183, which was far better than appeared probable at lunch time. Braund only scored 22, but he played the bowling for some considerable time

and had a large share in saving the follow-on. Mr Trumble bowled all through unchanged from the Pavilion end, and again proved himself to be a bowler of the highest class.

The wicket was obviously improving, though the light was by no means good, when the Australians began their second innings; but it cannot be said that they batted up to their reputation. Messrs Trumper and Duff began, and Mr Duff was badly missed by Hirst, off Rhodes, in the first over. Mr Trumper then played a ball tolerably hard to Mr Jessop's left hand and started to run; Mr Duff refused to go, and Mr Trumper, who slipped in trying to return, was easily run out. He would probably have been run out in any case, for Mr Jessop is the last fieldsman in the world to run risks with.

The fall of their great batsman may have had a depressing effect on the Australians. At all events, at no time during the rest of the day did they display their real form. Mr Hill, who was in for nearly an hour and a half, played in a cramped style and not like the great batsman he undoubtedly is. Mr Darling began well, though he was missed at the wicket off Lockwood, but only scored 15. Mr Noble, Mr Gregory and Mr Hopkins did nothing remarkable, and when stumps were drawn eight wickets were down for 114.

Mr Saunders, who was sent in early, was finely caught by Tyldesley in front of the pavilion. Hirst, who is usually a very safe field, missed two catches, but Mr MacLaren made a fine catch at extra short slip when Mr Hill was disposed of. Lockwood, Braund and Rhodes all bowled well, but it seemed strange that Hirst was not put on earlier after his success in the first innings.

The Australians are now 255 runs on with two very useful wickets still to go, and have no doubt by far the best position; but considering the circumstances England may be congratulated on the form shown in the second day's play, in which, independently of the first day, they fairly held their own. If no rain falls and they can get rid of the last two Australian wickets cheaply, they will still have a difficult task to win, but not an absolutely impossible one. The Englishmen have had so much the worst of the luck this season that it would seem only natural to expect more rain to-night and a bowler's wicket to-morrow, but if this is not the case a good finish may be hoped for.

There is only one other point towards which attention ought to be drawn, and that is the inordinate extent to which leg play was indulged in. Some of the English batsmen get very much in front of the wicket, but they play at the ball with the bat. But several of the Australians, notably Mr Armstrong and Mr Gregory, and in a lesser degree Mr Noble and Mr Hopkins, continually got in front of the wicket to Braund's leg-breaks and made no attempt to play the ball. This is not cricket, and the hope that such play was a thing of the past has been ruthlessly dispelled this season. It may, however, produce a change in the laws, which will be a point gained.

There was again a very large crowd, about 20,000 spectators being present.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 August, page 9)

Whatever may be said about the unsatisfactory weather that cricketers have experienced this season, the year has produced two struggles that can never have been surpassed for excitement. England has lost the rubber, but her defeat at Manchester and her victory at the Oval will never be forgotten, and both were much to her credit.

Every batsman on his way to the wicket yesterday felt that on his success or failure depended the fate of the match. In other words, the match was always in a critical position and every run had to be fought for. The bowling of Mr Trumble could not have been better. Every variety of pitch and break back seemed to be at his command, and he never sent down a ball of bad length. In this he was a very different bowler from Mr Saunders, who bowls a very difficult ball, but many very bad ones - of such bad length that a child could score from them. Mr Trumble bowled from the pavilion end from half-past 11 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon. He was never taken off, nor was his bowling once collared in an innings of 263.

At the end of the second day's play Australia were 255 runs ahead with two wickets in hand. No rain had fallen in the night, but it was generally thought that the wicket would be slow and easy. There was, however, a heavy dew, and the wicket up to luncheon time was very difficult and never became easy all day.

Only seven runs were added to the Australians' score. Indeed, the Australians may be said to have lost the match chiefly by their failure in batting on the second day when the wicket was not

difficult. As at Manchester, they collapsed in a way that was unworthy of a strong batting side. Lockwood's five wickets cost only 45 runs - a very good performance.

At 11.35 England began the last innings on a wicket that appeared made to suit the Australian attack, and the first three wickets fell for ten runs. The chances were quite four to one on Australia at this stage, and six to one when the fifth wicket fell at 48. The batsmen did not play well, but there was every excuse on such a wicket and against such bowling.

But Mr Jackson was still in and wonderfully free was his play. To him is due, to a very large extent, England's victory. On five occasions in the last five test matches has Mr Jackson had to go in at a critical moment for his side, and only once did he fail. There is no batsman in the world whose nerve is so surely to be relied on. When he was joined by Mr Jessop the great stand that paced the way for victory was made.

Up to lunch time the wicket was so difficult that nobody could have felt surprised if either batsman had got out; but they stayed in and brought the score to 87, though Mr Jessop appeared to give a chance of stumping, and was missed by Mr Trumper off a difficult chance in the long field. Runs came far faster after luncheon, Mr Jessop putting in some of his finest work, while Mr Jackson was content to take things steadily. Too much use was made of Mr Saunders, who was now bowling a very bad length and was freely punished by Mr Jessop. Three full pitches and one long hop were bowled consecutively, and 17 runs were scored from one over. Mr Jackson was then caught and bowled by Mr Trumble for 49, after an hour and 40 minutes' first-rate batting. The match appeared to be lost when he left.

Hirst came in next, and he, Mr Jessop and Mr Jackson were the three heroes of this famous innings. It must, however, be confessed that Hirst looked very like being l-b-w to Mr Trumble almost immediately after he went in. Mr Jessop continued his hitting and sent Mr Trumble twice in an over into the pavilion. Mr Armstrong relieved Mr Saunders and was vigorously hit by Hirst. But Mr Jessop must have longed for Mr Saunders again. He could not hit Mr Armstrong's leg balls with a little break on in his usual style, and the new bowler got him caught at short leg. Seven wickets were now down for 187 and 76 runs were still wanted.

Mr Jessop has accomplished several very wonderful performances in his life, but has frequently, both here and in Australia, failed against the colonial bowling. But as long as cricket history lasts will this great performance be remembered. He ran risks, as every man must who makes more than a run a minute, but he only gave two chances, and one of them was very difficult. He completely demoralized Mr Saunders. His wonderful success must have been a great cause for rejoicing to those who, in spite of so many failures, have urged his claim to represent England; and all these failures will be forgotten long before this great feat of fierce hitting against first-rate bowling and fielding and on a difficult wicket. Out of 139 runs scored while he was in 104 came from his bat.

On several occasions during this innings the prospects of England looked well, but, as so often happens, at a critical moment a wicket fell. Mr Jackson, Mr Jessop, Lockwood and Lilley all got out just when the chances might have veered round in England's favour. Seventy-four runs were wanting when Lockwood went in, 49 when Lilley succeeded him, and 15 when Rhodes, the last man, came out of the pavilion.

All these men played with nerve, but Hirst was the real hero. Nothing seemed to put him out. Indeed, he played with more confidence than in the first innings, and his hits were hard and along the ground. Lockwood stayed while 27 runs were scored, but his share was only two. Lilley got 16 out of 34 by good batting, but was dismissed by a good catch by Mr Darling at mid-off.

Rhodes then came in, and it is not likely that he will ever again have to face a more trying ordeal. Nobody could have risen to the occasion better. Hirst went on the even tenor of his way, and Rhodes stopped the straight balls and judiciously left alone the rising off balls from both Mr Trumble and Mr Noble. And thus the runs were slowly hit off, Rhodes making the winning hit amid a scene of excitement that can never be forgotten.

Mr Darling is so experienced a captain that it may seem presumptuous to wonder why he was so unwilling to make use of Mr Noble's bowling, but he undoubtedly was wise to keep on Mr Trumble all the time. In the whole match Mr Trumble bowled 65 overs for 12 wickets at a cost of 14 runs each - a splendid performance.

When all the conditions under which these last two test matches were played are considered, it must be conceded that it was a wonderfully fine feat of England's to lose the first match by only three runs and to win the second by one wicket. Several good judges yesterday said that for England to get 200 runs on the wicket would be a very fine performance, and they got 263. The Australians threw no chances away and their fielding and throwing were magnificent, Mr Hopkins especially doing grand work.

But Englishmen may justly claim for their side superiority in batting on a bowler's wicket, though, with the exception of Mr Jackson, no batsman shows the skill of Shrewsbury and other great batsmen of former years. Until this season the Colonials have not had much practice on bowlers' wickets, but the blot on their escutcheon is their collapse in batting on the second day both at Manchester and at the Oval. In both cases the Englishmen had the same wicket to play on; perhaps it was a trifle more difficult, but their batting was better.

It may be that the fall of Mr Trumper on both these occasions demoralized the side; and this need not be a matter for surprise, for such things are common, and Mr Trumper is the greatest bat in the world.

In this last match Australia had the advantage of occupying the wickets the whole of the first day, the only period when run-getting and batting were easy. Notwithstanding this fact, the English side, who never once in the match had anything but a difficult wicket to bat on, won the match; and this more than redeemed their reputation. The Australians, however, have won the rubber, and hearty congratulations must be given to them. They may have had the best of the luck, but this is part of the game, and every true sportsman will give them the credit of being the better side, taking one wicket with another.

AUSTRALIAN BATTING AVERAGES IN THE FIVE TEST MATCHES

					Most in	Not	
			Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr	С	Hill (S.A.)	8	256	119	1	36.85
Mr	V	Trumper (N.S.W.)	8	247	104	0	30.87
Mr	Η	Trumble (V.)	6	107	64*	2	26.75
Mr	А	J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	7	117	40*	1	19.50
Mr	М	A Noble (N.S.W.)	7	129	52	0	18.42
Mr	R	A Duff (N.S.W.)	8	129	54	0	16.12
Mr	J	Darling (S.A.)	7	109	51	0	15.57
Mr	S	E Gregory (N.S.W.)	8	100	29	1	14.28
Mr	W	W Armstrong (V.)	7	97	29	0	13.85
Mr	J	J Kelly (N.S.W.)	7	48	49	3	11.50
Mr	J	V Saunders (V.)	6	6	3	1	1.20

Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.) (0) and Mr E Jones (S.A.) (0) each batted once. Mr H Carter (N.S.W.), the reserve wicket-keeper, did not play in any of the five Test matches.

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES IN THE FIVE TEST MATCHES

			Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr	Η	Trumble (V.)	172.4	55	371	26	14.26
Mr	М	A Noble (N.S.W.)	127	41	367	14	21.92
Mr	А	J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	17	5	49	2	24.50
Mr	J	V Saunders (V.)	131.1	23	473	18	26.27
Mr	Е	Jones (S.A.)	39	13	107	3	35.66
Mr	V	Trumper (N.S.W.)	37	11	101	2	50.50
Mr	W	W Armstrong (V.)	44	10	123	2	61.50

Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.) also bowled in the Birmingham match, his figures being 26 8 58 1.

ENGLISH BATTING AVERAGES IN THE FIVE TEST MATCHES

			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Rhodes (Yorkshire)	7	67	38*	6	67.00
Hon F S Jackson (Yorkshire)) 8	311	128	1	44.42
Hirst (Yorkshire)	5	157	58*	1	39.25

Mr G L Jessop (Gloucester)	5	190	104	0	33.00
Tyldesley (Lancashire)	7	245	138	0	35.00
Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire)	8	198	63	1	23.23
Lockwood (Surrey)	5	86	52*	1	21.50
Abel (Surrey)	4	73	38	0	18.25
Braund (Somerset)	7	115	65	0	16.42
Mr L C H Palairet (Somerset)	4	49	20	0	12.25
Lilley (Warwickshire)	7	46	16	0	6.57
K S Ranjitsinhji (Sussex)	4	19	13	0	4.75
Mr C B Fry (Sussex)	4	5	4	0	1.25

The following also batted: - Barnes (Lancashire), 7 and 5; Tate (Sussex), 5* and 4; and Hayward (Surrey), 0 and 7.

ENGLISH BOWLING AVERAGES IN THE FIVE TEST MATCHES

Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
81.1	18	206	17	12.11
32	13	99	7	14.14
140.5	38	338	22	15.27
79	18	203	9	23.11
16	4	51	2	25.50
76.5	13	210	7	30.00
61.1	12	209	6	34.83
10	2	26	0	
	81.1 32 140.5 79 16 76.5 61.1	81.1 18 32 13 140.5 38 79 18 16 4 76.5 13 61.1 12	81.1 18 206 32 13 99 140.5 38 338 79 18 203 16 4 51 76.5 13 210 61.1 12 209	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

The following scores of over 100 were hit in the test games: -

For Australia -119, Mr C Hill, at Sheffield. 104, Mr V Trumper, at Manchester.

For England -138, Tyldesley, at Birmingham. 128, Hon F S Jackson, at Manchester. 104, Mr G L Jessop, at Kennington Oval.

11 August: M.C.C. AND GROUND v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6057.html)

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

Marylebone had the better of the day's cricket at Lord's yesterday. They were indebted to Trott and Mead for the cheap dismissal of the county. Alec Hearne, in his splendid innings of 194, hit 25 fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 August, page 10)

At Lord's, yesterday, the M.C.C. beat Leicestershire by an innings and 184 runs. Trott and Mead again bowled with great effect.

11 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6058.html)

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

There was some splendid batting by Shrewsbury and William Gunn at Trent Bridge yesterday. Both men showed their best form on a nice, easy wicket . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 August, page 10)

The Notts bowlers met with wonderful success yesterday at Trent Bridge. The wicket was difficult, and Wass and Hallam carried everything before them. Notts won by an innings and 89 runs.

11 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6059.html)

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

A slow day's play at Brighton yesterday terminated in Sussex holding an advantage, the visitors, with three batsmen out, being 174 behind.

Sussex were lucky in making their score, as Relf, Vine and Killick were all badly missed. Vine was content with his usual defensive game, batting over two hours for his runs, but when he hit his driving was beautifully clean. Eight wickets were down for 163, but a valuable stand by Mr Newham and Cox sent up the 200. Mr Newham played the best innings for his side.

Lancashire had 50 minutes' batting. They started their innings with Mr G MacLaren, a brother of the Lancashire captain, and Ward. The former, who made his first appearance for the county, shaped badly. Three wickets were down for 22; but then [Potter] and Hallows remained together until stumps were drawn. Vine bowled well, keeping a splendid length and puzzling the batsmen with his leg break. The Sussex fielding was excellent.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 August, page 10)

After having the worst of the play on Monday, Lancashire, yesterday, at Brighton, left off in a good position. Sussex were 74 on with two wickets to fall.

The pitch, owing to rain during the night, always played badly; but the visitors, in the circumstances, showed to advantage. Mr Potter was missed at the wicket when the score was 20, but afterwards he gave no actual chance.

Although the wicket was at its worst when Sussex entered upon their second innings, their early failure was extraordinary. Vine, Killick and Relf were out with but four runs scored, and with the total at 13 Mr Latham, Mr Newham and Mr Brann had also been disposed of. The succeeding batsmen, however, hit at nearly everything, and their forcing tactics succeeded where the more orthodox play had failed. Mr Heygate made a couple of brilliant cuts, while Mr Smith and Butt also hit in capital fashion. Barnes running two-thirds up the pitch and taking the ball low down with one hand disposed of Mr Newham with a splendid catch.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 August, page 9)

At Brighton yesterday Lancashire fully maintained the advantage gained on Tuesday and won by seven wickets. Overnight the home side had scored 60 for eight wickets and the record was increased to 92. Lancashire were left to obtain 98 to win.

With only four scored Mr G MacLaren was out, but afterwards the result, providing the weather kept fine, was never in doubt. Play was frequently interrupted by rain, but in the intervals the visitors gradually made their position safe. Hallows was caught at third man with 35 on the board, while Ward, after batting an hour and a half, left at 80. He gave a hard chance to Mr Newham at point when he had made 16, but otherwise his batting was faultless.

11 August: YORKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6060.html)

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

It was a bowlers' day at Harrogate yesterday. Yorkshire had their best players away helping England in the test match. Mr R E Foster was absent from Worcestershire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 August, page 10)

The Yorkshiremen played fine cricket at Harrogate yesterday. Their bowling, fielding and batting were all good, and Worcestershire were beaten by six wickets.

Thursday 14 August, page 9: M.C.C. v AUSTRALIANS

At Lord's to-day the M.C.C. will be represented by Dr W G Grace, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr Ernest Smith, Mr H B Chinnery, Mr W Findlay, Mr H J Stevenson, Mr A P Lucas, Mead, Thompson, Young and Carpenter.

THE M.C.C.'S TOUR IN HOLLAND

The Hague, Aug. 13

The cricket team composed of gentlemen of the M.C.C., which is making a tour in Holland, began the first of its series of two-days matches here to-day, playing an All Holland XI.

The visitors went in first and made a total of 234 runs, the Dutchmen replying with a score of 138. At the close of play the M.C.C. had made 34 for the loss of two wickets in their second venture. The highest scores in the Englishmen's first innings were: - Mr A H Hornby, 68, and Mr T H Hollins, 40.

14 August: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6061.html)

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

The feature of the cricket at Derby yesterday was the batting of Mr Ollivierre, who played a splendid innings of 167. On the easy pitch Mr Ollivierre punished the Warwickshire bowling severely, and thus early, since he became qualified for Derbyshire, has proved that he is a great acquisition to the county. This is his first hundred in county cricket, but with the team from the West Indies he showed that he was a batsman possessed of much skill.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 August, page 9)

The batting of Mr Lawton marked the game at Derby yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 August, page 9)

The cricket at Derby on Saturday was very brief. The match was over before luncheon, and Derbyshire won by an innings and 50 runs. Warren bowled with great success.

14 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6062.html)

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

The annual festival promoted by the Gloucestershire County Club, and known as the Cheltenham Week, was opened on the college ground yesterday with a visit from the Yorkshire eleven. The home county played their full strength for the first time this season, and Yorkshire, except for the absence of Lord Hawke, who is still suffering from an injured hand, were also at full strength.

A good deal of rain had fallen in the district. Batting first on a wicket that was always treacherous, Gloucestershire found runs exceedingly difficult to make. Only three men on the side reached double figures, and of these only Mr Jessop and Wrathall met the Yorkshiremen's attack with anything like confidence. Wrathall made the majority of his runs by fine strokes on the leg side, and was at last captured in the slips off Hirst. The last-named had then secured three wickets for two runs.

Mr Jessop, going in at the fall of the third wicket and playing a characteristic game, scored well all round the wicket. He hit up 42 runs out of a total of 46 scored during the time that he was in. His best strokes were five fours and eight twos. Board, of the remainder, was the only one to reach double figures, being not out 11, and the home county's innings closed for 104 as the result of an hour and fifty minutes' batting. Rhodes bowled unchanged throughout.

The pitch was even more difficult when Yorkshire were called upon to bat, yet Brown and Tunnicliffe opened well, and after a stoppage by rain put on 60 for the first wicket. As the game stands at present Yorkshire are 20 runs behind and have seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 August, page 9)

The first match of the Cheltenham week ended disastrously for Gloucestershire yesterday, Yorkshire defeating the home county by an innings and 102 runs.

The foundation for Yorkshire's good score had been laid over night by Brown and Tunnicliffe, and on resumption Mr Jackson and Mr Taylor passed Gloucestershire's score without further loss. Mr Taylor contributed a useful 27 before being snapped at wicket, and his colleague, always playing stylish cricket, was batting an hour and a quarter for 41.

Denton and Hirst subsequently put on runs at a rare pace. Hirst delighted the onlookers with some fine leg-strikes and for close upon an hour defied all Mr Jessop's bowling changes. Hirst did not make a weak stroke until he hit a rising ball up into the slips, which caused his dismissal.

Yorkshire led by 157 runs on the first innings, and this, as expected, proved too good a score for Gloucestershire. The pitch exactly suited the Yorkshire bowlers, and in an hour and a half Gloucestershire were dismissed for 55. Rhodes captured six wickets for 34 runs and Haigh four for ten runs. In the match Rhodes took ten wickets at the cost of 60 runs and Haigh six for 42 runs.

14 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6063.html)

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

In the return match between these counties at Portsmouth, yesterday, Worcestershire had the better of a quiet day's cricket. The recent rains had made the pitch difficult and the batsmen had to play for their runs.

Hampshire made a wretched start, losing half their wickets for 52 runs, but the later batsmen offered some slight resistance to the bowling, and this enabled the Hampshire total to exceed three figures. Worcestershire also started badly, but the batting of Gaukrodger towards the close turned the game in their favour. At the drawing of stumps Worcestershire were 71 ahead with two wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 August, page 9)

Worcestershire beat Hampshire yesterday at Portsmouth by six wickets. The bowlers did well, and Major Poore and Mr Sprot were the only batsmen who met with any degree of success.

14 August: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6064.html)

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

After the great excitement of the test match, reaction was manifest in the cricket at Lord's yesterday. The crowd was comparatively small, the wicket was slow and there was no enthusiasm. To make matters more disappointing, Dr W G Grace stood down at the last moment. As most of the counties were engaged, the club found it really difficult to raise a strong side.

The wicket was slow and difficult, and the batsmen had to fight hard for their runs; but the Australian fielding was slack and there seemed a lack of keenness in the play. Mr H B Chinnery, the old Etonian, batted best before lunch time, and afterwards there was some fine batting by Mr Lucas. Thompson played fairly well, but K S Ranjitsinhji was not in his best form. He mistimed the bowling at both ends and seemed always scraping for his runs. Of course he made many fine hits, and while he was in the batting was the best of the day.

After he and Mr Lucas had been caught at leg, there was nothing but dullness in the innings. Mr Howell, who did not play on the Oval at the beginning of the week, kept an excellent length and got a great deal of work on the ball. Considering the state of the ground, the M.C.C. made an excellent score.

When the Australians went in there was some fine fielding, and Mead kept a particularly good length. Mr Ernest Smith made a splendid catch in the long field.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 August, page 9)

At Lord's yesterday the Australians played a wonderful innings on an easy wicket. The feature of the day was the batting of Mr Hill, who went in first wicket down and was fifth out at 349. Mr Hill hit cleanly and well and never gave a chance.

Mr Noble played splendidly, and his cricket was the most correct of the day. Mr Gregory, who exceeded his previous highest score of the season, made 86; but his innings was marred by a chance to Mr Chinnery in the deep field and another at the wicket off Mr Stevenson's lobs. Mr Stevenson bowled with more success than his analysis indicates. Thompson was the best bowler for the M.C.C., but perhaps did not get a sufficient trial.

The Australians have the game in hand, for with nine wickets to fall the M.C.C. are still 192 behind in the second innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 August, page 9)

Little interest remained in this match at Lord's when the third day's play was entered upon as the M.C.C. were in an almost hopeless position. Carpenter batted well and so did Mr Ernest Smith.

The feature of the day's cricket, which extended to just beyond 2 o'clock, was the Australian bowling. Mr Armstrong, who kept a fine length and got much work on the ball, was assisted by the wicket, but the M.C.C. as a whole cut a sorry figure in what should have been a fine match. Coming as it did after the last of the tests the game no doubt suffered by the reaction from the excitement at the Oval. The Australians won by an innings and 34 runs.

14 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6065.html)

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

There was an even day's cricket at Trent Bridge yesterday without any special feature. Shrewsbury and Iremonger made a fairly good start for Notts, putting on 66 for the first wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 August, page 9)

Middlesex beat Notts at Trent Bridge yesterday by nine wickets. Some consistent batting enabled Middlesex to claim a lead of 59 at the end of the first innings. This lead was comparatively small in itself, but it proved substantial enough to give the side an easy victory. In the second innings Notts collapsed before Mr Bosanquet and Mr Wells, and there was some splendid wicket-keeping by Mr Gregor MacGregor.

14 August: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6066.html)

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

Owing to the wet wicket a start could not be made at Taunton yesterday until after the luncheon interval. Then the Somerset bowlers reaped their harvest, and Cranfield and Robson carried everything before them.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 August, page 9)

There was some splendid batting by Mr Burnup and Mr Day at Taunton yesterday in the closing hours, and this enabled Kent to recover their lost ground.

Earlier in the day Mr Palairet played a grand innings for Somerset. When stumps were drawn Kent were 95 ahead with nine wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 August, page 9)

Somerset won cleverly at Taunton on Saturday by two wickets. They were left with 234 to get in the fourth innings of the match, and the splendid batting of Mr Lionel Palairet, Mr Woods and Robson secured to them the game a quarter of an hour before the time arranged for drawing stumps.

14 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6067.html)

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

Surrey took the field at Kennington Oval yesterday without Mr Jephson, their captain, Captain Bush and Hayes in their return match with Lancashire, who were strongly represented. Mr Crawford winning the toss, Surrey batted first, and were at the wicket for nearly five hours, during which time they scored 280 for the loss of eight wickets. The turf had no life in it for a long time, and this accounted more for the slow scoring than the quality of the northern bowling.

After Hayward had been taken in the slips by Mr Eccles, who was responsible for the retirement of the first three batsmen, Holland came in. It was his first appearance in county cricket this year, and he made the most of his opportunity by remaining for three hours while he scored 90 out of 182 obtained during his stay. He was fortunate, as he gave a one-handed chance to Mr A C MacLaren when six, and another to Mr Eccles when 33, both being catches in the slips. But, despite these mis-hits and several snicks, he showed excellent form in his hard clean driving, his cuts and his strokes to leg. He made 14 boundary hits - seven of them in succession - three threes and seven twos.

Baker probably showed the most correct cricket of the day for 38, his contribution towards 98 for the fourth wicket. Both Mr Crawford and Mr Dowson were dismissed in one over from Barnes, who got both the amateurs caught at third man by the same kind of ball. With seven wickets down for 207 Lockwood

and Clode put on 67 before they were separated by Mr Geoffrey MacLaren, who secured his first victim in county cricket by bowling Clode with a good length ball.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 August, page 9)

Some extraordinary cricket was seen at Kennington Oval yesterday, when 18 wickets fell for 243 runs in the course of four and three-quarter hours' play, Surrey then being left with an advantage of 333 runs, with four wickets in hand. The first innings of Surrey eventually terminated for 315, Lockwood being the last out for a well-played 63, despite a chance to Mr MacLaren in the slips when he was 57.

Lancashire collapsed in an extraordinary manner, for Richardson dismissed Ward and Tyldesley in his third over, and Lockwood sent back Hallows and Eccles in another over, the first and second wickets falling at 13, and the third and fourth at 14. Lockwood was irresistible, and in seven overs he captured five wickets for 11 runs, with the result that Lancashire had only placed 33 to their credit in rather over an hour for the loss of seven men. Mr MacLaren and I'Anson made a fine effort to redeem the innings from complete failure, and the old Harrovian hit 19 in two overs from Lockwood; but in an hour and 35 minutes Lancashire were dismissed for 100.

Despite the fact that Surrey enjoyed a lead of 215, they exercised their option by batting a second time. Hallows, bowling from the same crease as Lockwood, the Vauxhall end, secured the first four wickets for nine runs, the product of 15 [?] overs. After that he was less effective, but after bowling for over two hours he had sent down 25 overs, but still only 34 had been hit off his deliveries. Baker, although slow in his method, batted uncommonly well.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 August, page 9)

Surrey won the match at the Oval on Saturday by 291 runs. Lancashire had to get over 400 to win, but, on a wicket that helped them, Lockwood and Richardson bowled with all their old sting.

14 August: SUSSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6068.html)

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

Play at Brighton yesterday was frequently interrupted by light showers, the time available for cricket being limited to three hours and three-quarters. The Sussex batsmen made good use of their opportunities on the easy wicket, and at the close they held the better position.

The start scarcely presaged the excellent work which followed, as Mr Fry was out from the first ball of the match. Afterwards the batsmen were always masters of the situation. Vine and Killick during their partnership, lasting two hours and a half, put on 155 for the second wicket. After they were out, Mr Latham and Relf continued to make light of the Leicestershire bowling. The pair added 90 without being separated.

Killick's innings is deserving of every praise. He scored at rather a faster rate than usual, chiefly by safe cutting and leg placing, but he made one bad stroke - a very hard return when 58, high up, to Mr Crawford. Apart from a chance when 55 to King at cover-point, Relf also batted well, and both he and Killick during the innings completed their 1,000 runs aggregate for the season.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 August, page 9)

Leicestershire did none too well at bi yesterday, as with but four wickets to fall they still require 61 to save the follow-on. Overnight Sussex had scored 262 for three wickets, but yesterday they lost five of the remaining batsmen for 17 runs. The bowlers made the ball turn considerably at first, but afterwards the wicket improved. Mr Newham and Cox put on 58 for the ninth wicket.

Leicestershire lost two wickets before lunch. Afterwards Whitehead and King, adopting defensive methods, added 52, the partnership lasting an hour and 40 minutes. Whitehead hit freely. He made a bad stroke when 71, but Mr Latham, fielding at long-on, misjudged the ball; otherwise his innings was free from fault. Dr MacDonald, as usual, played with extreme caution, his stay at the wickets extending over an hour and a half.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 August, page 9)

On the Hove ground on Saturday Sussex could only draw their game. Leicestershire played a splendid uphill game, and the batting of King, Dr Macdonald and Coe was extremely good.

Friday 15 August, page 10: M.C.C. v ALL HOLLAND

The M.C.C. team which is playing a series of matches in Holland continued at The Hague yesterday its second innings in a match with the All Holland eleven. With their score at 239 for nine wickets the visitors declared. Dr Holton made 86.

Against the Englishmen's lead of 335, the Dutchmen's second innings only yielded 149, 68 of which were due to M Rincker. The M.C.C. were thus left the winners by 186 runs. Mr Hornby did the hat trick. - Reuter.

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

SOUTH AFRICA TOUR ARRANGED

Johannesburg, Aug. 13.

It is now finally settled that the Australian cricketers will visit South Africa about October next under the auspices of the Johannesburg Wanderers' Club. It is understood that the Australians will play two matches in Johannesburg against an All South Africa eleven. - Reuter.

Saturday 16 August, page 9: THE AUSTRALIAN VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Aug. 14.

Two thousand pounds are guaranteed the Australian cricketers if they visit South Africa, and also the surplus from the proceeds of the tour. Six matches will be played; two at Cape Town, two at Johannesburg, one at Durban and one at Pretoria or Kimberley. - Reuter.

