

Outside-edge

Issue 104

Autumn 2019



The magazine of the Gloucestershire Exiles
News and views on and about Gloucestershire County Cricket Club



Congratulations all round

Welcome to the Autumn 2019 issue of Outside-edge

Editorial

A remarkable season for cricket with headlines on the front pages for the first time in many years. The game hasn't enjoyed such a high profile since Botham's summer in 1981. The World Cup was a resounding success with exciting games and colourful, packed crowds all the way to the incredible conclusion at Lord's. As we know only too well, 50-over cricket can provide great entertainment with games swinging to and fro but there has been little to match the drama of the last few overs of the final. An England victory in such a manner has been a significant boost for our game. If that wasn't enough, there was more nail-biting cricket to follow in the Ashes series. The England cricket squad could be forgiven for focussing their attentions on the one-day format and did seem to have problems in transferring skills to five day test matches but they did muster themselves for some memorable performances. What a character Ben Stokes is! His off-field misdemeanours may be reprehensible (past 'bad boys' rarely ran the risk of having their behaviour caught on camera, of course!) but he is a remarkable cricketer. I was lucky enough to be in Cape Town to watch his splendid innings of 250 but even this was eclipsed by his superhuman efforts this summer. After several mighty World Cup feats with bat, ball and in the field, he was rightly awarded the Player of the Match award in the final with his splendid 84 not out in partnership with Jos Buttler and vital runs in the play-off over. Then, at Headingley, he played simply the greatest innings I have ever seen. With the game seemingly out of England's reach, his innings of 135 not out over an astonishing 330 minutes to win the game was absolutely spell-binding. Wonderful stuff!

With so much attention on the international game where, however, did this leave domestic cricket? In pretty good shape, judging from this season's competitions. Ironically, given the success of the World Cup, the Royal London 50-over competition was quite a disappointment. It was rushed through at the start of the season (while both football and rugby seasons were reaching their conclusions) and the final was comfortably won by Somerset. Our own involvement was curtailed by the decision to have only three teams progress from each regional group and finishing 4th due to an inferior run rate to Somerset, of all teams! Inexplicably, the ECB have decided to take the final away from Lord's which can only diminish the competition's status. The T20 Blast had another extraordinary finish with Essex winning with the final ball of the final. The County Championship was only settled on the final day of the season with Essex crowned champions and, more importantly, Gloucestershire gained promotion to Division One regaining a place at the top table for the first time for fifteen years!



Josh Shaw



Ethan Bamber

The Exiles' Player of the Year for 2018 had another magnificent season with both bat and ball. Ryan Higgins scored 958 runs at 59.88 – only Vilas (Lancashire) and Labuschagne (Glamorgan) could realistically claim better statistics in Division 2. Chris Dent (as often has been the case) was our leading run maker with 1087 runs. Gareth Roderick and James Bracey also made valuable contributions throughout the season. Our bowling attack was often very difficult to identify! Dan Worrall apparently arrived from Australia but was

rarely seen. Stuart Whittingham was signed at the start of the season but never featured in a game. Chadd Sayers flew in from Australia and played in four matches picking up 4 wickets before flying back. The very young Ethan Bamber arrived on loan from Middlesex and did extremely well in two matches with his 8 wickets. Ben Allison played one game on loan from Essex and picked up 4 wickets. Most bewildering was the late appearance of Shannon Gabriel from the West Indies who played in three matches but only managed to pick up 2 wickets at a rather costly 90 runs apiece. Amidst what must have seemed a rapidly revolving changing room door, Ryan Higgins (50 wickets at 23.64 ... an outstanding effort), David Payne and Matt Taylor consistently carried our attack to the opposition. There was very good news in mid-season that Josh Shaw was due to sign a full-time contract in 2020. After several loan periods, Josh has made a great impression and, this season, took 30 valuable wickets.



Ryan Higgins is presented with the Ron Lev Exiles' Player of the Year Trophy 2018 by Simon Franklin

The T20 campaign, again, promised a great deal after the group games but ended in anti-climax. A disappointing conclusion to Michael Klinger's career in England. After qualifying impressively from the group to the knockout stage, a tepid display against Derbyshire brought us tumbling back to earth. As in previous seasons, Ian Cockbain and Michael Klinger led the way with the bat – Michael scoring a magnificent 102 not out against Somerset. Chris Liddle and Benny Howell were the pick of the bowlers and Benny's absence through injury at the end of the season was a significant factor. As mentioned previously, our involvement in the Royal London ended at the group stage in spite of an impressive five wins from eight games. James Bracey and Gareth Roderick made centuries and Jack Taylor, Chris Dent and Miles Hammond also scored heavily – all five players had averages of over 40. It was no surprise that Benny Howell should lead our bowling with 12 wickets at 26.58.

Once more, I am indebted to our contributors who, in no particular order, are: Sarah Blowen, Simon Ireland, Mark Brunt, Chris Bell, Roger Gibbons, Roger Cooke, Martin Haigh, Mike Dunn, Gareth Fielding and Howard Allen. Thank you to Tony Hickey (the man with the magic lens!) for his support and wonderful photographs. Many thanks also to everybody who has been kind enough to say how much they enjoy Outside-edge, this is always greatly appreciated.

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Chair's Message

The last day of the 2019 season: pale sunshine over the County Ground; huge puddles on the outfield; two teams celebrating together in the home dressing room. With the washed-out final round of matches playing their part, it wasn't a dramatic finale of batting and bowling exploits. But the small band of supporters present in Bristol that day could see how much it meant to the Gloucestershire and Northants squads, nevertheless.

2020 marks the 150th anniversary of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club and the 2019 season, with promotion to Division One of the County Championship, will now feature as part of the timeline of club history. We witnessed many inspiring individual performances and some tenacious team efforts where the squad held their nerve to win the day. GCCC CEO Will Brown was quoted on the BBC website: "We have a great team of players and we're very happy. We have a lot of very talented players who play for each other. Whatever next year brings, we'll be ready for it."

Indeed, whatever next year brings...the fixtures for the 2020 season should be released at the beginning of December and will make interesting reading. The bulk of the summer holidays will be given over to The Hundred and the divisive ECB experiment will remain a talking point, no doubt about it. For Gloucestershire, it will mean a few squad gaps to fill for the 50-over tournament which will run at the same time. Also, with eight county grounds unavailable for this competition, we might be visiting some more interesting out-grounds.

At the end of May, many Gloucestershire supporters enjoyed a wonderful first visit to the 'new' ground at Newport for the Championship fixture against Glamorgan. The welcome and atmosphere were overwhelming and Newport cricket club should be congratulated for the effort they put into the staging of the match. One striking note was their sense of history: souvenir brochures and speeches celebrated the 80th anniversary of 'That Match' in 1939 when, at the historic Rodney Parade ground, Wally Hammond scored 302 and then Emrys Davies reached 287 not out, a Glamorgan record standing for over sixty years. The vast club museum told the story of cricket in Newport against the backdrop of the fluctuating fortunes of the bustling industrial port city. Understanding this 'long view' of sport as a social anchor suddenly made the significance of the game we were watching, and the efforts undertaken to make it happen, fall into place. As domestic cricket seems to be turning its face to an un-tested future, the powers that be would be well advised to reflect upon this sense of place and social history that underpins so much of the sports' development and support.

