

# COLOURED TROUSERS No 38



## NCCA CLUBERLY COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2025 BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes



Photo: Annie Chave

**What is there not to love about this photo of a NCCA ground in mid summer?**

Welcome to the 38<sup>th</sup> edition of Coloured Trousers, the bi monthly (ish) Bucks CCC newsletter. On the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, we said farewell to the first quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the following day we greeted the first day of the second quarter.

What will the next 25 years bring to the game we all love, probably quite a few changes if the last quarter was anything to go by. Opportunities are opening up and National Counties cricket (both and Men's and Women's) is ideally placed to take advantage, and fill the potential vacant slots in the County cricket watchers calendar.

However, hopefully we can now put the dark, damp and cold winter weather behind us as we look forward eagerly to the start of the season with both Men and Women commencing friendly/warm up matches in early/mid April. We ended last season on a high, winning the County Championship.

Fresh challenges await our young squad but I'm sure that the experience of new Captain Conner Haddow and new professional Matt Pardoe will be more than up to the task. Similarly I'm sure that Bucks women will be looking to go one step further than last season and bring back a trophy.

The format of our NCCA competitions remains the same as last year, starting off as it did last year with the One Day Trophy, followed by the T20 competition and concluding with the Clubberly County Championship. We are of course the current champions of this latter competition and I'm sure we will be endeavouring to maintain our title.

## BUCKS 1<sup>st</sup> X1 FIXTURES 2026

### PRE SEASON FRIENDLIES

11 April	50 overs	v Wycombe Warriors	High Wycombe
12 April	50 overs	v Berkshire	Wormsley
19 April	50 overs	v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACD	TRING PARK

### NCCA 50 OVERS KNOCKOUT

Date	Opposition	Venue
April 26	Wales	Usk
May 3	Oxfordshire	Thame Town
May 10	DORSET	TRING PARK
May 17	CORNWALL	TRING PARK
Quarter Finals	7th June	
Semi Finals	28 <sup>th</sup> June	
Final	19 <sup>th</sup> July	Copdock & Old Ipswichian cc

### NCCA T20 COMPETITION ( 2 matches per day )

Date	Opposition	Venue
May 31	Bedfordshire	Leighton Buzzard
June 14	OXFORDSHIRE	MARLOW
June 21	Berkshire	Wokingham
July 5	WALES NC	MARLOW
Super 12's	9 August	
Finals Day	30 August	Wormsley

### NCCA COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Date	Opposition	Venue
July 12-14	STAFFORDSHIRE	CHESHAM
July 26-28	Northumberland	Jesmond TBC
Aug 2-4	SUFFOLK	CHESHAM
Aug 23-25	Cambridgeshire	Peterborough Town
Final Sept 6-9		West Bromwich Dartmouth

### NCCA SHOWCASE MATCH – 50 OVERS

Date	Opposition	Venue
July 2	MIDDLESEX	WORMSLEY

## Bucks welcome new signing Bertie Forman



The former Sussex all-rounder will join up with Bucks Men for the upcoming 2026 season.

Bertie joins Bucks Cricket with three years of professional experience at Sussex, including a loan spell at Worcestershire last season, as well as a few series under his belt for England U19s against the likes of Australia and Sri Lanka.

We spoke with our latest signing ahead of his move to Bucks and asked him what he's aiming to achieve in 2026.

Here's what he had to say:

### **Q1. How are you feeling about playing for Bucks? Excited to get going?**

**Answer:** *Really excited to be playing for Bucks. Having seen the success the team had last year, I'm looking forward to joining up with the guys and trying to continue that success in the future. It's a very talented squad of players, and I'm excited to see what we can achieve.*

### **Q2. What can you tell us about your cricket career so far?**

**Answer:** *I'm an off-spinning all-rounder who came through the Sussex pathway and was signed there for the last three years. In that time, I was also fortunate enough to play a few series for England U19s against Sri Lanka, UAE, and Australia, which was a great learning experience and really enjoyable.*

### **Q3. Looking ahead to the new season, do you have any goals in mind?**

**Answer:** *I think the main goal would be to win a white-ball competition with the guys. Having seen the success they have had in the red-ball competition over the last few years, it would be great to back that up with a white-ball competition too, to try and complete the set.*

**Head of Performance, Jason Harrison is pleased with the addition:** *"Bertie is a highly talented, genuine all-rounder who will add real quality to our hungry squad.*

*"We are over the moon he has signed – with both Matt and Bertie now wearing the Bucks Swan, we are all looking forward to a fun summer ahead*

## INTERVIEW WITH BUCKS NEW CAPTAIN - CONNER HADDOW



An earlier image of Connor receiving his County Cap from two previous Bucks captains, Jason and Tom

*Image Andy Bone (Sports Shots)*

**Firstly, how does it feel about joining the select group of only four Bucks captains who have held the role over the last 20 years or so. When you made your debut in 2019, did you ever think that one day you could be captain?**

Firstly, it's a huge honour to be asked to captain Buckinghamshire. When you look at the players who have held the role over the last 20 years, it's a pretty special group to be part of, so to be included among them is something I'm incredibly proud of. When I made my debut back in 2019, I honestly wasn't thinking about captaincy at all. At that stage I was just focused on trying to establish myself in the side and contribute wherever I could. As the years have gone on you naturally take on more responsibility within the group, and to now have the opportunity to lead the team is something I'm really excited about.

**2. How and when did you first get into playing cricket, was it family or school. And at what point did you start playing for Bucks age groups?**

I first got into cricket through a mixture of family and school. Cricket was always around me growing up and I played a lot from a young age, both at school and just in the garden. From there I joined a local club and started playing regularly, which really helped develop my love for the game. Not long after that I became involved with Buckinghamshire age-group cricket, and progressing through those age groups was a great experience. It gave me the chance to play with and against some very good players and helped prepare me for stepping up into senior county cricket later on.