Monday 18 August, page 9: THE AVERAGES

Below are given the chief averages up to date: -

BATTING

			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Shrewsbury	31	1250	127*	7	52.03
K S Ranjitsinhji	26	1106	234*	2	46.06
Tyldesley	38	1464	165	3	41.82
Mr S H Day	17	568	117*	3	40.57
Mr E M Ashcroft	23	880	162	1	40.00
Iremonger	35	1292	148	2	39.15
Mr T L Taylor	39	1405	142*	3	39.02
Hirst	36	1198	134	5	38.64
W G Quaife	26	914	153*	2	38.08
Mr P Perrin	31	952	121	6	38.03
Mr C McGahey	33	1050	126	5	37.85
Mr C B Fry	39	1394	159*	2	37.67
Mr C J Burnup	40	1376	151	2	36.21
Hon F S Jackson	28	891	128	3	35.64

Mr C H B Marsham	30	945	120	3	35.0	00
W Gunn	23	768	120	1	34.9	
Abel	52	1630	179	5	34.0	
Mr C J B Wood	42	1332	176	3	34.3	
Mr W L Murdoch	22	711	132	1	33.8	
Knight	35	1115	190*	2	33.	
Denton	38	1146	127	4	33.	
	29	807	131	2	33.5	
Mr A O Jones Mr P F Warner	32 21	1002 653	100	2 1	33.4	
Mr P F Wainei	35	1091	139 174	2	33.1 33.0	
Mr A C MacLaren Brockwell	32	626	89*	2 7	33.0	
Mr E W Dillon	38	1181	137	2	32.8	
Mr G L Jessop	42	1242	125	3	31.8	
Mr F L Fane	31	884	106	3	31.5	
Mr W Findlay	19	464	81	4	30.9	
Mr J A Dixon	17	460	123	2	30.0	
Hayward	44	1278	177	2	30.4	
Killick	40	1075	133	4	29.8	
	41	1061	130	5	29.4	
Mr V F S Crawford		968	101*	1	29.3	
Arnold	37	907	92	5	29.2	
Tunnicliffe	39	1106	127	1	29.2	10
Relf	41	1016	84	6	29.0	09
Braund	40	1123	141	1	28.	
	33	925	107	0	28.3	
Mr A E Lawton	37	1014	149	1	28.2	
Mr W Newham	24	617	163	2	28.0	
Mr B J T Bosanquet	27	666	103	3	27.	
Mr L C H Palairet	36	870	90	0	27.	
HI D H O WOOdS	31	714	88*	1	25.8	
Mr E M Dowson	33	874	72	3	24.9	
Lockwood	37	850	102	2	24.5	
Mr D L A Jephson	30	734	94	9	24.4	
Mr G Brann	24	606	106	3	24.0	
Mr H K Foster	33	790	112 91	0	23.9	
J T Brown, sen. Trott	36 39	819 854	91 103	0 1	22.4	
Lord Hawke	27	511	128	4	22.2	
BOWLING	_		_			_
** ' '	Overs	Maidens			kets	Average
Haigh	580	170	1436		25	11.48
Rhodes	1011.5	322	2177		60	13.56
Blythe Mr. I. B. Mason	701.4	197 172	1693		09 71	14.61
Mr J R Mason Hargreave	472.5 772.5	172 248	1049 1516		71 00	14.77 15.16
Tate	982.3	248 310	2241		45	15.16
Lockwood	633.5	133	1810		4J 11	16.30
Mr F S Jackson	356.3	94	871		53	16.48
Wass	748.2	175	2113		28	16.50
Bird	365.2	89	874		52	16.80
Mr E R Wilson	454.4	165	912		54	16.68
I'Anson	321.3	101	806		47	17.14
Cranfield	731.3	168	2062		19	17.32
Gill	434.3	103	1240		71	17.68
A Hearne	309.2	106	669		37	18.08
J T Hearne	834.2	292	1823		98	18.60
Hirst	623.3	176	1434		76	18.66
Hallam	604.5	197	1283		66	19.43
Mr G L Jessop	324.3	84	576		45	19.46
Llewellyn	978	209	2793		43	19.53
Mead	784.1	239	1788		91	19.75
Braund	795.2	191	2435	1	21	20.12

Barnes	779.5	224	1903	93	20.48
Trott	860.5	172	2578	125	20.62
Dr W G Grace	466.1	143	1021	46	22.19
J Gunn	625	189	1522	65	23.41
Mr E M Dowson	540.2	110	1680	71	23.66
Mr W M Bradley	480.5	133	1244	51	24.39

THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING

DATIING					
			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	38	1767	128	0	46.50
Mr C Hill (S.A.)	40	1357	126	1	34.79
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	35	1062	284	4	34.25
Mr R A Duff (N.S.W.)	44	1290	183	5	33.07
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	36	861	172*	9	29.68
Mr J Darling (N.S.W.)	39	893	128	4	25.51
Mr S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	39	862	86	5	25.35
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	39	869	105*	5	25.25
Mr J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	26	328	75	8	18.22
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	17	230	40	1	14.37
Mr H Trumble (V.)	18	176	64*	4	12.57
Mr H Carter (N.S.W.)	14	78	31	4	7.80
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	19	68	18	4	4.53
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	23	52	9*	5	2.88

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	574.5	182	1211	84	14.41
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	478.4	157	935	63	14.84
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	433.4	131	1050	61	17.21
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	561.2	170	1493	83	17.93
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	507.4	110	1547	84	18.41
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	352.3	44?	432	22	19.63
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	505.4	131	1363	83	19.89
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	145.3	40	398	20	19.90

18 August: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6069)

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

After a splendid beginning at Glossop yesterday, Surrey fared badly and their position was much less strong than the batting of Abel and Hayward presaged. The ground was much too soft for a start to be made until after lunch time, and it was then that Hayward and Abel played so well on the soft wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 August, page 9)

The weather prevented a ball from being bowled at Glossop yesterday . . .

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

This match at Glossop was yesterday abandoned as a draw, owing to the heavy turf. There had been no play since Monday, and the details of the score were given in The Times of Tuesday. Surrey had scored 208 for six wickets.

18 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6070.html)

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

So heavy and continuous was the rain at Cheltenham yesterday that play was limited to 20 minutes. In that time the Australians lost one wicket for 21 runs.

Woof, who has not assisted Gloucestershire since 1894, was tried again; and, in addition to his catching and bowling Mr Duff with the total at six, Mr Trumper was missed off his bowling at 11. The wicket assisted him, but he bowled as well as ever. He played in place of Roberts.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 August, page 9)

Gloucestershire fared badly at Cheltenham, yesterday, in their return match with the Australians. Dropped catches were largely responsible for the total of 312 by the visitors, and some indifferent batting accounted in a measure for the dismissal of nine of the home team for the small number of 147 runs.

After the heavy rains of Monday, which limited play to 20 minutes, the pitch was easy in the morning, and in the absence of bright sunshine or a drying wind it never really became difficult. Still there was a great contrast in the scoring of the two teams. In the course of the day the Colonials lost nine wickets and obtained 291 runs, while Gloucestershire for the same number of wickets could only claim 147.

Mr Trumper, who distinguished himself by making his ninth hundred of the season, enjoyed a large measure of luck. He was missed on Monday after scoring eight, and yesterday he gave chances at 33 and 115, and it can hardly be said that he ever showed quite his best form during the two hours and five minutes that he was batting. He had capital assistance from Mr Hill and Mr Darling, while Mr Armstrong made the close of the innings interesting. Apart from these players little was done with Mr Jessop, who bowled remarkably well upon the soft wicket.

Gloucestershire began batting encouragingly, 68 being on the board with only two men out. But as soon as Mr Armstrong and Mr Hopkins took up the bowling the game underwent a great change; and wickets fell so fast in the last half-hour that they still needed 16 to save the follow-on, with only one player to bat.

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

The Australians defeated Gloucestershire at Cheltenham, yesterday, by an innings and ten runs. They owed their success in a large measure to Mr Hopkins, who bowled so well that in the course of the match he took nine wickets for 76 runs. In the first innings of Gloucestershire he dismissed four men for 11 runs, and when they followed on 160 behind he again gave considerable trouble, though his figures were spoilt to some extent by the hitting of Mr Jessop and the capital stand made by Mr Troup and Board.

When play was resumed Gloucestershire failed to get more than five of the 16 runs they needed to make their opponents bat a second time. Following their innings, Mr Jessop, with the assistance of Mr Sewell, put on 54 in half an hour. When the former was playing particularly well he attempted to make a reckless run, and Mr Darling threw him out. This led to a collapse, six men being dismissed for 69. Then Mr Troup and Board made a good stand which lasted an hour and advanced the total to 128. A catch at the wicket closed the innings of the professional, who was missed when he had made six.

The last three wickets fell quickly, and Mr Troup was left to carry out his bat for 45. He played very sound cricket, and after two showers, which delayed the game for about 40 minutes, had rendered the pitch a trifle easy he hit with great freedom. Although Gloucestershire were in a hopeless position all day, the attendance exceeded 2,000.

18 August: KENT v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6071.html)

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

The bad weather prevented a start being made in the following matches yesterday: - . . Tonbridge. - Kent v Worcestershire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 August, page 9)

At Tonbridge, yesterday, Kent gained a considerable advantage, the home county at the close of play being 108 runs on with five wickets to fall. The pitch, after the heavy rain of the previous day, which prevented a ball from being bowled, was extremely soft; but, although the sun came out with considerable power during the afternoon, it never appeared really difficult. Mr Burnup and Mr Day maintained a complete mastery over the bowling.

Worcestershire, upon winning the toss, batted first, but, with the exception of Wilson, who hit up his runs in 15 minutes, no one offered any serious resistance. The Kent bowlers kept a splendid length throughout and was supported by excellent fielding. Going on a second time, Mr Mason bowled with such effect that his three wickets cost only seven runs.

When Kent went in Mr Dillon was out with only a single scored, but afterwards Mr Burnup and Mr Day played fine cricket. The former was batting two hours and three-quarters; his innings, except for a hot return to Arnold when he had passed his 100, was faultless.

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

After having all the better of Tuesday's play, Kent maintained their advantage yesterday, at Tonbridge, the match ending in their favour, at 20 minutes past 5, by nine wickets.

Overnight the home side had scored 206 for five wickets, and, continuing, the succeeding batsmen got runs as quickly as possible. Their forcing tactics resulted in the loss of three wickets, while 57 runs were added in 35 minutes. At this point Mr Mason considered it expedient to declare.

Four hours and 40 minutes remained for play when Worcestershire, requiring 165 to avert the innings defeat, entered upon their second innings. Thanks to a fine display by Mr H K Foster, matters went so well with the visitors that 150 went up with only four wickets down, but, with Mr Foster at this stage finely caught at cover-point (Mr Dillon unfortunately split his hand in making the catch), Kent afterwards always held the upper hand. The Worcestershire captain hit in fine style, his runs being

obtained chiefly in front of the wicket. Kent had only nine to make, but lost Mr Hutchings with only a couple scored.

18 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6072.html)

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

The bad weather prevented a start being made in the following matches yesterday: - . . Leicester. - Leicestershire v Hampshire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 August, page 9)

At Leicester yesterday the pitch was too soft to admit of a start being made in the return match at the usual hour. An early lunch was taken, however, and Hampshire began their innings at a quarter past 2.

Llewellyn's batting proved the feature of the cricket. He took full advantage of the existing conditions and scored his first 50 out of 63 in 50 minutes. Bowen and Webb also played well, but the rest of the Hampshire side found the bowling of Marlow and Mr Crawford too good for them, thus their total failed to reach such good proportions as at one time seemed probable.

Whitehead showed fine form for Leicestershire, and it was almost entirely due to his batting that the home side were able to claim an advantage. At the close of play Leicestershire were only 51 runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

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

Leicestershire beat Hampshire yesterday at Leicester by six wickets. Their success was largely brought about by the stand of Dr MacDonald and Whitehead, who put on 101 while they were together. Whitehead forced the game splendidly on the soft pitch.

Llewellyn's bowling was the best feature of Hampshire's play. Mr Odell bowled with great effect for Leicestershire.

18 August: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6073.html)

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

The bad weather prevented a start being made in the following matches yesterday: - Lord's. - Middlesex v Lancashire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain no play has yet been possible in the following matches: - Lord's. - Middlesex v Lancashire . . .

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

The ground at Lord's was quite unfitted for cricket yesterday, owing to the heavy rains of Monday and Tuesday, and an early decision was made to abandon the match. Not a ball was bowled on any of the three days.

18 August: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6074.html)

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

The bad weather prevented a start being made in the following matches yesterday: - . . Taunton. - Somerset v Yorkshire . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain no play has yet been possible in the following matches: - . . Taunton. - Somerset v Yorkshire . . .

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

Some compensation was afforded at Taunton yesterday for the disappointment of the two previous days. It was possible to play cricket and thus make a belated start with the return match between the Yorkshire and Somerset elevens. The time, however, was too short to permit of a definite result being arrived at. By making a draw of the match the Yorkshire eleven have made their retention of the championship secure.

Yesterday's cricket was played on a soft wicket. There [were] some excellent forcing tactics by Hirst and Tunnicliffe for Yorkshire, whose first innings was completed in two hours. Robson for the home side, on being called upon as first change bowler, took three wickets with consecutive balls. Mr Smith was caught off the last ball of his first over, and [Haigh?] and Rhodes were bowled by the first two balls of his second over.

Mr Palairet and Braund made a spirited stand for Somerset's first wicket, scoring 60 within an hour. When they had been separated, Rhodes and Haigh carried all before them and the last nine wickets only yielded 44 runs. When Yorkshire, with a lead of 25 runs, went in a second time only three-quarters of an hour remained for play, and the cricket was not of a serious character.

18 August: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6075.html)

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

The bad weather prevented a start being made in the following matches yesterday: - . . Birmingham. - Warwickshire v Essex . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 August, page 9)

Owing to the rain no play has yet been possible in the following matches: - . . Birmingham. - Warwickshire v Essex . . .

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

The weather ruined this match at Birmingham, and yesterday it was left drawn. There had been no play on either Monday or Tuesday, and yesterday, owing to rain, there was little cricket before lunch time. Essex subsequently had a good spell of batting; but, apart from Mr Perrin's innings, the game was listless and dull.

Tuesday 19 August, page 4

TESTIMONIAL TO GEORGE HEARNE. - A testimonial is being raised on behalf of the veteran cricketer, George Hearne, who, after nearly 30 years' service, has retired from his position as head groundman at the Private Banks' cricket ground, Catford. It is proposed to present him with a purse of money and a book containing the names of all subscribers, the hon. secretary to the fund being Mr W E Hemsley (Messrs Smith, Payne and Smiths), 1, Lombard-street, E.C.

George Hearne, though he never attained to the celebrity of his brother, the late Thomas Hearne, was a very fair player in his day, and appeared in the sixties for both Buckinghamshire and Middlesex. He is known to players of the present generation as the father of the three Kent cricketers, George, Frank and Alec Hearne.

Thursday 21 August, page 10: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	23	11	1	11	10	83.33
Lancashire	21	7	4	10	3	27.27
Notts	19	5	3	11	2	25.00
Sussex	21	5	3	13	2	25.00
Surrey	23	6	4	13	2	20.00
Kent	20	8	7	5	1	6.66
Warwickshire	15	4	4	7	0	0.00
Somerset	17	6	7	4	-1	-7.69
Worcestershire	20	5	6	9	-1	-9.09
Essex	17	2	3	12	-1	-20.00
Middlesex	15	3	5	7	-2	-25.00
Derbyshire	15	3	5	7	-2	-25.00
Leicestershire	16	2	4	10	-2	-33.33
Gloucestershire	18	3	8	7	-5	-45.45
Hampshire	14	2	8	4	-6	-60.00

THE M.C.C. TEAM IN HOLLAND

Haarlem, Aug. 20

The return match between the M.C.C. eleven, which is playing a series of matches in Holland, and the All Holland eleven began here to-day in fine weather. The Dutch team went in first and scored 97, while the M.C.C. made 96. In the second innings the Dutchmen had scored 80 for the loss of six wickets, when stumps were drawn for the day. There was a large attendance. - Reuter.

21 August: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6076.html)

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

There was a full and even day's play at Leyton yesterday in the return match between these counties. The wicket was very soft in the morning, and Mr Lucas, thinking it would improve, on winning the toss decided to put Derbyshire in first. That his policy was open to question was demonstrated by the fact that probably the pitch played easier before lunch than at any time during the day.

Derbyshire did not make a good start, Mr Ollivierre being bowled in Mead's first over. With Storer in with Mr Wright some capital batting was seen, and the total was taken to 47 before Storer was out. Mr E M Ashcroft and Mr Wright added another 62 before the latter was caught at slip at 109. Three wickets were down at lunch for 112. After the interval Mead and Buckenham carried all before them, the last seven wickets adding only 41 runs.

The feature of the Essex innings was the grand batting of Mr A P Lucas. He gave a hard chance before he had scored to Mr Wright at point, but thereafter he made no further mistake until he had passed

5

his 50. Then he offered a fairly easy catch to Mr Wood at mid-off. Mr Perrin, who made his thousandth run during the innings, Mr Fane and Russell all gave Mr Lucas useful assistance. Towards the close of the day wickets fell very fast, the fourth going at 112, the fifth and sixth at 113 and the seventh at 125. With three wickets still to fall Essex are now within 20 runs of the Derbyshire total.

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

After holding an advantage nearly all day Essex collapse badly last evening, and at the close, with but two wickets to fall, they still required 88 runs to win. With Mr McGahey still not out, this, of course, is not an impossibility, but it is highly improbable that the runs will be made.

Interest in the early play yesterday centred in Mr A P Lucas, who batted in perfect style. He was last out, caught in the slips, after batting three and a half hours. He made most of his runs behind the wicket, his placing on both sides being admirable.

Essex had the useful lead of 62, and from the way in which the Derbyshire innings opened it seemed likely that the game would be over early in the afternoon, as only 36 runs had been scored when Mr Wright, Storer and Mr Ashcroft had been dismissed. Then a stand between Mr Ollivierre and Needham improved matters, while later on Warren and Hulme indulged in some free hitting. In the end Essex had to make 160 runs to win. Mead secured his hundredth wicket during the innings. Mr Ollivierre, who had a little luck in his excellent innings, hit a ball from Mr McGahey out of the ground at square leg.

In the Essex second innings Bestwick found a patch and, bowling very fast, he completely beat the batsmen. Only Mr McGahey, who batted with the utmost patience for over an hour for 19 runs, could stand against him, and in the end Essex were left in a critical position. Bestwick so far has taken six wickets for 25 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 August, page 5)

As was generally expected from the position in which this match was left overnight, Derbyshire secured a victory over Essex at Leyton on Saturday. On Friday afternoon Essex, who went in to get 160 runs to win, had completely failed against the bowling of Bestwick, eight wickets falling for 72 runs.

Rain on Friday night made the pitch somewhat easier, and Mr McGahey and Young made a capital stand for the ninth wicket. In 40 minutes 71 runs were added. Young was then clean bowled by Hulme for a freely-hit innings of 32. Seventeen runs were still required when Mead, the last man, came in, but with a no-ball added to the score Mr McGahey was caught in the slips, and Derbyshire won by 15 runs at 20 minutes past 12.

21 August: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6077.html)

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

To such an extent did the ball beat the bat at Southampton yesterday that 22 wickets fell in the course of the afternoon's cricket for 225 runs. The bowlers were helped greatly by the state of the wicket - rendered extremely difficult by the heavy rains of the early part of the week - but poor batting had something to do with their success.

In the circumstances much depended on winning the toss, and it was owing in some measure to their good fortune in securing first innings that Hampshire were able to leave off with an advantage. They made a capital start by scoring 50 in the first 35 minutes, and though afterwards they fared badly for a time - the pitch rapidly becoming treacherous - their opponents were never in a really flattering position.

Hampshire's misfortunes began when Major Poore, who went in first wicket down, was sent back for a single. Mr A J L Hill then joined Llewellyn, and appeared to be well set when he was unluckily run

out, Butt, after fielding the ball at square-leg, throwing down his wicket. From this point Tate carried everything before him. Seventy-eight runs had been scored for three men out as the result of an hour's play, but the whole side were dismissed in another 40 minutes for an addition of 17 runs. In six overs and two balls Tate took the last seven wickets, having only five runs hit from him.

Hampshire's total of 94 was most disappointing after the innings had opened in such a promising manner; but Sussex did even worse than this, the side being out in an hour and three-quarters for 72. It must be said for Hampshire that their fielding was in every way admirable, several good catches being made. With an innings completed on each side, Hampshire held a lead of 23 runs.

Going in a second time they increased their advantage to 81 before stumps were drawn, when they had eight wickets still to fall. Tate has now taken 150 wickets for Sussex this season, thus already beating Walter Humphreys's record of 148 for the county in 1893.

PRESENTATION TO MAJOR POORE. - Yesterday, on the Southampton cricket ground, where the Hampshire and Sussex match is now in progress, Major R M Poore, D.S.O., was presented with a handsome silver saladbowl in recognition of his brilliant work for Hampshire in the season of 1899, when he had the remarkable batting average of 116.58 for the 16 innings he played in county matches.

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

After having had all the worse of the play at Southampton on Thursday, Sussex yesterday pulled the game round in fine style, and by 5 o'clock in the afternoon they had gained a handsome victory by eight wickets.

At starting in the morning Hampshire with eight wickets in hand in their second innings, held a lead of 81 runs; but they failed so badly against Killick's bowling that only 66 were added to the overnight total of 58 before the team were all out. It was a great misfortune for them when, at the very beginning of the day's play, Mr hill was run out for the second time in the match, the batsman losing his wicket in attempting an almost impossible run.

When Sussex went in with 148 to get in order to win Mr Fry was sent back with the score at 12, and he found himself in such obvious difficulties with the bowling that it looked as though Sussex might have to fight hard for the runs; but Killick and Vine, showing fine form, obtained quite a mastery and won the game for their side, their partnership for the second wicket producing 126 runs.

Killick enjoyed quite a triumph, for after taking five wickets for 31 runs he played a splendid innings. Neither he nor Vine gave anything in the nature of a chance. Killick scored at a rapid rate in getting his first 50, reaching that number in just over an hour, but afterwards he batted in a much steadier fashion.

21 August: KENT v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6078.html)

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

Upon a wicket which assisted the bowlers, considerable progress was made in this match at Canterbury yesterday. It was considered that Kent had done remarkably well in dismissing the Australians after they had won the toss for 154; but the home side fared badly against Mr Trumble, the Victorian beating the batsmen one after another.

For the visitors Mr Noble, in addition to making top score, played the best innings, his runs being obtained by hard drives on both sides of the wicket in three-quarters of an hour. Mr Duff also batted well, though in a more defensive manner, his stay extending over an hour and 25 minutes. Attempting a sharp run with Mr Noble, he was out in a curious manner. Huish had no time to gather the ball, so he kicked it at the wicket; it missed, but, travelling down the pitch, hit the opposite stumps before the batsmen could reach the crease.

Kent, despite their opponents' moderate total, never looked like getting on terms, all alike being in difficulties with Mr Trumble. Mr Day and Seymour were the best of the side, the former making

7

several strokes off Mr Saunders, while the professional's innings lasted over an hour. He had but little of Mr Trumble's bowling, however. Mr Marchant made a couple of confident drives off the Victorian, but was bowled in trying to repeat the hit, while Mr Burnup, Mr Marsham and Mr Blaker were also out through attempting forcing strokes.

The fine bowling was admirably supported by the field. Two incidents which stood out were the return from Mr Hopkins at deep mid-on which threw down Blythe's wicket, and Mr Hill's fine running catch from long-on which dismissed Mr Bradley.

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

Kent at Canterbury yesterday made a big effort, but at the close of play the county, with four of their best batsmen out, still required 152 to win.

A brilliant innings by Mr Trumper was the feature of the day's play, and the position of the visitors is due to his fine forcing cricket, at a time when the wicket assisted the bowlers. He made his runs in an hour and a quarter, and a feature was his beautifully-timed off-driving.

The wicket was playing better than at any previous stage, when Kent, required 287 to win, entered upon their second innings. Thus Mr Trumble presented fewer difficulties; and further, the batsmen, profiting by experience, refused to be tempted by his deceptive length. Mr Burnup played a characteristic innings, batting with great judgment and playing hard upon the overpitched ball whenever it came along. Hearne also drove well to the on with power and freedom, but he was missed by Mr Saunders at mid-on, and Mr Trumble failed to hold a hard return. Mr Saunders also missed Mr Marchant, but otherwise the fielding was excellent.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 August, page 5)

Any chance that Kent may have had of getting the 152 runs required to win this match at Canterbury on Saturday was spoilt by rain, the Australians in the end winning by 89 runs. It was not until 25 minutes to 3 that a start was possible, and then the Australians, bowling and fielding grandly, quickly placed the result beyond doubt.

The six outstanding wickets fell for the addition of 62 runs. Mr Marchant, who was not out overnight with Mr Mason, was caught at point in the second over, and afterwards no one could do anything against Mr Saunders, who secured his five wickets on Saturday for 26 runs.

21 August: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6079.html)

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

There was but little interest taken in the return meeting of Lancashire and Notts at Old Trafford yesterday, and the cricket was quite in keeping with the conditions, for most part lacking attractiveness. At the same time the Notts men had much the better of matters, and by steady, and at times dull, methods they put up a score of 329. Subsequently they dismissed three of the home side for 25.

The features of the Notts batting were the innings of the past and present captains of the side, Mr A O Jones and Mr John Dixon. The former was three hours in scoring 109, his second century of the season; but the innings was not without fault. He hit back a hard chance to Hallows, and was more than once beaten by the latter without being bowled, while Mr Eccles also missed him in the long field. At times Mr Jones hit with great vigour, and 13 fours, six threes and eight twos were his chief strokes.

Faultless cricket was played by Mr Dixon, who by eight runs failed to get his third three-figure score of the season. However, as he made 108 against Lancashire in the first match at Trent Bridge he may be said to have done well. William Gunn batted well for 39, but the others did little.

Mr MacLaren did not utilize the services of his best batsmen in the half hour left for play, and in that time Barnes, I'Anson and Silcock were dismissed; so that the home county have certainly none the better of the position.

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

The cricket at Old Trafford yesterday extended over four hours and a half, and in this time Lancashire lost all their remaining 17 wickets for 238 runs, so that Notts concluded their county campaign with a handsome victory by an innings and 66 runs, and that by 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

On Thursday evening Lancashire had begun disastrously, three wickets falling for 25 runs, and yesterday they completed their first innings for 140, which necessitated a follow-on. Ward alone showed any ability to play the bowling, and he batted two hours for 44. Mr MacLaren hit up 20, but he took many risks and considered it necessary to run out to the fast bowler.

On going in a second time Lancashire collapsed in two hours and ten minutes. Tyldesley alone redeemed the innings from abject failure. He was in for an hour and three-quarters, during which he scored 52 by faultless cricket, hitting six fours and eight twos. Wass bowled magnificently throughout both innings and captured 12 wickets for 112 runs. Notts had not defeated Lancashire since 1894.

21 August: LONDON COUNTY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6080.html)

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

A splendid innings by Dr W G Grace marked the cricket at the Crystal Palace yesterday. He went in first and scored in his best style. His off-side play, both in its strength and its placing, was fine and free, and in the four hours of his stay at the wicket there was scarcely a ball that he mistimed. With Braund he added 164 for the second wicket.

Braund hit freely all round the wicket. The fielding was slack and the bowlers could not get much break on the easy wicket.

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

When play was resumed at the Crystal Palace yesterday the home side increased their score to 427, Mr L Walker aiding in this by some hard hitting.

In the Warwickshire innings Quaife made his 110 runs with a vigour which is not usually associated with his batting. He obtained a complete command over the bowling and scored freely all over the field.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 August, page 5)

The high scores obtained by these teams in their first innings had made the possibility of a definite conclusion remote. Warwickshire increased their innings on Saturday morning to 317. Quaife carried out his bat for 144.

Dr Grace declared when 230 runs ahead, and at the close of play Warwickshire had lost three wickets for 120 runs and the game was drawn . . .

21 August: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6081.html)

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

There was a large crowd to see yesterday's play in the best match of the county season at Lord's. Yorkshire v Middlesex has for many years been the best of the Middlesex matches, and has so often been fought out on hard wickets that the scene yesterday was unusual when the cricketers found themselves battling on a soft pitch.

Yorkshire had rather the better of the play; but if the pitch rolls out fairly well there should not be much in the game, for Yorkshire are only 23 runs on with two wickets left. The weather was fine, but at this late stage of the season the crowd fell rather below the average. The match has usually had an earlier date at Lord's.

Middlesex, with Messrs J and R N Douglas and Mr Wells in the side, are much better represented than when the teams met at Bradford in June, when Yorkshire won by an innings and 122 runs. Lord Hawke was unable to captain his side; he went to the nets, but found his thumb so painful that he decided to hand over the captaincy to Mr Jackson.

The wicket was so slow and false that, when Yorkshire won the toss, they decided that Middlesex should take first innings. How great was the assistance given to the bowlers by the condition of the turf was shown in the early moments of the game. When it was quite impossible to time the ball after its pitch. Rhodes and Haigh changed ends soon after starting; and the excellence of the bowling and the closeness of the fielding were too much for Middlesex. Wicket followed wicket, and seven were down for 53 runs.

Subsequently Mr MacGregor hit hard and had some assistance from Mr Foley. But the last three wickets went quickly after luncheon, the end coming for 99. Mr Schwarz was easily run out through backing up. Haigh and Rhodes were the most successful bowlers.

Brown and Tunnicliffe began the Yorkshire batting, but neither was at his best. Brown was bowled at 19 and Tunnicliffe was caught at mid-off at 42. Then came some splendid batting by Denton and Washington. Yorkshire seemed in for a good score with 70 up and only two wickets down; but at 70 Mr Bosanquet went on and changed the complexion of the game. He took his first wicket at 93, his second at 97 and his third and fourth at 109. His excellent bowling had brought the game to fairly even terms. But while Denton stayed there was always the chance of Yorkshire's getting an effective lead. Lees Whitehead and Denton played soundly in the last 20 minutes.

One of the best incidents of the fielding was the catch by Mr Ernest Smith at point, which disposed of Mr James Douglas. Mr Bosanquet bowled quite fast after going on at the pavilion end, and up to the time of taking his fifth wicket he had only 20 runs hit from him.

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

Middlesex were beaten at Lord's, yesterday, by four wickets. It was a fine match to watch on a bowler's pitch, and very interesting. In the morning the last two Yorkshire wickets went quickly and there was only a difference of 26.

Then came some fine bowling by Haigh. He started at the nursery end and then crossed over; and this was the beginning of his success. His slow ball was very effective and he took in his second spell with the ball six wickets for 13 runs. Mr Wells made a sturdy attempt to turn the game, and there were a few good hits by Mr Foley.

Yorkshire had only 68 to get to win, but on the bad turf this was rather a formidable task. They lost four men for 24, and six were down for 47. Then Mr Ernest Smith and Haigh "muddled through" and Yorkshire won by four wickets. Hearne and Trott bowled splendidly in the last hour. It was a fine match from first to last on a pitch that always helped the bowlers.

21 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6082.html)

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

The wicket at Worcester, yesterday, was in excellent order, and Surrey enjoyed a great advantage in batting first, but up to a certain point they did very badly, Hayward, Hayes and Holland all being lost for 45.

From that point everything went well for Surrey, who, however, owed something to blunders in the field, Abel being missed by Bird at square leg when he had made 30, and Brockwell let off near the boundary by Bowley when his score stood at 16. The two batsmen mentioned put on 81 together for the fourth wicket, and Abel stayed until he had made 104. Brockwell, who left at 126, hit a five and five fours, and played good cricket, apart from the chance just referred to. In dismissing Brockwell Wilson had the satisfaction of taking his hundredth wicket this season.