Gloucestershire cricket's sense of place is inextricably linked to Cheltenham and the Festival which is almost as old as the club. Runs scored and wickets taken somehow seem more memorable there...in the club's 150th anniversary year, Cheltenham will have its own historic story to tell. But it is also very much central to the future of the club. The Gloucestershire Exiles have always recognised this and so will, I'm sure, offer all support to the club as they endeavour to protect and develop this unique element of the domestic season in these uncertain times.

In February 2020 the Exiles will again be hosting a Dinner in the Lord's Committee Dining Room to raise funds for the Gloucestershire Academy and emerging Gloucestershire players. Our speaker will be Steve Elworthy of the ECB, who delivered the hugely successful Cricket World Cup this year. We do hope to see many of you there - more details are given elsewhere in this magazine. This will be a perfect start to the anniversary year!



A season to savour as promotion is clinched

Simon Ireland reflects on a roller coaster season

If someone had suggested in the Spring that Gloucestershire would face a 2019 season without the potentially potent new ball pairing of Daniel Worrall and Stuart Whittingham, without significant batting contributions from the likes of talented individuals such as Miles Hammond and Jack Taylor but with a spate of other injuries and desperate personal off field problems, then promotion would have seemed quite out of the question. The fact that the Shire proved competitive throughout a long and arduous season despite such issues speaks volumes for the skill and determination of both players and coaches alike.

So how was the Holy Grail secured? What brought about the joy and sheer release felt by so many in late September? Well, the depth and flexibility of the squad was highlighted as the players found ways to cope with the problems they faced and the coaching team used the loan system shrewdly to compensate for an injury ravaged bowling line up; a healthy number of batting points reflected the contributions of Chris Dent and Ryan Higgins, in particular; losses tended to be followed by victories so that momentum could be maintained and several of these were achieved in the most thrilling of circumstances in the dying moments of games; finally, of course, there was the Cheltenham factor...

The aforementioned loss of Worrall and Whittingham may have deprived Gloucs. of pace but the control and dogged perseverance shown by the surviving bowlers resulted in some impressive figures: 50 wickets at 23 for Higgins, 43 at 25 for Payne, 30 at 25 for Shaw and 29 at 26 for Matt Taylor who missed the second half of the season. (From a personal standpoint I felt that David Payne emerged as something of a low key hero as he had to lead the attack in all formats in what was a marathon season and latterly weighed in with some vital runs.) Shaw's reappearance was welcome - as was his permanent signing - and temporary transfers in the shape of Ethan Bamber and others generally papered over the injury cracks. In the era of uncontested tosses, it also seemed to suit Gloucs. to bowl first in many away fixtures.



Chris Dent: 1087 runs at 47.26

Although the batting still gave rise to palpitations at times, not least when we were 60 odd for 6 in the final game, there seemed a new belief in the side and if the upper order failed to fire then the middle and lower order stepped up to the plate. Only bad weather deprived Ryan Higgins of his 1000 runs and both he and Chris Dent bagged four centuries. October's Wisden magazine found the editor visiting Bristol and musing that were Dent to be representing a Division One County, then international recognition would not be far

away. Well, we shall now see whether that is the case but when one thinks of the impact made by Glamorgan's Labuschagne in the Ashes series, scoring runs in Division Two is not to be underestimated. James Bracey again showed his talent and cemented that vital run chase win at Derby while the promotion of Tom Smith up the order was a bold and largely successful move at a key stage of the campaign.

There were some significant turning points in the season and if the early fixtures hinted at least at mid-table respectability then it seemed that the defeat to Middlesex at Merchant Taylor's School would certainly knock the stuffing out of any push for promotion. But it was now that the new found ability to bounce back from disappointment and the long standing Cheltenham factor were to play their part as the sun drenched festival crowds were treated to a couple of classic contests and a sheer will to win dragged the Shire over the line in the final half hour of each game. Having therefore bagged a healthy number of points to reignite their campaign, the one four-day game to be held in August proved a further confidence builder as Derbyshire were forced into a sporting declaration in order to keep their own promotion hopes alive and Gloucs. romped home by 8 wickets.

Sitting pretty with three games to go? Not exactly as a below par defeat to Sussex at Bristol set nerves jangling and Shannon Gabriel endured the rockiest of starts. One more win, just one more win would surely do it, depending on results elsewhere, and a six wicket victory in an edgy encounter at Worcester brought the Holy Grail within tantalising reach. Ironically, the weather which over the years has been a West Country nemesis then became the best of friends as the complete county programme was washed out and the Northants team joined their euphoric hosts in a genuinely affectionate promotion celebration. Both sides had deserved their success and although Lancashire proved convincing champions there seems no reason why all three counties should not approach 2020 with optimism. Quite what shape that season will have remains to be seen as our benighted administrators seek to shoehorn yet more One Day Cricket into an already lopsided schedule. Whatever happens, it will have to be something very special to top 2019, Gloucestershire's season to savour!



Gareth Roderick and Ryan Higgins guide the team to victory against Leicestershire at Cheltenham

Exiles Hall of Fame – Michael Klinger



Although our Exiles' Hall of Fame entrants have been plucked from the rich history of GCCC, I have no hesitation in nominating a more contemporary entry.

It is always difficult for sportsmen to choose the manner of their departure and, certainly, Michael Klinger deserved to leave in glory rather than an ignominious home defeat in the quarter-final of the 2019 T20 Blast. Those of us who witnessed any one of Michael's many glorious innings would have hoped for just a couple more match-winning knocks to carry the team to another success. A few years ago at the meal following an Exiles' AGM, Richard Dawson said that Gloucestershire had been very fortunate in having the services of Hamish Marshall and Michael Klinger who were "not just outstanding players but also outstanding people".

When I looked back at the Spring 2013 issue of *Outside-edge*, I did cringe when reading my Editorial in which I made some frivolous remarks about our new captain. In fairness, Michael was not a household name in cricket circles and it was uncertain how much impact he may have on a troubled team – well, what an impact! In the Autumn 2013 issue, my comments were rather more effusive:

"To those of us on the boundary edge, Michael's captaincy has appeared busy and energetic, always quick to offer advice to his fledgling attack. But it has been with the bat that Michael has really led the way with some quite stunning innings. His figures speak for themselves: County Championship – 1105 runs from 24 innings @ 52.62, T20 – 366 runs @ 52.29 and in YB40 – a remarkable 702 runs @ 87.75!"

I failed to mention the nature of Michael's astonishing run-making in which he combined great craft, artistry and power. A further omission was the tendency to make bold declarations (often an innings at a time!). Games that, in previous seasons, would have petered out to a stale draw were transformed into final day run chases. It was a rollercoaster approach to captaincy which we'd never seen before.

Michael was kind enough to contribute an article for the Autumn 2013 issue. Emailed from his home in Australia, it was typically modest and thoughtful with an emphasis on his role as a captain to improve the team and players. He was generous in his praise for others and the club.

The 2015 Royal London Cup was clearly the pinnacle of Michael's time at Gloucestershire. What a shame that he couldn't have confirmed his status as a remarkable one-day batsman with a big score on that

wonderful day. But, I am sure that missing out with the bat would not have diminished his pride on leading the team to victory.

In the September issue of *The Cricketer*, it was noted that Michael's unbeaten 102 against Kent in the T20 Blast placed him in second place (behind Chris Gayle) in the list of T20 centurions. He is peerless in the domestic game with 7 centuries in 81 innings. In the same article, Michael is quoted as follows: "I have made lifelong friends here and for that I am truly appreciative. I hope I have been able to make a positive impact on Gloucestershire both on and off the field."

Please make the effort to either write articles, recall anecdotes or just make comments to celebrate the Gloucestershire career of Michael Klinger in our next issue.