**3. You play your club cricket for High Wycombe whose players comprise a real mix of National Counties players, including 2 other County captains ( Dan Lincoln at Berkshire and Harrison Ward at Oxfordshire) How do you all get on, do you ever discuss NC matches or not at all. Is there any awkwardness, particularly on a Saturday before playing Berkshire or Oxfordshire the next day?**

High Wycombe has a really strong squad with players involved across several National Counties sides, so there's a good mix of experiences within the dressing room. We all get on really well and it's actually nice having people around who understand that level of cricket. The odd conversation about National Counties matches will come up, but it's usually pretty light-hearted rather than serious analysis. There's never really any awkwardness either. When we're playing for the club everyone is focused on trying to win for High Wycombe, and once Sundays roll around and we're representing our counties again we just switch focus back to that. It's all part of the game and everyone respects that.

**4. Bucks have won the NCCA championship twice in last 3 years, and you are now captain of the current holders , in which I may add, you played a major part in the win.**

**Do you feel there is any pressure to continue our successful run, bearing in mind the relative youthfulness of our current squad. And bearing that in mind, how important was it to add the experience and knowledge of our two new members, Matt Pardoe and Bertie Forman, to the squad to aid the younger members development?**

Winning the NCCA Championship twice in the last three years has been a fantastic achievement for the club and something everyone associated with Buckinghamshire is very proud of. Naturally when you've had that level of success there's an expectation to keep competing at the top, but I see that more as motivation than pressure. We've got a relatively young squad, which brings a lot of energy and hunger to keep improving. That's why bringing in experienced players like Matt Pardoe and Bertie Forman is really valuable. Their experience and knowledge of the game can help guide the younger lads in the squad, both on and off the field, and having that balance between youth and experience is important if we want to keep pushing forward.

**5. A perennial question at the start of every season is " how can we be more successful in the one day matches (T20 and KO Trophy)" . Given our recent successes in the 3 / 4 day matches, it does seem rather strange as the majority of our squad grow up all playing the short version of the game with their clubs on a Saturday, and there are very few opportunities to play the longer version. Why do you think that is?**

It's always an interesting question about why we've been more successful in the longer format than in the white-ball competitions. A lot of our players play mainly short-format cricket for their clubs, so on the face of it you might expect that to translate directly into success in T20 and one-day matches. But National Counties white-ball cricket is very competitive and often comes down to small margins. In

the longer format we've been very disciplined and consistent over multiple days, which has suited us well. Improving in the shorter formats is definitely something we're keen to work on, and it's about continuing to adapt, making good decisions under pressure and executing our skills in key moments.

**6. Having deservedly played a number of second team matches for Northants recently, how do you feel the standard of National Counties cricket compares to that of First Class County 2<sup>nd</sup> XI's. Do you think the two could ever exist competitively in the same League ?**

Playing a number of second-team matches for Northamptonshire recently has been a really valuable experience. The standard is very high, with a lot of talented young professionals and players pushing for first-team opportunities. That said, National Counties cricket is also extremely competitive and there are plenty of players involved who are more than capable of performing at a higher level. The styles of cricket can be slightly different but the overall standard is strong in both environments. Whether the two could exist in the same competitive league is an interesting idea. In theory it could work and it would probably produce some great cricket, but there would be a lot of logistical and structural challenges to overcome. It would certainly be interesting to see how the teams matched up.

**Thanks Conner, and we wish you all the very best in your new role**

**We commence the One Day Trophy section with two away matches, the first is definitely away as we play Wales NC at Usk CC. Hopefully the weather will be the same as in the photo of the Usk ground below.**



The second match does not involve nearly as much travel, - the opposition being Oxfordshire with the match being played at Thame Town CC , just over the county border. Ariel shot of the ground below.



The following two weeks we will be back on home territory- Tring Park being the venue for both of our remaining group matches. The first on 10<sup>th</sup> May will be against Dorset , who are currently the holders of the One Day Trophy, whilst a week later Cornwall will be the visitors.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO JASON HARRISON

**Bucks Head of Performance Jason Harrison has recently completed his ECB Level 4 Coaching Qualification – a fantastic achievement as this is the highest level of coaching accreditation in English cricket.**



photo Charlie Carter

### Jason - deep in uffish thought

**ECB Coaching Courses.** Designed to build a comprehensive pathway for coaches at all levels of cricket, ranging from entry-level qualifications to advanced certifications for high-performance coaches working with elite athletes. There are 4 Different Levels , each designed to meet the needs of coaches at different stages of their development.:

**ECB Level 1 Coaching Qualification:**The Level 1 course is aimed at beginner coaches /individuals who are new to cricket coaching. Duration: 1-2 days)

**ECB Level 2 Coaching Qualification:**The Level 2 course is for those who have completed Level 1 or have some prior coaching experience. Duration: Typically a few weeks, combining practical workshops and assessments

**ECB Level 3 Coaching Qualification:** For experienced coaches who want to coach more advanced players. wanting to work at the county or district level. Duration: Several weeks or months, with practical assessments and continuous development:

**ECB Level 4 Coaching Qualification.**Designed for elite-level coaches working with professional or national teams. The highest qualification available in ECB coaching pathway. Duration: Extensive, typically year or more

1 Jason, at what age did you first get interested in cricket, and who was the first club you played for. **I got interested in cricket at around 10 years of age , playing in the local car park with my mates, learning the basic skills of the game , my primary school head teacher Neil Thorne played at Frieth CC - he invited me to join the club in 1984 , aged 12.**

2. When did you first play for Bucks, at what age, and when did you make your debut for Bucks CCC 1stX1

**I first got selected to play for Bucks u15s in 1987. I was the only Secondary School member ( Great Marlow) all the other players were from the Grammar Schools within the county. I made my First team debut v Dorset in 1991 under Neil Hames captaincy.**