Another capital stand followed Brockwell's departure, Abel and Mr Dowson staying together for an hour and 20 minutes and scoring 119 for the fifth wicket. Abel was then out, having batted for three hours and ten minutes and hit ten fours, three threes and seven twos. Mr Dowson played vigorous and attractive cricket afterwards, and received such effective support from Mr Crawford that the score was carried to 329 without further loss before the drawing of stumps at ten minutes past 6, Mr Dowson reaching his hundred.

Surrey's score was a fine one considering that there was only a short day's play. There was one change on each side, Mr Isaac playing for Worcestershire instead of Burrows and Holland taking the place of Mr Leveson-Gower in the Surrey eleven.

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

After a hard, uphill fight at Worcester yesterday the home eleven finished up at night in a far better position than at one time seemed likely. Indeed, when an innings on each side had been completed it was quite on the cards that Worcestershire would be beaten before the day was out. Following on in a minority of 180, they wiped off 154 of the arrears and only lost one wicket.

Surrey, who on Thursday had scored 320 for five wickets, finished off their innings for the addition of 31 runs. This inglorious termination was mainly brought about by the batsmen's endeavours to make runs as rapidly as possible. Mr Dowson, who only added a single to his overnight score, hit 15 fours in his 106, which was a brilliant display.

On going in Worcestershire for a time fared very badly, losing five of their best batsmen for 49; but from that point until the drawing of stumps they played up manfully. Gaukrodger and Wheldon added 57 for the sixth wicket, the former hitting well, and Mr Isaac also played a plucky innings. In reaching in the end 171 Worcestershire were greatly indebted to Wheldon, who, of a stubborn defence and hitting well when he could do so safely, stayed in for two hours and a quarter. Richardson and Brockwell bowled with excellent figures; but Lockwood was freely scored from, Gaukrodger hitting him for 15 in one over.

Following on, Worcestershire nearly succeeded in pulling the game round, Mr H K Foster playing in brilliant style. He and Bowley put on 66 for the first wicket, and then Mr Foster and Arnold, who completed his thousand runs for the season, raised the score to 154 without being separated. With nine wickets in hand Worcestershire are now only 35 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 August, page 5)

Bad weather prevented a ball's being bowled at Worcester on Saturday, and the match was abandoned as a draw. When stumps were drawn on Friday evening Worcestershire, with nine wickets in hand in their second innings, were 35 runs behind. Mr H K Foster in his fine innings of 75 not out hit ten fours, four threes and five twos . . .

Friday 22 August, page 10: M.C.C. v ALL HOLLAND

Haarlem, Aug. 21.

The return match between the M.C.C. eleven and an All Holland Eleven was resumed here to-day. The Dutchmen, whose overnight score in their second innings stood at 80 for the loss of six wickets,

added 100 before they were disposed of, their total being 180. M Feith and M Kool made 56 and 50 respectively.

The M.C.C., left with 182 to win, knocked off the number for the loss of five wickets, all taken by M Posthuma, and won by five wickets. Mr Hornby (73) and Mr Hollins (47) played a capital game. – Reuter.

Saturday 23 August, page 9: THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AVERAGES

The Notts eleven are to be congratulated on their excellent work of the season which culminated yesterday at Manchester in a fine win against Lancashire. Their bowling has done better than for many years past. John Gunn has not done so well as last year, but Wass has never bowled better, and Hallam's steadiness also helped the side a great deal.

Mr A O Jones was again an excellent captain and he contributed much to the success of his side, not only but his brilliant batting, but by his fielding. Shrewsbury still shows that he has few superiors as a batsman, and his splendid record suggests that he might have been included in one or two of the test matches. William Gunn did not play so regularly for the county as could have been wished; but he helped his side much when he did play. The same remark applies to Mr J A Dixon.

Of the younger generation, Iremonger shows well as a batsman. His figures come out splendidly and he had the distinction of appearing at Lord's in "Gentlemen v Players." The averages are given below: - Played 20. Won 6; lost 3; drawn 11 . . .

Monday 25 August, page 5: THE DERBYSHIRE AVERAGES

Derbyshire have shown a great improvement on their record of last year, and finished their season on Saturday with a clever win against Essex at Leyton. The eleven are to be congratulated on the winning of four matches out of 16 played, whereas last year they failed to get even a single victory in 20 games.

The batting has been largely responsible for the improvement, and the work of Mr Ashcroft, Mr Ollivierre, Mr Lawton and Mr Wright was consistently good. There was some decline in Storer's batting, but occasionally he did splendid service as wicket-keeper. Mr Ollivierre, who became qualified late in the season, soon proved his worth, as his position in the averages would suggest.

Although none of the bowlers have an average of less than 20, there was a good deal of success for Bestwick, Hulme and Warren. It was noticeable that several of the old hands - Chatterton, Bagshaw and Mr W Sugg in particular - failed to keep up their form. But their failure was more than compensated for by the success of the younger members of the side. Humphries has proved himself to be a wicket-keeper of a high standard. The averages are given below: -

Played 16. Won 4; lost 5; drawn 7 . . .

THE AVERAGES

Below are the chief averages for the season up to the present: -

BATTING

DATITIO					
			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Shrewsbury	32	1250	127*	7	50.00
K S Ranjitsinhji	26	1106	234*	2	46.08
W G Quaife	28	1035	153*	3	43.40
Tyldesley	40	1547	165	3	41.00
Mr S H Day	20	666	117*	3	39.17
Iremonger	35	1292	146	2	39.15
Mr T L Taylor	39	1405	142*	3	39.02
Mr E M Ashcroft	25	912	182	1	38.00

Abel	54	1871	179	6	37.9	
<u> </u>	44 39	1530 1255	161 134	3 5	37.3	
Dr W G Grace	31	1062	131	2	36.6	
Mr P Perrin	34	1022	121	6	36.5	
Mr C B Fry	41	1421	159*	2	36.4	13
Mr C McGahey	36	1121	126	5	36.1	_ 6
Mr C McGahey Mr A O Jones W Gunn	33	1111	109	2	35.8	
	24	877	120	1	35.0	
Mr J A Dixon	18	852	123	2	34.5	
Mr W L Murdoch Mr C H B Marsham	22 32	711 961	132 120	1 3	33.6 33.1	
Brockwell	34	881	80*	5 7	32.6	
Denton	41	1198	127	4	32.3	
	31	900	178	3	32.1	
Mr C J B Wood	46	1381	176	3	32.1	1
Knight	37	1124	180*	2	32.1	.1
Mr A C MacLaren	37	1123	174	2	32.0	8
Mr P F Warner Mr G L Jessop	23	697	139	1	31.6	
Mr G L Jessop	44	1798	176	3	31.6	
Reli	43	1129	94 01	7	31.3	
Mr W Findlay	19	464 1351	81 177	4 2	30.9	
Hayward Killick	48 42	1351 1157	177 133	2 4	30.7	
Mr F L Fane	33	907	106	4 3	30.4	
Braund	43	1259	141	1	29.9	
Mr V F S Crawford		1021	101*	1	29.1	
	42	1078	130	5	29.1	
Mr W H B Evans	21	609	142	0	29.0	
Arnold	41	1008	92	6	28.8	
Vine	47	1150	92	7	28.7	
Mr H K Foster	37	948	112	1	29.5	
Mr E W Dillon Mr W Newham	40 24	1084 617	137 153	2 2	28.5	
Mr w Newnam Mr L C H Palairet		617 997	153 90	2	28.0 27.6	
Tunnicliffe	43	1162	127	1	27.6	
Mr A E Lawton	32	1044	149	1	27.4	
Mr J R Mason	36	983	107	0	27.2	
Capt H S Bush		697	122	2	26.8	30
Mr E M Dowson	40	935	106	3	26.6	54
Washington	38	897	100*	4	26.2	
Kinneir	27	626	98	3	26.0	
Mr B J T Bosanquet	29	670	103	3	25.7	
Mr L G Wright	30	750	101	0	25.3	
Dr R MacDonald	23	455	62 °°*	5 1	25.2	
Mr S M J Woods Mr D L A Jephson	32 39	730 734	88* 94	1 0	25.1 24.4	
Mr G W Beldam	34	765	94 155*	2	23.9	
Lockwood	29	875	102	2	23.6	
Mr W P Robertson	26	612	52	0	23.5	
J T Brown, sen.	39	881	91	1	23.1	
Mr G Brann	25	608	108	3	23.0)9
Mr C J Kortright	28	599	68	2	23.0	
Wheldon	37	711	63	6	22.9	
Hayes	44	979	114	1	22.7	
Lord Hawke Trott	27 41	511 855	126 103	4 1	22.2 21.8	
BOWLING						
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wick	tets	Average
Haigh	655	183	1561	14		11.07
Rhodes	1082	347	2250	17		13.23
Blythe	789	225	1835	12		14.56
Mr J R Mason	531.5	194	1180	7	19	14.93

Tate	1028.5	324	2342	156	15.01
Wass	803.2	188	2225	140	15.89
Hon F S Jackson	362.3	96	862	53	16.64
Mr E R Wilson	464.4	165	912	54	16.88
Lockwood	659.5	135	1835	112	16.91
A Hearne	367.2	126	603	46	17.45
Gill	434.3	103	1240	71	17.46
Bird	381.2	94	949	53	17.90
I'Anson	337.1	103	847	48	18.06
Santall	314	125	658	36	18.13
Cranfield	793.3	181	2294	125	18.35
Mr G L Jessop	354.2	67	967	52	18.59
J T Hearne	860.4	302	1867	100	18.67
Mead	833.5	257	1901	101	18.82
Llewellyn	1055.2	293	2956	157	18.82
Hallam	626.3	205	1230	70	19.00
Hirst	635.3	180	1461	76	19.22
Cuttell	412.3	172	783	40	19.57
Arnold	712.1	181	1834	96	19.62
Bestwick	729.3	222	1831	91	20.01
Braund	880	215	2662	131	20.32
Trott	879.5	175	2626	128	20.51
Barnes	901.5	231	1561	94	20.86
Mr B J T Bosanquet	252.3	47	779	37	21.05
Dr W G Grace	478.1	149	1042	46	22.65
Mr Hesketh-Pritchard	287.2	60	872	38	22.94
Hulme	640.5	184	1563	68	22.93
J Gunn	659	203	1595	68	23.45
Mr E M Dowson	549.3	112	1710	72	23.75
Richardson	763	148	2249	90	24.96
Mr W M Bradley	482.5	136	1296	51	25.41

THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING

DATIING						
			Most in	Not		
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average	
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	41	1976	128	0	48.19	
Mr C Hill (S.A.)	43	1406	136	1	33.47	
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	38	1088	284	4	32.00	
Mr R A Duff (N.S.W.)	47	1334	183	5	31.76	
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	39	864	172*	10	29.79	
Mr J Darling (N.S.W.)	42	1003	128	4	26.39	
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	42	930	105*	6	25.55	
Mr S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	42	878	86	5	23.72	
Mr J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	27	334	75	8	17.57	
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	18	244	40	1	14.35	
Mr H Trumble (V.)	20	214	64*	4	13.37	
Mr H Carter (N.S.W.)	17	94	31	5	7.83	
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	19	68	16	4	4.53	
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	25	54	9*	5	2.70	

BOWLING

BOMPING						
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average	
Mr H Trumble (V.)	630.4	190	1333	95	14.03	
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	526.1	169	1068	71	14.90	
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	396.1	56?	508	31	16.38	
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	442.4	133	1104	62	17.80	
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	543	121	1633	90	18.14	
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	583.2	175	1574	85	18.51	
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	506.4	131	1353	68	19.89	
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	145.3	40	398	20	19.90	

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

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

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	24	12	1	11	11	84.81
Notts	20	6	3	11	3	33.33
Sussex	22	6	3	13	3	33.33
Surrey	24	6	4	14	2	20.00
Lancashire	22	7	5	10	2	16.66
Kent	20	8	7	5	1	6.66
Warwickshire	15	4	4	7	0	0.00
Somerset	17	6	7	4	-1	-7.63
Worcestershire	21	5	6	10	-1	-9.09
Derbyshire	16	4	5	7	-1	-11.11
Leicestershire	16	2	4	10	-2	-33.33
Essex	18	2	4	12	-2	-33.33
Middlesex	16	3	6	7	-3	-33.33
Gloucestershire	18	3	8	7	-5	-45.45
Hampshire	15	2	9	4	-7	-63.63

25 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6084.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 August, page 10)

Gloucestershire had decidedly the worse of yesterday's cricket at Bristol, where they started their last home engagement of the season. The wicket had not entirely recovered from the rain of the previous week, but there was little in its condition to account for their dismissal for the small total of 123.

Mr Jessop, Wrathall and Mr Rice alone showed any ability to deal with the fast bowling of Field. Mr Jessop batted with unusual care and took an hour over his 52, while Mr Rice spent 50 minutes longer getting 23. At lunch time four wickets were down for 109, but so feeble was the batting afterwards that the last six men only scored 14 runs. Field secured extremely good figures, and he owed his success in no small measure to his pace.

Warwickshire did not start too well. They lost their first three wickets for 60, but passed their opponents' total before another man was out, Quaife and Mr Fishwick putting on 92 in an hour. They played the best cricket of the day. Many runs were scored from Mr J P Winterbotham, a slow left-hand bowler from Cheltenham College, who was too erratic to be successful, though he has a nice action and may do well when he gains experience.

Quaife was bowled after batting an hour and 35 minutes for 60, but Mr Fishwick was not out. Warwickshire are 39 runs on with six wickets in hand.

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

Left in a minority of 108 runs when an innings aside had been completed at Bristol, yesterday, Gloucestershire fared so badly in their match with Warwickshire that a heavy defeat seemed to be in store for them. A capital stand by Mr Troup and Mr Brownlee, however, considerably altered the aspect of affairs. Still, well as this pair played, they could only raise the total to 231, which left their opponents in a minority of 123.

The visitors did not have time to get these before stumps were drawn, and they entered upon their task in a disastrous fashion. Devey and Mr Byrne were bowled by consecutive balls from Roberts, with only one run scored. Kinneir and Quaife, however, checked the collapse, and when stumps were drawn Warwickshire, with eight wickets in hand, wanted only 90.

The best features of the first part of the day's cricket were the batting of Mr Fishwick and the bowling of Spry. The former made 52 in capital style, while the last-named maintained a far better length than he has done of late, and quite deserved the success he secured.

Hargreave also bowled well in the second innings of Gloucestershire; he caused the home batsmen considerable trouble and aided Field to bring about a collapse which was only stopped, as already indicated, by Mr Troup and Mr Brownlee. They were together for an hour and a quarter, and by putting on 81 for the sixth wicket saved their side from a defeat. Mr Rice had to retire owing to a blow he received on the hand.

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

At Bristol, yesterday, Warwickshire beat Gloucestershire by six wickets. They thoroughly deserved their success, for the only department of the game in which they were not superior to the home men was in fielding.

When the last stage of the contest was entered upon the visitors, with eight wickets in hand, only needed 90 runs. In obtaining these Kinneir and Mr Fishwick were dismissed, but the issue was never in doubt. Quaife carried out his bat for 45 and was largely responsible for the easy victory his side secured.

25 August: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6085.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 August, page 10)

The holders of the county championship began their last match in the season's tournament at Catford yesterday. Their opponents are the Kent Eleven, who were defeated at Bradford in May last by an innings and 108 runs.

Yorkshire's visit is evidently attractive to the Kent public, for the attendance on the Private Banks' Ground yesterday was about the largest yet seen at an inter-county engagement on that enclosure. Rain had made the wicket very soft and treacherous, with the result that the ball held the ascendency throughout the day. The game was in progress about four hours and a quarter, and 24 wickets fell for an aggregate of 222 runs.

Mr Mason won the toss and allowed Kent to bat first. Messrs Dillon and Burnup hit up 18 runs before a wicket fell, most of the runs being off Haigh, who sent down too many loose deliveries on the leg side. Rhodes, after being hit for a four in his first over, bowled magnificently. Only seven runs were hit off his first eight overs, and he took all the first six wickets that fell for that exceptionally small total.

Haigh took the seventh and eighth wickets in one over, and when the ninth fell Kent had only scored 46 runs. Humphreys and Blythe, by some free and plucky cricket, added 25 more runs for the last wicket. The innings thus closed for 71 runs after an hour and 20 minutes' play. Though Rhodes was hit rather freely near the close, he could still claim a fine analysis.

Yorkshire's batting for a time was even weaker than Kent's had been. In a quarter of an hour before luncheon they lost two wickets for four runs, and ought to have had a third down. Washington offered a chance in the slips when he had scored a single. Both Mr Marsham and Seymour went for the catch and, the two colliding, the batsman escaped. This proved a most unfortunate blunder for Kent. Washington played magnificently after the adjournment, and though Yorkshire had five wickets down for 15 runs, and six for 35 runs, the Kent score was passed with four wickets in hand.

Rhodes rendered Washington the most assistance. The two were only partners for 25 minutes, but they added 50 runs for the seventh wicket. Washington had come in at the fall of the first wicket before a run had been scored, and he carried out his bat for 59, of a total of 97. In addition to his good fortune when he had scored a single, he ought to have been stumped and he escaped an easy run out. All the same it was an extremely fine display of hitting. Nothing better has been seen on the Yorkshire side on a sticky wicket this season.

Hearne kept an accurate length and puzzled the Yorkshire batsmen by the deceptive flight of his deliveries. He was easily first among the Kent bowlers, taking five wickets for 22 runs.

Kent in their second innings lost Mr Dillon's wicket when only three runs had been scored. The arrears of 26 runs on the first innings were then cleared, but the team were only three runs to the good when Mr Day was caught at the wicket. Subsequently two more wickets fell with the score at 49. At 20 minutes to 6 o'clock play was suspended on an appeal against the defective light, and five minutes later stumps were drawn for the day. Kent are now 28 runs on and have six wickets to go down.

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

The Yorkshire eleven ended their County Championship producing by defeating Kent at Catford yesterday. This victory was very easily gained, Yorkshire having nine wickets to spare when the winning hit was made.

Kent gained nothing when they won the toss in the first instance, for the wicket was easier when Yorkshire were playing the last innings of the match than it had been at any previous period of the contest. Yorkshire, however, were obviously the stronger side, and gained their easy victory after losing five wickets in their first innings for 15 runs.

Kent were not in an advantageous position in the match when play ceased on Monday. With four wickets down in their second innings they held a lead of but 28 runs. The not-out batsmen, Seymour and Mr Mason, did much in the first 40 minutes' play yesterday to remedy the effects of the indifferent batting of Monday. They added 36 more runs before being separated, and their full partnership yield was 41 runs. The break-up of the partnership was effected by Whitehead, who was called upon to bowl one over to enable Hirst and Rhodes to change ends. In that over he had Seymour caught at the wicket.

Seymour had played a useful innings, but the best cricket was shown by his captain, who was seventh out. Mr Mason had defended admirably for an hour and ten minutes, and his score of 25 proved the highest individual contribution to the Kent score in the match. Hirst and Rhodes bowled so well after changing ends that the last five wickets on the Kent side were captured for ten runs. The innings was over at ten minutes to 1 o'clock for 100 runs.

Yorkshire had thus to score but 75 runs to win the match. They began the task at ten minutes past 1 o'clock. Hearne and Blythe began well and were supported by some very smart fielding; but Brown and Tunnicliffe compelled the Kent captain to make a double bowling change, and they put on 29 runs before a wicket fell. This wicket was Tunnicliffe's, who was caught in the slips. As in the first innings Washington was fortunate in being missed directly he went in. He struck a ball from Mr Mason to Hearne in the slips. It was a simple catch, but after making three attempts the fieldsman failed to hold the ball.

At the luncheon adjournment Yorkshire, with nine wickets in hand, needed but 45 runs to win. Washington did some good hitting when the game was resumed, while Brown batted steadily, taking no risks. The runs were hit off just before half-past 3.

25 August: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6086.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 August, page 10)

Beautiful weather favoured this match at Old Trafford, but the wicket was slow and assisted the bowlers. Lancashire, batting first, were in for three hours and a half for 251.

Ward, Tyldesley and Mr John Stanning, jun., had been dismissed at 42, when Hallows joined Mr MacLaren and entirely altered the complexion of the game. They were together for an hour and a half, and in that time they added 133 for the fourth wicket. Hallows was bowled for a faultless 67.

Ten runs later Mr MacLaren's career was terminated, when he was cleverly caught and bowled by Mr Crawford for a very fine innings of 84. During his stay of two hours and a half the Lancashire captain batted in his best style, but was unfortunate, as he only required four to complete his thousand for the county this year. He had seven times found the boundary, and also hit as many threes, and eight twos.

At the close of the day Leicestershire lost five wickets for 80 runs, Knight alone playing the bowling with confidence. Hallows took the first three wickets for 20 runs - all that were made off 17 overs. Littlewood, a left-hand medium pace bowler, who is on the ground staff at Old Trafford, in his first county match, dismissed King and Dr Macdonald.

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

At Old Trafford, yesterday, play extended over six hours and a half, during which time the game went much in favour of the northern county.

Leicestershire completed their first innings with the addition of 123 for the last five wickets, so that the second half of the innings was much more productive than the first. This was mainly due to Mr Crawford, who made 57 in rather over two hours by excellent batting. He never gave a chance and made few faulty strokes, while the vigour of his scoring may be gauged from the fact that he ten times reached the boundary. On all sides of the wicket Coe played soundly, and Mr de Trafford took out his bat for 25, including five fours.

Going in again with an advantage of 48, Lancashire compiled 310 for five wickets in four hours and ten minutes. Ward, who went in first, was still not out at the close with 118 - his first century this season and his 23rd for Lancashire. He never gave a chance, and he made a five and 14 fours. Mr MacLaren completed his thousand runs for his county, and Hallows hit freely.

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

The Lancashire team brought their county campaign to a close at Old Trafford yesterday, when the match with Leicester was drawn, the visitors requiring 185, with four wickets to fall, when rain abruptly terminated the play.

Ward did not add to his overnight score, and Mr MacLaren applied the closure when Lancashire were 372 ahead. Mr Wood batted well for 46, but despite this fact, five wickets were down for 112. Afterwards Dr MacDonald and Coe defied the attack by capital cricket until rain descended. Only three hours' play was possible.

25 August: MIDDLESEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6087.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 August, page 10)

The Middlesex match with the Australians comes very late in the season for Lord's, but the turnstiles yesterday showed that over 6,000 had paid. Middlesex had their strongest side; Mr Carter, Mr Saunders and Mr Jones were away from the Australian team.

It was a bright morning; but the wicket had been made slow by the rain of Sunday night. Middlesex, however, decided to bat first, and for a long while they could not have regretted their decision. Mr Warner and Mr Douglas made 18 for the first wicket before the latter was leg before. Subsequently there was half an hour's delay owing to a sharp shower, and then Mr Warner and Mr Beldam played strongly. But they found runs difficult to get against the beautiful length bowling of the Australians. Mr Trumble was particularly difficult to score from. The fielding was good and no catches were dropped. So slow was the scoring that at one time only ten runs were made in 35 minutes.

After luncheon the batsmen got more things to hit, and both made good strokes on each side of the wicket. Mr Beldam was leg-before at 89. The partnership yielded 71, and the pace of the scoring may be judged from the fact that it occupied nearly two hours. Mr Warner, who played a steady innings, was out leg-before at 103. His was the third wicket to go in this way to Mr Trumble, who was constantly deceiving the batsmen in the flight of the ball.

The 100 went up with only two men out, and then for a long time the Australian bowling prevailed. The leg-break bowling was very effective; Mr R N Douglas, Mr Wells, Trott and Mr Bosanquet all went quickly, and seven men were down for 133. It was a beautiful catch close to the boundary at squareleg that got out Mr Wells, Mr Trumper taking the ball high up running sideways. Subsequently Mr MacGregor made some good hits; but for the fourth time Mr Trumble got his man leg-before, at 152, Mr MacGregor being the victim.

Eight of the side had now gone. There was some fine hitting by Mr Schwarz and Mr Nicholls for the ninth wicket. But Mr Trumble never tired, and made a good catch in the slips before getting Mr Nicholls caught, in his next over, at deep square leg. The score of 204 was very good on the slow pitch, particularly after the break down midway in the innings. Throughout the day the fielding was particularly good, and Mr Trumble bowled right through the innings, which lasted four hours and a quarter.

The Australians had five minutes' play before the drawing of stumps, and made in that time three runs for one wicket. Mr Bosanquet and Mr Beldam were the bowlers, and the former, after missing Mr Kelly at short slip, got him leg before. Five of the 11 wickets which fell yesterday were got under the leg-before rule, and Carlin, the umpire at the pavilion end, had to give all the decisions. There is every prospect of a fine day's cricket to-day.

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

The sterling fight made by the Middlesex eleven at Lord's on Monday on the slow wicket increased the interest in the match, and there was a big crowd to see yesterday's play, the pavilion, however, being only sparsely filled.

It was a fine day's cricket and a hard match. The Australians struggled keenly for their runs and, after a prolonged effort, managed to head the Middlesex total by 28 runs. The ground at half-past 11 was not yet rid of the effects of the dew, when Mr Trumper came out with Mr Hopkins to go on with the Australian innings, in which one wicket had fallen for three runs.

Mr Trumper played a fine game, being, as usual, especially strong on the leg-side, pulling any short ball and getting many other good ones from the off-stump. He completed his 2,000 aggregate for the side, a feat never before accomplished by a member of an Australian team; the next best is Mr Darling's aggregate of 1,941 in the last tour. There was great cheering at the feat, which shows how keenly the statistics are followed by the populace.

The cricket was good, and after four bowlers had been tried Mr MacGregor put on Mr Beldam. It was a successful change, for he got Mr Hopkins caught at mid-off with his second ball. This was at 44. Mr Trumper and Mr Duff played well, but most of the scoring was done by Mr Trumper, who escaped a hard return chance to Mr Beldam when he was 37. Mr Trumper got his 50 in 45 minutes. A break-back from Hearne settled Mr Duff at 73, and at 102 Mr Trumper was caught at second slip from a short ball to which he played forward. His was a fine innings - it contained seven fours - for 69 in an hour meant a lot of fine work against such bowling.

Four men were now out for 102. Mr Noble's driving and Mr Hill's play on the leg-side then marked the cricket. Things went merrily for the Australians, until at 133 their fifth wicket fell, when Mr Hill was caught at third man; he wholly mistimed a short ball from Hearne. Mr Darling began well with a nice cut for four; but Hearne got right through him with the next ball and only just missed the off-stump. At 144 Mr MacGregor easily stumped Mr Darling, who went out to a short one and paid the penalty.

Six for 144 promised a lead for Middlesex, who were fielding and bowling excellently. Mr Wells was very good in fielding his own bowling; but he was hit severely, and Trott was put on at his end at 167, the result being that he promptly got out Mr Noble with a swerving ball. The Australians were 37 behind at luncheon, with three wickets left.

Afterwards Mr Armstrong and Mr Gregory made a stand, and the bowling was frequently changed before Mr Beldam got Mr Gregory caught at the wicket, when the score stood at 202. With Mr Trumble bowled and Mr Armstrong stumped, the innings ended, the Australians leading by only 28 runs.

When Middlesex went in a second time, Mr J Douglas played on at 15. Mr Beldam and Mr Warner both played good cricket; but the fielding and bowling were too good to allow of easy scoring. Mr

19

Trumble, however, crossed to the end where he had met with so much success on Monday, and almost at once he got Mr Warner and Mr R N Douglas leg-before - both decisions this time being given by Alfred Shaw. The curious point is that Mr Trumble in his successful appeals had got all his decisions when he was bowling round the wicket.

Three men were out for 70, and at 83 Mr Wells was caught from a short ball, at which he played too soon, at cover-point. The score was now four for 83. With only six men left Middlesex were but 55 ahead. Trott and Mr Beldam forced the game well, and in the course of half-an-hour 30 runs were added. Then Trott was caught at extra mid-off. Only ten minutes remained for play. Mr Trumble had been badly hit by Mr Beldam and Trott; but Mr Howell and Mr Hopkins kept the runs down by their fine length and splendid support from the field.

Mr Beldam maintained his steadiness to the end; he plays a dull game, and the Middlesex team entirely lacks the brilliancy of the great days of Mr Stoddart, Sir T C O'Brien, Mr Ford and the late Mr G F Vernon; but still they did their best yesterday and finished 94 on in the third innings of the match, with five wickets left. The weather was very dull after luncheon, but the threatening storm never came, although the light was bad throughout.

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

The Australians beat Middlesex at Lord's yesterday evening by six wickets. It was a fine victory, gained after much hard cricket. The Australians had the turn of the luck, but they won on their merits. It was a threatening day, but the weather held up, and there was a big company to see the finish of the match. From the begin yesterday Middlesex seemed always to have the worst of the game, and their defeat was less severe than had been expected.

Heavy dews had tended to make the pitch easier, but Mr Trumble and Mr Hopkins, the early bowlers, kept a beautiful length. Middlesex were 94 on overnight with five wickets left, but there was nothing in the remainder of the innings to compare with the work of Mr Beldam. In both forward and back play he was very good, and his steadiness and his hard driving of an overpitched ball were admirable. When he left the Middlesex innings was soon over, and the Australians, who had bowled and fielded splendidly, had to make 176 to win.

Three of the best wickets went for 49 and the Australians had still 127 to get on a bowler's pitch. The light was bad, and Mr MacGregor made the most of the bowling changes at his command, while the fielding was good. But Mr Armstrong and Mr Noble played beautiful cricket and 95 runs were added at a quick rate. Mr Armstrong was out at 144, and then Mr Hopkins and Mr Noble hit off the runs required. The pitch was much easier than on the previous day. In the match eight men were given out leg before.

This was the last big match of the season at Lord's, excepting the game between Yorkshire and the Rest of England in a fortnight's time for the benefit of the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society.

25 August: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6088.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 August, page 10)

On a wicket that was affected by rain at Taunton, yesterday, a good deal of progress was made with the return match between Somerset and Surrey, 21 wickets going down for an aggregate of 328 runs. Surrey, who in recent years have not done well at Taunton, had every reason to be satisfied with the day's play, as they finished up with a substantial advantage, being 76 runs on with only one wicket down in their second innings.

For the excellent position in which they found themselves Surrey were enormously indebted to Hayes, who gave a brilliant display. Going in first wicket down at 16, he took out his bat for 86 out of a total of 170. When 52 he should have been caught by Mr Phillips at mid-off, but that was the only blemish that could be urged against him. For an hour and 50 minutes he played the bowling, which presented great difficulties to most of his colleagues, with confidence and skill; and the forcing characteristic of his cricket may be judged from the fact that he hit three sixes (all out of the ground) and eight fours.

Abel helped him to put on 54 for the second wicket in half-an-hour but, apart from Mr Crawford, none of the other batsmen gave him any real assistance. Braund bowled very well, but Cranfield was comparatively expensive.