Identify the Players

Former players gathered at the Cheltenham festival. Can you identify this magnificent seven?



Answers on page 27

There is Nowhere Else Like It

The phrase, "The hottest tickets in town" proved to be true on a number of fronts when once more 150 Exiles and their guests gathered in July at this year's Cheltenham Festival for the annual Exiles Lunch. The event, which grows in popularity each year, took place under clear blue skies and with the temperature soaring. One Exile who had arrived in jacket and tie quickly headed for the Club shop to purchase a GCCC polo shirt! With the backdrop of the clear blue sky those old College buildings can rarely have looked better.



Exiles' Treasurer Jon Paine presents a cheque to GCCC Chairman John Hollingdale

Held in a private marquee in the ground, the function enables Exiles to mix and mingle throughout the day. For many it is the opportunity for a reunion, meeting old friends from near and far. For some it was their first introduction to the Cheltenham Festival, and at a time when county cricket generally needs to move fixtures to accommodate The Hundred, it was a reminder to everyone of the joy that festival cricket and Cheltenham in particular can bring. We all need to hope that nothing will interfere with the Cheltenham Festival.

Such is the popularity of the Exiles Lunch that visiting committee members from the opposing county often join the Exiles for lunch and this year was no exception. Exiles Chair Sarah Blowen welcomed Cecil Duckworth, the Worcestershire President, Fanos Hira, the current Worcestershire Chairman, former player and now a committee member Paul Pridgeon, and the former England stalwart Norman Gifford who is a Worcestershire Vice President. During the lunch Exiles Treasurer Jon Paine presented a cheque for £3000 to the County Chairman John Hollingdale, with Cheltenham reflecting the dual role of the Exiles, to raise funds to support the Academy and Youth sections of the County, but also to provide social activities for its members.

There was good food, good company, a wonderful setting, and to cap it all, great cricket. By the close of play the County were well on the way to securing another win to continue their drive towards promotion. Whichever side of the boundary you were on it was a very good day for Gloucestershire cricket.

Biennial Exiles' Dinner at Lord's on Thursday 6th February



Steve Elworthy MBE

We are pleased to announce that the Biennial Gloucestershire Exiles' Dinner at Lord's Cricket Ground will be held next year on Thursday February 6th, 2020. Please join us as we celebrate Gloucestershire's promotion to Division One of the Championship and also the club's 150th anniversary. This major fundraising event is always very popular and tickets for our evening of high-quality food and fun in the historic Lords' Committee room sell out quickly. Our Guest Speaker will be Steve Elworthy, the former South African cricketer who is Director of Marketing and Communications at the England and Wales Cricket. Steve oversaw the delivery of the hugely successful 2019 World Cup and so will have much to tell us about that amazing event. He is involved in bringing The Hundred to our cricket grounds in 2020 and will give us his thoughts on that and the future of the game.

Tickets are once more £100 for Exiles and £120 for guests, to include a dinner and canapés. Dress code is Lounge Suits for men. Arrival is from 6.30pm with Dinner from 7.30pm. Close of play will be at 11.00pm.

For tickets, payment details, or any further information please contact Jon Paine at 0777 555 0495 and at jon.paine@barclays.com

We very much hope that you and your friends and family will join us and look forward to seeing you at Lord's.

Computer update



As we race towards an ever more intrusive digital age, Exiles may need to embrace the Brave New World by notifying GCCC of their email address if they have not already done so as they can receive personal emails to their inbox, updating on Club news. Currently only 60% of Members have registered their email address with the Club.

My Time as Club Chairman

Exile Roger Cooke reflects on his period at the helm of GCCC



I completed six years as Club Chairman, the maximum permitted under the Club's Constitution, on 30th April 2019, at our AGM. I greatly enjoyed the experience and felt particularly honoured to have been elected as Chairman by my fellow Board Members. I saw my mantra as being "what is best for the Club rather than the individual" and that made decision-making relatively straight forward.

Royal London One-Day Cup 2015

Looking back over my six years as Chairman, the highlight was undoubtedly our team's wonderful triumph over Surrey in 2015 when we won the Royal London One-Day Cup. What a roller coaster that day was!

The box the Club was given in the Tavern Stand at Lord's was alongside the one given to Surrey, with our then Patron, Lord Vestey, in the box on the other side. We had them boxed in!

Before the match, few correspondents gave Gloucestershire a chance, but Richard Dawson and his coaching staff and players had other ideas.

I remember well my sense of foreboding when I heard that we had lost the toss and were batting first, knowing that teams batting first at Lord's in September generally did not fare well! Worse was to come when Michael Klinger, whom we had flown back to England for the Final, was out in the first over. Michael had been a terrific contributor to our reaching the Final and to lose him without scoring was a huge blow and a great fillip for Surrey.

Our boys battled their way to 220 all out off just 47.4 overs and few of us felt we had enough at that stage. Surrey bat and James Fuller strikes twice to reduce Surrey to 42-2, with Roy and Davies dismissed. We had been 40-2 so not much between the sides at this stage! But then a 101 run partnership between Sangakkara and Burns tips the game heavily towards Surrey. However, Jack Taylor then dismisses both batsmen for the loss of just 5 further runs – can Glos pull it off? Surrey need just 30 runs to win with 5 wickets left, and it's hard to stay positive! Not to be daunted, Tom Smith claims 2 wickets and Jack Taylor a third and suddenly we start to dream. A brilliant run out by Chris Dent and Gareth Roderick off the last ball of the penultimate over sees Surrey needing 7 off the last over with 2 wickets left. Brilliant bowling by David Payne sees the end of Sam Curran and it is left to Captain, Gareth Batty to attempt to win the game. He takes a big hit off David Payne towards the Grandstand – will it be a 6 to level the scores, with 3 balls remaining, or will it fall short and into the waiting hands of Jack Taylor? Jack takes the catch, cue pandemonium!!! What a great day.

I wanted to go down onto the pitch to congratulate our heroes but had forgotten my necessary ECB pass. Richard Thompson, Surrey Chairman, immediately volunteered to take me down, a really sporting gesture! What a fantastic win and what a great day for all Gloucestershire supporters.

Management

Off the pitch, we welcomed Will Brown as our new Chief Executive in 2013 and Richard Dawson in 2015 as our Head Coach. Both have had a huge positive impact on our Club.

Dealings with the ECB

We have continued to host numerous International matches at both Bristol and Cheltenham, giving the Club much-needed additional income to invest back into both the squad and players' facilities, making Gloucestershire a more desirable place to play both from the points of view of player retention and a new player "destination" Club.

We were very disappointed to hear of the £2.5 million payment by the ECB to Glamorgan, ostensibly for not making future bids for Test Matches. Together with many other Counties, we expressed our displeasure to the ECB, and this led to two Directors resigning from the ECB Board and an independent review of the ECB governance by the Good Governance Institute (GGI). I was interviewed by the GGI as part of this review and their report listed a considerable number of areas for improvement. The ECB then established a working party to implement these recommendations. Meanwhile, Glamorgan had enjoyed a considerable competitive advantage!

We also put in a competitive bid to have Bristol selected as one of the 8 venues for the new 100 competition. Despite being told we had made an excellent bid, both written and oral presentation, our bid failed. I continue to believe this to be a poor decision, effectively leaving the West Country without representation. That cannot be right!

Governance

I have been fortunate to have enjoyed the support and guidance of a number of excellent fellow Directors during my years as Chairman.

