



## DORSET COUNTY CRICKET, 1924.

## REVIEW OF THE SEASON.

The rain descended and the floods came and Dorset was literally washed down the championship table. Her final position was the more

disappointing to her supporters, as at one time she stood second on the list with a very good chance of challenging Northumberland. Dorset, however, has never excelled on wet wickets, and in the last two games rain, mud, and sawdust played the leading parts with disastrous results.

The season opened auspiciously at Dorchester on July 23rd with an innings victory over Monmouth, when C. D. Adams bowled with deadly effect. At Salisbury Wilts again proved a stumbling block. The Rev. W. V. Jephson made 110, Knight 51, R. Fookes 46, J. N. Carter 36 in an innings of 314. Wilts replied with 377, and dismissing Dorset the second time for 91 knocked off the 30 runs required for the loss of one wicket. Newman bowled well, but weak batting was mainly responsible for this poor effort in the second innings. On Aug. 4th and 5th, at Blandford, Cornwall was met and in a match which produced a wonderfully exciting finish Cornwall scored 173 and got Dorset out for 104, of which Captain R. D. Busk made 45. Walby (seven wickets for 42) then came to the rescue and Cornwall's second venture only produced 98, which left Dorset 171 to win. The score crept steadily up, but the ninth wicket fell at 105. Amid great excitement and just ahead of the clock Dorset got the runs and won by one wicket. In this innings R. M. Manser (53), M. B. Elderton (28), and Rev. W. V. Jephson (21) were the chief scorers. At Newport on Aug. 11th the Rev. W. V. Jephson (29) and Knight (58) gave Dorset a capital start, and the first wicket fell at 81. Then ensued a collapse, and eight wickets were down for 116. M. B. Elderton (34) and Walby (19 not out) stopped the rot, but the total only reached 178. Monmouth made 162, Walby (seven for 56) again bowling well. Dorset declared their second innings at 103 for seven wickets, but with rain interfering the match was unfinished. Two serious misfortunes befell the side on Aug. 12th—Captain Busk strained a muscle in his back and R. M. Chadwick split a finger. The Exeter wicket on Aug. 13th was as plumb and hard as an Exeter wicket can be, and Dorset made 328, Knight (98) and Rev. W. V. Jephson (40) again giving the side an excellent start. Devon began in a most sensational fashion, C. D. Adams taking four wickets in four overs for three runs! Light then played a magnificent innings. The almost inevitable rain stopped play the next day, Devon being 175 for eight wickets, of which Adams claimed seven for 37. The return match with Cornwall at Camborne produced another glorious finish. On a more or less saturated wicket Dorset scored 119 (Knight 42, F. J. Cummins 36). Cornwall made 102 (Walby six for 46). In Dorset's second innings nine wickets fell for 84; then a useful 26 runs were added by the Rev. W. V. Jephson, who had injured his back and gone in tenth and W. Harrison. These three innings were all completed on the first day. Rain must have fallen in moles during the night, and play was out of the question till after lunch on Aug. 16th. Cornwall started very slowly, and excitement ran high as the score rose steadily to 130 for eight wickets. Commander P. H. Irwin was still in and batting confidently, when Walby started a memorable over. Off the first ball Whitting was caught. The batsmen had crossed. Five balls to go and three runs to make. Walby's next ball was one of his very best. Commander Irwin was clean bowled, and the match was won. A word must be said for the sporting character of the Camborne crowd. Now second on the list, Dorset had only to hold her own in the last two matches at Bridport to keep her high place. The weather, however, decreed otherwise. On Aug. 20th Wilts dismissed Dorset for 89 runs, only to get out themselves for 81 (W. Harrison seven for 19). In the second innings Dorset got 136 (Walby 33), and Wilts knocked off the runs for the loss of five wickets. The Devon match requires some explanation. The weather was most capricious and both sides were in and out of the pavilion the whole time. Devon made 112, Dorset 93 (R. M. Chadwick 49). Devon then declared with 141 for 9 wickets, giving Dorset an hour and ten minutes to get 161. It was a hopeless task on a rain-damaged wicket. Doubtless careful batting would have given the county one quite useless point and spectators would probably have been a little peeved if the batsmen had merely sat on the spiles till 6.30 p.m. As it was in a gallant effort to hit all were out to Sherlock's in-swingers for a penny 31, and another Dorset season had come to an end.