With the pitch becoming increasingly difficult under the influence of hot sunshine, Somerset failed to approach their opponents' score, being put out by Lockwood and Clode in an hour and three-quarters for 126. The home eleven were saved from a bad performance by the skill and patience of Mr Lionel Palairet, who carried out his bat for 45. While nearly all the other batsmen failed to overcome the difficulties of the situation, he batted in delightful style, his command over the ball being so complete that he did not make a single bad stroke. He hit well when the opportunity presented itself, his score including six fours.

Gill hit fiercely, scoring 29 out of 38 in 15 minutes, but the others did little. Lockwood finished off the innings in a summary manner, taking the last four wickets for four runs.

Holding the valuable lead of 44, Surrey had 35 minutes' batting in their second innings, and scored 32 runs for the loss of Abel's wicket. During the day Hayes and Mr Palairet each completed his thousand runs for the season.

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

A more interesting day's play than that witnessed at Taunton yesterday could hardly be desired, the fortunes of the game varying from time to time. Surrey started the day with an advantage, and finished up with perhaps the better prospects of ultimate success. At the close Somerset with nominally five wickets left required 99 runs to win, but Robson will hardly be able to bat to-day. In endeavouring to make a catch in the slips he had the misfortune to have a nail torn off. With their pronounced tail, Somerset are now almost entirely dependent on the efforts of Gill and Mr Martyn.

Overnight, Surrey, who led on the first innings by 44, had lost Abel at their second attempt for 32, and after experiencing several changes of fortune succeeded in putting together a total of 252. Four wickets were down for 67, and then in 65 minutes Mr Dowson and Lockwood put on 100 runs. Lockwood hit in determined fashion, his 52 including ten 4s. Mr Dowson, who was sixth out at 179, played faultless cricket for an hour and 25 minutes, and hit twelve 4s. He pulled in a daring manner and also made a number of hard drives. Towards the end, when the batting looked like going to pieces, Clode did a valuable piece of hitting, scoring 42 out of 48 put on for the eighth wicket in 20 minutes.

Left with 297 to get to win, Somerset were set a formidable task; and they began badly, losing Lewis with the score at three. However, Braund and Mr Palairet offered a resolute resistance, staying together for 70 minutes and adding 96 runs. Braund was unequal in his play, making several fine strokes and a number of bad ones. With Mr Phillips and Mr Woods failing, four wickets were down for 101, but once more a sturdy fight was made.

Departing from his usual free methods, Gill batted with praiseworthy self-restraint, only hitting when he could safely do so. In the next 40 minutes 59 runs were put on, and the Somerset sustained a severe blow in the dismissal of Mr Palairet. For the second time in the match he played a great game for his side. During a stay at the wickets of two hours and ten minutes he scarcely made a bad stroke, and hit seven 4s. Then Gill and Mr Martyn carried the score from 160 to 198 without being separated, but when 29 the former was badly missed by Hayes at slip.

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

Somerset defeated Surrey at Taunton yesterday by three wickets, the match coming to an end at ten minutes past 1.

When play began in the morning the position was a very interesting one, Somerset, with five wickets to fall, still requiring 99 runs to secure a victory. Somerset's chances, however, were not so good as they looked, for though Robson would have gone to the wickets had a crisis been reached, he could not, on account of the serious injury he received on Tuesday afternoon, have ventured to hit. Fortunately for Somerset this necessity did not arise. With only six runs added to the overnight score of 198 Mr Martyn was bowled, and at 232 Gill was brilliantly caught low down at cover slip. Mr Johnson and Mr Vassall then came together, and in 55 minutes the two batsmen hit off the 65 runs that were wanted. Mr Vassall, who was making his first appearance in county cricket, batted with a coolness and confidence worthy of a player of much greater experience. Gill, who had a large share in the success of his side, played with unusual steadiness, his stay at the wickets extending over an hour and three-quarters; but he was much indebted to fortune. When he had made only four he gave a comparatively each chance at the wicket.

25 August: SUSSEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6089.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 August, page 10)

To such an extent did the wicket favour the bowlers at Hove yesterday that in an hour and 40 minutes the whole of the home side were dismissed, while 15 minutes less sufficed for the disposal of the Essex batsmen. A considerable amount of rain had fallen on Sunday, and with the sun shining with great power when play was commenced the slow bowlers of the two sides met with great success.

Mr Fry and Vine started well, 35 being put on for the first wicket; but after the amateur was out, in trying to pull a ball, Mead bowled with such effect that his subsequent six wickets cost but nine runs. When Essex entered upon their innings Cox was almost unplayable, Mr McGahey being the only batsman who played him with any confidence.

The start of the Sussex second innings was delayed by a shower, which appeared to make the wicket easier. Mr Fry and Vine both batted in capital style. The former drove and cut in his best style, and at the close Sussex, with all their wicket intact, were 45 runs on.

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

At Brighton yesterday Sussex gained a victory over Essex. Overnight the home county, after securing the small advantage of four runs on the first innings, in their second had scored 41 without loss.

Mr Fry and Vine on resuming increased the total to 61 before Mr Fry was caught at the wicket, but Vine continued to bat finely, showing strong defence, while driving with considerable power when opportunities arose. Three wickets were down for 80, but Mr Latham, after shaping none too well at the outset, settled down to good cricket. His partnership with Vine yielded 62 in 65 minutes, before Vine was fourth out. The professional was batting altogether four [two?] hours and 40 minutes without offering a chance and hit eight fours. After lunch the wicket appeared to play considerably worse, the six outstanding home wickets falling for 23 runs.

Essex required 204 to win, but Mr Fane and Kortright were the only batsmen to offer any resistance. Both hit in capital style, but just before 6 o'clock Sussex proved successful by 110 runs.

25 August: SURREY SECOND ELEVEN v WILTSHIRE

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

Potted Score: SURREY SECOND ELEVEN 198 (A Baker 66, J R Raphael 43; Smith 4 wkts, Smart 4 wkts) and 206/1 dec (A Baker 37, E Wiltshire 127*, Holland 27*). WILTSHIRE 117 (J E Stevens 42, H S Snell 20*; Smith 5 wkts, G H Hadfield 3 wkts) and 83 (M S Medlicott 36; Lees 6 wkts, Gooder 4 wkts). Surrey won by 201 runs.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 August, page 10)

The Surrey Second Eleven, who in the last few years have played so prominent a part in the smaller class of county cricket, had the better of the day's play on the Oval yesterday. Baker played particularly well for his 66, but perhaps the best innings was that of Mr J E Raphael, the Oxford Freshman, who failed to get his blue this year. Principally owing to the good bowling of Smith and Hadfield Surrey secured a lead of 81 on the innings.

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

A fine batting performance by Mr E Wiltshire at the Oval yesterday enabled Surrey to declare with only one wicket down. There was some very good bowling by Lees and Gooder, who got Wiltshire out in their second innings for a small total, and Surrey won the match by 201 runs.

Tuesday 26 August, page 10: THE LONDON COUNTY AVERAGES

The London County Club have had a good season generally at the Crystal Palace, and their matches on the beautifully true turf produced some fine batting. There was a great variety of talent at the disposal of Dr Grace and the sides were invariably good.

Mr C J B Wood, of Leicestershire, came out with the best average, but the mainstays of the side were Dr Grace and Mr Murdoch. Llewellyn, of Hampshire, bore the brunt of the bowling, and Dr Grace also did much work. As for other comment the figures given below must speak for themselves . . .

Wednesday 27 August, page 10: THE YORKSHIRE AVERAGES

The Yorkshire eleven finished another good season with a fine win against Kent at Catford yesterday. Their position as champions has been for some time assured; and this was before their closing matches in the metropolitan area. But their victories over Middlesex at Lord's and Kent at Catford were concerning triumphs in the career of probably the finest side Yorkshire have ever possessed.

In batting, in bowling and in fielding there was the same all-round excellence; and one has to go back to the best days of Surrey when Lohmann was prominent on the side to find better results than Yorkshire have achieved this year. There was a splendid *esprit de corps* in the side, and no one was more responsible for the existence of this feeling than Lord Hawke, the captain, and his deputy, Mr F S Jackson.

All cricketers will congratulate Yorkshire on their play this year. They were in a class by themselves, for no other county could approach them in their all-round excellence. They lost one match only, that against Somerset in June on a bad wicket, at Sheffield.

As to the *personnel* of the team, Mr Jackson was never a greater cricketer than he was this year, which is saying a good deal; and his splendid nerve whenever things were going badly for his side was often the means of turning the game.

Yorkshire have a wide field for recruiting. When in the old days they lost Peate they found Peel, and they never seemed to lack native talent. They have three good professional bowlers at present in Haigh, Hirst and Rhodes; and it is questionable whether a county side ever possessed better bowlers in one season.

Yorkshire never seems to be at a loss for an extra man. This was exemplified in the case of Washington, who this season has developed into a fine batsman, justifying the good opinions formed of him early in the season. Apart from his batting abilities he is a magnificent field.

Mr Taylor heads the batting tables with a fine record; he is a great batsman and a splendid field, and there are many who regret that he should have given up wicket-keeping.

Hirst, if not so successful with the ball, has batted wonderfully well, and his fielding and his great nerve at a pinch often turned the game for Yorkshire. Denton and Tunnicliffe were useful batsmen and brilliant fields; but J T Brown has fallen away from his old game and seems to have lost his old art of cutting.

Of the bowlers, Haigh takes first place in the averages. There is not a more deadly bowler than he on a soft wicket, and the way he varied his pace was the means of getting many wickets; his slow ball, delivered without any apparent change of his action, is especially deadly. Rhodes, although not taking so many wickets as last season - indeed it was over 50 less - did splendid work and proved time after time that he had lost none of his old skill. The whole figures speak eloquently of the excellence of the side. They are given below: -

Played, 25; won, 13; lost, 1; drawn, 11. Abandoned, 1.

[Averages follow.]

Thursday 28 August, page 10: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Below will be found the present positions: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	25	13	1	11	12	85.71
Sussex	23	7	3	13	4	40.00
Notts	20	6	3	11	3	33.33
Lancashire	23	7	5	11	2	16.16
Warwickshire	16	5	4	7	1	11.11
Surrey	25	6	5	14	1	9.09
Kent	21	8	8	5	0	0.00
Somerset	18	7	7	4	0	0.00
Worcestershire	21	5	6	10	-1	-9.09
Derbyshire	16	4	5	7	-1	-11.11
Leicestershire	17	2	4	11	-2	-33.33
Middlesex	16	3	6	7	-3	-33.33
Essex	19	2	5	12	-3	-42.85
Gloucestershire	19	3	9	7	-6	-57.00
Hampshire	16	2	9	4	-7	-63.63

THE LANCASHIRE AVERAGES

It has been rather a disappointing season for Lancashire. Their bowling failed them, and this was the cause of their ill-success. Mr MacLaren returned to captain the side and batted with all his old dash; while Tyldesley, although not getting so many runs as last year, played strongly and fielded with the accuracy that he has always shown. Mr Garnett, who did such good service for the side last season, was able to play only occasionally. Ward showed much of his old steadiness and the amateurs of the side generally did moderately well.

Although strengthened by the inclusion of Barnes, the bowling was very uncertain; both Webb and Sharp, who last season had each taken over 100 wickets, showed a great falling off in form. Webb wants a wicket to suit him, and Sharp, the successor of Mold, rarely found his length. The team fielded particularly well, and had excellent wicket-keepers to select from in Mr Findlay, of Eton and Oxford, C Smith and Radcliffe. The figures are given below: -

Played, 23; won, 7; lost, 5; drawn, 11; abandoned, 1.

[averages follow]

THE SOMERSET AVERAGES

Somerset completed their fixture list at Taunton yesterday with a splendid victory over Surrey. Although labouring over the disadvantage of not being able to put anything like full strength into the field until well on in the season, their record shows a great improvement over last year, for they won seven matches out of 18, as against four out of 17.

The batting averages are chiefly noticeable for their consistency, but the figures are generally much better than the list would suggest, for none of them were helped by a large innings - in fact there was not a single score of three-figure made during the season. Mr Lionel Palairet heads the averages, although with considerably reduced figures.

Braund's all-round work was full of strength for the side, and Mr Woods, with his splendid capacity for keeping his team together, showed over and over again those sterling qualities which have turned

so many games. Cranfield, too, has been a great source of strength with his left-hand bowling. It was to him and Braund, by their fine bowling, that Somerset largely owed their improved position.

Played, 18; won, 7; lost, 7; drawn, 4.

[averages follow]

PLAYERS OF ENGLAND v THE AUSTRALIANS

The team to represent the Players at the Oval on September 15 and following days in this the last match of the Australians in England will consist of Abel, Hayward, Lockwood, Rhodes, Hirst, Haigh, W G Quaife, Lilley, Tyldesley, Braund and Iremonger.

28 August: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6090.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 August, page 9)

There was a very good day's cricket at the Lyttelton ground, Leyton, yesterday. The winning of the toss meant that the side batting first gained no advantage, for the pitch was rid of some of the effects of Wednesday's storm as the day advanced.

The Essex innings lasted well into the afternoon. There was fine free batting by Mr Kortright and also good batting by Mr McIver, but with the exception of Mr Fane, who was missed before he had scored, the rest of the side did little. Leicestershire generally fielded and bowled well.

They started their innings at a quarter past 4, the wicket being perhaps easier than at any time during the day. Whitehead and Mr C J B Wood opened the batting to the bowling of Mead and Young. An excellent beginning was made, Whitehead in particular playing free cricket. The score was taken to 63, and then Tremlin, who had just gone on, disposed of Whitehead and Knight very quickly. Mr Joyce and Mr Wood made a further stand, and at the close of play had so far scored 50 runs for the third wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 August, page 5)

Essex made a splendid fight to recover their lost ground yesterday at Leyton, and going in a second time they hit off 136 of the 172 arrears at the cost of only two wickets.

When Leicestershire resumed their innings Mr Wood and Mr Joyce made a capital stand, Mr Joyce in particular hitting with a great deal of vigour. Mead, Young, Buckenham and Tremlin all had a turn with the ball before the partnership was broken; Tremlin then easily caught and bowled Mr Joyce, who had made his 64 in an hour and a half. His stand with Mr Wood had yielded 121.

After this the play was slow, Mr Wood being particularly cautious when nearing his hundred, which in the end he failed by secure by one run only. King, too, plodded along very quietly, his 83 taking him three and a half hours. Mr de Trafford hit vigorously and the innings closed after six hours' batting for 367.

Play was much brighter when Essex started their uphill task. Mr Fane played good cricket, but at 53 he lost his captain. Then Mr Perrin made a stand with Mr Fane. A few minutes before the call of time Mr Fane was caught at point.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 September, page 9)

Essex managed to save their match with Leicestershire at Leyton on Saturday, and the match was drawn. For this result they were mainly indebted to the batting of Mead, who had gone in as a stopgap in the second innings on Friday evening. Saturday morning saw him settle down at once to a hard, forcing game, his driving and cutting being very good. He got nearly all his runs on the off side, and such was the rate of scoring that he and Mr Perrin put on 100 runs in an hour, while the full partnership yielded 171 in 80 minutes. Mr Perrin was out at 290, caught at mid-off, and Mead, who was bowled, left fourth at 304. Mead, whose first century it was in first-class cricket, got his 119 in 90 minutes and hit 17 fours.

There was more fine free cricket by Mr McGahey and Mr Kortright, and by 20 minutes past 3 Essex felt strong enough to close their innings, leaving Leicestershire 266 to make to win in rather less than three hours.

Leicestershire went in for forcing tactics, and there was some hitting by Mr de Trafford, Mr Wood and Mr Joyce. The 100 went up inside the hour, and before rain put an end to the match Leicestershire had made 155 for four wickets.

28 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6091.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 August, page 9)

At one point yesterday at Bournemouth Hampshire looked like obtaining a commanding lead over Warwickshire. On a wicket that was a good deal affected by a heavy dew they put out the Midland team for 99, and then passed that score with only three wickets down. Afterwards the Hampshire batting went to pieces, but still at the close the home county had the better of the position.

The Warwickshire batting was very disappointing, Lilley alone displaying any ability to cope with the bowling of Llewellyn and Kitchener. Llewellyn followed up his bowling by a valuable innings of 53. He had a life when his score was only two, but he made good use of his luck, hitting in capital style. Llewellyn and Mr Sprot put on 68 for the second wicket in three-quarters of an hour, and this stand appeared to give a strong advantage. But Santall going on to bowl at 95 met with astonishing success, dismissing six batsmen for 16 runs.

This brilliant piece of work enabled Warwickshire to escape from a discouraging position. Still the visitors finished rather badly, having a wicket down in their second innings and being 32 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 August, page 5)

The match at Bournemouth was left in an extremely interesting position when stumps were drawn last evening, Hampshire requiring 22 runs to win with two wickets to fall.

At one time in the afternoon there seemed no likelihood of anything in the nature of exciting play, Hampshire, who were set 121 runs to get to win, doing well enough for a time to warrant the idea that they would secure a comparatively easy victory. They had 58 on the board with three wickets down, and with only 43 required they had still half their wickets in hand.

However, the batting then failed in such an unexpected fashion that when the eighth wicket fell the total had only reached 86. In this critical state of affairs Stone, who had been playing very skilful and patient cricket, was joined by Mr Harrison, and the two batsmen raised the score to 99 before the close without being separated. Stone, though he has only made six runs, has so far been at the wickets for an hour and a half, showing admirable defence.

Earlier in the day Devey played very well for Warwickshire, staying in for two hours and 40 minutes for his 44. Quaife helped him to make a good stand after three wickets had fallen for as many runs, and later in the innings - after seven men had been dismissed for 82 - Moorhouse, Santall and Field all batted in capital form. It will be seen that Llewellyn again bowled with great success. In the two innings of Warwickshire he has taken 12 wickets for 128 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 September, page 9)

This match, at Bournemouth, ended, on Saturday morning, in a victory for Warwickshire by the narrow margin of eight runs. At the drawing of stumps on Friday evening Hampshire, with two wickets in hand, required 22 runs to win.

Although the home side only succeeded on Saturday in carrying their overnight score of 99 to 112, the concerning stage of the match extended over three-quarters of an hour. During the whole of this time Mr Harrison, who carried out his bat, did not score a run. Stone, after being at the wickets altogether for two hours for 14, was out at 109, and the innings was then quickly finished off.

28 August: LANCASHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6092.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 August, page 9)

The last match on the Lancashire card, the return with the Australians, was begun at Aigburth yesterday on a good and easy wicket. Lancashire left out Mr Bardswell, Holland and Barnes, the latter having again injured his knee in the Leicestershire match. In their places they played Mr Garnett, Mr F H Hollins and, by the courtesy of the Australians, Alexander Kermode, an Australianborn fast bowler, who is engaged at Old Trafford and will be qualified for Lancashire in July, 1904.

Mr Darling, who allowed Mr Jones, Mr Howell and Mr Carter to stand down, won the toss, but in rather less than two hours and ten minutes the Australians were out for 138. Their small score was due to the fine bowling of George Littlewood and Kermode. In the former's second over Mr Trumper was caught at point, while in his sixth Littlewood took an easy return from Mr Duff and got Mr Noble leg-before, three wickets being down for 27.

Mr Darling was never comfortable with Kermode, who hit his off-stump, and then bowled Mr Hill and Mr Hopkins in one over, six wickets having fallen for 77. Mr Armstrong, who played a lucky innings, had his leg-stump knocked back by Littlewood, and in the next over Mr Trumble was held at mid-off, so that with 91 on the board eight men were out. In his first over after lunch Mr Kermode bowled Mr Kelly and Mr Saunders. Mr Gregory showed by far the best batting, placing well on the leg side, though Mr Hill made some excellent drives. Littlewood, who swings in with his arm and breaks from leg, captured five wickets for 49, and Kermode, who has a perfect action and maintains an excellent length, secured the remainder for 68.

Lancashire began well, scoring 47 before they lost Mr Garnett, who had, however, a life at deep midon at 12. When the total was 51 for one wicket, rain stopped play for an hour and a quarter. Upon resuming, Ward was caught very finely by Mr Hill, who ran in from long leg, the second wicket falling at 55. Tyldesley and Littlewood then played out time.

The feature of the day was the bowling of Littlewood and Kermode. The latter, who is 26, stands 6 ft and is a typical Colonial in build and appearance and, apparently a really fine bowler.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 August, page 5)

Extraordinary cricket was seen at Liverpool yesterday, for the rain of the previous day and during the night had rendered the wicket treacherous, with the result that in the course of four and a half hours' play no fewer than 23 wickets fell for an aggregate of 239 runs.

Lancashire lost their eight outstanding wickets in an hour and 20 minutes for 59 runs, of which Hallows compiled 32 by strong play, his driving being very fine, especially to the off. Mr Saunders was by far the most successful bowler, his six wickets being obtained for slightly over eight runs each.

Mr Darling changed his order and intended to adopt forcing tactics in the second innings of the Australians; but with Mr Trumper bowled at 13 and Mr Darling caught in the long field at 21 the Colonists were content to struggle for runs. Afterwards Mr Duff and Mr Hill were exceedingly useful, but even so five wickets were down for 91. The last five, however, succumbed in 25 minutes for 14 runs, the new bowler Littlewood taking four of them for only four singles. Despite the assistance of the pitch, Littlewood's performance was remarkable. In the match he obtained 12 wickets for 98 runs, and during the week of his debut he has dismissed 21 batsmen for less than 11 runs apiece. Lancashire were set 124 to win. They lost Mr MacLaren at three and Tyldesley at seven, but Mr Garnett and Hallows put on 34 for the third wicket, and they both lost their wickets in forcing the game. The fine work they accomplished was unexpectedly supplemented by Messrs Stanning and Hollins. Lancashire now require 49 runs to win with five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 September, page 9)

The Australians beat Lancashire, at Aigburth, on Saturday, by 18 runs. When play ceased on Friday evening Lancashire required 49 to defeat the Australians, and had five wickets to fall.

Mr Hollins and Mr Stanning carried the total to 90, but then came a collapse, for at 93, when the sixth wicket had realized 41, Mr Hollins was caught at point for an invaluable 27. Off the next ball I'Anson was splendidly caught at the wicket, while Mr Stanning was taken at long-on. Three wickets fell at 93, and the last five wickets went down in ten minutes for 13.

28 August: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6093.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 August, page 9)

There were two centuries of a very different nature made on the Oval yesterday. Abel made precisely 100 in rather less than five hours, and Mr E M Dowson played the finest forcing innings he has yet made for Surrey. He scored 107 in about 100 minutes. Surrey had choice of wicket on a pitch that was just a trifle slow, but it was nice and easy. The ball would not turn a bit, and try as they would the bowlers could not make a good length ball rise more than half stump high.

To begin with there was a great start to the Surrey innings by Abel and Hayward; Hayward with that fine forcing stroke of his on the off-side just beyond cover point was very strong. He was always a bad beginner, but yesterday he settled down much more quickly than usual. It was in vain that Middlesex varied their bowling. Every bowler possessed by them was tried. Abel was deadly dull; but Hayward showed all the genius of his famous uncle, and the score had run on to 126 when Mr Schwarz at last held a catch from him in the deep field.

For a short while things did not go so well for Surrey. Hayes was caught at the wicket, Lockwood was leg-before to one of Mr Bosanquet's slows, Baker was caught in the slips and Brockwell, after a few good hits, failed to get hold of a half-volley and was caught in the deep field. Five for 189 was a vastly different record to that promised when 120 went up with not a man out.

But those who arrived late saw the best batting of the match. Abel had been religiously pegging away, no doubt in the hopes of running into his 2,000 aggregate - he wanted 134 at the start of his innings; but there was a refreshing vigour in the batting of Mr Dowson. He got set almost at once, and he hit the bowling all over the field and many times over the ring. The Middlesex captain changed his bowling repeatedly. Mr Dowson hit all the length out of their bowling, and he reached his 100 with a dangerous drive in the long field that fell just short of Mr James Douglas.

Abel meantime had been sixth out at 311, a slow and extremely dull innings. Still Abel is a wonderful bat, considering his physique, and he had a big reception for his patient cricket. The Abel and Dowson partnership yielded 122 runs. There was some good hitting afterwards by Mr Crawford. There was a crowd of some 7,000, and the weather was beautifully fine.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 August, page 5)

Surrey had done so extremely well on Thursday - they had made 348 for the loss of only six wickets - that it was not surprising to find them last night finishing with a big advantage, for Middlesex, in their second innings, are still 113 behind with five of their best batsmen gone.

The Middlesex batting, with few exceptions, was very disappointing; but Surrey fielded and bowled splendidly, and Richardson has not bowled so well for some years as he did yesterday, when he got

seven wickets for 63 - six clean bowled, and in the hour and a half before luncheon he had an analysis of five for 29 runs.

An early start was made, and it was only a quarter-past 11 when the game was renewed. Mr Dowson, who had played such splendid cricket on Thursday, began well again with two fine drives on the leg side from Mr Wells; but soon he failed to get well over a half-volley and lifted it to the long field, where Mr Schwarz brought off a fine catch. Mr Dowson's vigour may be gathered from the facts that 80 of his 123 were made in fours and that he took only 120 minutes for his innings. He was seventh out for 371, and there was nothing of more than passing interest in the balance of the innings.

Middlesex made a promising start, and Mr Warner placed Lockwood very cleverly to leg for four and five (the latter hit was all run). But Richardson took a great deal of playing, and in the course of half an hour he bowled Mr Warner, Mr Beldam, Mr R N Douglas and Mr Wells, while he got Mr Bosanquet out leg-before. Thus at luncheon time five wickets were down for 61.

Subsequently Mr J Douglas batted splendidly, showing a fine variety of strokes and, after going in first, was only last out when he jumped out to drive and mistimed a low ball from Richardson. Lockwood and Richardson had bowled unchanged.

Mr Warner and Mr J Douglas made a splendid start in the follow-on. Mr Warner was out at 73, and then disaster set in for Middlesex. Mr J Douglas was caught at wicket for a second fine innings, but afterwards Mr Bosanquet, in vigorous style, made 51 at a great pace, and was only out to a wonderful running catch in the deep field by Hayward.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 September, page 9)

Surrey won their match at the Oval on Saturday by nine wickets, a result that closely approached in substance their big victory by ten wickets over Middlesex earlier in the season at Lord's. Middlesex were in a bad way overnight, for, with only five men left in the second innings, they were still 113 runs behind the first Surrey score.

On Saturday morning Brockwell quickly got Trott stumped and Mr Schwarz caught; and, with seven men out for 182, the end seemed near. But the last three men made a splendid effort to save the game. Mr Wells and Nr Nicholls added 45 at a quick rate, and afterwards Mr Nicholls, forcing the game well, had partnerships of 53 with Mr Headlam and 31 with Hearne. Mr Nicholls played very strongly, particularly in his driving and leg hitting.

Surrey had only 37 to get to win, and these they got at the expense of one wicket. With the game in such an uneven state overnight, there was, naturally, only a small company to see the finish.

28 August: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6094.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 August, page 9)

A faultless innings by Mr Fry stood out as the feature of yesterday's play in this match at Brighton. At the start he was a trifle uncomfortable, both Mr Mason and Blythe getting past his defence and all but hitting the stumps. Afterwards he displayed his best form.

The bowling was too good to allow of a forcing game, the first boundary hit not being made until 40 minutes had elapsed, while a similar interval occurred before another was scored. Mr Fry was second out at 160 from a very tame stroke to mid-off, the only bad one during his three hours' stay. Obtaining his runs as usual in front of the wicket, he timed the ball beautifully.

With Killick and Relf dismissed, four wickets were down for 184, and Mr Latham and Mr Heygate made a useful stand, the pair increasing the total by 79. The former was first out, Hearne running backwards from short-leg and bringing off a remarkable catch by securing the ball with his right hand behind his head.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 August, page 5)

A dashing display by Mr Smith and Mr Brann enabled Sussex at Brighton yesterday to declare at lunch time with three wickets in hand. Throughout his long career Mr Brann has never shown better cricket. In the two hours and a half before the declaration Mr Brann never made a faulty stroke. Mr Smith, who had less of the bowling, hit vigorously and got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket. He was missed when he had scored 59 by Humphreys at mid-off, and again when 92 by Mr Dillon in the long field.

Mr Dillon played a somewhat lucky innings for the visitors; for, in addition to being several times all but bowled by Cox, he was twice missed in the slips - when 11 by Tate, and at 54 by Mr Smith. At the close Kent, with four wickets down, required 152 to save the follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 September, page 9)

At Brighton, on Saturday, Kent succeeded in effecting a draw with Sussex, the visitors at the close being nine runs on with five wickets in hand. Overnight they had lost four good batsmen with 152 still required to save the follow-on.

Mr Blaker, scoring with good strokes all round the wicket, was the only one to play the bowling of Vine and Tate with any degree of confidence. The innings terminated with an addition of 92, so with four hours remaining for play and a deficit still of 207, the chances of averting defeat appeared against Kent.

A grand innings by Mr Burnup and an invaluable defensive innings by Hearne, however, placed the side out of danger. At the outset the visitors fared none too well, as, after Mr Dillon had assisted Mr Burnup to put on 45 for the first wicket, Mr Day was out at 61 and Seymour at 82. It was at this stage that Hearne and Mr Burnup became associated; but, while Mr Burnup batted in his customary style, hitting whenever the slightest opportunity offered, the professional was content to keep up his end. During the long partnership, realizing 110, neither batsman gave the slightest chance, and when Mr Burnup left the situation was practically saved.

Mr Burnup obtained his runs chiefly by keen driving, his play on the on side being especially strong. He was at the wickets just under three hours, while Hearne was batting but half an hour less.

28 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6095.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 August, page 9)

Thanks mainly to the effective bowling by Spry and some splendid batting by Mr Troup and Mr Jessop, Gloucestershire gained a strong advantage over Worcestershire and Worcester yesterday. Keeping an accurate length and getting a lot of work on the ball, Spry met with little resistance at the hands of the Worcestershire batsmen, and had the excellent record of eight wickets at a cost of ten runs each. Hunt and Pearson hit vigorously, but the best batting for Worcestershire was shown by Mr H K Foster, who played stylish cricket.

Gloucestershire, on going in, started in a manner that held out but poor promise, losing three batsmen for 28 runs. From this point, however, everything went one way, and at the drawing of stumps Gloucestershire were 79 runs ahead with half their wickets in hand. Mr Troup played with characteristic patience and Mr Jessop hit with his usual vigour, scoring 77 out of the 101 runs put on for the fourth wicket in 70 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 August, page 5)

When a failing light caused stumps to be drawn at half-past 5 at Worcester last evening Gloucestershire were in a position from which they should to-day secure a victory, requiring, with an innings to play, only 134 runs.

Half an hour's cricket yesterday morning proved sufficient to bring the Gloucestershire innings to a close, the five outstanding wickets falling for an addition of only 31 runs. Mr Troup, who was ninth

out at 259, gave an excellent display of sound, defensive cricket, his stay having extended over rather more than three hours and a half, but he was missed on three occasions.