In relation to Governance, and in accordance with the wishes of the ECB, as a Club we have got much closer to the Gloucestershire Cricket Board, which administers, supports and governs cricket at grass roots level, including schools and clubs.

We have greatly increased the diversity of our Board through co-opting 4 new members. This followed a broad campaign which brought in some excellent applications from both members and non-members of the Club. They were then interviewed by an independent working party who made recommendations to our Board.

Conclusion

Whilst I certainly can't claim credit for this, the icing on the cake came when, 5 months after I stepped down, Gloucestershire was promoted to County Championship Division 1 for the first time in 14 years. A wonderful postscript.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the Club's sponsors, supporters and hard-working staff, players and non-players, for making my time as Chairman so enjoyable.

GCCC in print

Eagle-eyed Simon Ireland spotted intriguing articles in the September issue of The Cricketer and the October issue of Wisden Cricket Monthly

The Wisden Cricket Monthly interviews Richard Dawson and gives a very good insight into the current aims of GCCC and how the club has sought to develop in recent years. Richard reveals his philosophy for the club with candid quotes: “We don’t measure ourselves against anyone else. We just want to improve as a team, year on year.... we are actually still developing our own players, and are they improving under us? That’s what I’m interested in.”

Particularly interesting is the point that Gloucestershire players have been given little international recognition and, specifically, how Chris Dent has been overlooked given that, over the last four seasons, only Rory Burns has scored more first-class runs. The performances of David Payne and Ryan Higgins are recognised and the potential of James Bracey.

Reference is also made to the club’s sound financial housekeeping and its efforts to promote itself as an international cricket venue. The comment from the club’s Marketing and Commercial Director, Neil Priscott that “We’ve got to do well with what we’ve got” could be a club motto.

In The Cricketer Will Brown, Chris Dent and Lisa Paget were interviewed and asked questions on their particular areas within the club.

Will Brown gave a very moving description of how the players had pulled together in times of personal tragedy and their support for the charity Rainbow@GriefEncounter. Will also refers to the hope that GCCC is allowing players to develop sufficiently for them to be recognised by England, the outstanding training facilities at Nevil Road, Bristol’s prominent role in women’s cricket and the importance of retaining the Cheltenham Cricket Festival.

Chris Dent gave an insight into how the close knit culture within the squad has helped individuals through difficult times and contributed to the team’s performances. Chris described the signing of Ryan Higgins as “one of the best county moves in recent times, and he just seems to put in performance after performance”.

Lisa Paget described how women and girls’ cricket had grown in Gloucestershire. A significant area was in club cricket where 43 clubs were offering some form of female cricket. Women’s softball festivals were also a big success with 35 teams playing in 12 festivals.

The Cricketer added a ‘Stats’ column in which it was noted that GCCC still had exactly zero County Championship wins although we were the ‘Champion County’ four times under WG Grace. Other notable ‘stats’ were:

- 14 Times WG scored a century and took a five-for in the same match
- 36 Double centuries scored by Wally Hammond – 24 for Gloucestershire
- 869 First-class wickets taken by Courtney Walsh for Gloucestershire
- 16 Wins from 18 knockout matches at Bristol between 1999 and 2002.



Exiles Day at Cheltenham



Match Action from Cheltenham



Miles Hammond v. Leicestershire



Benny Howell hooks for four runs



James Bracey at full stretch to pluck a catch



Gareth Roderick drives elegantly against Worcestershire



Howzat! Ethan Bamber picks up a key Worcestershire wicket

Memories of the Cheltenham Festival

Chris Bell and Mike Dunn recall their experiences of the Cheltenham festival

Chris writes:

A handsomely illustrated bulletin from the MCC details how the existing Compton and Edrich stands at Lord's are to be redesigned and rebuilt. As with the Grace Gate, it is entirely right that past heroes' names should be so honoured. Compton and Edrich, of course, were the great Middlesex post-war heroes and Lord's their home ground. Even so, I was taken aback some years ago when a friend said casually that his dogs also bore their names. "Well," he said as I protested, "Yours could be called Hammond and Barnett."

After thinking about it briefly, I explained that my own county's heroes, first seen by me when the Cheltenham Festival returned after the war, did not need canine memorial. After all, I had stood in the rain outside the College ground on that first cancelled day, clutching sandwiches in a rain-soaked bag and returning the next day to see not only Hammond and Barnett but also Tom Goddard, the Nawab of Pataudi and Armanath as well. Too young to have accompanied my mother and brothers to pre-war Cricket Week, as we called it then, now with my blue and white Scholar's Ticket, I made up for that absence during the next few years, replacing it, when old enough, with Life Membership. But it was using my already crumpled ticket in 1947 that I watched the deciding championship match clash against Middlesex with the largest crowd ever seen at the ground and, yes, Cliff Monk's boundary catch boundary catch to dismiss the visitors' captain, R.W.V. Robins. For all who were lucky enough to see it, an amazing catch – almost as contorted and athletic as Stokes' catch on TV at the World Cup. No cameras, of course at Cheltenham. I also remember Robins turning as he trudged towards the pavilion, pointing his bat towards the somewhat dazed fielder and clapping. For me, as a schoolboy, that seemed something of the real spirit of cricket.

As time went by, I managed to get to Cheltenham most years. There to see the marvellous bowling of Ramadhin and Valentine and appreciate the almost benevolent care shown by the splendid Clyde Walcott as he faced the spin of the raw, 17-year old John Mortimore. Then, earlier, I admired the bowling of Goddard and Cook and visiting spinners as well. Until coverage rules were changed, the College ground was always a home for successful spin, visitors or the home side. Batting too of course, as Zaheer Abbas, Sadiq Mohammed, Tom Graveney and so many others showed over the years.

Cricket Week has had many changes of course, understandably so, whether the advance of first forty then fifty over matches, high volume music on the speakers, etc. and etc. I rather miss Gloucestershire team mates carrying a blanket around the ground for thrown donations for a colleague's benefit and, too, watching the players stroll back from lunch in a tent on the downhill side of the ground, nearly all of them smoking. Oh, and the Bedser twins (which was Alec, which was Eric?) walking side by side, each with one flap of shirt collar turned down. Then, so much to enjoy and remember. The bowling of Procter and Walsh and, always, the distinctive characters who always seem to thrive at Cheltenham. Wicket-keepers Andy Wilson and Jack Russell, Bomber Wells and, way back, the fielding of Billy Neale who always somehow, even from the boundary, threw in underarm.

Plenty of memories, yes indeed. But an increasing lack of mobility that creeps in with age means, sadly, no more visits to the College ground or, indeed to the Exiles' marquee. Oh, and about those dogs? Well, were I to have a couple again, no cricketers' names of course but instead, Ave and Vale. Exiles who had to learn a little Latin years ago will recognise Ave atque Vale in translation as Hail and Farewell. Which is how, with affection, I now think of the College ground in Cheltenham.

Mike remembers:

Clive Major's article "The Cheltenham Cricket Festival in the 50's" in the Spring edition of Outside Edge must have sent many delving into their own recollections.

Like many youngsters my introduction to the Festival was in the company of older relatives. In my case it

was my grand-father, who regaled me with stories of the Gloucestershire greats that he had seen Barnett, Dipper, Hammond and Parker and who was a true cricket enthusiast. We were often accompanied by my mother who was not but I suspect tagged along to ensure that no harm came to me while my grand-father was engrossed in the day's play and I was wandering around the ground.

For many youngsters the joy of a visit to the Festival was the chance to see great cricketers in the flesh and of course to get as many autographs as possible. My first set of recollections are, therefore, related to autographs. Not only was my mother not a cricket fan but she also thought that autograph hunting was a pointless pursuit but I did manage to change her mind on that.