To conclude with a few general remarks:—The fielding showed marked improvement. J. N. Carter, C. D. Adams, and A. M. Harrison being especially prominent, while M. B. Elderton kept wicket with his usual skill. Captain R. D. Busk's strain was a real misfortune, and it was a pity that R. M. Manser could only turn out once and W. H. Hodge not at all. Never more than in dull, cold, rainy weather does one realise how much the sun means to cricket—players and spectators alike. However, with continued confidence in her popular captain, more or less the same players available, more sun and harder wickets (we hope), Dorset will next year recover her recently-gained but temporarily-lost prestige.

## BATTING AVERAGES.

	No. of	Not	Most in		
	ings.	out.	Runs.	innings.	Av'ge.
Rev. W. V. Jephson	14	1	402	110	30.92
Knight	14	0	336	98	24.00
R. M. Chadwick	7	0	135	82	19.20
Capt. R. D. Busk	6	1	85	45	17.00
M. B. Elderton	14	1	218	47	16.77
Walby	13	3	159	38	15.90
F. J. Cummins	11	0	129	36	11.73
R. Fookes	10	3	86	46	9.55
J. N. Carter	13	1	144	38	9.50
C. D. Adams	10	1	82	27	9.11
A. M. Harrison	7	1	54	31	9.00
W. Harrison	10	3	49	21	6.86

S. V. Jephson	4	0	37	18	6.73
B. G. Symes	4	0	24	11	6.00
M. G. S. Bower	5	1	12	6	3.00

The following also batted—H. N. Holmes, number of innings 1, not out 0, runs 2, most in innings 2; N. Down, 3—2—2—2; J. M. Doulton, 2—0—1—1; R. M. Manser, 2—0—61—58; Major H. M. Greenhill, 2—0—12—12.

## \* Signifies not out.

## BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Av'ge.
Walby	264.5	79	526	44	11.96
C. D. Adams	91.4	6	260	17	15.29
F. J. Cummins	91.2	17	214	13	16.46
W. Harrison	149.1	52	234	16	17.77
A. M. Harrison	39	14	86	4	21.50
N. Down	31	3	116	5	23.20
Capt. R. D. Busk	70	22	154	5	30.80
J. N. Carter	29	8	62	2	46.00
The following also bowled:—					
Knight	3	0	12	0	
M. G. S. Bower	6	0	21	1	

## CRICKET.

St. Peter's Old Boys v. St. Giles.—The Old Boys met a strong St. Giles XI at King's Park on Saturday in their last match of the season, the visitors winning by 40 runs.

## Scores:—

St. Giles—W. T. Knight b Davis, 13; G. Gallaway c Caines b Hart, 2; A. W. Gubbins b Bucknall, 14; A. G. Gubbins c Hacking b Bucknall, 26; R. Shepard c and b Bucknall, 9; C. Pank b Bucknall, 3; A. Simmons not out, 10; L. Mitcham b Bucknall, 0; H. Keller b Hart, 4; R. Loader run out, 0; E. Hinton c Barnes b Hart, 1; extras, 10—total, 92.

St. Peter's Old Boys—F. Barnes c Gallaway b Pank, 1; T. Caines c and b Pank, 2; F. J. Hocking run out, 16; K. Hart b Pank, 11; A. W. Hurley lbw b Loader, 1; A. Davis c Keller b Pank, 4; H. Standhaft b Loader, 0; A. C. Bennett c and b Pank, 0; A. Trump lbw b Knight, 0; S. Bucknall not out, 3; L. Collier c Gallaway b Knight, 7; extras, 7—total, 62.