On going in a second time 110 behind Worcestershire did exceedingly well up to a certain point, the total being 209 when the fifth wicket fell, but after this the batting broke down completely. Arnold, Gaukrodger and Mr Lowe all hit finely, but the best form was shown by Bowley, whose cricket was as brilliant as it was faultless. He made his runs in two hours and among his figures were 14 fours. Huggins bowled with great effect.

Wrathall and Mr Troup went out to open Gloucestershire's second innings, but not a ball was bowled as an appeal against the light was upheld.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 September, page 9)

The heavy rains of Friday night rendered the ground at Worcester unfit for cricket, and the match had to be abandoned as a draw. Gloucestershire had an innings to play and wanted only 134 to win . . .

28 August: YORKSHIRE v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6096.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 August, page 9)

Having won the championship for the third year in succession, the Yorkshire eleven were accorded a hearty reception at Scarborough yesterday, when they opposed a team of the M.C.C. in the opening match of the Northern festival. It had been originally arranged that Mr Ernest Smith should assist the Marylebone Club, but, Mr Jackson being unable to play, he filled the vacancy. Yorkshire, therefore, played the same side that defeated Kent at Catford. There was a capital attendance.

A strong side had been chosen to represent the Club, but, going in first on a wicket that had been affected by a heavy dew, they made anything but a promising start. Mr W Findlay and Mr A O Jones were the first pair of batsmen, and were opposed by Hirst and Rhodes. The first-named fell to the second ball from the fast bowler, while Carpenter, who succeeded, had only made a couple when the Notts captain was given out leg-before-wicket to Rhodes. To make matters worse for the batting side, the Essex professional was beaten by Hirst with only seven runs signalled, and the Cambridge captain, following in, was given out leg-before to Rhodes with only a single added.

Braund and Storer, however, put a different complexion on the game, the first 40 being telegraphed after some free hitting as the result of three-quarters of an hour's play. With the total at 71, Brown went on with his slows, and very quickly had three wickets to his credit. He got Braund and Thompson caught in the deep field by Denton - both well-judged catches - and Mr Woods, jumping out to hit him, was well stumped by Hunter.

Storer batted an hour and ten minutes for 24 runs, and was then bowled by Haigh. Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr G J V Weigall made a useful addition of 38 runs for the ninth wicket, and the innings closed for 161.

Yorkshire, like their opponents, made a bad start against the bowling of Braund and Cranfield, Braund dismissing Brown and Washington very quickly - both clean bowled. Tunnicliffe and Denton, however, added 79 runs in three-quarters of an hour, and when rain stopped the game at 5 o'clock the county had scored exactly 100 with half their wickets down.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 August, page 5)

A sensational day's cricket at Scarborough yesterday ended in the defeat of the Yorkshire eleven. The champions, as was the case at Sheffield, where they lost to Somerset in June last, could do little or nothing against Braund and Cranfield's bowling and, although only requiring 101 to win, were dismissed in an hour and a quarter for 74 and lost the match by 26 runs. By a singular coincidence, the score for which Yorkshire were dismissed yesterday was exactly the same as they made at Bramall-lane. The cricket yesterday was always interesting, Yorkshire, who had scored 100 overnight for five wickets, being ultimately dismissed for 161. This was the score made by M.C.C. Rhodes captured six wickets for 49 runs, and by so doing brought his aggregate for the season up to 195 wickets. Considering that he has to play in four more matches, he will in all probability secure his 200 for the season, a performance that no other English bowler can equal. The M.C.C. team were batting an hour and 50 minutes. Mr Wilson, the Cambridge captain, played the best cricket on the side; he was batting an hour and a quarter for 24 runs - a most patient display.

Lord Hawke made a change in the batting order when Yorkshire were called upon a second time, going in first himself with Brown. He was bowled by Cranfield for a couple, and, being assisted by the wicket, which was always slow and difficult, the Somerset pair carried all before them. The majority of the batsmen hit out recklessly at Braund's leg-breaks, and only two of them succeeded in reaching double figures, these being Mr Smith and Denton.

When Denton fell to a well-judged catch in the long field Yorkshire had lost half their batsmen for 37 runs, and with only ten added Haigh and Hirst were dismissed. With the departure of Mr Smith, who was stumped in jumping out to drive Cranfield, it may be fairly said that Yorkshire lost all hope of saving the game. Rhodes and Hunter were missed when hitting, but both were short-lived, and at a quarter-past 5 Marylebone won as stated.

Friday 29 August, page 9

A benefit match is to be played at Lord's on September 11, 12 and 13, under the title of Yorkshire v England, on behalf of the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society.

The society has existed for 45 years and is registered under the Friendly Societies Act. There are about 150 members, all professional cricketers, and the objects of the society are to provide assistance in case of sickness or injury due to cricket, pensions on permanent disability due to cricket, and gratuities towards funeral expenses. The society has paid, under these heads, since its foundation, some £6,200 to its members.

Monday 1 September, page 9: THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING [Qualification: average 25]

			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Shrewsbury	32	1250	127*	7	50.00
K S Ranjitsinhji	26	1106	234*	2	46.08
W G Quaife	32	1215	153*	4	43.39
Iremonger	35	1292	146	2	39.15
Mr T L Taylor	39	1405	142*	3	39.02
Tyldesley	44	1584	165	3	38.63
Abel	57	1958	179	6	38.54
Mr C J Burnup	48	1712	161	3	38.04
Mr E M Ashcroft	25	912	162	1	38.00
Mr C B Fry	44	1573	159*	2	37.45
Dr W G Grace	31	1062	131	2	35.62
Mr C McGahey	40	1187	128	6	35.20
W Gunn	24	807	120	1	35.09
Mr P Perrin	38	1119	121	6	34.96
Mr J A Dixon	18	552	123	2	34.50
Mr S H Day	24	720	117*	3	34.23
Hirst	42	1267	131	5	34.24
Mr W L Murdoch	22	711	132	1	33.85
Mr A O Jones	35	1112	109	2	33.69
Mr C J B Wood	50	1568	178	3	33.36
Mr G L Jessop	47	1447	126	3	32.68
Mr A C MacLaren	41	1254	174	2	32.15
Hon F S Jackson	31	900	128	3	32.14

Hayward	50	1487	177	3	31.63
Mr P F Warner	27	820	139	1	31.53
Denton	44	1262	127	4	31.50
Knight	40	1191	190*	2	31.34
Brockwell	38	917	80*	8	30.56
Mr F L Fane	37	1028	106	3	30.23
Mr C H B Marsham	36	992	130	3	30.06
Vine	50	1289	92	7	29.97
Braund	47	1369	104	1	29.76
Mr E M Dowson	43	1187	123	3	29.67
King	45	1180	130	5	29.60
Mr L C H Palairet	38	1119	90	0	29.44
Relf	46	1142	94	7	29.28
Mr W H B Evans	21	609	142	0	29.00
Mr G Brann	25	634	126*	4	28.81
Killick	45	1180	133	4	28.78
Arnold	43	1053	92	6	28.48
Devey	31	880	86	2	28.38
Mr V F S Crawford	39	1073	101*	1	28.23
Mr E W Dillon	44	1179	137	2	28.07
Washington	42	995	100*	6	27.63
Mr A E Lawton	39	1044	149	1	27.47
Mr W Findlay	21	465	81	4	27.35
Capt H S Bush	28	697	122	2	26.60
Tunnicliffe	47	1222	127	1	26.56
Mr J R Mason	39	1017	107	0	26.07
Mr H K Foster	39	995	112	1	25.94
Mr W Newham	26	619	153	2	25.79
Mr L G Wright	30	759	101	0	25.30
Bowley	42	1037	122*	1	25.29
Mr R T Crawford	26	833	99*	3	25.24

BOWLING [(Qualification:	average	251			
	Zuurrreacton.	2	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Haigh		715	208	1711	151	11.33
Rhodes		1156.2	371	2483	193	12.50
Tate		1104.5	349	2549	166	15.35
Blythe		847	242	1965	127	15.47
Mr J R Mas	on	582.5	208	1318	82	15.60
Wass		803.2	188	2225	140	15.89
Santall		355.1	141	730	45	16.22
Hargreave		919.4	299	1839	112	16.33
Hon F S Ja	ckson	382.3	96	882	53	16.64
Mr E R Wil:	son	464.4	165	912	54	16.88
Lockwood		742.1	147	2142	124	17.27
Robson (Soi	merset)	273	74	729	42	17.35
Cranfield		842.3	189	2515	137	17.35
Gill		436.3	104	1252	71	17.63
A Hearne		424.1	141	913	51	17.90
Bird		391.2	94	949	53	17.90
Mead		944.5	302	2107	117	18.00
Llewellyn		1115.4	313	3084	169	18.24
Hirst		663.3	183	1527	82	18.62
I ' Anson		356.1	109	947	50	18.94
Mr G L Jes	sop	367.2	92	1004	53	18.94
Hallam		626.3	205	1330	70	19.00
Braund		558.2	227	2925	152	19.25
Cuttell		412.3	172	783	40	19.57
J T Hearne		922.4	313	2056	104	19.76
Bestwick		729.3	222	1821	91	20.01
Arnold		738.1	185	1963	98	20.08
Mr B J T B	osanquet	271.3	47	847	40	21.17
Mr E E Ste		336.1	84	1038	49	21.18
Wilson (Wo:	rcester)	775	153	2254	106	21.26
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Trott	920.5	184	2771	130	21.31
Mr G H Simpson-Hayward	274.1	30	1075	47	21.38
Barnes	924.5	242	2049	95	21.56
Field	350.1	61	1134	52	21.80
Mr H Hesketh-Prichard	312.2	69	908	41	22.14
Dr W G Grace	478.1	149	1042	46	22.65
Cox	503	182	1111	49	22.87
Roberts	478.5	156	1202	53	22.87
Hulme	646.5	184	1563	69	22.28
Spry	390.3	52	1380	60	23.00
J Gunn	659	203	1595	63	23.45
Mr E M Dowson	554.3	113	1718	73	23.53
Hallows	601.1	152	1156	50	23.72
Warren	369.2	77	1184	49	24.16
Mr C McGahey	395.3	91	971	40	24.27
Richardson	830.1	156	2474	100	24.74
King	604.4	147	1635	66	24.78

THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING

BAI	. I ING					
				Most in	Not	
		Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr	V Trumper (N.S.W.)	45	2078	128	0	48.17
Mr	M A Noble (N.S.W.)	42	1201	284	5	32.48
Mr	C Hill (S.A.)	47	1482	136	1	32.21
Mr	R A Duff (N.S.W.)	51	1396	183	5	30.34
Mr	W W Armstrong (V.)	43	969	172*	10	29.38
Mr	J Darling (N.S.W.)	45	1079	128	4	25.09
Mr	A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	46	957	105*	7	24.53
Mr	S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	45	937	86	6	24.02
Mr	J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	30	355	75	8	16.13
Mr	E Jones (S.A.)	18	244	40	1	14.35
Mr	H Trumble (V.)	23	223	64*	4	11.73
Mr	H Carter (N.S.W.)	17	94	31	5	7.83
Mr	W P Howell (N.S.W.)	20	80	16	5	5.33
Mr	J V Saunders (V.)	27	58	9*	6	2.76

BOWLING

DOMITINO					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	765.5	246	1579	115	13.78
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	585.1	185	1176	73	15.10
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	402.1	57?	566	33	17.15
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	578.4	129	1722	100	17.22
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	465.4	139	1123	65	17.35
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	615	182	1642	88	18.65
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	505.4	131	1353	68	19.89
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	145.3	40	398	20	19.90

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage	
Yorkshire	25	13	1	11	12	85.71	
Sussex	24	7	3	14	4	40.00	
Notts	20	6	3	11	3	33.33	
Warwickshire	17	6	4	7	2	20.00	
Lancashire	23	7	5	11	2	16.16	
Surrey	26	7	5	14	2	16.16	
Kent	22	8	8	6	0	0.00	

Somerset	18	7	7	4	0	0.00
Worcestershire	22	5	6	11	-1	-9.09
Derbyshire	16	4	5	7	-1	-11.11
Leicestershire	18	2	4	12	-2	-33.33
Middlesex	17	3	7	7	-4	-40.00
Essex	20	2	5	13	-3	-42.65
Gloucestershire	20	3	9	8	-6	-50.00
Hampshire	16	2	10	4	-8	-66.66

THE COUNTIES

THE SUSSEX AVERAGES

The Sussex eleven have played a prominent part in the county championship, this, too, although their batting in something of a bowlers' year bears no comparison with the records of 1901. Neither K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr C B Fry has played so much for them; but Tate's wonderful success in bowling has compensated to a large degree for the falling off in batting. The record shows seven wins and three losses against last year's eight wins and four defeats.

K S Ranjitsinhji, through ill-health, began later in the season and missed the bad batting month of May, while since the test match at Manchester he has not been able to give his county much assistance. But he still holds the highest place in the averages with 66, whereas last year he made over 2,000 runs with an average of 76. Mr Fry was a failure in the test matches, but he did a lot of good work for Sussex, and with Vine shares the distinction of getting a four-figure aggregate in the batting. Relf and Killick did well.

In bowling there has been nothing to compare with Tate's work. He has never before bowled better. Cox did some useful bowling towards the end of the season. Cordingley, who was imported from Yorkshire, was not a success; Vine's bowling, too, seemed to suffer at the expense of his batting.

Played 24 - won, 7; lost, 3; drawn, 14.

[Averages follow.]

THE KENT AVERAGES

Mr Burnup's batting was the great feature of the Kent season, and he has a wonderful average considering the many bad wickets on which he has had to play. Mr Mason has not done nearly so well as last year when his aggregate was 1,272 with an average of 37; but there was plenty of good work by Mr Day, Mr Marsham and Mr Dillon, all of whom played at Lord's in this year's University match.

The brunt of the bowling was borne by Mr Mason and Blythe, whose analyses are far better than last year. Blythe, in particular, did well, and his 111 wickets for 15 runs apiece stand out far in advance of anything he has previously done for the county. Mr Bradley has lost a good deal of the sting that formerly marked his bowling, and his aggregate has fallen from 102 to 40. Huish again proved himself one of the finest wicket-keepers of the day.

Played 22 - won, 8; lost, 8; drawn, 6.

[Averages follow.]

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

Worcestershire had a moderately good season, their record coming out rather better on the percentages than last year, when they lost ten matches and won seven. They were not so dependent on the brothers Foster as in other years, for the reason that the services of Mr R E Foster were not so often avail. But when he did play his batting was as effective as ever, and he easily won his way to the top of the averages. Arnold's batting and bowling were perhaps the feature of the work of the side generally; but it was left to Bowley to score the only 1,000 runs; Wilson's fast right-hand bowling was again very successful.

Played 22 - won, 5; lost, 6; drawn, 11.

{Averages follow.]

THE MIDDLESEX AVERAGES

Middlesex have gone from second place last year to far down in the list, and except for the deterioration of the form of the side there seems little to account for their poor position. Even when late in the season they had the services of the brothers Douglas and Mr Wells the cricket invariably ran against them.

One misses from the Middlesex side the brilliancy of the days of Mr Stoddart, Mr F G J Ford, Sir Timothy O'Brien and the late Mr G F Vernon, while in bowling in may be said that Hearne is not quite the bowler that he was, although his record is rather better than last year. Trott has not been a consistent bowler, but some fairly good work was done by the amateur members of the side.

Mr James Douglas maintains his form wonderfully well; Mr Warner has dropped away from 49 to 27; and Mr Bosanquet was far less d=successful than last year. Mr MacGregor was not able to captain the side regularly, but when he did his wicket-keeping was as sound as ever.

Played, 17 - won, 3; lost, 7; drawn, 7.

{Averages follow.]

THE ESSEX AVERAGES

The Essex eleven have had a very bad year. The weather seemed particularly unkind when there was any match at Leyton, and the club must have suffered very much financially. There seemed a lack of spirit in the eleven, and this was brought out with unfortunate emphasis when Carpenter had a difference with his committee. Carpenter was subsequently reinstated in the side; but he never found his game and stood out of the closing matches. The Essex fielding, too, was often slack.

In batting fine work was done by Mr Perrin, Mr Fane, Mr McGahey and Mr Lucas, while Mr Kortright forsook the ball for the bat with a large measure of success. Mead was as clever as ever with the ball, while he finished up on Saturday with a fine century that saved the match with Leicestershire.

Played, 20 - won, 2; lost, 5; drawn, 13.

{Averages follow.]

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

The Gloucestershire team had only a poor season. What real excellence the side possessed was given to it by the fine all-round cricket of Mr Jessop, the captain. He was the only batsman to get 1,000 runs, and often his wonderful hitting got the side out of a tight corner; in the field he was brilliant; and in bowling, though his pace was reduced, he was often very effective. Indeed his record is much better than last year.

Mr Townsend was able to assist the county very little, but Mr Troup played with consistent steadiness. The bowling figures call for no great comment; but attention may be directed to the figures of Spry, whose slows gave him a respectable analysis.

Played 20 - won, 3; lost, 9; drawn, 8.

[Averages follow.]

THE HAMPSHIRE AVERAGES

This season has proved a most disastrous one for Hampshire, who find themselves at the bottom of the list, only securing two wins against ten defeats, as against last year's record of six matches won and six lost. Llewellyn has proved the mainstay of the side, both in batting and bowling, but he received little support. Mr Hill has been in good form, but the batting generally was very disappointing.

Major Poore returned from South Africa in time to assist them just before the close of their season. When, however, he was available the wickets favoured the bowlers. In the circumstances he failed to play a big innings, but his cricket against the Australians was sufficient to show that he had lost little if any of his skill. For further comment the figures speak for themselves: -

Played, 16 - won, 2; lost, 10; drawn, 4.

[Averages follow.]

1 September: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6097.html)

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

The second match of the Scarborough Festival opened in dull and threatening weather, a sea fog making the light very bad and delaying the start. The wicket at no time favoured the batting side, but the Players, winning the toss for choice of innings, decided to bat first.

Brown and Tunnicliffe started their innings and laid the foundation for what proved to be a satisfactory score. The Yorkshire pair had Mr Burnup and Mr F S Jackson opposed to them at the outset, and playing steady cricket scored at the rate of a run per minute. Mr Burnup retired in favour of Mr E R Wilson at 38, and Brown, scoring the faster of the two batsmen, punished both the Yorkshire amateurs, making excellent strokes through the slips. Fifty runs were telegraphed as the result of three-quarters of an hour's batting, and ten runs later Mr Smith was given a trial.

Tunnicliffe was out in rather an unlucky fashion, having been at the wickets an hour for 34 runs. He had his wicket thrown down whilst backing up to a stroke by Brown. The first wicket realized 66 runs, and Brown left almost immediately afterwards, being well caught by Mr A O Jones. The best cricket of the day was played by Tyldesley and Denton. The Lancastrian scored freely from the start, making the majority of his runs by clean well timed drives on the off side. This pair were together at the interval, the score then being 105 for two wickets.

They added 29 before Denton fell to a good catch by Mr Jackson at mid-off. Repeated changes were made in the attack, but with Hirst as his next partner Tyldesley completed his 50, after exactly as many minutes' batting. He ultimately fell to a catch at cover-point. Hirst and Carpenter scored freely for some time afterwards, the Yorkshireman making some good drives. Carpenter played careful cricket and was rewarded with the top score. Hirst and Haigh, however, adopted forcing tactics, hitting freely all round the wicket.

The Players were out for 314, and during the short time left for play managed to get one of the Gentlemen's wickets. With nine wickets to fall the amateurs are 293 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 September, page 5)

Beaumont weather prevented for the second day's play in the match between Gentlemen and Players at Scarborough yesterday. The wicket was much faster than on the opening day, and Mr C J Burnup with Mr Findlay as his partner, playing carefully at the outset, gradually wore down the Players' bowling. Mr Findlay was at the wickets half an hour before scoring, but Mr Burnup, playing beautiful cricket, made runs freely from both Hirst and Rhodes.

With the total at 43, he lost Mr Findlay, but Mr F S Jackson rendered useful assistance for the third wicket, bringing about several bowling changes. Haigh, Thompson and Cranfield were each called upon in turn, but runs were put on at a capital pace. Rhodes was not punished to the same extent as his colleagues, because of his excellent length. Haigh and Cranfield came in for severe punishment at the hands of Mr Burnup. The last-named was missed from a hard return by Cranfield off the first ball delivered, and Mr Jackson failed to stop a ball of beautiful length from Thompson when 23.

Then came a big partnership between Mr Burnup and Mr Taylor, both making centuries. Mr Burnup was missed by Thompson at mid-on off Cranfield, and profiting by his escape he proceeded to hit. He completed his century immediately after luncheon, having batted two hours and a half, but in the succeeding over he was snapped up at the wicket off Rhodes. Mr Burnup's innings, although a trifle lucky, was none the less a dashing display. His chief strokes were nine fours, four threes and seven twos. He claimed 102 out of the total of 158.

Mr R E Foster played excellent cricket until he fell to a fine catch by Tunnicliffe in the slips, and following this Mr Taylor and Mr E Smith punished the bowling to all parts of the field. Mr Taylor had equalled Mr Burnup's score when he played a ball into the hands of Hirst, while Mr Smith was bowled by Rhodes.

The Gentlemen led by 49 runs on the first innings, and as the game stands at present they have a slight advantage; the Players, with one wicket down, are 13 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 September, page 10)

The match at Scarborough, yesterday, was concluded under extraordinary conditions. Rain had fallen during the night, and when morning broke heavy clouds gave every indication of further showers. Then the wind began to blow half a gale from the south, and at noon, when the match was resumed, it had greatly increased in force, and the many marquees on the ground became untenable. It was impossible to keep the bails on the wickets and the game for some time proceeded without them.

The Players were within a minority of 15 runs on the resumption, but Tyldesley and Brown made such excellent headway that the score had reached 117 before a separation was effected, Tyldesley being ultimately caught and bowled by Mr Wilson. He pair had put on 104 runs in an hour and 20 minutes. Brown was badly run out. He batted an hour and 50 minutes without a mistake. Denton and Carpenter for the fifth wicket put on 51 in just under half an hour, Denton being 50 minutes at the wicket when he was smartly caught by Mr Jackson, who also disposed of Carpenter. Haigh joined Thompson, and the latter was caught by Mr Wilson. With the score at 259 for eight wickets the Players declared their innings closed, the Gentlemen requiring 211 to win.

There was less than two hours left for play, and during that time the Players made a bold bid for victory. A pleasing feature of the afternoon's play was the Rhodes completed his 200 wickets for the season, a performance that cannot possibly be equalled by any English bowler. The best batting on the side of the Gentlemen was shown by Mr Foster. Rhodes always bowled well, and time alone saved the Gentlemen from defeat.

1 September: PLAYERS v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6098.html)

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

The Australians began a match with a team entitled the Players of England at Harrogate yesterday. It is 14 years since an Australian team played at Harrogate, and they were welcomed yesterday by a large and fashionable company. The team opposing them cannot be considered a representative Players' eleven, but it is a fairly strong side.

As a result of rain the wicket assisted the bowlers early in the day, and Quaife, the Players' captain, who won the toss, gained nothing by deciding to take first innings - rather the contrary, in fact, for the wicket improved and the outfield became much faster as the afternoon advanced. The Players lost three wickets in an hour and a half before luncheon for 78 runs, and they were all out in three and a half hours for 184.

The best cricket was shown by Devey, Quaife and Killick. Devey was batting steadily and had scored 35 of the first 62 runs when he was run out through an error of judgment on the part of Quaife. The last-named and Killick put on 72 runs in 70 minutes for the sixth wicket, this being the best stand of the innings. Killick was out to a good catch at point. His hitting on the off side was a strong feature of his play.

Quaife batted patiently and well for two hours and 50 minutes, his score including five fours, four threes and seven twos. Messrs Hopkins and Saunders were the most successful of the Australian bowlers. Mr Darling did not think it necessary to call on Mr Trumble once during the innings.

The Australians had barely half an hour's batting. Mr Trumper hit brilliantly; he obtained a six and eight fours; the six and five of the fours being off Llewellyn's bowling. The Australians are now only 125 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 September, page 5)

The Australians established a strong lead over the Players at Harrogate yesterday. When play was resumed at noon the Australians, with practically a full innings to play, were 125 runs behind. These were obtained after two wickets had fallen. The total finally reached 359, which gave the Australians a lead of 175 runs on the first innings.

Mr Trumper again played brilliant cricket and obtained his tenth century of the tour. He might have been caught when 54 by Trott in the slips off Arnold's bowling. This was the only flaw in an extremely bright innings. He made 100 out of 168 in an hour and 40 minutes. Then he hit so freely that he obtained his last 25 runs in two consecutive overs, three fours being obtained in the over in which he was stumped. Mr Trumper's full share in the run-getting was 127 out of 200, and he was only batting an hour and three-quarters. He was credited with four sixes and 19 fours.

Mr Darling and Mr Hopkins also forced the game well. The first-named hit a six and nine fours, and scored 67 runs in an hour and 20 minutes. Mr Hopkins, who hit ten fours, scored 58 in an hour and 35 minutes. Neither he nor Mr Darling gave a chance. Messrs Duff, Hill, Trumble and Carter were missed.

The Players' bowling was not as judiciously varied as it should have been. Tate and Llewellyn were kept on too long when they were being punished, and Vine was not called upon until 164 runs had been scored. Trott's services were not requisitioned until the total was 242, while Relf did not send down a ball. By taking three wickets Arnold, who had previously scored over a thousand runs, made his bowling record into three figures for the season.

The Players went in a second time at 4.40, and in a bad light lost two wickets for eight runs. Play was then suspended for half an hour on an appeal against the light. On resuming Vine and Quaife carried the score to 30, when play ceased for the day, the Players with eight wickets to fall needing 145 runs to escape an innings defeat. There were occasional showers during the day, but the weather on the whole was pleasant. There was again a large and fashionable company present.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 September, page 10)

The Australians scored an easy victory over the England eleven at Harrogate yesterday, winning the match a few minutes before the luncheon interval by an innings and 47 runs. A cold and biting wind amounting almost to a gale was responsible for the meagre attendance.

The Australians, having been left with an advantage overnight, had the better of the game to the end. The high wind that was blowing made the deliveries of Mr Hopkins most difficult to cope with, the ball swerving in the most perplexing fashion. With 13 added to the overnight score Vine fell to a beautifully judged catch by Mr Armstrong in the long field and, Arnold failing to score, the scratch eleven were 102 runs behind at the fall of the fourth wicket.

Vine batted fairly well but, as was the case in the first innings, Quaife was the only batsman on the English side to deal at all confidently with the attack. The majority of his runs were made by means of capital off-drives, but he was missed, and that off the first ball sent down by Mr Saunders. Relf was also given a life in the same over, the delinquents being Messrs Hill and Howell. With these exceptions, however, the fielding was remarkably fine. Half the English side fell for 74 runs. Relf was twice missed during his innings of 32, but Trott was speedily got rid of. Mr Saunders took nine wickets in the match for 88.

The Colonials left Harrogate by an early train for Scarborough, there to oppose a strong English eleven chosen by Mr C I Thornton. For this match they will play their strongest available team. The opposing side includes the pick of the Yorkshire eleven.

1 September: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6099.html)

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

The bad weather prevented a start from being made at the Oval yesterday in this match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 September, page 5)

Although the weather was dull it was possible to make a start at the Oval yesterday in this match, which is the last of the Leicestershire fixtures. On a soft pitch Leicestershire did fairly well up

to the luncheon interval, their score being 148 for four wickets. Subsequently, with the exception of Knight, their batting broke down and their total failed to realize early expectations.

The best cricket was shown by Knight and Mr Joyce. The former, who was out to a good catch at longon, was batting two hours for his 61, but the latter played a fine forcing game. Mr de Trafford, as usual, hit hard, but he had his full share of luck, and dropped catches considerably added to the Leicestershire total. Of the seven bowlers tried by Surrey Hayes and Hayward were the most successful. Shortly after Surrey had started their innings rain stopped play for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 September, page 10)

The match at the Oval yesterday was drawn. It was a dull day's cricket. There was no feature in the play and, with the draw always a certainty, little interest was taken in it. Abel managed to complete his 2,000 aggregate for the season.

Thursday 4 September, page 10: THE LEICESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

Leicestershire had a bad year, which ended yesterday at the Oval. King's all-round cricket and Mr Wood's batting were the features of the season's work. Mr R T Crawford, the brother of Mr V F S Crawford, of Surrey, has shown some improvement in batting, and Mr Odell met with much success with the ball.

Played 19 - won two, lost four, drawn 13, abandoned one.

4 September: C I THORNTON'S XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6100.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 September, page 5)

Mr C I Thornton was successful in getting together a good eleven to oppose the Australians in the last of the festival match at Scarborough yesterday. Two changes had to be made from the original selection, neither Mr MacLaren nor Braund being able to play, and their places were filled by Tunnicliffe and Thompson. The Australians relied upon the same eleven that represented them in the last three test matches. The public took unusual interest in the match. There were over 8,000 persons present, this number being a record for the ground.

Mr Jackson, who captained the England eleven, won the toss, and Mr Jones and Tunnicliffe opened the batting and scored 45 off Messrs Noble and Trumble in the first three-quarters of an hour. The Notts captain had been in very poor form in the two previous matches of the festival; in fact he had only scored 4 runs in as many innings. Yesterday he batted in a style more worthy of his reputation. He made 31 of the first 45 runs, hitting three fours off Mr Trumble and two off Mr Noble.

When Mr Saunders went on for Mr Noble there was a serious breakdown in the batting. Mr Saunders got Tunnicliffe's wicket with a yorker, and bowled Tyldesley in his first over. In Mr Trumble's following over Mr Jones was caught at mid-off. Three wickets thus fell, all with the total at 45. Mr Taylor and Mr Foster both failed and Hirst made only 14. Half the side were out for 63 runs, and the total was only 79 at the fall of the sixth wicket. Mr Jackson, who was batting as finely as in the test matches, had then a useful partner in Thompson, and the score at the luncheon adjournment had been taken to 108 without further loss.

Thompson left ten runs after the resumption. Then Mr Jackson and Haigh made a stand which produced 66 runs in an hour and a half. Mr Jackson played perfect cricket until he had reached 50. He ought then to have been caught and bowled by Mr Trumble. When 67, too, he gave Mr Kelly a chance of stumping. Another mistake in the field was the failure by Mr Gregory to take a catch which Haigh offered him when 11 at cover-point.

A shower of rain delayed play for a quarter of an hour after about half-past 4. When the game was resumed the last three wickets fell for 18 runs. Mr Jackson was caught at long-off, four runs after the resumption. He was batting two hours and three-quarters and his seven fours and 13 twos. Haigh,

who was the last to leave, was at the wickets nearly two hours. The innings lasted about four hours. Messrs Trumble and Saunders bowled well and equally divided the wickets.