My first visit was in 1954 when one of the games was against the touring Pakistan team. Hanif was the big draw and his autograph was the first one I got of a major international player but unfortunately it is long since lost. I can still visualise it though. It was very simple, just a long stroke with a small circle at the top. Like many autographs it was unrecognisable as a name but we always knew whose signatures they were.

The following year the biggest attraction was Hugh "Toey" Tayfield. I don't think that he was playing but I came across him assisting with the benefit sheet (which I recall as a blanket). I can't remember if I had put a coin in but I managed to persuade him that I had because that was the price he was extracting for his autograph. This was the year when as I said earlier I changed my mother's mind about autographs. At lunchtime the queues for Milton, Graveney, Emmett,McHugh and others were very long when I spotted a solitary Peter West who was also lunching in the player's tent. We had purchased a TV set to enjoy the Coronation in 1953 and Peter West was just becoming a TV star. I think that my mother had a bit of a crush on him so she was overjoyed when I got his autograph for her.

One year I was approached by a journalist from the Citizen who had seen me with my autograph book and asked me if I would be willing to have my photograph taken with Tom Graveney. Is the Pope a catholic? Subsequent events rather soured my opinion of journalists for many years to come. We waited and waited and waited for Tom to make his appearance. In retrospect I often wonder if he lined me up first and then used me as bait to persuade Tom to participate. Eventually Tom appeared and the shot was being lined up when a great gaggle of unruly youths barged me out of the way, and when the photo appeared in the Citizen, far from it being a photo of Tom Graveney and me, you can just see my crew-cut head in the background. Disillusioned was the mildest word for my feelings.

I also remember the smell of the tent where scorecards were printed throughout the day, hot metal and printer's ink I imagine. I can also still visualise one of the seller's who walked with a slight limp and a satchel over his shoulders in which he kept his unsold scorecards and loose change. His cry was, "Scawcaa, Scawcaa, git yo latest scawcaa." They were however always out of date because each reprint took long enough for the information so that a few wickets had fallen or more runs scored.

My final memory is not a pleasant one. Sometimes in recent years I have heard people complaining about the state of the toilets on the ground. I always smile to myself and think that they should have been there in the 50's when the toilets were a hole in the ground which was fed by a V-shaped trough on trestle legs of gradually reducing height. It was probably alright if you were a tall man but a different matter if you were a 10 year old schoolboy who had to stand at the shallow end. I always seemed to go at the same time as a group of ruddy faced Cotswold farm workers or grey faced Forest miners, both groups of which had a prodigious thirst for beer. The beer tent was a good second reason for attending akin to the young boy's autographs. Even 65 years later I cannot shake that experience from my memory.

One interesting fact of life is that I can still recall teams of the mid-50's, sometimes in correct "Scawcaa" order, whereas I sometimes struggle to remember who was in the team last week. Perhaps memories are very selective but very rewarding none the less."

Roger Gibbons's Mystery Ball

I think that I may have said before that all sorts of items and requests for information come my way in relation both to people and items that may have connections with Gloucestershire cricket. Indeed, I am currently in contact with the Te Manawa Museum in Palmerston North, New Zealand about a bat that they've been given that belonged to one, Donald Howman who reputedly played one game for Gloucestershire sometime in the 1920s or 1930s. The fact is that he didn't, although there was a John Howman who played in thirteen games in 1922 and 1923. I'm now interested to find whether or not they were related, as both their families came from Stow-on-the-Wold and both were in the building trade, Donald's history shows him as being a club cricketer with Bourton Vale and Cheltenham with occasional appearances for the Gloucestershire Gipsies and a couple of appearances in Minor Counties cricket for Suffolk when he was practicing there as a solicitor in the 1930s.

All fascinating stuff but not what this article is really about.

A cricket ball from the 1930s, the ownership of which can be traced back to the Landlord at the time of the Prince of Wales Hotel at Berkeley Road on the A38 between Gloucester and Bristol has recently come to our attention. Gloucestershire players would often stop off at the Hotel on their way back to Bristol after games at Cheltenham and Gloucester and also travelling back from away games further north – no M5 on which to get held up in traffic in those days!

The ball contains twelve signatures:

B O Allen 1932-51	C J Barnett 1924-48	L M Cranfield 1934-51	J F Crapp 1936-56
TWJ Goddard 1922-52	W R Hammond 1920-51	R W Haynes 1930-39	V J Hopkins 1934-38
W L Neale 1923-48	D A C Page 1933-36	R J Sinfield 1924-39	E J Stephens 1927-41

Of the twelve, Crapp was the last to make his County debut in 1936 which was also the year that Page played his final game before being killed in a road accident after the last game of the season. It would, therefore, seem reasonable to assume that the ball dates from 1936. Of the other ten, Basil Allen is the key. Business commitments restricted his appearances and in 1936 he played just six times. The first three games in May were two at Bristol and one at Taunton and all had Cliff Monks in the side and no Monty Cranfield. Also the Prince of Wales wouldn't have been "on the way home". The final three, one in July at Worcester and two in August, home to Sussex at Cheltenham College and home to Notts at Gloucester in the final game of the season certainly have the look of a stop off at the Prince of Wales for those travelling back to Bristol. We can rule out the game at Worcester – Barnett and Hammond were not in the side but were at Lord's in the Gentlemen versus Players match and we can rule out the Sussex game at Cheltenham College as the two of them were again absent helping England defeat India by 9 wickets at the Oval. That brings us to the game at Gloucester Wagon Works ground against Notts and the final game of the season where the team consisted of eleven of the signatories on the ball. The missing man was Reg Sinfield. Gloucestershire's previous game had been against Essex at Clacton and Sinfield had been injured, breaking a bone in his left thumb and Allen had been brought into the side to play in this final game, incidentally Tom Goddard's Benefit game in his home city, where Hammond's score of 317 would turn out to be his highest for Gloucestershire and the game after which, returning home to Cirencester, Dallas Page was involved in a car crash which took his life. Bring together the various facts associated with this game. Is it possible that Sinfield, although not playing, would have been there to witness the presentation of a silver cigarette case to Goddard by the players? Is it possible that the players would have autographed items including balls for Goddard to use as thank-yous to people who had supported his benefit? Is it possible that those players returning to Bristol after the game might have taken a ball to give to the Landlord at the Prince of Wales as a thank-you for his hospitality during the summer? Remember, too, that Billy Neale's family farmed in the Vale of Berkeley so the Prince of Wales would have been one of his locals.

All, I think, eminently possible and if factual, a quite poignant piece of memorabilia with the Page connection but, over eighty years later totally impossible to prove.