3. You enjoyed a lengthy playing career from 1991 to 2014. After playing for Bucks for a year, you went on to represent Middlesex on 15 occasions, between 1992-97 before returning to Bucks , In 1999 you joined Lincolnshire as their professional for 4 years . playing a total of 42, matches.This included winning the Minor Counties Championship in 2001, as well as scoring a century in the Final. What were the reasons behind this move ..... and what brought about the move back to Bucks in 2004. **After 6 years at Middlesex, I felt unfulfilled - finding it very difficult to break into our powerful batting line-up. The opportunity to test myself at that stage of my career was too good an opportunity to turn down. Returning to my home County in 2004 was a natural move - it completed the circle from a playing perspective.**

4. Did your role as a pro in Lincolnshire involve any coaching or did that come later after the move back to Bucks.

**The role for Lincolnshire was a playing role; I have very fond memories of the 4 years I was at the club - I coached in the 2<sup>nd</sup> team occasionally , which was my first taste of coaching at County level .**

5..When did you first think about getting into coaching seriously and what were the reasons behind that thinking?

**I first got seriously into coaching at Club level, having the roles of Captain/Coach at both High Wycombe & Oxford Cricket Clubs . I loved my time at the two clubs , cutting my teeth in all aspects of management and coaching.**

6.Did you receive any specialised coaching in your early playing days – were there any coaches who particularly impressed you. and made you think that you would like to do that.

**My start in the game was unusual. I was self-taught up to my later teens - experimenting and learning what worked and what didn't in my starting years with no formal coaching . Once I got to 16 , Stephen Goldthorpe was a big influence as my levels improved. When I turned pro, the Middlesex coaching duo of the legendary Don Bennett and Ian Gould taught me a lot of the standards and beliefs I have carried on to this day .**

7. Broadly, what was the length of time between taking your first steps at Level One and reaching the pinnacle at level 4. Was that always your aim , to reach the top level.

**I took the level 1 coaching badge in 1991 as a 19-year-old - so it's taken 35 long years to get to level 4 !!**

**Even though I am immensely proud of achieving the accreditation - It was not front and centre of my thinking - an opportunity came up to apply which I took , fortunately, I got through the interview process and got on the course 2.5 years ago . I must thank both Richard Hudson and Paul Shaw for their support and backing**

## From the Herefordshire Cricket website.....

By Richard Prime MD of Herefordshire Cricket Ltd 1Dec 2025

The following article was taken from the Herefordshire website and clearly shows the high regard in which Matt was held.

HEREFORDSHIRE Cricket has suffered a serious blow with the news that first-team captain Matt Pardoe has, understandably, decided to play his club and National Counties cricket in 2026 nearer to his base in the Home Counties.

The former Worcestershire man has been a massive asset to the county side, both with bat and ball, since joining at the start of the 2015 season.

And for the last 10 campaigns he has been an excellent leader on the field, taking the side to victory in the NCCA Trophy in 2016 as well as piloting his team to two Western Division 2 championships in 2021 and 2024.

But the 34-year-old, who had played his club cricket for Kidderminster and, more recently, Halesowen, is now a teacher at High Wycombe Royal Grammar School and next season will be playing his club cricket in the town and his National Counties cricket for Buckinghamshire.

“Matt will be hugely missed by all of us in Herefordshire,” said Herefordshire Cricket Ltd’s chairman Richard Prime. “He has been a wonderful player for us over 11 seasons with bat and ball and remains one of the very best cricketers playing at National Counties level. “But he has also been an excellent leader and is an outstanding human being who is liked and respected throughout the National Counties circuit.

“We thank him for all he has done for us over the years and wish him well with everything he does in the future, both on and off the cricket field.

**I think we might have got ourselves another good one !**

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

Bucks all rounder Teddy Fleming has spoken with Sports Shots Andy Bone After Being Appointed 1st XI Skipper At Gerrards Cross



The talented all-rounder has risen through Gerrards Cross pathway structure to take charge of the club’s premier side. The 21 year old gained experience with the Darren Lehmann Cricket Academy in the winter of 2024-25 and played for Woodville Cricket Club whilst based in Adelaide, Australia. Another trip overseas twelve months later saw Fleming don the colours of Taita in New Zealand during the close season. Fleming’s development as a player has seen him grow and become a squad regular at National Counties level with Bucks. He is currently at the Cardiff UCCE.

In an interview with the newly appointed captain, Fleming enthused about the new role.

***We are massively excited for the season to get going. There is a real buzz around the club at the moment. With the lads determined to better our third place finish three years in a row. We have only one major change to the squad so far, with Pat Smith sadly returning to New Zealand, but we have replaced him fellow Kiwi seamer Liam Sullivan. Other than that we are very happy with the squad and players we currently have***

Fleming is very clear with what he wants his team to achieve in the 2026 season.

***The aims for the season are pretty clear, we want to finish the season as champions.***

In closing, the new man at the helm has pride in his new appointment.

***On a personal note, I'm very proud and excited to be skippering my boyhood club.***

Thanks to Teddy for his time and we wish him well for the 2026 season.

**Sports Shots, in partnership with ETDC Digital Media.**

## Wokingham Cricket Club Strengthen Squad

Wokingham Cricket Club have been active during the off-season, adding two experienced players to their squad as preparations continue for the 2026 Home Counties Premier League campaign.

Max Uttley joins as a proven county-level off-spinner within the Buckinghamshire set-up, bringing control, experience and a strong understanding of conditions at this level.

Alongside him, Henry Chapman makes the move to Wokingham ahead of the new season. Chapman arrives with strong Premier League experience and a track record of contributing in successful sides.

*Captain Tom Hampton welcomed the new arrivals.*

***“Really pleased to welcome two excellent additions to the squad. Both arrive from a title-winning side and bring valuable experience and quality. With a strong desire to make an impact, they significantly strengthen the group as we prepare for the new season.”***

For Wokingham, the focus this winter has been on adding quality without disrupting the existing core. Uttley's county experience and Chapman's top-level exposure provide exactly that — players who understand the demands of the league and are ready to contribute from the outset.