The Australians had half an hour's batting. Mr Duff was out in Rhodes's first over. The order of batting was then altered, Mr Armstrong being sent in. He left, however, at 24, and was followed by Mr Trumble. No other wicket fell, and when play ceased the Australians with eight wickets to go down were 167 behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 September, page 5)

The Australians yesterday established themselves in a very strong position in the match with Mr C I Thornton's England team, at Scarborough. Taking advantage of the bad fielding by the home side they gained a lead on the first innings of 49 runs. Before this deficiency was made good Mr Thornton's team in their second innings lost four wickets. Two more fell before the close of play, and the total was only 87 runs.

Mr Trumper again showed by far the best form with the bat for the Australians. He had made 23 out of 31 (for two wickets) overnight. Yesterday he made his score into 62; he was then leg-before-wicket in trying to hit a ball from Rhodes to leg. The total when he left was 86, and it had been made by an hour's cricket. Mr Trumper hit ten fours. His display was faultless.

Mr Trumble should have been caught at the wicket off Haigh before scoring. This mistake cost Mr Thornton's team 38 runs. A second blunder was also expensive in that it enabled the Australians to take a lead on the first innings. The game was even up to the fall of the seventh wicket, the total then being 161. Mr A O Jones afterwards failed to accept a chance in the slips by Mr Hopkins off Haigh when 26. The consequence was that Messrs Hopkins and Noble took their partnership to 69 runs for the eighth wicket in three-quarters of an hour.

The England total was passed with three wickets in hand and finally headed by 49 runs. Mr Hopkins was not out at 49 after batting an hour. He hit eight fours. Mr Noble was slow for an hour and a quarter; he only made 14 runs in that times, but brightened his cricket considerably afterwards.

Mr Thornton's team batted in such weak style on going in a second time that they had two wickets down for nine runs, four for 47 and five for 65. The score finally reached 87 for six wickets. The chief credit for this total belongs to Tyldesley. He played perfect cricket; he reached 50 out of 76 in an hour and 20 minutes, and when play ceased he batted for an hour and 35 minutes for 55. As the game now stands, Mr Thornton's team are 38 on with four wickets to go down.

There was again a splendid attendance. The festival has proved the most successful held at Scarborough.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 September, page 9)

There was a spirited and interesting conclusion to the Scarborough Festival on Saturday. Mr C I Thornton's England eleven, which had batted indifferently on the previous day, made such an excellent recovery that they were able to declare their innings closed with a lead of 153 runs and a wicket in hand.

A brilliant innings by Tyldesley, followed by an uncompleted partnership for the tenth wicket by Haigh and Rhodes, made this turning of the tables possible. Tyldesley batted faultlessly for three hours, and then unluckily chopped a ball from Mr Noble on to his wicket. He made 88 out of 146 and hit 11 fours. Tyldesley was ninth out half an hour before luncheon. Mr Thornton's team at that point were only 100 runs ahead. Haigh and Rhodes then defended so well that they had not been separated at the luncheon adjournment.

On resuming, they altered their tactics and added 35 runs to the score in half an hour. Haigh was three times missed off Mr Saunders. He was missed by Mr Hill at square leg and by Mr Kelly at the wicket, and later on Messrs Armstrong and Hill between them gave him a third life at cover point. The mistakes caused the Australians to lose the victory, which since 5 o'clock the previous evening had appeared to be well within their grasp. Mr Jackson closed his team's innings at 3.25, stumps had to be drawn at 5 o'clock, and the Australians had 78 minutes in which to obtain 154 runs. Messrs Armstrong and Gregory, who opened the batting, made no attempt to force the game, but after the last-named had been bowled by Haigh with the score at 19 the pace of run-getting was quick. Messrs Armstrong and Trumper scored 82 in 35 minutes. This spirited hitting brought an exciting finish within sight. Mr Jackson, however, kept the runs down by his own good length bowling, and when Mr Trumper was leg-before-wicket to Thompson a draw was the inevitable ending of the match. Only five minutes remained for play when stumps were drawn.

8 September: KENT AND SUSSEX v THE REST

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6101.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 September, page 5)

A rain storm so flooded the Central Ground at Hastings on Tuesday that, although no rain fell subsequently, the pitch was extremely soft when this match began yesterday, so much so that Dr Grace, upon winning the toss, put the combined counties in.

At the outset a small total appeared probable, as with but 34 scored Mr Burnup, Mr Fry, [Killick] and Mr Day were out. Braund bowled finely, varying his pace and pitch in a manner that puzzled the batsmen, and both Mr Dillon and Vine, who became partners at the fall of the fourth wicket, frequently were beaten by his leg-breaks. The pair, however, stayed together until the total was increased by 70 in an hour. The amateur was the first to leave, while five runs later Denton smartly threw out Vine. Afterwards Mr Mason and Relf batted well, the Kent captain obtaining his runs by a variety of strokes.

The opening of the England eleven's innings made it appear as though the policy of not accepting first innings would be attended with disastrous results, as, after Dr Grace and Mr Wood had put on 19 for the first wicket, Braund and Mr McGahey were out without any addition. The advent of Mr Jessop improved matters, but with 39 up Mr Wood left. The four wickets had been obtained by means of brilliant catches; in fact, finer fielding in so brief a period has seldom been witnessed. Dr Grace was out to a splendidly judged catch right on the bowler's screen, Braund taken at deep long leg from a tremendous hit, Mr McGahey at short leg from another exceptionally hard stroke, and Mr Wood by Mr Day standing extremely close in at square leg.

Forcing tactics had so far proved unprofitable, but Mr Jessop was successful where the preceding batsmen had failed. He obtained his runs in three-quarters of an hour. Powerful driving, varied by an occasional late cut, characterized his play. When Denton was out, the fifth wicket had added 57 in half an hour. The game accordingly was raised by the Gloucestershire captain's efforts to a fairly even state, the England eleven with five wickets to fall being 72 behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 September, page 5)

Just before 4 o'clock rain fell heavily yesterday at Hastings, with the result that in a few minutes any idea of further play became out of the question. During the three and a quarter hours in which cricket was possible the proceedings were replete with interest.

In the first place Mr Jessop, who was not out overnight with 60, continued to hit in his characteristic vigorous fashion, and scored his runs, without a mistake of any kind, out of a total of 162 in 80 minutes. He obtained his score chiefly by strokes in front of the wicket; he made 17 fours, four of which were obtained off successive balls from Mr Mason. Gill afterwards also hit freely, twice driving the ball out of the ground; and the innings eventually closed with an advantage to the England eleven of 47 runs.

The main feature of the combined counties' second innings was a fine display by Mr Burnup. Batting with great confidence upon the still dead wicket, he showed faultless cricket. Mr Dillon assisted him to put on 56 for the first wicket before being caught at short leg and, after Killick was out from a tame stroke to mid-on 11 runs later, Mr Day and Mr Burnup remained together until play was interrupted. The latter was at the wicket an hour and three-quarters, and a marked feature of his play was the accuracy of timing the ball on the on-side.

Kent and Sussex, with eight wickets in hand, hold the useful lead, in view of the probably treacherous state of the pitch to-day, of 79 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 September, page 9)

At Hastings on Saturday the England Eleven gained a somewhat unexpected victory over Kent and Sussex. Mistakes by the latter side in the field contribution in no small measure to this result.

The wicket, soft from the heavy rainfall of the previous afternoon, was always in favour of the bowlers; and, although Mr Burnup batted finely, the eight outstanding wickets of the combined counties fell for the addition of only 98 runs. Mr Burnup was fourth out, having scored his runs out of a total of 178. His magnificent display lasted two hours and ten minutes, and was marked by delightfully clean hitting.

The England Eleven, who required 178 to win, looked like being dismissed for a very small score, as Mr Wood was bowled by the first ball and Braund caught from a bad stroke at short slip in the same over. Two wickets down without a run scored was a bad start; but the succeeding partnership retrieved the position, Dr Grace and Mr McGahey putting on 93 and thereby turning what appeared a hopeless position into a winning chance. Scoring at an even rate the two batsmen made 50 in 25 minutes, and were together exactly an hour. Mr McGahey obtained his run without offering an actual chance, but Dr Grace was let off three times, the first mistake when he had made nine by Mr Dillon at mid-on considerably affecting the fortunes of the game.

With five batsmen out and 75 required the counties again appeared on the treacherous wicket to hold the upper hand, and when Dr Grace left at 145 the result was very open. Trott and Gunn, however, settled down to resolute cricket, the former driving with great power. Sustaining no further loss England won by three wickets. The chances offered by Dr Grace were the natural result of taking plenty of risks in forcing the game, but otherwise his innings was excellent, Dr Grace driving with much of his old vigour. He was batting just under two hours and his strokes included nine fours.

4 September: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6102.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 September, page 5)

The last county match of the season was begun yesterday on the Oval under favourable conditions, and there was a good attendance to watch the play. It was a peculiar day's cricket.

Devey and Kinneir made such a splendid start for Warwickshire that a big total seemed very probable, but after the first pair had been separated the game underwent a complete change, and with the exception of Mr Byrne and Lilley the rest of the side could do little with the bowling of Brockwell, five of whose six wickets were bowled. His work was even better than his figures would indicate, for he met with success when the other bowlers were being badly treated.

Up to the luncheon interval everything went in favour of Warwickshire, whose scored 143 without the loss of a wicket. The first over after lunch proved fatal to Devey. He was batting some two hours and his chief hits were nine fours, five threes and 11 twos. Kinneir played equally sound cricket, but he exercised undue caution and his game in consequence was not so attractive to watch. Of the other two who got runs, Mr Byrne scored his 42 out of 58 in 70 minutes, but Lilley was slow.

In the closing hour Abel and Hayward made a promising start for Surrey, and when stumps were pulled up for the day Surrey were 206 runs behind with all their wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 September, page 5)

The feature of the cricket at the Oval yesterday was the batting of Abel, who played a fine innings of 171. It was this that enabled Surrey to claim a substantial advantage at the drawing of stumps.

Abel reached his 100 out of 176, and when he left the total was 301. He was in some four hours, and his chief hits were 20 fours, nine threes and 16 twos. At one period he showed some little unsteadiness in the slips, but generally his cricket was wonderfully sound. Hayes helped Abel to add 121 for the third wicket in an hour and a half, the last 50 of which were put on in less than half an

hour. Abel's batting dwarfed eventually, and his partnership with Hayes went to show that he could at times play a forcing game to advantage.

Late in the day Mr Dowson played a good innings, and Clode also helped considerably to swell the total. Generally the cricket was bright and interesting from start to finish, and the rate of scoring was such as to please the most fastidious. Surrey held a lead of 185 on the first innings.

Towards the close of the day Warwickshire had a few minutes' batting, but defective light caused stumps to be pulled up shortly before a quarter to 6.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 September, page 9)

Surrey won their match on the Oval on Saturday by ten wickets. Some such result was foreshadowed by the position of the game on Friday evening, when Warwickshire were 175 behind with practically an innings to play.

Kinneir batted well and there was a long partnership of 73 by Lilley and Fishwick. Mr Dowson and Captain Bush easily got the runs necessary for Surrey to win.

Monday 8 September, page 9: THE SURREY AVERAGES

The Surrey eleven have had only a poor season, although they did not lose a county match on the Oval. Neither in batting nor bowling can the side claim comparison with the great work of a few years ago, when Lohmann and Richardson were in their prime. Lockwood has done very well this year, and Richardson, too has come out fairly good in the averages. But the former's wickets have cost 19 runs each and the latter's 23.

In spite of the efforts of Mr Jephson, Mr Leveson Gower, Mr Dowson and Mr Crawford, the Surrey team was never a great side. The batting lacks its old forcing powers; Abel was successful, but he was generally uncommonly slow. Brockwell had intermittent periods of success, both with bat and ball.

The attendances numerically on the Oval showed no decline in the affection of the club's supporters for the side; but there was a marked falling-off in the enthusiasm that was shown in the great days of the side when Mr Shuter and Mr Key had their all-powerful teams to captain. Surrey certainly had a dull eleven this year.

Played, 28 - won, 8; lost, 5; drawn, 15.

THE WARWICKSHIRE AVERAGES

Warwickshire have had an average season for a county side of their calibre, as the averages printed below will demonstrate. They had a very regular eleven, but nowhere away from Birmingham was their cricket followed with a great degree of interest. W G Quaife's batting and Hargreave's bowling were about the best things of their season.

Played, 18 - won, 6; lost, 5; drawn, 7.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages of the season are given below: -

BATTING [Qualification: average 25]

			Most in	Not	
	Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Shrewsbury	32	1250	127*	7	50.00
K S Ranjitsinhji	26	1106	234*	2	45.08
Abel	60	2177	179	7	41.08
W G Quaife	36	1303	153*	4	40.71

Mr C J Burnup	52	1953	161	3	39.85
Tyldesley	48	1789	165	3	39.75
Iremonger	35	1292	146	2	39.15
Mr T L Taylor	43	1557	142*	3	38.92
Mr E M Ashcroft	25	912	162	1	38.00
Dr W G Grace	33	1141	131	2	36.80
Mr C B Fry	46	1581	169*	2	35.93
W Gunn	24	807	120	1	35.08
Mr J A Dixon	18	552	123	2	34.50
Mr C McGahey	42	1240	126	6	34.44
Mr G L Jessop	49 22	1562	126	3	33.95
Mr W L Murdoch		711	132	1 3	33.65
Mr S H Day	26 42	763	117*	3	33.17 32.76
Knight Wirst		1278	190		
Hirst	46 35	1328 1032	134 128	5 3	32.39 32.25
Hon F S Jackson		1052		2	
Mr A C MacLaren Mr P F Warner	41		174		32.15
	27	820	139	1 3	31.53
Mr C J B Wood	54 39	1592 1147	176 109	3 2	31.21
Mr A O Jones					31.00
Hayward	53 48	1539 1347	177 127	3	30.78
Denton Mr L C H Palairet		-		4	30.61
Mr L C H Palairet Mr F L Fane	38 37	1119 1028	90 106	1 3	30.24
Mr E M Dowson	47	1028	123	3 4	30.23 30.11
Mr C H B Marsham	36	992	123	3	30.06
Vine	56 54	992 1376	92	3 7	29.27
Devey	37	1019	92 89	2	29.27
Devey Mr W H B Evans	21	609	142	2	29.11
Mr G Brann	21	634	126*	4	29.00
Brockwell	41	943	80*	8	28.67
King	41	1200	130	о 5	28.57
Braund	49	1389	141	1	28.57
Mr V F S Crawford	49	1105	101*	1	28.32
Mr E W Dillon	40	1233	137	2	28.33
Relf	40 50	1200	94	2	27.90
Capt H S Bush	30	749	122	3	27.90
Killick	49	1240	133	4	27.55
Mr A E Lawton	39	1044	149	1	27.33
Arnold	45	1044	92	6	27.35
Washington	44	1007	100*	6	26.36
Mr H K Foster	39	966	112	1	25.94
Mr J R Mason	41	1052	107	0	25.94
Mr W Newham	26	619	153	2	25.79
Kinneir	33	772	98	2	25.73
Tunnicliffe	51	1278	98 127	1	25.56
Mr L G Wright	30	759	101	0	25.30
Bowley	42	1037	122*	1	25.29
Mr W Findlay	23	477	81	⊥ 4	25.10
Mr R T Crawford	38	652	99*	4	25.05
THE IN I CLAWIOLD	00	0.52	99"	7	23.03

BOWLING	[Qualification:	average	25]	
		0	N - ' -l	D .

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Haigh	759	213	1861	154	12.08
Rhodes	1247.5	395	2644	205	12.89
Blythe	847	242	1965	127	15.47
Tate	1143.2	357	2719	172	15.80
Wass	803.2	188	2225	140	15.89
Mr J R Mason	614.5	216	1437	89	16.14
Hargreave	950.4	303	1945	113	17.21
Lockwood	741.1	147	2142	124	17.27
A Hearne	424.1	141	913	51	17.60
Mead	944.5	302	2107	117	18.00
Hon F S Jackson	411.3	106	1027	56	18.33

Cranfield	869.3	191	2618	141	18.56
Llewellyn	1120.4	314	3164	170	18.61
Mr G L Jessop	371.2	92	1014	53	19.13
Braund	1012	234	3090	160	19.31
Hirst	696.3	192	1637	83	19.72
J T Hearne	915.4	313	2056	104	19.76
Bestwick	729.3	222	1821	91	20.01
Arnold	761.1	190	2047	101	20.26
Wilson (Worcester)	775	153	2254	106	21.26
Barnes	934.5	242	2049	95	21.56
Trott	851.5	183	2866	132	21.71
J Gunn	685	209	1672	73	22.90
Dr W G Grace	482.1	150	1054	46	22.91
Mr E M Dowson	583.3	122	1816	76	23.89
Richardson	884.1	169	2507	106	24.59

THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING

	111100					
				Most in	Not	
		Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr	V Trumper (N.S.W.)	48	2322	128	0	48.37
Mr	M A Noble (N.S.W.)	43	1240	284	5	32.63
Mr	C Hill (S.A.)	49	1502	136	1	31.29
Mr	R A Duff (N.S.W.)	53	1418	183	5	29.64
Mr	W W Armstrong (V.)	48	1012	172*	10	29.11
Mr	J Darling (N.S.W.)	48	1125	128	5	28.16
Mr	A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	49	1055	105*	8	25.97
Mr	S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	47	969	88	6	23.39
Mr	J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	31	359	75	8	15.60
Mr	E Jones (S.A.)	19	244	40	1	13.55
Mr	H Trumble (V.)	25	280	64*	4	13.73
Mr	H Carter (N.S.W.)	18	116	31	5	8.92
Mr	W P Howell (N.S.W.)	21	84	16	5	5.25
Mr	J V Saunders (V.)	29	66	9*	6	3.00

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	841.5	283	1696	121	14.01
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	621.1	196	1227	74	16.58
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	683.2	157	1979	119	16.63
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	497	148	1215	68	17.88
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	640	186	1703	90	18.92
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	422.1	64?	708	37	19.13
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	531.2	140	1410	71	19.85
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	145.3	40	398	20	19.90

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The final positions of the counties according to the rule laid down by the Marylebone Club work out as follows: -

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
25	13	1	11	12	85.71
24	7	3	14	4	40.00
20	6	3	11	3	33.33
28	8	5	15	3	23.07
23	7	5	11	2	16.16
18	6	5	7	1	9.09
22	8	8	6	0	0.00
	25 24 20 28 23 18	25 13 24 7 20 6 28 8 23 7 18 6	25 13 1 24 7 3 20 6 3 28 8 5 23 7 5 18 6 5	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

Somerset	18	7	7	4	0	0.00
Worcestershire	22	5	6	11	-1	-9.09
Derbyshire	16	4	5	7	-1	-11.11
Leicestershire	19	2	4	13	-2	-33.33
Middlesex	17	3	7	7	-4	-40.00
Essex	20	2	5	13	-3	-42.65
Gloucestershire	20	3	9	8	-6	-50.00
Hampshire	16	2	10	4	-8	-66.66

Owing to rain the matches Leicestershire v Yorkshire, at Leicester, and Middlesex v Lancashire, at Lord's, were abandoned without a ball being bowled.

8 September: SOUTH OF ENGLAND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6103.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 September, page 5)

The South of England eleven can claim an advantage on the first day's play in their match against the Australians at Hastings, for it may be considered that the visitors were cheaply dismissed upon a capital pitch.

Right through their innings the Australians seldom looked like making a lot of runs. Mr Trumper was out with 28 scored, Mr Hill, who was never at home, left at 45, and with 64 up both Mr Duff and Mr Gregory had been dismissed. Mr Armstrong and Mr Noble added 30 before the former was bowled by one of Braund's fast balls; but with half their wickets down for 94 runs the outlook was none too promising.

A capital stand by Mr Noble and Mr Hopkins, however, improved the Colonials' position, the former being out sixth at 169 and Mr Hopkins eighth [seventh?] with 235 registered. Both batsmen made their runs chiefly by clean and well-placed driving. The former gave a chance when 33 to Abel in the slips, but otherwise played a grand innings. Mr Hopkins obtained his runs in 70 minutes, and amongst his hits were a six and 11 fours. Mr Burnup, going on at 200, met with considerable success. He took three of the last four wickets. The good work done in the field by the Englishmen was followed by steady batting.

Mr Burnup and Abel played sound cricket during their hour and ten minutes at the wickets. At the close the South of England, with all ten wickets in hand, were 196 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 September, page 9)

The South of England, at Hastings, yesterday, followed up the advantage gained the previous day, and eventually scored the biggest total made against the Australians during the present tour.

Mr Burnup and Abel laid the foundation of the side's success by increasing their overnight aggregate by 69, and thereby putting on 122 for the first wicket. Mr Burnup was the first out, after batting two hours and ten minutes, while Abel left five runs later. The capital start was admirably followed by Hayward and Board, who put on 88 for the third wicket, while, after the latter left, Mr Mason assisted Hayward to pass the Colonials' total; the board showed 312 when the Kent captain was splendidly caught at long-leg. He played capital, if somewhat slow, cricket, his runs taking 70 minutes to compile.

Directly he has attained his century, the sixth made against the Australians this season, Hayward started forcing the game, with the result that Mr Hill, at deep square-leg, effected his dismissal. Making every stroke with customary ease and grace, Hayward yet put plenty of power into his offdrives, while his cutting was beautifully clean and well timed. During his stay of over three hours, only one bad stroke was noticeable, an uppish hit to mid-off, which fell safe.

Towards the close, the light became very indifferent, but Mr Day, driving well, contributed to the good work already done. He showed the brightest cricket of the innings, his runs being obtained in 40 minutes. Vine kept up his wicket while Dr Grace made several good strokes and, when stumps were drawn, the South of England eleven were 154 runs on with three wickets to fall.

The Englishmen's score is the more meritorious when consideration is given to the bowling and fielding of their opponents. Not a chance was refused, several of the catches, notably that by Mr Jones at mid-off which disposed of Mr Burnup, being remarkable, while the pick-up and return of the ground strokes left nothing to be desired.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 September, page 5)

The Australians, at Hastings, yesterday, were fortunate in escaping defeat, for the South of England at the finish, with five wickets in hand, required only eight runs to a win.

With the pitch to some extent affected by the dew, Dr Grace considered it expedient to declare with the advantage on the first innings of 154 runs, but Mr Trumper and Mr Duff found no difficulty in scoring, the pair putting on 102 for the first wicket in an hour and ten minutes. Mr Hill assisted Mr Trumper to add 50, and when, with Noble in, the arrears were hit off with but two wickets down a tame draw appeared inevitable.

Vine, going on to bowl just before lunch, however, brought about a remarkable change in the game. He made the ball turn considerably from leg and frequently the batsmen were in difficulties. Mr Noble, Mr Hopkins and Mr Armstrong were all completely deceived by the extent of his break, each being bowled round his legs without attempting to play the ball; and at the close of the innings the young Sussex professional could claim the best bowling performance, considering the state of the wicket, accomplished against the Australians during the present tour.

Mr Trumper, after scoring his runs out of a total of 190, was the fourth to leave, and his fine innings was marred only by a very hard chance when 78 to Mr Mason at short-leg. He was batting a little over two hours and his hits included a six and 17 fours.

An hour and five minutes remained for play when the South of England entered upon their task of obtaining 95 to win. In the circumstances excitement naturally ran high, and when Gill and Mr Burnup put on 23 in 12 minutes the chances of the England Eleven appeared hopeful. Afterwards, however, they were always behind time, as, although the subsequent batsmen hit at nearly everything, the fielding was so close that seldom was anything above a single registered.

Mr Day was out without any addition, but Braund and Mr Burnup batted resolutely, and when the former left, well caught in the long field, 40 runs were still wanted with only 25 minutes in which to obtain them. The loss of Mr Burnup a single later further discounted the Englishmen's chances, but Mr Mason and Braund took the total to 86 when the amateur was caught at long-leg. The Kent captain was never at home with Mr Armstrong, and the first ball he got hold of brought about his dismissal. Nine runs to get in five minutes was the position when Vine went to the wickets, but the total was only increased by a single before stumps were drawn.

A section of the crowd, annoyed at what they considered the dilatory movements of the Australians in changing over, made an unseemly and entirely unwarrantable demonstration at the finish. The score of the drawn game is given below . . .

11 September: REST OF ENGLAND v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6104.html)

Thursday 11 September, page 5

In the match which the Yorkshire county club generously consented to play for the benefit of the Cricketers' Fund, to begin to-day at Lord's, Yorkshire will have their full side. For the Rest of England the following will appear: -

Dr W G Grace, Mr C J Burnup, Mr P F Warner, Mr W Findlay, Tyldesley, J T Hearne, Abel, Braund, Thompson, Trott and Hargreave.

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 September, page 10)

There was no play at Lord's yesterday, owing to the bad weather. Through the rain of Wednesday, the ground was very bad to start with; but hope of play was not given up until after luncheon, when Dr Grace and Lord Hawke, with the umpires, Titchmarsh and West, decided that cricket was impossible.

Rain was steadily falling and the turf was nearly a quagmire. The weather showed no signs of mending and the Cricketers' Benefit Society seems likely to be robbed of a good addition to their funds.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 September, page 8)

The heavy rains have for the moment quite ruined the playing grounds at Lord's and spoilt in a great measure the Cricketers' Fund Benefit Society from making a good haul from the proceeds of Yorkshire, the champion county, v the Rest of England. The turf was little better than a quagmire yesterday; but after about half-past 3 an hour and three-quarters' cricket was put in. There was a mere handful of spectators.

Braund, Hargreave and Trott bowled well, and Tunnicliffe threw plenty of vigour into his batting. Indeed, he made 51 out of 99 before being stumped, fourth out. If no more rain falls there should be some good cricket to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 September, page 5)

With such little progress at Lord's on the first two days in the last match of the season there it was only natural that an unfinished game should be the result. The Cricketers' Fund Society was robbed by the weather of a handsome benefit generally granted by the Yorkshire committee. Of course on Saturday there was no interest for the public in the match and the attendance can have been little beyond 1,000; this, together with a blank day on Thursday and a very short spell on Friday, will account for a loss on the venture for the fund instead of a great profit.

The cricket on Saturday, with scarcely the hope of a finish, was perfunctorily carried out. Mr Jackson, who delights in making runs on bad wickets, was very good. Braund bowled splendidly, but he often carried his attempts to get a leg-break on to excess.

Later in the day, when the Rest of England were in, there was a fine innings by Tyldesley. Dr Grace, too, after beginning slowly, hit hard before being well caught in the country. The cricketers went on until half-past 5 so as to keep the spectators amused, although stumps might have been as well pulled up at the end of the England innings.

11 September: SOUTH OF ENGLAND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6105.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 September, page 10)

There was no play at Bournemouth yesterday owing to the bad weather, and at an early hour the idea of beginning the match was given up.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 September, page 8)

Against the moderate South of England team at Bournemouth, yesterday, the Australians once more proved what a strong side they are on a bad wicket; and, although they were dismissed in two hours and 40 minutes for a total of 123, they finished up the day with a great advantage, getting six of their opponents out and still being 70 runs on at the drawing of stumps.

There had been incessant rain for 24 hours, but the ground made a rapid recovery, and before halfpast 12 a start was possible, no play, it will be remembered, having taken place on Thursday. With every prospect of the wicket becoming worse as the afternoon progressed, Mr Darling on winning the toss decided to take first innings, but so hard were runs to get that four men were dismissed in making only 49 runs, while at lunch time the score was only 63. Although missed at mid-off by Gill, Mr Trumper was soon cleverly caught and bowled, and it took Mr Duff 40 minutes to score 7. The last six wickets went down in 70 minutes for another 60 runs, but it looked at one time that the side would be out for about 100, Mr Trumble and Mr Saunders hitting up 26 runs after nine batsmen had been dismissed.

Mr Trumble's innings was a good one, but the best cricket was that of Mr Noble, who batted in very skilful fashion for an hour and ten minutes. He had one piece of luck, however, being missed at long-on by Mr Wood when 21. It should be mentioned that both catches that were dropped were off Tate's bowling.

With the idea of forcing the game, Mr Woods went in first himself with Mr Fry to open the South innings, but the policy scarcely paid, two wickets falling for 16 runs. Mr Sprot helped to add 28, and all the time Mr Fry remained the South had a reasonable chance of finishing in a fairly even position; but at 48 Mr Fry was leg-before after batting well for an hour, and in the next over Mr Trumble got rid of Vine and Arnold with successive balls. Shortly afterwards stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 September, page 5)

At Bournemouth, on Saturday, the Australians gained one more victory, beating the South of England eleven by 61 runs. Such a result had been fully expected, Friday's cricket having gone so greatly in favour of the Colonial team as to leave little doubt as to the issue. The ground was in a very difficult state, and so completely did the ball beat the bat that in the course of three hours and a half 24 wickets went down for 191 runs.

In face of a total of 123 the South had on Friday lost six wickets for 53, and in a little more than half an hour their innings was finished off for 87. Mr Trumble took the four outstanding wickets, and obtained in all nine at a cost of less than five runs each.

The Australians on going in for the second time had reason to be glad they held a lead on the first innings, four of their best wickets going down for 24. Mr Noble and Mr Armstrong doubled the score; but when lunch time came six men were out and the total had only reached 56, the bowling of Tate and Arnold being only less difficult than Mr Trumble's had been.

After the interval the Australians added 35 runs, but 12 of them were extras, the ball again and again getting the better of the wicket-keeper as well as of the batsman. Tate and Arnold, as in the first innings, bowled unchanged, the former this time having the better average. In the whole match Arnold took 12 wickets and Tate eight.

The South wanted only 128 runs to win; but with the pitch in such a treacherous condition there was practically no hope of getting them. Mr Fry, who, by a sad error of judgment, ran Mr Woods out in the first over, showed fine defence for 50 minutes, but could not get much help. He scored 26 runs out of 46, and after he left the last five wickets fell in half an hour, the match being all over by half-past 4. Mr Trumble again bowled in his best form, and for the whole game he had the wonderful record of 15 wickets for 68 runs. The attendance on Saturday numbered about 5,000.

Saturday 13 September, page 8

DEATH OF A CRICKETER. - News reached Lord's yesterday of the death at Aberdeen of Mr J S Russel, the well-known cricketer. Though never quite first-class, Mr Russel was a very good bat, and for many years he played constantly for the M.C.C. He was in his 54th year, having been born on March 19, 1849.