Incidentally, Tom Goddard's benefit raised £2,097 – approximately £173,000 today

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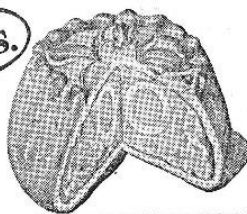
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GLoucestershire v NOTTS

On the Wagon Works Ground (by kind permission)—Aug. 29th, 31st, Sept. 1st, 1936

NOTTS

		First Innings		Second Innings	
1	Keeton	b Stephens	35	b W. B. B.	20
2	Harris	b Hammond	6	b W. B. B.	20
3	Walker	c Barnett, b Goddard	6	b W. B. B.	20
4	Hartstaff	c Hopkins, b Stephens	46	b W. B. B.	20
5	Gunn	b Goddard	5	b W. B. B.	20
6	Staples	c Goddard, b Cranfield	58	b W. B. B.	20
7	G. F. Heane	c Page, b Cranfield	11	b W. B. B.	20
8	Voce	b Cranfield	25	b W. B. B.	20
9	Woodhead	not out	6	b W. B. B.	20
10	Wheat	c Stephens, b Goddard	1	b W. B. B.	20
11	Butler	lbw, b Goddard	0	b W. B. B.	20
		b- lb- nb- w-	1	b- lb- nb- w-	1
		Total	200	Total	275

FALL OF THE WICKETS
1-29 2-43 3-49 4-66 5-152 6-163 7-182 8-193 9-196 10-200
1-25 2-43 3-43 4-64 5-135 6-154 7-166 8-167 9-210 10-215

ANALYSIS of the BOWLING - First Innings

Bowler	First Innings					Second Innings						
	Overs	Mds	Runs	Wkts	Nbs	Wds	Overs	Mds	Runs	Wkts	Nbs	Wds
Hammond	7	3	21	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barnett	13	3	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goddard	28.1	9	49	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stephens	11	...	27	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cranfield	23	6	51	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notts won the toss *Captain (Wicket-keeper) (n) Signifies lbw under new rule

GLoucestershire

		First Innings		Second Innings	
1	Barnett	b Voce	2	b W. B. B.	20
2	Haynes	c Staples, b Voce	18	b W. B. B.	20
3	B. O. Allen	c Staples, b Butler	18	b W. B. B.	20
4	Hammond	b Woodhead	317	b W. B. B.	20
5	Neale	c Heane, b Butler	66	b W. B. B.	20
7	Crapp	c Woodhead, b Gunn	22	b W. B. B.	20
8	D. A. C. Page	lbw, b Heane	8	b W. B. B.	20
9	Stephens	b Voce	0	b W. B. B.	20
9	Goddard	b Henne	1	b W. B. B.	20
10	Hopkins	not out	25	b W. B. B.	20
11	Cranfield	c Wheat, b Staples	0	b W. B. B.	20
		b- lb- nb- w-	8	b- lb- nb- w-	1
		Total	485	Total	485

FALL OF THE WICKETS
1-2 2-23 3-75 4-239 5-322 6-345 7-316 8-351 9-484 10-485
1- 2- 3- 4- 5- 6- 7- 8- 9- 10-

ANALYSIS of the BOWLING - First Innings

Bowler	First Innings					Second Innings						
	Overs	Mds	Runs	Wkts	Nbs	Wds	Overs	Mds	Runs	Wkts	Nbs	Wds
Voce	31	2	117	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Butler	31	5	79	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woodhead	24	3	86	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Staples	17.4	2	69	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gunn	19	3	53	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heane	28	5	73	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Scorers: B. B. and W. J. Carlin Umpires—Basswell and Brown
Result: GLoucestershire won by 54 runs (innings and 70 runs)

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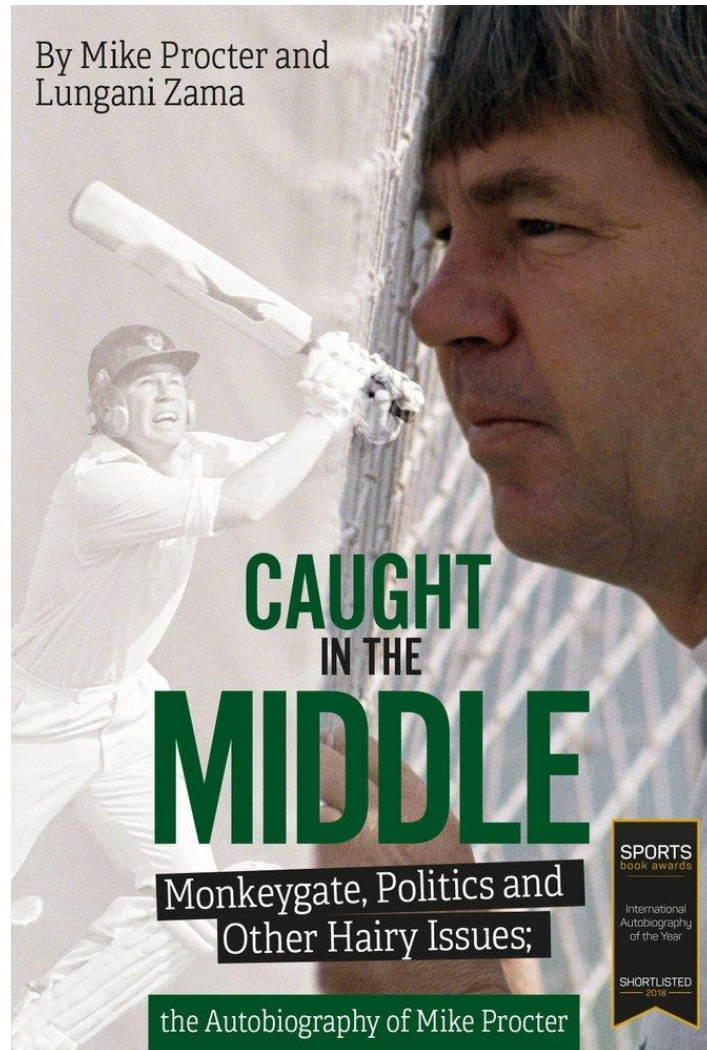
It is Always Nice to Be Appreciated

The Exiles may only be a small organisation but we do all strive to support the County in so many ways wherever we are. Often it is unseen, so it was a particular delight to receive these words from Dave McLaughlan, the County's Executive Board Member with responsibility for overseeing fundraising, requesting that they be read out at this year's AGM.

"As Executive Board member responsible for Fundraising I would like you to pass on my grateful thanks for all the hard work that the Exiles put in not just in organising events but also to act as a 'home away from home' for cricket lovers outside the County, as well as us that live inside Gloucestershire. You provide a really valuable service for the Club and the game in general and long may it continue. 2019 is a massive year for GCCC with the Cricket World Cup – and our Bristol ground will be shown all around the world! Cheltenham will also be the focus of three Under-19 games and knowing how passionate Indian and Bangladeshi supporters are, I'm sure this will help to sell the festival to a wider audience. 2020 is the 150th anniversary of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club – a time for real celebration and one of the first events will no doubt be your Dinner at our other out-ground – Lords!!"

Wherever you are, whatever you do to support the County, do carry on doing so. As you can see, it is greatly appreciated. And Dave was correct – as you will see elsewhere in this edition we will be back at Lord's for a celebratory dinner in February!

Howard Allen's Book Review 1:



Occasionally I come across a cricket book that at once sets my blood racing through its stirring account of the feats of one of the true greats of the noble game. Or the book wins my admiration because it widens my social horizons through its compelling moral arguments.

In Mike Procter's autobiography I found both of these aspects addressed with erudition and passion. Thus this book was rare treat to a life-long reader of the best in cricket literature.

Mike Procter's autobiography, written in association with an international cricket correspondent, Lungani Zama, has an immediate appeal. The writing is crisp and full of fascinating anecdote and reflection on the remarkable career of a wonderful cricketer with South Africa, Natal, Western Province, Rhodesia and Gloucestershire; the Rest of World, the World Series Cricket and as the captain of the South African XI in the first years of the rebel tours.

Mike was also a coach or director of cricket at international, provincial and county levels; an international match referee; a commentator for four networks worldwide and Chairman of the South African selection panel.