## Wycombe sign Pardoe, Hardy returns, and Hemp and Uttley leave

High Wycombe Cricket Club have added further experience and quality to a squad already packed with top performers. After lifting the league title last season, attention has quickly turned to 2026, with training fully underway. Arriving at London Road is Matt Pardoe, former Worcestershire CCC player and Herefordshire captain, who joins from Halesowen. Pardoe also makes the move to Buckinghamshire CCC as vice-captain, serving under current Wycombe spinner Conner Haddow, who has taken on the county captaincy. It is a notable addition. Pardoe brings leadership and top-level experience, strengthening both the dressing room and the first XI as the club looks to build on last year's success.

There is also a familiar face returning. Broc Hardy will rejoin High Wycombe as the overseas player for 2026, two years after his previous spell at the club. Hardy made a strong impression during his previous stint and returns, offering aggressive batting and athleticism in the field.

***Captain Cam Parsons welcomed both additions.***

***“For our 1st XI we've had two new players join us over the winter, with former Worcestershire CCC player and Herefordshire captain Matt Pardoe, who joins us from Halesowen. We also have the return of 2023 Aussie overseas Broc Hardy, who offers explosive batting and is electric in the field for the 2026 season. Both additions add significant leadership and experience to a side looking to go back-to-back in the league and make a good run at the National Cup.”***

As reported above, Max Uttley has joined Wokingham, whilst Cameron Hemp has returned to play club cricket in Wales – incidentally at Usk CC where Bucks will open their 2026 season in the One Day KO Trophy competition.

More news from Wycombe as they announced the signing of opening bowler Liam Bulteel for the 2026 season. Liam joins the Warriors from fellow Home Counties Premier Cricket League side Finchampstead, where he has played since he was a youngster. A well-known face across the league, Liam brings a wealth of experience to London Road, having represented Berkshire at age-group and 2nd XI levels, as well as spending time in the Leeds/Bradford UCCE program. Liam explained his main goal for the 2026 season. "It's very clear when you join a club like Wycombe that the goal is to win the league. Hopefully, I can support the team and help us achieve that."

Even more news from Wycombe as they announced that they have officially taken over the lease at Knotty Green Cricket Club. At the end of the 2025 season, it was announced that Knotty Green CC, founded in 1879, would sadly be folding after more than 130 years at the heart of local cricket. Located just outside Beaconsfield, the ground sits in the picturesque village of Knotty Green and is a fantastic addition to the club. The Knotty Green facility features a 10 pitch square, a practice net, digital scoreboard and a clubhouse and will serve as a key base for the continued development of Women's and Girls cricket, as well as supporting the club's expanding junior section, alongside hosting their 5th XI and some Sunday SESCL fixtures. In addition, the new ground will help accommodate a third team for Penn & Tylers Green Cricket Club, further strengthening local cricket.

## NATIONAL COUNTY NEWS

### **NV Play, the popular and innovative cricket technology and streaming platform, will sponsor the National Counties Trophy Competition for the next three seasons**

NV Play Cricket's technology is used extensively by the 20 National Counties, the 18 first-class counties and in the recreational game in England and Wales and also in Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. The platform offers live scoring, match centres and professional grade broadcast capabilities with a curated range of kit options to suit every club.

Richard Logan, operations director for the NCCA, said: "Partnering with NV Play for the next three years is a significant step forward for the National Counties Cricket Association and the 20 National Counties we support.

"This agreement is about more than technology. For the National Counties, this partnership is about creating consistency, improving standards, and giving every county access to the same high-quality digital tools. Having this access will enhance matchday operations, performance analysis, and create a better overall experience for players, officials, and supporters.

"NV Play's platform will continue to help us modernise how our game is delivered and reported. We're excited about the positive impact this partnership will have across all levels of National Counties cricket over the next three seasons."

**Berkshire** have confirmed that Dan Lincoln has stepped down from his role as a player and captain with immediate effect. Dan leaves the county following an exceptional career, spanning 149 appearances, during which he scored 5,180 runs, including six centuries, and recorded 187 dismissals as wicketkeeper. Having captained the side since 2022, Dan has overseen one of the most successful periods in Berkshire's recent history. Under his leadership, the county secured the NCCA Championship title outright in 2022 and shared the title in 2024 with Staffordshire. He also led the side to back-to-back 50-over Trophy victories in 2022 and 2023. Beyond the statistics, Dan's influence on the group has been shaped by his competitiveness, professionalism and long-standing commitment to Berkshire Cricket, having represented the county since starting as an 8-year-old in the U10 side. He has also contributed to the boys' pathway during his time, supporting the development of younger players alongside his senior role.

**Staffordshire** have completed two signings. All-rounder Olly Walker and seamer Sam Keeling-Wright have both made the move from Herefordshire as the duo play their club cricket for Staffordshire clubs Himley and Old Hill respectively.

**Suffolk.** Feroze Khushi has signed as Suffolk's professional for the 2026 season, and says scoring big runs for Suffolk could be his route back into first-class cricket. Suffolk have moved swiftly to recruit Khushi after George Rhodes called time on his career with the county as he could no longer commit to the role.

**Bedfordshire** announced its new charity partner for 2026 - Above and Beyond Cancer Foundation, which is a local cancer charity set up by friends, Karen and They founded the charity in 2013, and will now be the beneficiaries of the county cricket club's new charity drive, titled 'Hit It For Six', in which Bedfordshire County Cricket Club will donate £10 for every six hit throughout the season.

## BUCKS WOMEN – 2026 FIXTURES AND INTERVIEWS



**Coloured Trousers** caught up with Ben Ungaretti, Bucks Women's Head Coach, recently to discuss a wide range of topics including reviewing last season, together with his views on the upcoming season and how Bucks are benefiting from the new ECB womens cricket formats.