Monday 15 September, page 5

THE AUSTRALIANS V PLAYERS OF ENGLAND

At the Oval to-day in the last match of the season the Players will be represented by: - Abel, Hayward, Rhodes, Hirst, Haigh, Quaife, Lilley, Tyldesley, Braund, Iremonger and Vine.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages of the season are given below: -

BATTING [Qualification: average 25]

BATTING	[Qualification:	average	25]			
				Most in	Not	
		-		innings	outs	Average
Shrewsbur			1250	127*	7	50.00
	tsinhji		1106	234*	2	46.08
W G Quaif	e		1303	153*	4	40.71
Abel Tuldaalau		62	2232	179 165	7	40.53
Tyldesley		49 55	1851	165 161	3	40.23
Mr C J Bu Tramanaar	-		2043	161 146	3 2	39.38
Iremonger Mr T L Ta		35 43	1292 1517	140	2 3	39.15 37.92
Dr W G Gr			1187	131	3	37.09
Mr C B Fr		49	1668	159*	2	35.48
W Gunn	Ŷ	24	807	120	1	35.08
Mr P Perr	in		1119	121	6	34.96
Mr J A Di		18	552	123	2	34.50
Mr C McGa		42	1240	126	6	34.44
Mr G L Je		49	1562	126	3	33.95
Mr W L Mu	irdoch	22	711	132	1	33.85
	lackson	36	1089	128	3	33.00
Knight		42	1278	190	3	32.76
Mr S H Da		28	807	117*	3	32.33
Hirst		47	1355	134	5	32.26
Hayward		54	1645	177	3	32.25
-	cLaren	41	1254	174	2	32.15
Mr A O Jo	ones	39	1147	109	2	31.00
Mr P F Wa	rner	28	832	139	1	30.81
Denton		50	1369	127	5	30.42
Mr C J B		55	1610	176	3	30.37
Mr L C H	Palairet		1119	90	1	30.24
Mr F L Fa	ine	37	1028	106	3	30.23
Mr E M Do			1295	123	4	30.11
Mr C H B	Marsham	36	992	120	3	30.06
Devey			1019	89	2	29.11
		21	609	142	0	29.00
Mr G Bran	in	26	634	126*	4	28.81
King			1200	130	5	28.57
	Crawford		1105	101*	1	28.33
Vine		58	1384	92	9	28.24
Braund		52	1417	141	1	27.78
Capt H S		30	749	122	3	27.57
Mr E W Di	llon	47	1241	137	2	23.02
Killick		49	1240	133	4	27.55
Mr A E La Ducchuchl		39	1044	149	1	27.47
Brockwell		43	947	80*	8	27.06
Washingto Arnold		45	1029	100*	6	26.38
Arnold Mr H K Fc	ator	47 39	1067 966	92 112	6 1	26.02
мгнкго Mr J R Ma		39 43		112 107	1 0	25.94 25.90
Mr U Newh		43 26	1114 619	153	2	25.79
MI W Newn Tunniclif		53	1340	127	1	25.76
Relf	Te	50	1100	94	1 7	25.58
kell Mr L G Wr	iaht	30	759	94 101	0	25.30
Bowley	- 9110	42	1037	122*	1	25.29
Mr R T Cr	awford	38	852	99*	4	25.05
BOWLING	[Qualification:	average	25]			
		Overs	Maidens	s Runs	Wick	kets Average
Haigh		773	215	1920	15	57 12.22

Rhodes	1269.5	402	2686	208	12.61
Blythe	847	242	1965	127	15.47
Tate	1183.2	359	2828	180	15.71
Wass	803.2	188	2225	140	15.89
Mr J R Mason	623.5	218	1496	89	16.79
Lockwood	741.1	147	2142	124	17.27
Hargreave	983.4	314	2021	115	17.57
Mead	944.5	302	2107	117	18.00
Mr E R Wilson	512.4	172	1061	58	18.29
Hon F S Jackson	426.3	109	1057	58	18.39
Cranfield	869.3	191	2618	141	18.56
Llewellyn	1129.4	314	3164	170	18.61
Arnold	800.3	199	2134	113	18.88
Mr G L Jessop	371.2	92	1014	53	19.13
Braund	1088	249	3351	171	19.59
Hirst	696.3	192	1637	83	19.72
J T Hearne	918.4	313	2063	104	19.83
Mr B J T Bosanquet	271.3	47	847	40	21.17
G A Wilson (Worcester)	775	153	2254	106	21.26
Barnes	934.5	242	2049	95	21.56
Trott	855.5	188	2883	133	21.67
J Gunn	685	209	1672	73	22.90
Dr W G Grace	486.1	150	1074	46	23.34
Mr E M Dowson	583.3	122	1816	76	23.89
Bestwick	729.3	222	1821	91	20.01
Richardson	884.1	169	2607	106	24.59

BATTING

				Most in	Not	
		Innings	Runs	innings	outs	Average
Mr	V Trumper (N.S.W.)	52	2474	128	0	47.57
Mr	M A Noble (N.S.W.)	47	1412	284	5	33.61
Mr	C Hill (S.A.)	51	1533	136	1	30.66
Mr	R A Duff (N.S.W.)	57	1482	183	5	28.69
Mr	W W Armstrong (V.)	50	1087	172*	10	28.67
Mr	A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	53	1143	105*	8	25.40
Mr	J Darling (N.S.W.)	50	1085	128	5	24.11
Mr	S E Gregory (N.S.W.)	51	977	88	6	21.71
Mr	H Trumble (V.)	29	361	64*	6	15.69
Mr	J J Kelly (N.S.W.)	32	368	75	8	15.33
Mr	E Jones (S.A.)	21	254	40	1	12.10
Mr	H Carter (N.S.W.)	20	121	31	5	8.06
Mr	W P Howell (N.S.W.)	24	95	16	6	5.27
Mr	J V Saunders (V.)	33	82	9*	8	3.28

BOWLING

BOMPING					
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble (V.)	908	295	1869	139	13.44
Mr J V Saunders (V.)	717.2	160	2088	123	16.97
Mr W W Armstrong (V.)	666.1	203	1353	79	17.12
Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)	497	148	1215	68	17.88
Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)	684	199	1820	94	19.36
Mr A J Hopkins (N.S.W.)	431.1	66?	727	37	19.64
Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)	145.3	40	398	20	19.90
Mr E Jones (S.A.)	549.2	145	1456	71	20.50

15 September: PLAYERS OF ENGLAND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6107.html) Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 September, page 10) In a good part of the season this would have been a very attractive match, as it used to be in the old days of Australian visits when the programmes were never without dates for fixtures with the Players and with the Gentlemen. But both matches were left out of the original programme of this Australian tour, and the hurried arrangement by which the Australians meet the Players of England on the Oval at such a late period of the season failed to draw to it the earnest attention of the cricketing public.

And so even the fine side of the Players and the keenness and past successes of the Australians did not attract more than four or five thousand people to Kennington yesterday. For such a match a proper fixture should have been made much earlier in the season. However, fine weather, an easy wicket and plenty of good cricket, alike in batting, bowling and fielding, made up a more than tolerable day's cricket. The hours were short, but everything in the game was good.

Abel made out a well-judged order for the Players, and having won the toss he opened the innings with Hayward. Both played steadily and well against all sorts of bowling. Mr Trumble was the most difficult to bat against; but even he sent down a loose ball now and again that was well hit. The batting was very good; 81 were made for the first wicket, and then Abel was caught at short slip.

The next partnership yielded the best cricket of the day. Tyldesley's driving on the off side was wonderful, and he as particularly severe on Mr Noble. They more than doubled the score, for the record read 163 when Hayward was beaten by the flight of the ball from Mr Saunders and was easily stumped. Hayward played superb cricket and his work on the off side was very strong.

After he had gone the best thing of the day was Iremonger's innings. The Notts man, in splendid style, forced the game severely; he got nearly the whole of his runs by driving, and was at last - sixth - out caught deep at square leg. The score of 282 for six wickets was a fine performance on the part of the Players, for the fielding was wonderfully good and Mr Darling made the most of his splendid variety of bowlers. Mr Saunders was the most successful with the ball and Mr Kelly kept wicket in great style.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 September, page 8)

There was much fine cricket on the Oval yesterday. The Players, who had done so well on the slow but easy wicket on Monday, when they made 272 for six wickets, did not end their innings until the score was 356. The balance of the innings lasted about an hour and a quarter and yielded 74 runs.

Hirst and Vine added 42 for the seventh wicket. Vine played very steadily; but Hirst batted freely and was particularly strong on the leg side. There were nine wickets down for 334. Lilley and Rhodes hit 22 for the last partnership by bright play, and then Lilley was out to a clever running catch at mid-off by Mr Darling. The Australians bowled and fielded splendidly on the easy wicket; but for once Mr Trumble had a poor degree of success, his solitary wicket costing 129 runs. It was only the fortune of cricket, for he bowled his best and had some catches missed from him. Still it was his worst record of the tour which ends to-day.

In spite of the shower in the morning play had begun at the ordinary time, and the Australians were able to start their innings at ten minutes past 1. Mr Darling changed his order, and Mr Gregory and Mr Trumper went in first. On such a pitch as that furnished at the Oval yesterday, Hirst and Vine made rather a curious combination of bowlers; but with the wind blowing strongly across the ground both were helped with their break. Still Mr Trumper and Mr Gregory made a splendid start, and the score was 43 when from short slip Hirst cleverly threw down Mr Gregory's wicket when the batsmen were attempting a short run.

Then came the great treat of the day - the partnership of Mr Trumper and Mr Hill. Their batting was wonderful against fine bowling and fielding. They made 151 for the second wicket. Mr Hill before he had scored gave a difficult chance to Braund at short slip. The ball only went to Braund's left hand, and he made a great but unsuccessful attempt to hold the catch. The score was up to 70 before there was an hour and a quarter's delay for rain.

The Players' bowling had been very good. Haigh twice beat Mr Hill, and Rhodes once got through Mr Trumper's defence. But the hitting after the delay was wonderful. Hirst and Hayward were severely punished; but Braund ought to have got Mr Trumper out at 74, when Iremonger missed a chance at fine short leg low down. After this Rhodes from the pavilion end caught and bowled Mr Trumper. The partnership between him and Mr Hill had yielded 151 runs. Mr Hill played well to the end; but in the present position of the game there is small chance of finishing the match. Except for the shower yesterday, the weather was fine, while the company ran to 6,000.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 September, page 10)

The Australians concluded their tour yesterday with a draw against the Players, at the Oval, the latter side when stumps were pulled up being 59 runs on with seven wickets in hand.

When play was resumed the Colonials had scored 208 for the loss of two wickets, and for a time matters went none too well with them, Mr Hill, Mr Noble and Mr Duff being all out for the addition of but 25 to the overnight score. Mr Hill, who was the first to leave, was at the wickets two hours, but his innings was marred by three difficult chances on the previous day.

With half their wickets down and 123 runs required to get level, the visitors did not have the best of the game, but, as has so often happened during the present tour, the remaining batsmen placed their side in an entirely safe position. Mr Hopkins hit vigorously for his runs, his driving being hard and clean; and, after he was bowled by a ball which turned in a lot from leg, Mr Trumble again demonstrated what a good at he is in emergencies. During his association with Mr Armstrong the Players' total was passed, and, when the latter was dismissed, the score had been raised to 386, the partnership for the eighth wicket having realized 62 runs. Mr Trumble was last out, bowled by a splendid ball which came a lot with the bowler's arm, the innings closing with an advantage to the Australians of 58 runs.

The Players began their second innings with Hirst and Tyldesley, and the two north countrymen hit out with considerable vigour, 50 runs going up in half an hour. At this total Hirst was well caught at long leg, and with the advent of Hayward and a single added, Tyldesley was beautifully taken at midoff from a skimming drive. The light was extremely bad while Abel and Hayward were together and, with the bowling good and the fielding close, runs were difficult to obtain. Hayward was caught at the wicket with 83 on the board, but the Players suffered no further loss, stumps being drawn shortly before half-past 5.

THE END OF THE CRICKET SEASON

Below are given the averages and records of the season. In the first place it must be remarked that the Australian team has been very successful, and Mr Darling, the captain, is to be congratulated on the results which his team has achieved.

As far as the counties are concerned, Yorkshire won the county championship easily. There is little to be said with regard to English cricket, no players having come remarkably to the front. Abel, despite his years, still maintains his reputation as a run-getter, while among the other consistent batsmen of the season Mr Burnup takes a high place, and, considering his form on all wickets, it is surprising that he was not included in one of the test matches. Perhaps the most improved batsman of the year was Vine, and it was satisfactory to see that he gained a tardy recognition by being included in the representative Players Eleven which drew with the Australians yesterday.

A feature of the season was the extraordinary form shown by the past masters of the game. Abel we have already mentioned; but Dr W G Grace, Shrewsbury, Mr A P Lucas and others who were playing firstclass cricket in the seventies have wonderful records.

THE AVERAGES

[Note: the complete first-class averages for the 1902 season can be found at http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/ENG/1902_ENG_County_Championship_1902.html]

The Australian cricketers will leave Waterloo at a quarter-past 11 on Saturday morning for South Africa, where they play a short series of matches before returning home.

Monday 22 September, page 9: THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS

The Australian players, who have had such a successful tour in this country, left Waterloo-station on Saturday morning, travelling by the 11.35 special train, and embarked on board the Dunvegan Castle at Southampton. They intend to play a series of matches in South Africa before returning home. There was a large company of friends on the platform at Waterloo-station to see them. The members of the team were in excellent health.

Major Wardill, the manager, said he was gratified with the reception of his team on most of the grounds. Bad weather in May had materially interfered with the financial phase of the tour, but there would be a good round sum to divide among the team after all expenses had been met. There were very few cricketers present to say farewell. Mr J R Mason, however, and Mr C W Alcock, the secretary of the Surrey Club, were present.

Wednesday 24 September, page 6: REVIEW OF THE CRICKET SEASON

(From our special correspondent)

The past cricket season, judged by one standard, has perhaps been a failure. The weather, for the most part colt, wet and unseasonable, has made the enjoyment of the game difficult for the players and impossible for the spectators; and the number of drawn matches has, in consequence, been very large.

But, looked at from another point of view, the season of 1902 has been far more interesting than any since 1890, for batsmen have had, on the whole, to fight hard for their runs; and this is much better than what we have of late years been accustomed to. The stereotyped form of play which is modelled on the assumption that the ball will not turn or hang, it will come straight on, fast and half-stump high, has been tried and found wanting; and, though averages have been still too high, there has been a comparative eclipse of some of the batsmen of even the greatest reputations, of whom Mr Fry and Hayward have been the most prominent examples.

If a comparison is made between the test matches in 1899 and those in 1902, it will be seen that in the dry and hot year of 1899, when play was not interrupted for an hour by rain, only one match out of the five was finished, while in 1902, not only were three brought to a definite result, but two of those for interest and excitement have never been surpassed in the history of the game; and the cause of this was simply the weather, which made the wicket tricky and difficult.

The inevitable drawback of such cricket is, of course, the fact that on such wickets luck plays too important a part, and the winning of the toss, to take only one point, may mean practically the winning of the match. But still, all things considered, there is more pure enjoyment to the intelligent spectator in watching cricket in disagreeable weather on difficult wickets than there is in the weary flogging of tired bowlers and an unwholesome plethora of runs when the match never looks like being played out and the game is nothing more than a batting exhibition.

The cricket season of 1902 has been dominated by the Australian visit, and the public interest has been practically concentrated on the five Test matches. We have been told that in Australia the Colonial team was not thought much of, and gloomy prognostications of the failure of the tour were made. These fears have certainly not been justified; and really, in the circumstances, it seems almost impossible that any Australian eleven can ever be a bad team. There is no reason to suppose that cricket in Australia can be anything but good, and the Colonial authorities are always able to send the full representative strength of the country to England. Added to this there is the great advantage of always playing the same team, and as long as these conditions exist there need be no fear of any weak Colonial eleven touring in this country.

The usual comparisons have been made, and it seems to be the general opinion that the Australian eleven of 1902 is worthy of being weighed in the balance with those of 1882, 1884 and 1899. Nobody can possibly give an absolutely certain opinion on the subject; but, though the team all through may have some weak elements in it, it is probable that as batsman and bowler Messrs Trumper and Trumble are the greatest in the world.

Mr Trumper always went in first, and it was only on few occasions that his side many any batting success when he failed. Many good judges of the game have placed him first of all Australian

batsmen, and on all wickets the same may be said of Mr Trumble as a bowler. Messrs Spofforth and Turner on soft wickets may have been more deadly, but on easy, fast grounds no bowler that ever lived has required more careful watching; Mr Trumble can bowl equally well on either side of the wicket, very rarely sends down a bad ball and has infinite variety of length; and, in addition to all this, he can bowl all day without loss of accuracy.

These two great cricketers made this Australian eleven; and it is perhaps in the fitness of things that the first two Test matches could not be finished in consequence of the weather, for Mr Trumble, owing to an accident, was unable to play, and English victories over an eleven so much handicapped would have lost much of their flavour. The Australians won two out of the other three contests, all of which were played on more or less difficult wickets; and, on the whole, the English side had certainly rather the worst of the luck.

At the same time this is all part of the game, and English cricketers must give the Australians the credit of being the better side. At Sheffield the Australians fairly outplayed our side and, though the wicket at one end did not wear well, the batting of the English team was not up to a high standard. The defeat at Manchester was quite as creditable to the vanquished as to their conquerors, and the same may be said of the great Oval match; and the two matches together were of such absorbing interest that alone they were sufficient to make the season of 1902 famous in the history of the game.

No element was wanting to make the cricket good, the only drawback being that the luck was too much in favour of one side. The Australians really, if they had been a great eleven, ought to have won the Manchester match by forty instead of by three runs, and whereas the Englishmen won the Oval match by one wicket, the Colonial eleven of 1882, with Spofforth, Palmer and Giffen to bowl, would have won by at least a hundred runs.

The office of captain is always an onerous and difficult one, and, on the whole, Mr MacLaren got through his work well; but he made one great mistake at Manchester, which probably lost the match, when he put Tate to field in the deep field, where he had never been before in his life, and where he missed a catch that had the most fatal effect on the game.

Mr Trumper as a bat and Messrs Trumble and Saunders as bowlers were the Colonial heroes of these two matches, and Mr Jackson and Lockwood for the English side did grand work. But at the Oval the whole side showed both skill and pluck, for never could a side look in a more hopeless position than England did at nearly every moment of the last innings. Wanting 263 to win, they lost five wickets for very few runs and, in fact, the odds were much in favour of Australia as every wicket fell and as each new batsman walked to the wicket. Every man did something towards the successful result, and the superb cricket of Mr Jackson, the determined hitting of Mr Jessop and the nerve of Hirst can never be forgotten.

In judging of the Colonial eleven as a whole, one cannot but think that the wet season was in favour of the Australians; for, though they had one splendid bowler in Mr Trumble, the rest were by no means in the same class. Mr Jones had lost much of his pace and skill, and Mr Saunders, though he bowls a very difficult ball, I of far too erratic a length to be considered a bowler of the first class; and there was also not enough variety of pace. At the same time, they had no fewer than seven bowlers, none of whom were bad; and in this respect, though they were not so good as the best of the old Australian elevens, they were superior to the best English bowlers of this year.

The batting of the side, however, depended mainly on Mr Trumper; for Mr Hill, though a very good bat, was by no means so difficult to get out as he used to be. Mr Darling played some fine innings, but was very uncertain; and Mr Duff seemed the soundest bat after Mr Trumper and Mr Hill. The batting was always likely to break down when the wicket helped the bowlers at all, as it did in the second innings both at Manchester and at the Oval. In these two cases the wicket, though not easy, was not really difficult, and the English side had scored fairly well on the same wicket, which presented practically the same difficulty to both sides.

The Australian fielding, as usual, was magnificent, and the throwing was a revelation, while the catching was, on the whole, better than ours.

It is not easy to arrange a good programme for an Australian tour, for all the counties wish to play the Australians, but only five or six of these can expect to make a decent match. It ought, however, to be possible to make matches with carefully-selected elevens of the Gentlemen and Players, and it seems strange that the M.C.C. cannot turn out better elevens than they do. It is probable that county cricket absorbs too much time; and it certainly is not easy for the M.C.C. to get a high class of professional bowlers, for Yorkshire, Lancashire and Surrey seem to keep their bowlers to themselves, and the Club have no adequate successors to Hearne and Trott. Another year, however, it would be wise to revert to the custom that prevailed 20 years ago and to arrange for the Australians to play both the Gentlemen and the Players.

To turn to county cricket, Yorkshire are again to be congratulated on the splendid season they have gone through. It is really remarkable to observe the almost monotonous regularity with which this great county year by year brings out such fine elevens. They were the only county side that beat the Australians; and, though they were perhaps not quite so strong as in the two previous years, they can show the fine result of 13 wins to only one defeat.

Rhodes is always to the front, but this year his chief coadjutor was Haigh, as was the case in 1900, while last year it was Hirst. Haigh on his year's work was certainly unlucky not to have been selected to represent England against the Australians, for on some wickets he is perhaps the best English bowler.

The Yorkshire eleven each year seem to have the same characteristics. They play a fine all-round game, all their bowlers show on the whole good batting form, so that there is very little tail to the side, and they seem to be able more than any other county to play the same side. The eleven seem to fall naturally to their places, and in fact it is by no means certain that they would not be more difficult to beat than a picked eleven of England, who have no opportunities of playing together.

The bowling of Rhodes, Haigh, Hirst and Mr Jackson, and the all-round robust batting, headed as it is by the splendid skill of Mr Jackson, Mr Taylor and Hirst, is sufficient to make any eleven. To all this must be added the experience of Lord Hawke as captain and the unswerving loyalty and cheerful obedience he exacts from his eleven.

Not for many years has Sussex had such a successful season, and this despite the fact that the batting of Messrs Fry and Ranjitsinhji - of the latter, especially - has not by any means been so good. Vine, Relf and Killick are three most useful all-round men, and in a wet season Tate has been perhaps the most successful bowler of the year - indeed, though not by any means in his first youth, he has never bowled so well. He is a good bowler on all wickets, but on soft and difficult ones he seems to be as hard as Rhodes or Haigh.

The fielding of the Sussex eleven is also good. There is a lot of run-getting power in the side, and Messrs Brann and Newham, like several other veterans, still play almost as well as they ever did.

Nottingham, to the joy of all who sympathize with a committee that only plays real Nottingham-born men, have had an excellent season, and one or two of the younger players have now firmly established themselves. The success of the eleven is chiefly due to the bowling of Wass, a somewhat erratic genius, who is a really great bowler when the ground helps him even a little, and even on true wickets he seems to be able to make the ball get up more than any man except Lockwood. Hallam is also a really good bowler, and J Gunn as an all-round cricketer would be worth his place in any county eleven.

The batting of Shrewsbury is perhaps the leading feature of the year's cricket. He is the oldest player who plays regularly in county cricket, and in a bowler's year, when wickets were, on the whole, difficult, he has shown how cricket should be played. Nothing is more enjoyable than to see Shrewsbury playing on a slow a tricky wicket; it is a perfect model for anybody to watch, and not even the great performances of Dr Grace in his prime are more remarkable than Shrewsbury's batting during this past season.

Iremonger and Messrs Dixon and Jones have also been most useful; and, in fact, the whole team have shown more go and pith than has been the case for some years.

Surrey, for so many years on the crest of the wave, are now in the trough, and no new bowler has come to the front to help Lockwood and Richardson. It is a rather depressing sight to go to the Oval and see these two great bowlers, not by any means in their prime vigour, having so little assistance; and it cannot be said that the Surrey batting is quite satisfactory. Abel is still, on the Oval at any rate, a wonderfully consistent player; but Hayward would seem to be somewhat demoralized by the series of dry summers and Australian wickets, for his batting has been far below what was expected, while Mr Jephson also seems to lack skill in playing on any but easy wickets. Mr Dowson batted well, though he makes far too much use of his legs; but his bowling seems to be no good when he is playing for his county. The whole eleven seem to play with a lack of confidence, and some of their performances have been almost ludicrous for a county of such resources.

Lancashire is another county somewhat resembling Surrey. Both are rich in finance, and such counties have not only a large population of their own to draw from, but can ransack the country and almost the Empire for promising recruits; and yet the result is by no means satisfactory.

Barnes, who showed great promise in Australia, is somewhat unsound in limb and, if report speaks truly, rather lacking in grit. Mr MacLaren played only moderately well for his county, and the only really high-class batting was shown by Tyldesley, who was the batting mainstay of the team.

For the rest the leading features have been the great improvement of Derbyshire, the in-and-out performances of Somerset and the fall of Middlesex. No county committee have for nearly 20 years had so little to encourage them as that of Derbyshire. They have been harassed by slender financial resources, a lack of talent, especially in the amateur line, and the premature deaths of J Chatterton, Cropper and, especially of Davidson; and everybody will heartily welcome the successful results of the past season.

There have always been some enthusiastic supporters of the game in Derbyshire, and Mr Arthur Wilson in particular is to e congratulated if the corner is at last turned. The batting has been greatly strengthened by the efforts of the three new amateurs - Messrs Ashcroft, Lawton and Ollivierre; while Bestwick, Hulme and Warren are three most useful bowlers.

A pleasing feature of Derbyshire cricket is that in this first year of comparative success it has been the prowess of new and young cricketers that has been the cause of it, for Bagshaw, W Sugg and Chatterton have practically dropped out of the game, while Storer has greatly fallen off.

Somerset have been the picturesque element of county cricket. Nobody can ever prophesy what they will do in any match, except that they will give Yorkshire and Surrey a "shakeup." Somerset win and lose matches; they seldom play a drawn match; and they are always interesting. County cricket in these days is a serious business, too much so in the opinion of many; but no eleven gives the impression of playing the game for the sake of pure enjoyment so much as Somerset. They defeat Lancashire and Yorkshire, and then go under to Worcestershire and Hampshire; but this does not seem to destroy their cheerfulness; they come up smiling, and whatever happens they are always attractive.

In Mr Palairet they still possess the most fascinating batsman of the day, in Mr Woods the most courageous captain, and in Braund one of the most valuable all-round players. The Somerset record against Yorkshire in the last three completed matches is unique in its way. What has proved impossible for any other county to do once Somerset have actually done twice, and as nearly as possible a third time. It would be a dull day for cricket if Somerset should ever drop out of county matches, and it is pleasant to have to record the fact that they have done well in this last season; and probably to them alone among the counties the sorrow at being defeated in two consecutive matches by two really inferior counties is nothing provided they can defeat, or make a good match with, Surrey and Yorkshire.

Kent have also done fairly well in spite of a most inauspicious beginning, and in Mr Burnup they have one of the soundest batsmen in England, quite good enough, indeed, to have been chosen for England. Mr Mason has proved himself one of the best captains in England, and is still a first-rate all-round man, though he did not appear at his best when batting of slow wickets.

The Universities were very much what Universities generally are, strong in batting and fielding and rather weak in bowling. Cambridge won the great match after a good finish and a very fine innings by Mr Day; but the best feature of the whole match was the slow bowling of Mr E R Wilson, who never lost his length and was never really collared, and who would have been a godsend to most counties as a bowler alone - but, unluckily, he happens to belong to Yorkshire.

The fielding was good on both sides, and Mr Findlay's wicket-keeping could hardly have been surpassed. Indeed, the improvement in amateur wicket-keeping compared to that of 20 years ago is one of the most remarkable things in cricket. Messrs Martyn, Findlay and Newton are hardly inferior to Huish, Lilley and Hunter; whereas in old days the difference in favour of the professional was almost incalculable.

The Gentlemen were no match for the Players as an eleven, their weakness in bowling putting them entirely out of the running; and no amateur has succeeded in taking 100 wickets. The great annual match at Lord's was noteworthy for the splendid individual all-round performances of Lockwood and Braund, who scored over 100 runs and got the large majority of wickets. Lockwood appears to be suited to Lord's, and finer bowling than he showed in this match has seldom been seen.

An interesting feature of the season has been the success in batting of several of the older players. Allusion has already been made to the truly wonderful play of Shrewsbury; but Abel, W Gunn, Mr Brann, Mr Dixon, Mr Newham and Mr A P Lucas have also done very well, to say nothing of Dr Grace. These players played in the old days when a "shooter" was not an unheard-of phenomenon; and their early training on wickets not like billiard tables may have stood them in good stead during this year. At any rate, these players have come to the front when Mr Fry, Mr Ranjitsinhji, Mr Warner and Hayward have dropped back; and this fact is not without significance.

Of individuals, Mr Jackson stands out as perhaps the greatest cricketer of the year; and it is doubtful if any player has ever given such grand service to his side as he did in the Test matches. On five or six occasions he was sent in to bat when his side was in a tight place, and very rarely did he fail. In the great Manchester match his magnificent innings on the second day, helped by Braund and Lockwood's bowling, rescued England from a hopeless to a winning position; and victory would certainly have awaited England but for the rain in the second night. At the Oval Mr Jackson went in on a very difficult wicket when his side was apparently hopelessly beaten, and to say that his batting was worthy of Shrewsbury is to give it the highest possible praise.

Mr Jessop's century in the same match would have immortalized him if he had played no other innings in the whole year, and his fielding has never been surpassed. Hirst and Mr Mason still keep their places as first-rate all-round men, and to them must be added Braund, who alone has taken 100 wickets and scored over 1,000 runs.

A year like 1902 is generally regarded as one where the weather has favoured the bowlers. This is true if compared to the last nine or ten seasons; but, nevertheless, a glance at the number of runs scored points unmistakably to what will occur again when another old-fashioned summer prevails. The glut of runs will again be seen, drawn matches will be as common as matches played to a finish and fast bowling will be at a discount, simply because the labour and strain will be too great.

There are not wanting signs of good omen that the public will not care to come and see mere exhibitions of batting; and it is much to be hoped that the question of reform will again be carefully considered, and something be done which will render drawn matches impossible, unless directly caused by rainy weather. Thursday 25 September, page 9: LORD HAWKE'S TEAM FOR NEW ZEALAND

Lord Hawke has now practically completed arrangements for taking a team of cricketers out to New Zealand in the coming winter. It has been definitely decided that a visit to Australia shall not be included in the tour. A proposal was made that the team should play a few matches in Australia, including one with each of the States of the Commonwealth, but, as the result of messages to the Australian cricket authorities at Melbourne, the project has fallen through.

Lord Hawke will have the assistance of the following amateur cricketers on the New Zealand trip: -Messrs P F Warner, C J Burnup, F L Fane, B J T Bosanquet, P R Johnson, E M Dowson, A E Leatham and Stanning, jun. An amateur wicket-keeper will also be taken, but the selection of the gentleman for the post has not yet been made.

Two professionals will also be included in the team - namely, Hargreave (of Warwickshire) and Thompson (of Northamptonshire and the M.C.C. ground staff). Had the Australian visit not fallen through, a third professional would have been included.

The team will probably play matches at Auckland, Wanganui, Wellington, Christchurch, Taranaki, Napier, Nelson, Dunedin, Invercargill and Hobart. A match with a combined New Zealand eleven is also in the contemplated programme.

Lord Hawke and his colleagues will sail in the Majestic from Liverpool on November 12, and will travel to New Zealand via San Francisco. The return journey will be made via Vancouver.

Monday 13 October, page 11: AUSTRALIA v SOUTH AFRICA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6108.html)

- (Through Reuter's Agency)
- Johannesburg, Oct. 10

The Australian cricketers arrived here to-day and were welcomed at the station by a number of prominent citizens. In the afternoon they were presented at a reception, at which all the prominent residents of the town, including Sir Neville and Lady Lyttelton, were present.

October 11

The Australians opened their tour to-day with a match against All South Africa. The fine weather brought out a large crowd. The wicket was in splendid condition when South Africa, having won the toss, opened their innings.