The achievements of Mike Procter as a player are legion. He was a match winner and one of the very few all-round cricketers who can be mentioned justifiably in the same breath as Sobers. The memories of his feats with bat or ball are related with typical 'Proccie' modesty but are none the less enthralling to recall.

Apart from his cricketing skills the book reveals a man of infinite moral fibre and social conscience. I relished reading of Mike's stand against apartheid with his walk-off at Newlands in 1971 when the apartheid government refused to endorse a multi-racial touring party.

Likewise his stand against racism shone through in his period as an international referee. Not least this has been fully covered in the chapter on the so-called 'Monkeygate' crisis when an Indian player was alleged to have taunted an Australian batsman. I was moved as I read of Mike's moral stance on this occasion.

Mike has always been a most welcome guest at the annual Exiles Lunch at Cheltenham. As he writes in Chapter 8 – entitled - 'The Time of my life' - "My life changed forever when Gloucestershire became part of my cricketing CV," and he ends this chapter thus, "and the club remains very close to my heart."

All Exiles will enjoy his recollections herein of his magnificent match winning performances for his adoptive county.

But it was through his visit in 2016 that Mike made to the Exiles' Lunch that Exiles were made aware of his impressive social work in South Africa.

He writes:

"My friend Rodney Malamba, a fine cricketer in his day, and I wanted to introduce the game to a school that didn't have sport as an outlet, and he suggested Ottawa Primary School. It is situated near a township, and a lot of the kids are affected by the ramifications of HIV/Aids. School, for them, is a way out of these circumstances, even if only for a few hours a day. Some of them only get their meal of the day at school.

His work has extended beyond coaching boys and girls in basic cricket skills. His foundation has taken responsibility for feeding over 1000 children daily when the government fails to supply food."

I found these concluding pages of Mike's book appealed especially to my own conscience and stirred memories of my years in education with a responsibility for ensuring the welfare of children from a wide social background.

I commend without reservation Mike's autobiography to all Exiles and a wider audience. It is the remarkable story of the life of a man of immense stature whose cricketing prowess and social vision has brought such pleasure to so many cricket lovers and now via his foundation much sustenance and opportunities to so many deserving young people.

Postscript

Sarah Blowen writes:

Mike's Foundation in the UK was established to directly support the work in South Africa as a result of his meeting with Gloucestershire Exiles at Cheltenham in 2016. He was so humbled by the interest taken in his project and the desire to support it that he approached a number of Exiles to see if it might be worth setting up a charity in the UK to best channel this. So the Mike Procter Foundation UK was born and includes several Exiles as Trustees, including myself as current chair.

To purchase copies of the book with all proceeds of sales going directly to the Foundation, or to find out more and support Mike's work in the school in other ways, please go to:

<https://mikeprocterfoundation.org/> for information

An Evening with Mike Procter and Peter Hain

In 1970, Mike Procter was Wisden Cricketer of the Year, poised to become one of the greatest all-rounders of all time. Peter Hain was in exile in London, spearheading the fight against apartheid as young Chairman of the Stop the Seventies Tour campaign which disrupted tours by the South African rugby union and cricket teams. Fifty years on from the International sporting ban, they came together in a unique event to reflect upon their roles in this pivotal moment in South African history. Exile Martin Haigh (below) reports.



In July this year, I was privileged to be able to attend a special event – and special it was: a conversation between Mike Procter and Lord Peter Hain at the South African High Commission at Trafalgar Square. The purpose of the evening was to raise funds for Mike Procter’s Foundation, helping disadvantaged children play cricket in South Africa.

One never forgets one’s boyhood heroes. And Mike Procter was certainly that for me, as a result of my father taking me along to very many games at the County Ground.

After a welcome from the South African High Commissioner, proceedings began with the excellent Chairman, Sir Nick Stadlen QC, telling us how the evening came about. Mike Procter met Peter Hain for the first time when launching his autobiography in the very High Commission building a year before. Sir Nick reported that Mike said, “You’re the man who stopped my Test career”, as he was introduced to Peter Hain. “But I salute you because what is one man’s career in the face of the end of apartheid.”

In 1970 Peter Hain headed the Stop the Tour campaign, which helped stop South Africa’s tour of England and which Nelson Mandela later said had been the decisive blow to apartheid. At the time, Mike Procter had just begun his Test career. He had played in seven matches across two series against Australia. The two men never met at that time, but in his opening remarks, Mike said that he and his teammates saw Peter Hain as “enemy number one”. As a young man, his focus was exclusively on being able to play his cricket. Now as an older man looking back, he reflects that his loss was nothing compared to the loss that the black and coloured people of South Africa endured.

Peter Hain grew up in Pretoria, the son of two anti-apartheid activists. He told the surreal story of both of his parents receiving banning orders. A feature of banning orders was that one could not speak to another person with a banning order. The courts did realise that his mother and father not speaking to each other could be problematic (or unenforceable), so a special exemption had to be made to both of their banning orders. The government’s stifling of his father’s work as an architect led to their fleeing to London, from where Peter took up the cause.

Mike said that as a boy he had just wanted to play sport, even to the extent that his schooling suffered. Politics and apartheid were distant, but in 1963, when he came to London as part of a South African school team, he was struck to see white people doing manual work. In 1966, he returned with another tour. He and his friends were keen to see England play the West Indies at the Oval. With not enough money to buy a ticket, they somehow managed to talk their way in to watch the game in return for cleaning the West Indies' dressing room and players' kit. He said that, at the time, they didn't even think of the contrast with South Africa...

Mike was friendly with Basil D'Oliviera and asked Peter Hain if he thought that MCC had colluded with the South African cricket authorities to leave him out of the England team. Peter said that they always believed so at the time, and some years later a journalist claimed to have a direct witness confirming this.

Mike spoke of his leading "The Walk Off" in the run-up to the (planned) 1971-72 South African tour of Australia. The team had applied to include two non-whites. The government had refused. "Cricketers felt more and more deeply about this", Mike said, so he and several players decided to protest. They said that they had intended to walk off and not play, but a wise old head said that it would be more effective, and retain the fans' support, if they bowled a ball, walked off, held a press conference, then returned to play the game. And so that is what they did. Mike said, "We knew the tour was not going to happen, but we wanted to see a level playing field." Peter commended Mike on this, but added that none of this would have happened if Stop the Tour campaign in England had not taken place. Mike spoke honestly about what they felt that they could do as players, starting somewhere. He said how cricket alone among sports in South Africa was pursuing multi-racial cricket which was driven by the players. Peter challenged this, saying, "You cannot have normal sport in an abnormal country". Spectators were still segregated, and black players still needed endorsement on their passes to be able to travel. It wasn't real multi-racial cricket.

Mike received a death threat as Gloucestershire captain from the Angry Brigade, an anarchist anti-apartheid group. They said that they had intended to kill him on the field of play. He spoke of how he noticed players dragging their heels as he led them out to play. "I was not popular" he said wistfully.

In the Q&A, some of the legacy of this time still sounded raw. One white South African speaker said that he had grown up in this period, a beneficiary of privilege at the time, and said that now he was troubled by some of Mike's usage of terms such as "non-whites", "servants". Mike said that he had been concerned about that coming into the evening, but that he was just speaking as he had seen things from his experience at the time and using such terms to emphasise the difference today. My own impression was that both speakers were refreshing and honest, with challenge, respect and support. Mike obviously derives much joy now working with the young black students, most from deprived backgrounds, at Ottawa School in Durban. Given Mike's obvious humility, little do they know, I suspect, that they are learning from one of the greatest all-rounders in the history of the game.