**Congratulations again on the success of your first season in the new ECB womens format. You must have been very pleased overall,** Yes, overall it was a really positive first season for us. Moving into a new structure always brings a bit of uncertainty, but the group adapted well and competed strongly throughout. We showed what we're capable of at our best, and it gave us a solid foundation to build on going forward.

**Have there been any changes or new clubs coming to the Tier 3 system that you are aware of or will you be facing the same opponents again.**

From what we understand at this stage, the structure looks relatively similar, so we're expecting to come up against many of the same sides apart from one (Shropshire). That said, every season brings its own challenges, and teams will have strengthened or evolved, so we're preparing for a competitive league regardless of any changes.

**When we spoke at the end of last season you highlighted a couple of the challenges that you had faced in the new setup – one was consistency and the other was momentum. Do you think these were perhaps symptomatic of the first season syndrome?**

I think that's a fair assessment. With a new format and new group dynamics, it can take time to find rhythm and consistency. There were spells where we performed really well, but sustaining that level week in, week out is something we're continuing to work on. Hopefully, having that first season behind us will help us be more consistent this year.

**Apart from ironing out the challenges mentioned, , are there any new challenges that you can foresee facing your squad as the second season approaches**

One of the key challenges will be building on expectations. After a strong first season, teams will be more aware of what we bring, so we'll need to keep evolving. Integrating new players and maintaining standards across the squad will also be important, but it's something we're looking forward to rather than concerned about

**Have you managed to keep the same squad together, any new additions/ players coming into contention that you can mention or any losses for whatever reasons.**

There have been a few changes. We've had some players move on, and we're very grateful for everything they contributed to the group both on and off the field. At the same time, we've brought in a few new faces who add energy and quality, and it's given the squad a slightly younger look overall. It's an exciting group, and there's a real hunger to get started and keep pushing forward.

## BUCKS WOMEN FIXTURES 2026

### FRIENDLIES

Date	Opposition	Venue
April 11	BERKSHIRE	WORMSLEY
Aug 18	MCC Women	Wormsley

### VITALITY BLAST – LEAGUE 3 NORTH T20 COMPETITION ( 2 per day )

Date	Opposition	Venue
April 19	HERTFORDSHIRE	WORMSLEY
May 10	Cheshire	Warrington Sports Club
May 24	STAFFORDSHIRE	ASCOTT PARK
Final :	Winner Div 3 North v Winner Div South	

### VITALITY T20 WOMENS COUNTY CUP

Date	Opposition	Venue
April 26	Suffolk	Ipswich CC

### METRO BANK ONE DAY CUP - LEAGUE 3 DIVISION ONE- 50 OVERS

Date	Opposition	Venue
June 14	Devon	Budleigh Salterton
July 12	SHROPSHIRE	HIGH WYCOMBE
July 26	WILTSHIRE	HIGH WYCOMBE
Aug 2	CHESHIRE	HIGH WYCOMBE
Aug 16	Staffordshire	Little Stoke CC
Aug 30	Berkshire	Finchampsted
Sept 6	Cambridgeshire	Fenners



**Coloured Trousers also caught up with Cara Duggan, Bucks Women's captain to discuss all things Bucks cricket, her path into Bucks cricket, her views on the past season, her role as re-appointed captain and looking forward to the future.**

**How did you first get into cricket, was it family or school ?**

My parents are both incredibly sporty, my Mum is a PE teacher, so I was thrown into every sport possible when I was young and loved them all, but found a real love for cricket. I started cricket at school in year three, and by year 5 I joined Holmer Green Cricket

Club, my village club, who I'm still playing for currently in the first XI, and then Bucks in year 6!

**When did you first start to play for Bucks, and at what age group was that, and did you progress up through the age groups.**

I started for Bucks in year 6 or 10 years old, after trialling in September, it would have been under 11's (at that time we didn't have the regions Bucks has now as there weren't as many girls in county cricket!)

**When did you first become Bucks captain and how did that come about.**

I dabbled in vice-captaincy in the Women's team when I was younger, taking on the captaincy for a couple of games at 16/17 years old to start bringing on those skills. I was grateful that I captained my U15s squad with Rich Hudson as my coach, and then had a couple of years before captaining the U18s girls, as well as when I was U19 playing down. After coming home from Uni in

2022, I took on the Captaincy that year off and on, before finally taking it on with Jason Harrison in 2023 officially.

**Many congratulations on your reappointment as captain, for the 4th consecutive season. How did it feel the first time, and has that feeling changed over the subsequent years? What attributes do you think you bring to the role, both as Captain and as a player.**

Honestly, I think at the time, Bucks Women needed a senior player that knew the girls, worked well with our coaches and was confident in leading the team through whatever happened, so I stepped into it and have enjoyed it since. I think I've settled nicely into the role, drawing on my previous experience and gaining lots more as I go on. The change has mainly been the growth in my enjoyment of bringing on our girls from the pathway, and trying to inspire them to play and perform their best. I've settled into playing for Bucks for the future, and my focus has changed to my captaincy and coaching to enable our girls to reach the level they desire, and enjoy their cricket on the way. I'm training to be a teacher, so bringing leadership and communication qualities that I have and am building on is huge to this role, as well as my love for the girls and the relationships I build with them. As a player, I've been at Bucks since I was 10, and between Vipers and Mens club cricket, I'm trying to input everything I've learnt from those years.

**Captaincy can, on occasions, be a lonely role. Do you have (using an in word) a small leadership group around you that you can discuss any problems/worries with?**

I do feel very supported by all the girls, and although we have a young group, I've felt the girls have my back and support my decisions. I have always tried to harbour an environment where any of them can come with ideas or questions. I definitely in previous years have had strong support systems in my senior players for advice, and although the squad is looking a bit different from last, I'm sure the senior players, old and new, will step up.