One wicket soon fell, Shalders being caught and bowled by Jones, but on Llewellyn's joining Tancred a magnificent stand was made, the pair being still in partnership when the interval for lunch was taken. The score was then 179 for one wicket, Tancred being not out 87 and Llewellyn not out 69.

When the game was resumed there was an immense attendance. Play was fast, and before the partnership was broken 172 runs had been put on, this being a record for the second wicket against Australian bowling. After Llewellyn's dismissal Sinclair and Hathorn made another protracted stand and brought the total up to 304 before being separated. Hopkins took three wickets in quick succession, but Nourse and Halliwell added 103 runs for the eighth wicket, and were still together when stumps were drawn for the day.

Thursday 16 October, page 9: CRICKET IN SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Oct. 14

The match between All South Africa and the Australians ended in a draw to-day. The Australians declared after lunch, having made 372 for seven wickets, and the home team had only made 101 for the loss of four wickets when stumps were drawn. - Reuter.

Monday 20 October, page 9: THE AUSTRALIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/6/6109.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 20 October, page 9)

Johannesburg, Oct. 18

The second match between the Australians and a team representing All South Africa was begun to-day in magnificent weather. There was a moderate attendance. The wicket was in excellent condition.

The Australians won the toss, and Trumper and Hill opened the innings and began knocking up runs rapidly, but Trumper's wicket fell when he had scored 18. Duff then joined Hill, who was, however, stumped shortly afterwards, and Armstrong came in. Duff and Armstrong made a good stand, showing a sound defence, and when play was adjourned for the luncheon interval the score was 125 for three wickets.

When play was resumed a complete rot set in and the whole of the remaining batsmen were dismissed for an additional 50 runs. The bowling and fielding of the South Africans was splendid, Llewellyn's deliveries being again most successful.

When the South Africans went in they succeeded, notwithstanding the strong attack and fine fielding of their opponents, in reaching a score of 136 for three wickets by the time stumps were drawn for the day. Sinclair's batting was brilliant.

Tuesday 21 October, page 6: THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A special meeting of the Warwickshire County Club was held at Birmingham last night to consider the financial position of the club. Mr G H Cartland, who presided, said they were in a deficiency of £2,600, and an additional £400 was required to carry them on to the beginning of next season.

The position was primarily attributable to the weather. They spent about £1,400 in providing additional accommodation for the test match played at Edgbaston last season. In the gate money of the year they were short to the extent of about £1,200 after starting the season with a deficiency of £1,000. They had 1,000 member and he appealed to them in the present crisis.

The committee had received various promises of support in connexion with athletic institutions and social functions. Twelve gentlemen had promised £50 each conditionally on others doing likewise, and various other offers had been received, but there was a strong aversion to resorting to a bazaar. Lord Willoughby de broke wrote promising £50 conditionally, but commented on the obligation resting on those who invariably subscribed as little as possible.

Mr Lane (treasurer) said the receipts from ordinary county matches amounted to only £574 last season, against £2,470 in the previous year. He complained that other clubs throughout Warwickshire did not support the county club as they should do. Mr Bainbridge, the captain, supporting the appeal, said that the Warwickshire Club was in jeopardy.

At the instance of the management, a committee was appointed to co-operate with the club committee in promoting an appeal, not only to members of the club, but to all sport-loving inhabitants of the county.

Friday 24 October, page 9: THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Oct. 22

The majority of the Australian cricketers were the guests of Lord Milner yesterday evening, while some were entertained by the Australasian Association. The team left in the morning for Durban. They were given an enthusiastic send-off. There is a feeling of disappointment in local circles at the inglorious termination of the second test match.

LORD HAWKE'S TEAM FOR NEW ZEALAND

Lord Hawke states that he has not yet received any definite news as to whether his team will on the completion of their tour through New Zealand visit Australia. He is leaving the matter entirely in the hands of the Australian authorities, who will arrange with the New Zealand Cricket Council.

Lord Hawke's team will leave Liverpool on November 12, travelling via San Francisco, and are due at Auckland on December 15. Assuming that the team go to Australia, they will probably only have time for three matches - most likely at Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane - as they must leave for home by the last week in March.

Lord Hawke has declined to take any financial responsibility for the extension of the tour, all he wants being the payment of expenses. Mr T L Taylor will leave England a week in advance of the other players, joining them in America.

Tuesday 28 October, page 10: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

At the annual general meeting of the Cambridge University Cricket Club, held at the Provost's Lodge, King's College, Cambridge, yesterday evening, the following officers were elected for next season: -Captain, Mr E M Dowson (Trinity); hon. secretary, Mr L V Harper (Christ's); assistant treasurer, Mr F B Wilson (Trinity).

Wednesday 29 October, page 9: THE AUSTRALIANS IN NATAL

Durban, Oct. 27

The match between the Australians and a Natal Fifteen as resumed to-day in splendid weather and before a crowded attendance. Continuing their innings on an excellent wicket, the home team, who on Saturday had made 27 for the loss of one wicket, were all out for 206. Howell took 11 wickets for 79 runs.

The Australians then went in again, and at the close of play had made 104 for four wickets, Hill being not out with 61 to his credit. - Reuter.

THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The meeting of the committee of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club was held at Sheffield yesterday, Lord Hawke presiding. The annual report and balance-sheet - the latter showing a favourable balance of £77 on the year's working - were passed.

A presentation of a set of silver bowls was made by Lord Hawke on behalf of the club to the Hon F S Jackson in connexion with his approaching marriage. The annual general meeting was fixed for November 26 at Leeds.

The report of the sub-committee appointed to consider the duties of the new secretary was discussed, and it was decided to advertise for applications for the secretaryship rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr Wostinholm.

It was announced that £137 10s 4d had been collected on the grounds at matches and subscribed by various Yorkshire clubs for the Cricketers' War Fund. This, together with 500 guineas subscribed by the Yorkshire County Club, will be forwarded to the M.C.C.

Monday 3 November, page 11: OXFORD UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

Mr W [Findlay], of Oriel College, last year's secretary, has been elected captain of Oxford University Cricket Club, in succession to Mr C H B Marsham, of Christ Church. Mr W H B Evans, of Oriel, has been appointed secretary.

Tuesday 4 November, page 10: KENT COUNTY CLUB

The general committee of the Kent County Cricket Club met yesterday afternoon at the Golden Cross Hotel. Lord Darnley, president of the club, took the chair, and there were also present Lord Harris, Lord Camden, Mr G Marsham, Mr J R Mason and Mr F S W Cornwallis.

In the draft report, which was adopted, tribute is paid to the excellent services of Mr J R Mason as captain, and also as bowler in company with Blythe, attention being called to the fact that last season the Kent bowling was second only to that of Yorkshire.

The numbers on the register now number 2,502. Considering the unfavourable weather during the past season, the accounts are decidedly satisfactory. A sum of £419 has been expended on improvements, and £100 paid to cover the loss on the balls held during the last two Canterbury weeks. Walter Hearne has been granted £100 in lieu of a benefit, and still the credit balance amounts to £464, as against £498 at the end of 1901. It was agreed to give a donation of 25 guineas to the Cricketers' National War Fund. F Martin and Walter Wright will be nominated as umpires for next season.

The county match programme next season will be the same as last, no fixtures being arranged with Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire. Of the home matches three will take place at Canterbury, three at Tonbridge, two at Catford-bridge, one at Maidstone, and the Tunbridge Wells week will again be arranged.

Monday 10 November, page 11: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual report and financial statement of the Yorkshire County Club were issued to members on Saturday. The report points out that despite unfavourable weather the revenue account shows a credit balance of £74 16s 2d. A grant of 500 guineas had been made to the Cricketers' National War Fund, and various clubs in the county had, in addition, remitted £137 10s 4d.

There has been a gratifying increase in the membership during the year, and Yorkshire not only maintained the position of champion county but was the only county to beat the Australians.

Mr J B Wostinholm, after 30 years' service as secretary, retires and the committee have elected him a vice-president of the club and a life member, and have voted 200 guineas for a suitable testimonial to him.

The income for the past year amounted to $\pounds7,497$ 19s 7d and the expenditure to $\pounds7,423$ 3s 5d. The three Sheffield matches drew the largest receipts - amounting to a total of $\pounds1,290$ 14s 4d - with the exception of the Notts match at Hull, where a shilling was charged for admission and the takings amounted to $\pounds801$ 3s 6d.

THE AUSTRALIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town, Nov. 8

The Australians to-day began their last match against a team representing All South Africa in fine weather and before a large attendance.

The visitors won the toss and had first use of an excellent wicket. Trumper and Duff made a splendid start and, despite the excellent bowling and fielding of the home team, sent up the 100 before being separated. Duff, who was the first to go, played steadily, while Trumper hit in brilliant style. At lunch the score was 115 for one wicket.

When the game was resumed there was an attendance of 5,000. The Australians did not maintain the advantage they had gained. Trumper was quickly disposed of. His 70 was made without a chance. Neither Armstrong nor Noble stayed long, but Hopkins and Hill made something of a stand for the fifth

wicket, and Hill and Gregory put on 44 runs for the sixth. After that, however, there was a collapse. Hill carried out his bat for a grand innings of 91.

Tuesday 11 November, page 7: THE AUSTRALIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town, Nov. 10

The match between the Australians and a team representing All South Africa was continued to-day in splendid weather. There was a large crowd.

The South Africans, who left off on Saturday with 11 for no wicket, resumed their innings on a difficult wicket. Howell's bowling was unplayable, and the South Africans collapsed at once, five wickets falling for 14 runs.

Thursday 13 November, page 12: ENGLISH TEAM FOR NEW ZEALAND

The team of cricketers selected by Lord Hawke to play in a tour through New Zealand left Liverpool for New York in the Majestic yesterday. Mr P F Warner, who will captain the team in Lord Hawke's absence, said, in the course of an interview yesterday, that they were deeply sorry to hear of Lord Hawke's accident and they hoped he would be able to join them later on in New Zealand.

Arrangements have been made to play 14 matches in New Zealand, in addition to one or two in Australia. The team was expected to arrive at Auckland on December 15 and begin play three days later. Going out they would stay at San Francisco for three days and play, on November 26, a one-day match against a selected team of Californians. The team would return to England the first week in May.

Mr Warner was accompanied on the Majestic by Messrs C J Burnup, B J T Bosanquet, E M Dowson, F L Fane, P R [Johnson], J Stanning and A D Whatman, and [Hargreave] and Thompson. Mr T L Taylor, who is also one of the team, sailed last week.

Wednesday 19 November, page 11: THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The report to be presented at the annual meeting of the Hampshire County Cricket Club on the 27th inst. is not a very gratifying one as, owing to bad weather and other causes, there was a loss on the year's working of over £300.

Dr Bencraft, the hon. secretary, having intimated his intention to resign, it is proposed to appoint a paid secretary at a salary of £200 a year, Mr F H Bacon, who formerly played for the county, being recommended for the post. Llewellyn, who is at present in South Africa, is under a written agreement to play for the county next season.

The subscriptions last year amounted to £1,041 and the gate receipts to £692, the latter ranging from £252 in the Australian match to £9 10s in the Leicestershire match. The expenses amounted to £2,252, the principal items being £958 match expenses, £680 wages and labour and £586 rent, rates and the like.

The return of several military members of the club from South Africa is expected to strengthen the team next season.

Saturday 22 November, page 13: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Testimonial to Arthur Shrewsbury

The committee of the Notts County Cricket Club have been requested by a number of subscribers to make an appeal to the members of the club to recognize in a special manner the exceptional batting of Arthur Shrewsbury during the past season. They state that the committee feel that the members would wish to recognize such a performance at Shrewsbury's, who in a season of wet wickets headed the batting averages of the whole country with a remarkable average of 50, a feat the more wonderful considering that he his played for his county 26 years.

Subscriptions may be sent to any member of the committee; to the Nottingham and Notts Bank, Thurlandstreet; or to Mr H Turner, Lucerne-house, West Bridgford, from whom acknowledgments will be received.

Tuesday 25 November, page 8: THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting was held at the Star Hotel, Worcester, yesterday, when it was reported that the deficit on the year was £784, the total adverse balance being £3,076. The membership was 1,153.

During the past season six matches were won, seven lost and eight drawn. Mr Paul Foley, the hon. secretary, said that the committee would do their best to play more amateurs, and expense would be saved in this way and as regards the ground men next season. General Davies, who presided, pressed members to support the bazaar to be held in May. The report and accounts were adopted.

Lord Coventry was re-elected president. Thanks were accorded to Lord Dudley for his donation of £100. The committee was considerably augmented with a view to strengthening the financial position of the club. Mr H K Foster was re-elected captain.

In responding to a vote of thanks, the hon. secretary said that the club had done well in establishing a reputation as shown by their being asked to play in the Canterbury week, the Cheltenham week and probably the Bournemouth week, and also against Oxford University.

In addition to Mr H K Foster and Mr R E Foster, another Foster brother would be available for a considerable number of matches.

CRICKET IN INDIA

Bombay, Nov. 24

The match between the visiting team of Oxford Authentics, captained by Mr K G Key [?], and the local Parsee Eleven commenced here to-day. The weather was cooler and an immense crowd had assembled up see the game, which was played on a turf wicket.

The Oxford Authentics went in first and scored 311, to which Mr R H Raphael contributed 111 and Mr G H Simpson-Hayward 45. The Parsees then went in and had scored 24 for no wickets when play closed for the day. - Reuter.

Wednesday 26 November, page 14: CRICKET [MIDDLESEX]

The annual meeting of the Middlesex County Club was held yesterday at the Charing-cross Hotel. Mr V E Walker presided, and among others present were Sir Timothy O'Brien, Mr A J Webbe, Mr G MacGregor, Mr H Turner, Mr E Rutter, Mr H V L Stanton, Mr W J Ford and Mr J A Murdoch. The proceedings were private, but the following information was furnished for publication: -

The balance-sheet, which was adopted, showed that, despite the bad season experienced, the county succeeded in getting a balance on the right side, the match receipts exceeding the expenditure by £47 2s 10d. This was due to the success of the Australian match, the receipts of which, after deducting the share to the Australians, amounted to £377 13s 6d.

The general expenses were somewhat heavy and, as a result of the diminished profits on the matches, the balance in hand fell from £777 10s to £288 1s 7d. This, with £4,500 in Consols, represents the assets of the club. Donations of £5 5s each were given to the London Playing Fields and the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society, and £25 was voted to the Cricketers' War Fund. The last, however, will appear in next year's balance-sheet.

6

The same counties will be met next year, and Middlesex will probably play the Philadelphians if a date can be arranged. Two second-eleven matches may also be played. All last year's officers were re-elected, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr MacGregor for captaining the team.

The sad death of Mr G F Vernon, who for so many years played for the county, was alluded to in very feeling terms, and a unanimous vote of sympathy was passed. This will be forwarded in due course to Mr Vernon's son.

CRICKET IN INDIA

Bombay, Nov. 25

The match between the Parsees and Mr K J Key's team of Oxford Authentics was continued to-day. There was again a large attendance. The Parsees resumed their innings and remained at the wickets all day. When stumps were drawn they had scored 345 for seven wickets, to which Mr Kanga contributed 116. – Reuter's Special Service.

Thursday 27 November, page 12: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, held at Leeds yesterday evening, Lord Hawke presiding.

The secretary's report stated that, despite unfavourable weather, the revenue account showed a credit balance of £74 16s 2d. A grant of 500 guineas had been made to the Cricketers' National War Fund, and various clubs in the county had, in addition, remitted £137 10s 4d. There had been a gratifying increase in the membership during the year, and Yorkshire not only maintained the position of champion county, but was the only county to beat the Australians.

The income for the past year amounted to £7,497 19s 7d, and the expenditure to \$7,423 3s 5d. Lord Hawke, in moving the adoption of the report, said he was exceedingly pleased again to inform the meeting that the committee had been able to show a small balance on the right side, especially when they remembered that many counties were wallowing in the mire, some of them to the extent of £2,000 or £3,000. The balance had been brought about in spite of the unfavourable weather. It had been the worst summer for some years, in spite of the generosity of the committee in increasing the percentage given to grounds from 25 per cent to 35 per cent.

Lord Hawke expressed his opinion that members would approve of the action of the committee in granting a donation to the Cricketers' National War Fund. The fund was started through Mr F S Jackson's representations to the Marylebone Club, who granted 1,000 guineas. It was also gratifying to find an increase in the membership during the past year, which made a difference of £580 to the coffers of the club.

In referring to the success of the team in having won the county championship three years in succession with only two defeats during that period, he said the county were also sure of the best of the players as long as the county were willing to employ them. There had been a loss of £560 on the second team matches, but he favoured the continuance of such matches so as to give young players an opportunity.

Lord Hawke concluded with a reference to the valuable services of Mr Wostinholm, the county secretary, who retires after 18 years' connexion with the club.

The reports and accounts were adopted. Lord Hawke was re-elected president, and the following were re-elected vice-presidents: - Major Shepherd and Messrs Dodsworth and Bower, while Mr Stokes was re-elected treasurer.

The president, in returning thanks for his re-election, mentioned that it had been decided to remove the headquarters of the club to Leeds. Sheffield, no doubt, would have some feeling on the matter, but he trusted they would support the club with the same enthusiasm as in the past.

CRICKET IN INDIA

Bombay, Nov. 26

The local Parsee eleven to-day beat Mr K J Key's team of Oxford Authentics by eight wickets. - Reuter.

Friday 28 November, page 11: LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual report of the Lancashire County Cricket Club, issued last evening, states that the membership has increased to 3,132 and lady subscribers to 844. This and the profit on the year's working has enabled the committee to make a substantial attempt to reduce the indebtedness of the club in respect of the purchase of the ground. They have accordingly taken the necessary steps to repay £2,000 of the total sum of £20,000 advanced by the bondholders.

Despite the absence of any profit in the case of Albert Ward's benefit match and the sum handed over to the Australians, the surplus for the year is £950 13s 8d exclusive of life members' subscriptions, entrance fees and the amount derived from the increased subscription.

The committee attribute the decline in the county's position to fifth place in the county competition to a falling-off in bowling, but point to the promising form of G Littlewood at the end of the season, and the fact that Kermode is qualifying for the county.

THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

Mr J C Moberly presided over the annual meeting of the Hampshire County Cricket Club, held yesterday at Southampton. In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman referred to the loss the club had sustained through the death of Colonel Mortimer, an invaluable member of the committee.

He mentioned that Dr Bencraft, for over 20 years hon. secretary, had found that professional duties prevented him giving the necessary attention to the club, and the committee recommended the appointment of Mr F H Bacon as secretary at a salary of £200 per annum and commission on new subscriptions. This recommendation was subsequently adopted, the hope being expressed that the membership, which at present numbered 810, would be considerably increased.

Mr C Robson having resigned the captaincy, Mr E M Sprot was unanimously elected to the vacancy. Mr Robson's services were warmly acknowledged, and it was decided to vote £25 from the club funds for the purpose of a testimonial to him. The vice-captain was not appointed.

Mr W G Nicholson, M.P., was unanimously elected president, and amongst the new vice-presidents appointed were Major Poore and Mr C Robson.

The programme of matches will be the same as last season, except that the Philadelphians will take the place of the Australians, and that home and home matches have been arranged with Essex.

The following is the official time-table for the meetings, held by permission of the Marylebone Club, at Lord's the week after next: - December 8 (first class), captains' meeting, at 3; December 9, the secretaries' meeting, at 11.30; December 10 (second class), captains' meeting, at 3; December 11, board of control of Australian test matches, at 3.30.

Monday 1 December: THE SOMERSET COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Somerset County Cricket Club was held at Taunton on Saturday afternoon, Mr Hamilton Palairet, of Bath, presiding, in the absence of the president, Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane.

The chairman said he would like, before the beginning of the business, to congratulate the club on having had a far more successful season than for some years, while they had again added to their laurels by being, as in the previous season, the only county to beat Yorkshire. He also congratulated the members on the balance-sheet's being more in favour of the club than ever before, this state of affairs arising chiefly from the Australian match. Mr Gerald Fowler, the hon. treasurer, presented the financial statement, which showed a favourable balance of £63. He mentioned that for the past three years the annual subscriptions had been steadily growing, and they had now 968 guinea subscribers. The Bath matches had proved a great success, and thanks were due to the Bath committee for the trouble they had taken in the matter. The committee had decided to give ten guineas to the Cricketers' National War Fund.

The receipts at the Australian match were £526, and the Australians' share was £172. Somerset's share of the test matches was £192. The balance-sheet was adopted.

Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane was re-elected president, the vice-presidents appointed included Lord Bath, Lord Cork, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Sir Alexander Acland-Hood. Mr S M J Woods was again appointed captain, Mr Murray Anderdon and Mr Woods secretaries, and Mr Gerald Fowler treasurer.

Mr Murray Anderdon said that the Lancashire, Hampshire and Gloucestershire matches next season had been allotted to Bath, and the chairman stated that the committee had decided that in future no caps should be sent round the grounds for players, as the practice had given rise to much ill-feeling.

Considerable discussion took place with regard to Gill's having left Somerset for Leicestershire, and a strong opinion was expressed that the Leicestershire committee had not treated the Somerset committee with due courtesy.

Saturday 6 December, page 14: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A committee meeting of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club was held at Sheffield yesterday, Lord Hawke presiding.

The most important business before the meeting was the election of a secretary to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr J B Wostinholme, who had held the office for 38 years. Originally there were 238 applicants, but these were reduced by a sub-committee to eight - viz., Mr R V Ryder, secretary to Warwickshire; Mr F C Toone, secretary to Leicestershire; Mr E H Sewell, assistant-secretary to Essex; Captain M L Paget (Derby), Colonel E E Murray, D.S.O. (London), Mr J H Stainton (Sheffield), Mr A M Latham (London) and Mr W E Barron (Bingley).

These eight gentlemen attended before a sub-committee yesterday morning, and five names were selected for submission to the general committee, who further reduced them to two - namely, Mr F C Toone and Mr E H Sewell. On a vote's being taken, Mr Toone was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr F S Jackson and Mr T L Taylor were re-elected, and Mr J B Wostinholme elected, vice-presidents.

Tuesday 9 December, page 12: THE KENT CAPTAINCY

It is understood that Mr J R Mason has resigned the captaincy of the Kent eleven. The Kent committee have not yet accepted his resignation, but will meet for that purpose to-morrow. Mr Mason first played for Kent in 1893 - the year he left Winchester - and became Southampton of Kent in 1898, succeeding Mr Frank Marchant.

MEETING OF COUNTY CAPTAINS

The captains of the first-class counties held their annual meeting at Lord's yesterday afternoon, all the 15 counties being represented. The newly-appointed captain of Hampshire, Mr E M Sprot, was present, and Mr H G Owen, although he has resigned his position, appeared for Essex. Mr C B Fry was present for Sussex instead of K S Ranjitsinhji.

The chief business was the appointment of umpires for first-class county matches in 1903. The 20 men selected were: - W Hearn, Hertfordshire; R G Barlow, Lancashire; C E Richardson, Leicestershire; A A White, Kent; W A J West, Northants and Warwickshire; V A Titchmarsh, Hertfordshire; A Shaw, Notts and Sussex; W Richards, Warwickshire; H Wood, Surrey; J E West, Middlesex; Carlin, Notts; F Martin, Kent; W Attewell, Notts; T Mycroft, Derbyshire; G Bean, Sussex; J Moss, Notts; and G B Nicholls, Somerset.

Two propositions were brought forward and carried. First, proposed by Mr AC MacLaren, seconded by Mr G L Jessop, "That in future it is desirable to have three test matches only, and that a week be reserved for each match." Second, proposed by Mr G MacGregor, seconded by Mr C B Fry, "That the width of the wicket should be increased to 9 in. by increasing the thickness of the stumps."

The first of these propositions will be brought before the board of control, and both will be submitted, first to the cricket sub-committee and then to the full committee of the Marylebone Club.

WILTSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Wiltshire County Cricket Club was held at Trowbridge, yesterday, Mr H E Ward Bell, the president, being in the chair.

In their report the committee expressed satisfaction at Wiltshire securing the championship of the second-class counties, but stated that the financial position of the club was disappointing. The subscribers showed a decrease of 38, while there was an overdraft at the bank of £476 1s 5d. The committee added that if the membership did not materially increase next year the further continuance of the county club would have to be seriously considered. Mr C Awdry, chairman of the committee, said he feared the future of the county, not as regards talent, but in getting sufficient money to support that talent, if Wiltshire were to become a first-class county. The report was adopted.

It was decided to play fewer county matches at Trowbridge and more at Swindon and Chippenham, where better support is received in gate money.

Mr Walter Long, M.P., was elected president for the coming year and Mr A M Miller captain and hon. secretary. The former secretary, Mr Trevor Wheeler, was elected a life member of the club.

Wednesday 10 December, page 12: THE MEETING OF COUNTY SECRETARIES

There was a large company of cricket captains and secretaries at Lord's yesterday, when, as usual on Tuesday in Cattle Show week, the Marylebone Club kept an open house for those concerned in county cricket. The meeting lasted from 11.30 till about 4. Mr F E Lacey, the secretary of the M.C.C., presided. Below is a list of the first-class fixtures arranged for next summer: -

[Note: the full first-class fixture list for 1903 can be found at: http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal Averages/ENG/1903 f Match List.html]

Thursday 11 December, page 12: CRICKET

Having no alternative in the matter, the Kent committee have accepted with regret the resignation by Mr J R Mason of the captaincy of the county eleven.

MEETING OF MINOR COUNTIES' CAPTAINS

A meeting of the captains of the minor counties was held at Lord's yesterday, Mr F E Lacey, secretary of the Marylebone Club, being in the chair. Those present included Messrs H R Orr (Bedfordshire), W R Wilson (Durham), F G Mortimer (Northumberland), R W Frank (Yorkshire Second Eleven), J F Stedman (Monmouthshire), A M Miller (Wiltshire), P J de Paravicini (Bucks), K E M Barker (Surrey Second Eleven), J A Gibbs (Berks), W H Manfield (Dorset) and H J Hill (Hertfordshire). The meeting was private, but at its conclusion the gist of the proceedings was communicated to the Press.

It was decided to group the umpires for the season of 1903 into three divisions - North, South and Midlands - the objects of this scheme being to lessen the travelling expenses of the umpires and to facilitate their allocation. The following were appointed to serve in the three divisions: - North -C E Bartram, D bookless, W Copeland, J Gregory and Herbert Mycroft; South - R Barber, J Holton, W Hearne, C Marshall, R Humphrey, A Eldridge, Hughes, Ford, Mason and Griffiths; Midlands - H Briscoe, W Cherry, H Coulson, T Hanson, J O'Connor, R Rogers, G Rye, A Stockwin, S Wrigley and Parnham.

With respect to the proposed alteration in the law of leg-before-wicket, which was given a trial by the minor counties last season, it was stated that the second-class counties who tried it in their competition are prepared to recommend that the alteration shall not be adopted. In the main the

arguments advanced were not against the principle underlying the proposed change, but against the working of the suggested law. It was further stated that the minor counties will not repeat the experiment next season.

Friday 12 December, page 6: THE BOARD OF CONTROL

The Board of Control met at Lord's yesterday afternoon for the purpose of winding up all business connected with the five test matches this year between England and Australia. The accounts, however, were not finally made up, and no official statement will be issued until early next week.

It is no secret that the share of profits accruing to those counties that did not have a test match on their own grounds will amount to just upon £200 each. The M.C.C., Surrey, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Warwickshire will of course benefit to a much larger extent.

Mr A G Steel, president of the M.C.C., was in the chair, and there were also present Lord Hawke, Mr V E Walker, Lord Winterton, Lord Lichfield, Mr J Shuter, Mr A J Webbe, Mr S H Swire, Mr W H Patterson, Mr H W Bainbridge and Mr F E Lacey, secretary of the M.C.C.

UMPIRES FOR 1903. - In the list of umpires selected for first-class county matches next season A Pike should have been given instead of H Wood, and to the list of umpires in the second-class county matches the name of W A Woof should have been added. Wood resigned his position last season on accepting the post of groundman at the Private Banks ground, Catford-bridge, and Pike was appointed in his place.

Saturday 13 December, page 13: THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the county club was held yesterday at Manchester, Mr A N Hornby presiding over a large gathering of members. The balance-sheet showed a profit on the year of £1,100, the subscriptions amounting to £3,731 and the gate receipts to £3,987, less £631 paid to the Australians.

On the motion of Mr S H Swire, Mr A N Hornby was re-elected president of the club. Mr Swire and Mr Hornby were also re-elected as hon. secretary and hon. treasurer respectively.

Mr A C MacLaren, in seconding Mr Swire's nomination, expressed his indebtedness to that gentleman, and also thanked the members for their kindness to him last season. He appreciated it very much and, although Lancashire did not have a very great year, their kindness made the season very pleasant. He thought, if he might say so, that the team would show decidedly better form next summer, and certainly some other counties had not the promising players that Lancashire had.

Thursday 18 December, page 10: LAST SEASON'S TEST MATCHES

It is announced that as the outcome of the five matches between England and Australia, the Australians receive the sum of £4,258 5s 6d as their share (one-half) of the gross gate money. Each club on whose ground a test match was played will receive £503 10s 4d. The accounts, as revised by the Board of Control, show that each first-class county will receive £105 first slip, and each second-class county £48 0s 3d.

Saturday 20 December, page 10: THE KENT COUNTY CLUB

In the last meeting of the management committee of the Kent County Club the letter of resignation from Mr J R Mason, which has already been referred to in The Times, was considered. The latter stated that, owing to a misfortune which had befallen his father, he must, with great regret, resign the captaincy of the County Cricket Eleven. The circumstances were explained to the committee, and it was decided that the only course was to accept the resignation, and the secretary was instructed to write a letter to Mr Mason as follows: -

"I am directed to convey, on behalf of the County Club, an expression of their extreme regret at the bad news conveyed in your letter, and to ask you to accept their sincere sympathy on the occurrence that has compelled you to resign the captaincy. The committee trust that you may find yourself able as often as you can to continue to play for the eleven, and to retain your position on the committee. Under any circumstances they trust that you will believe that you carry with you the fullest gratitude of the club for the invaluable help you have given it since you joined it."

The committee decided to ask Mr C J Burnup to undertake the captaincy for at least a year, and a cable conveying the invitation was sent to Auckland in New Zealand, where Mr Burnup was expected to arrive on December 15 or 16. An answer was received from Mr Burnup on the 17th, in which he accepted the offer made him.

Wednesday 31 December, page 10: THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A special meeting of the Warwickshire County Cricket Club was held at Birmingham last evening, Mr G H Cartland presiding.

Proposals for increasing the popularity of the Warwickshire county matches were considered, and it was resolved to make various modifications in the rates of subscription, with a view to securing wider support. The entrance fee of half-a-guinea was abolished and the general members' subscription was reduced from 26s to a guinea. A special concession was also made in regard to members outside the 15-miles radius. The chairman announced that the support accorded the club in it financial crisis had enabled it to survive its difficulties.