The evening focused on sport and politics in South Africa. There was almost no mention of Mike's playing career for Gloucestershire, and so I went up to him afterwards to thank him for all that he did for us as Gloucestershire fans. I said that we were the accidental beneficiaries of this tragic period. Such a commitment from a world-class player to a county would not be possible today. Mike spoke fondly of the team's victories at Lord's in the 1973 and 1977 finals, and also of how near they came to winning the County Championship in 1977.

Those of you who have BT Sport may wish to catch up on a programme broadcast in November which featured Mike and excerpts from this event, on the 50th anniversary of the sporting ban on South Africa.

'Taylor Time' makes Sussex suffer!

Simon Ireland enjoys a grand day out at Eastbourne

For the second time in three years, as luck would have it, Sussex entertained my beloved Shire at the picturesque Saffrons ground in Eastbourne in the 50-over competition and I was again able to walk down on a sunny Sunday morning to join a capacity crowd at this well organised event.

Things were to go rapidly downhill for the hosts, however, as Gloucs. decided to bat on winning the toss and messrs. Dent and Hammond were soon peppering the boundary ropes with a succession of fierce pulls and drives. A score of 100-0 after 19 overs was the perfect platform and Miles Hammond, in particular, was severe on anything remotely off target. After Chris Dent's departure, James Bracey helped Hammond to add another 50 before the latter perished trying to reach his century with a six. At 161-2 off 30 overs Gloucs. looked set for 350+ but despite a solid half century from Gareth Roderick the innings stalled somewhat as Benny Howell, in particular, found it hard to pierce the field. Only forty runs were added in the next ten overs but as the saying goes, 'cometh the hour, cometh the man' and Jack Taylor ensured that a remarkable 135 runs were scored in the final ten overs. Eight sixes were bludgeoned in his 69 from 26 balls, one clearing not only the ropes and the crowd but almost reaching the adjacent Town Hall.



Jack Taylor: 250 runs at 50.60 in the RL competition

Incredibly, considering the carnage, Danny Briggs bowled two maiden overs for Sussex but 335-6 was a daunting total and by now the sunny skies were a steely grey and the temperature had dropped markedly. The local supporters' mood had also changed to one of weary resignation in conditions that the county's new chief executive, Rob Andrew, would no doubt have deemed more suitable for rugby and when Luke Wright departed in the eighth over the writing seemed already on the wall. The Shire's bowlers and fielders showed admirable discipline to restrict Sussex to 90-4 from 22 overs and with the required rate rising sharply, only David Wiese threatened to spoil the Gloucester party. However, eight of the quickest (or should that be shortest?) van Buuren overs imaginable helped to build the pressure still further and so it was that the hosts declined from 155-4 in the 33rd over to 219 all out in the 43rd leaving their visitors to win by a very satisfying 116 runs. The wickets were shared around with Benny Howell's well disguised all-sorts proving particularly taxing for the Sussex tail.

I must admit to feeling a smidgen of sympathy for Sussex who have now lost all three 50-over fixtures at this resurrected venue - but only a smidgen as this was one of the most convincing all round performances I can remember from the Shire and I was a proud Exile indeed as I made my way home.

World Cup 2019 Memories of Gareth Fielding

Having organised my tickets for the World Cup months before in mid May I was eagerly waiting for the tournament to begin when I heard from a colleague that there were some (what seemed to be hastily organised, and barely advertised) warm up matches at very affordable prices. A quick check revealed the West Indies were taking on New Zealand at the County Ground during the school half term break. It was a perfect opportunity to take my cricket-mad 9 year old to his first ODI and see some famous faces in our own backyard.

So, on May 28th, we arrived at Bristol with about 20 minutes to spare, plenty of parking nearby, and no queues at the turnstiles. We were able to watch the Windies warm up from close quarters. They are huge. I'd estimate at least five of them are 6'6" feet tall and not at all skinny. Very impressive!

It was a two jumper day which probably didn't help the attendance and as Chris Gayle came out to open the batting the ground seemed about 10% full. There was a steady flow of new arrivals during the day but I don't think it ever was more than a quarter full sadly.

As play started we retreated to what I thought would be a fairly safe place, deep and square and probably over 100 metres from the bat. Gayle wasn't too bothered about health and safety though and peppered us with sixes. If you are nine it's very exciting indeed to see the ball repeatedly landing all around you and cannoning about off the empty seats at the back of the stand. A bit stressful for me. What would his Mother say if he took one on the head! Gayle made 36 off 22 balls and as I remember, all in boundaries. We thought it might calm down a bit after that but Hope, Lewis, Russell and others kept the score - and the stream of sixes - ticking over fast. For periods it seemed like a T20 game despite the NZ bowlers, and especially Boult who took 4 wickets, and Ferguson both looking as fast and as dangerous as anyone I can remember playing at the Gloucestershire ground in recent years. The only bowler I knew was Southee who wasn't playing and wandered around the boundary signing autographs. He seemed quite happy to be avoiding the six-fest going on out in the middle. He actually caught one of those sixes as he was walking around.

At lunch, Windies had scored a spectacular 421. We shared a great burger and sausage roll. I tried to explain that it wasn't always like this. In response, NZ opened with Guptill, who I remembered as a top batter from the last World Cup, and despite our optimism, was out early on although in a pattern that repeated itself throughout the tournament, Kane Williamson held it together and scored a very sensible 85. Blundell made a century to keep the final score respectable at 330 but in truth NZ were never going to catch the Windies remarkable score.

It's difficult to pick highlights. Basically it was all highlights. 750 runs, two centuries, 20 wickets and home in time for dinner. Just a fantastic day.

As a footnote, I was so impressed with both teams that I had a little bet on each of them to finish runners up - at quite juicy odds. I'd already bet on England to win of course. Almost two months later the NZ part of that bet proved to be a really nice delayed bonus to a great day of "friendly" cricket.

The Hundred – Who wants it?

Simon Ireland reveals an interesting response to the controversial new format

On October 8th I attended an enjoyable evening with 'Aggers & Boycott' at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne. Agnew revealed that he had been in Guildford the evening before with Phil Tufnell where they had asked the audience of cricket lovers who intended to go to any of the Hundred games next season. Not one hand went up! The response in Eastbourne was exactly the same.

Calling prospective Committee Members!

- Do you love Gloucestershire cricket?
- Fancy getting a bit more involved in the Exiles?
- Can you find your way to a pub in Ealing about three times a year?

Then we'd love you to join us!

Your Exiles' Committee is on the lookout for new members. We have enjoyable meetings where we plan our events, publications and discuss news from the club: as the *de facto* representatives of all GCCC members outside the county boundaries, Bristol looks to us to inform policy as well as raise vital funds for the Academy and Emerging Players programme. Why not come along to one of our meetings and join us for the evening to see if this is for you?

Please contact Sarah Blowen or Mark Brunt to discuss further – contact details at the back of this issue

GCCC Exiles Player of the Year 2019

Enclosed in this edition is the form for our Player of the Year.

There are a number of candidates including Ryan Higgins, David Payne and Chris Dent whose achievements are mentioned in this issue.

It is worth doing some research into our players' performances in the different completion formats.

Please send your entries **ALONG WITH COMMENTS** to me at the address on the slip.

Many thanks for your continued support for this unique award!

Jon Paine

Who are they?

Tony Hickey often manages to spot some famous faces in the Cheltenham crowd but who are these former pacemen? Answers are at the bottom of page 27.





David Payne 2009-19: 11 seasons, 243 matches, 472 wickets taken, 1,848 runs scored