**In the past 3 years of your captaincy, what major changes have you noticed in the make up/ composition of the playing squad. Is it constantly evolving and do you believe it will continue to do so as you grow into Tier 3 cricket.**

We've always had a young squad, notoriously made of U16s to U18s, but the last couple of years it's been nice for a few more senior players to come along and bring a range of experience and opinions! It's also been so brilliant seeing the development of our younger players, knowing that I've had a role in their journeys bringing them on! We're looking at a more balanced squad this year, with focuses on bringing different experiences, as well as younger players through, and I absolutely believe that combination will aid us as we progress in Tier three!

**7. Apart from the Bucks squad, what are the main changes that you have noticed at this level of Womens cricket.**

I think having played Women's cricket since I was 13, it's amazing to see the plethora of players that each county has brought through. The number of women's players at this level is huge, and will only support women's cricket further as we play better teams. This supports the progression of all Female cricketers at every level, but being able to bring on younger players through exposure to high caliber talent is brilliant, like our exposure to playing tier 2 teams like Sussex, and at their home grounds! We, and Women's cricket, can only go up from here.

**Last season was the first in the new ECB Tier 3 set up, with 2 slightly different Divisions for the One Day Cup and the T20. How do you feel the season went and what differences, if any, did you notice between that and the previous years.**

I think the season was overall positive. We started a bit shaky, with all of our girls adapting to new coaching, new opposition and new standards, but we got there, and I'm happy to say that everyone had positives through the season. We adapted together, won or lost as a team and were able to enjoy something from nearly every game! I think with this new structure here to stay, there were definitely changes - rules, divisions and travelling; it was all new for many of our girls. I was injured most of the season before last, so playing with all the girls for a whole season was very special, despite the changes and challenges we faced.

But, we made it to a final, and only just missed out on an opportunity to top the 50 over league, so looking to push forward and see where the season takes us now that we've shaken out most of the newances from last season.

**Are there any improvements in Tier 3 cricket that you, as a player, would like to see implemented for both players and spectators that could enhance the overall match day experience?**

I would say that a couple of rules could be changed. One is the implementation of leg side wides in the regulations as default. We had to have conversations every game with umpires regarding leg side wides or profile, where the first would align us with tier 2 and tier 1 cricket. We had great support from spectators last year, George our social media manager did a brilliant job at advertising our games to the wider community, as well as brilliant professional sports photos, and with support from the girls, parents and more, we hope we can bring that same support to this year, where were playing at some lovely grounds!

**And finally, at times you have been described as an all rounder, a batter who bowls, and a bowler who bats. I think when you add captaincy to the list, you must be the complete all rounder.**

This has been my story for a fair few years at Bucks. I love being an all-rounder, and despite Captaincy putting a lot on my plate, I love nothing more than to perform well in every area for the girls!

Coloured Trousers would like to thank Conner Jason, Ben i and Cara for their candid and informative interviews. They are appreciated by all Bucks members and in particular those who cannot get to as many, or indeed any, matches as they would like, thereby missing that personal touch or involvement.

## COUNTY CRICKET MATTERS

**Keeping on with the Women in County Cricket theme, many of our regular readers will be aware of my liking for, and interest in, the County Cricket Matters website, its regular quarterly magazine and the social media postings. Its founder Annie Chave** is a champion of the County game. Annie has written extensively on cricket over the past 7 years, for most of which she has been part of the commentary team for the independent radio station, Guerrilla Cricket. For the last 2 summers, she has been the third voice for the BBC commentary team at Somerset CCC as well as being a regular columnist for The Cricket Paper. If you are at all interested in County Cricket, and I would hope that the majority of our readers are, do check out the website [www.countycricketmatters.com](http://www.countycricketmatters.com). It is well worth a read particularly as National Counties is now getting regular attention and the latest March 2026 edition contains an article entitled **With The National Counties** as well as one titled **How a bunch of grumpy old men fell for tier 2 women's cricket**. I felt quite at home! Alongside her love for the First Class game Annie is clearly catching the National Counties bug, so much so that she has joined the Committee of Devon CCC. She has kindly allowed me to reproduce the article below, which appears in the excellent 2026 Devon CCC annual brochure, and which clearly demonstrates her love for our level of cricket. Make sure you read the last paragraph.

No one can doubt that the NCCA have done a great job of promoting individual players on their website and social media channels, through MVP's etc, but the role of beating the drum for the whole National Counties cricket experience seems to have been left to individuals or other like minded cricket channels. The ECB, with their constant tinkering of the First Class game, have left the door, that is the porthole to the summer holidays of July and August, wide open for the National Counties to exploit. There are hardly any First Class championship matches in July and August. We all know nature abhors a vacuum –National Counties matches are already in place to fill that gap but as any advertising man will tell you, awareness is key. Promote the game. Get more people through the free admission gates and get more bums on seats (even though they are more likely to be deck chairs or fold up picnic seats!.) Once through the metaphorical door, they could give a massive boost to the hosting cricket clubs themselves, through increased bar takings, raffles and any other auxiliary fund raising schemes.

# Annie Chave, County Cricket Matters

**My first year on the committee of the Devon County Cricket Club has set me on quite a learning curve. As a member of the BBC commentary team at Somerset CCC and Editor of the magazine County Cricket Matters, I'm well versed on the plight of first-class counties, but the national counties have always been a bit of a mystery.**

That said, I've been involved with cricket in Devon most of my life. From the age of five, I spent my summers watching my father play for the Exeter University staff team (The Erratics), whose home ground was the wonderful Gras Lawn. At the age of ten, I was part of the Exeter Colts, until they discovered I was a girl, but that's another story and another lifetime. My Dad played for the Devon Dumplings, my husband for Clyst St George and my son played for Exeter age groups (along with Somerset's Ben Green and Tom Lammonby). I am the current secretary of The Erratics, and both my son and husband play throughout the summer at many of the lovely Devon village grounds that are part of the patchwork of Devon's beautiful countryside.

Devon County Cricket Club is one of twenty national counties, and, since its foundation in 1899, has played at over twenty grounds across the county, from the gorgeous coastal ground at Instow in North Devon to the rugged moorland of Tavistock in West Devon. Our County is beautiful, and it's also large enough to accommodate a wonderful choice of grounds and a large pool of players. I didn't need to learn this; this I knew. What I have discovered is that keeping cricket afloat at National



Counties level is not as straightforward as it may seem. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes, a lot of decision-making and planning.

There are many parts of the organisation I'm still getting to know. Registration of players, recruiting of coaching staff, marketing a game that is free to all, encouraging growth in membership, the vital roles of the Devon Cricket Foundation and Devon Cricket League and, lastly, how to avoid the pitfalls consequent on not owning your own ground. One thing is abundantly clear, however. National County Cricket is a vital part of grassroots cricket. It is not just there to provide a source of players for the first-class counties; there is a full season of all-format games, played by talented cricketers who play – for the love of the game – from April to September. In short, there's plenty to value and enjoy.

Cricket is changing and, although there might be a lot to savour if you are a white-ball fan, we are already witnessing the negative effect that the global rise of the franchise game is having on Test cricket. The knock-on effect on first-class cricket has also been plain to see, with its spring and autumn positioning in the cricketing calendar. The National Counties, however, save their long-format Championship games until the height of the summer, in July and August, with red-ball games lasting three days of 110 overs a day. Free games to watch at some of the most beautiful grounds in the country. Convivial atmosphere, glass in hand on your boundary chair at the height of summer. What's not to like?

**Annie Chave, Editor, County Cricket Matters**

## SPONSOR A BUCKS PLAYER

A great big thank you to all those members/ supporters or companies who have sponsored a Bucks player over the past 8/9 seasons. Going forward, the administration of this initiative will in future be administered by Bucks Cricket. The two ads below have already been appearing on Bucks social media channels, so if you would like to, or continue to, sponsor a player, please use the contact details below.

For further information please contact ([admin@bucks cricket.co.uk](mailto:admin@bucks cricket.co.uk))

**PLAYER SPONSOR**  
Bucks Men and Women

**25+**  
PLAYERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**2.3M**  
VIEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN 2025

**£120**  
SPONSOR PER PLAYER

**YOUR LOGO**  
WEBSITE PRESENCE & SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS\*

**PLAYER SPONSOR**  
Bucks Men and Women

**£120 per Player**  
All proceeds to Player Kit/Clothing

**Logo Presence**  
Feature on Website Player Profile  
1x Thank You Social Media post

\*Additional Social Media coverage if player reaches match milestone (100+ runs and/or 5 wicket haul)

**Annual Agreement**  
Player Sponsorship will be maintained until end of 2026

**Bucks Cricket is delighted to announce a new partnership with Bloom Health Hospitals, who will become the Headline Sponsor for the 2026 season.**



The agreement will see [Bloom Health Hospitals](#) take placement on the front of all Bucks men's, women's, and pathway kits, as well as staff uniforms. The partnership brings together an ambitious National County and a team of healthcare professionals, aiming to **transform the healthcare experience in the UK.**

Bloom Health brings together urgent care, GP walk-in services, diagnostics, imaging, pathology and specialist care under one roof. Their integrated approach helps reduce delays, avoid unnecessary referrals and create smoother, more reassuring care journeys.

Rich Hudson, CEO at Bucks Cricket, said: ***"I'm delighted to welcome Bloom Health Hospital as our new principal sponsor. Their commitment to excellence and community wellbeing aligns perfectly with our vision for the future of cricket across Buckinghamshire.***

***"With Bloom Health Hospital's support, we are excited to continue growing the game, investing in our players, and strengthening our connection with the wider Milton Keynes community.***

***"We have enjoyed getting to know Ravinder and Fateh at Bloom Health, and are excited to build a strong and successful relationship together over the seasons ahead."***

At Bloom Health Hospitals, everything they do is guided by a patient-first philosophy. From their modern facilities to the clinical pathways, they focus on safety, clarity and dignity, ensuring patients feel listened to, informed and supported at every stage of care.



## SUPPORT BUCKS CRICKET



The County Club and Bucks Cricket are working actively to promote and develop cricket at all levels and ages throughout the county . You can support these efforts by either by joining Bucks County Cricket Club or becoming a Patron of Bucks. Becoming a Patron automatically qualifies you to become a member of Bucks CCC. Essentially we are encouraging people to become patrons going forward and provide gift aid through that means as a benefit to both the CIO and the patron. Clearly for all existing members nothing changes.

Players are treated slightly differently currently as they have to be members for the benefit of the insurance cover so we are leaving them at the £25 per annum level.

As a Bucks member, you will be entitled to :-

Free access to a new enlarged on line copy of the Bucks Cricket Handbook encompassing all aspects of the organization

A Hard copy of a reduced content Bucks CCC Handbook on application to the Membership Secretary

Free entry to all Bucks home matches including the Showcase game

A regular bi monthly on line newsletter with up to date results/fixtures/ news and information

The Annual Subscription is :-

£25 for individuals

£35 for partners living at the same address

£10 for juniors (aged under 18)

£15 for students in full time education ( (aged under 24 )

Life membership is also available

Membership forms are available from Rachel Hudson Email: ([admin@bucksicricket.co.uk](mailto:admin@bucksicricket.co.uk))

## NCCA CHALLENGERS WINTER SQUADS

Congratulations to Bucks Cricketers **Conner Haddow** and **Archie Dodds** were both named in this years Men's Winter Squad, and likewise congratulations to **Chloe Hill** and **Natasha MacBean** who both were named in the Challengers Women's Winter Squad.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENGLAND OVER 70'S



History was written last month at the Hagley Oval in New Zealand as the **England Over 70's were crowned International Masters Cricket** Over-70s Cricket World Cup Champions 2026, defeating their long-time rivals, the Australia Over 70's, in a final packed with drama, passion, and unforgettable moments.

Under the Christchurch sun England with a performance full of grit and class—tight bowling, fearless play, and the kind of cricketing intelligence that only decades in the game can produce. Australia fought hard, as they always do, but England held their nerve when it mattered most. Every run was cheered, every wicket celebrated, and when the final ball was bowled, the English players raised their arms to the sky as champions of the world. 🏏🏆  
For these players, the passion, the rivalry, and the glory are as strong as ever.

### **CAN'T GET TO A GAME**

#### **KEEP UP TO DATE WITH BUCKS C.C.C. ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Do not despair, help is at hand. Don't miss a moment**

Website: [bucks cricket.co.uk](http://bucks cricket.co.uk)

Twitter : @BucksCricket

Facebook: [https:// www. facebook.com/BucksCricket](https://www.facebook.com/BucksCricket)

Instagram: [bucks cricket.official](https://www.instagram.com/bucks cricket.official)

**All of Bucks 1st XI games will be streamed live on our YouTube channel, and from this season all clubs will be required to have a camera at both ends of the ground, so that the view will always be from behind the bowlers arm.**

## RON HEDLEY'S SPONSORED CHARITY WALKS

### Ron's March with England Cricket Seniors Walks 2026

Walks commence with the 4th Surrey Seniors walk on **Wednesday 15th April 2026**.

The walk is from Horsley & Send CC, Twinns Field, West Horsley KT24 6JS. The meeting time is 10.00am

You are welcome to join us on this walk. Surrey ask that you donate £25 per person, if possible, via the Ron's March link and mention the Surrey Seniors walk. As usual, there will be an excellent lunch provided. Please let Ron know if you would like to join the walk with names of those attending. Please confirm to me by 6th April 2026 if you would like lunch. The cost of the lunch is £10 payable to Bill Early, the Surrey organiser.

Edgbaston Cricket Ground host us, for the 4th time on **Friday 8th May** along with Warwickshire CCC Seniors. Shropshire CCC Seniors are hoping that some of their members will join this walk. We meet at the Indoor Centre at Edgbaston Cricket Ground. Time to be confirmed. Walkers will receive a ticket to watch the day's play against Yorkshire CCC. Please donate and mention Warwickshire walk.

On **Friday 15th May 2026**, Middlesex CCC Seniors will be holding their 3rd Annual Walk from The Caravan Café, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross N1C 4AA 0207 101 7661. The walk will be along The Regents Canal ending at Lords Cricket Ground. All walkers will be given a ticket for the days play against Derbyshire CCC. The walk is an eye opener to life along the canal. Please use our link to donate and mention the Middlesex CCC Seniors walk when asked to comment. Meet at The Caravan from 9am and have breakfast, a tea or a coffee before setting off around 10.00am. Last year we travelled from Amersham to Kings Cross on the Metropolitan line.

We are delighted to be invited to do a first walk with Northamptonshire CCC Seniors on **Friday 12th June**. The details of the walk are to be confirmed but each walker will receive a ticket for the day's play against Gloucestershire CCC. Donations to mention Northamptonshire Seniors. We are hoping that Allan Lamb, Devon Malcolm and Mick Harford will be able to join us for the day. It is possible that Grant Timms will be able to organise interviews, during the day, for the "Silver Stumps" podcast during the walk.

A very special walk will take place in Chelmsford on **Friday 19th June**. We will walk from a local park to The County Ground, with walkers receiving a ticket for the match against the County Champions, Nottinghamshire. The walk will be in honour of Duncan Blackie who was a major part of the amazing success of our three previous walks with Essex CCC Seniors. Duncan, recently, lost his life to prostate cancer. We are so delighted that he was able to make our special lunch at Lords in 2024 and get to the Essex walk last year, although not well enough to walk with us. He was a very special man and we are proud to have known him for a short time. Donations to mention Essex CCC Seniors please.

On **Friday 7th August** we will be taking part in another first walk, this time with Leicestershire CCC Seniors. The details are yet to be confirmed. Our other walks to County Grounds are to a County Championships first day of four. The Leicestershire walk is for their One Day match against Warwickshire CCC. We will forward details as soon as possible.

Cornwall CCC have invited us, along with Cornwall CCC Seniors, to attend their friendly match v Somerset CCC on **Friday 3rd July 2026**. At the moment this will consist of us having a table at The Wadebridge CC ground to hand out booklets, sell badges, caps etc. We have been invited to hold a bucket collection at this match.

We hope to confirm a walk in memory of another special man, Chris Harding of Berkshire CCC Seniors. Chris was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer, shortly before Ron, and sadly lost his life recently. A lovely man who was a great support to Ron over the past years fighting this awful disease. Details as soon as they are confirmed.

The first 25 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are now over – what will the next 25 years bring I wonder ? The landscape of our cricket ie, Minor Counties/ National Counties has changed tremendously over this time..... will it continue to evolve.... we will have to wait and see. Sadly during the last season, we lost our Secretary Kevin Beaumont, who was the rock upon which our off the field progress has been built, but we must continue to build on this excellent base if we are to continue our upward spiral. Once again, I would like to thank all those who have helped and contributed to Coloured Trousers with interviews and articles over the past year, particularly Andy Bone and Sports Shots, Jason Harrison, Mike Knox, Kevin Beaumont, Ron Hedley, Jonathan Lilley, Annie Chave, County Cricket Matters, Yahoo Over Cow Corner, Steve Peart, Paul Dean, Anna Harris, Simon Parbery Rich Hudson, Rachel Hudson, George Halfhide. Trevor Taylor, Tom Hampton, Alexei Kervezee, Conner Haddow, Carla Duggan and Ben Ungaretti. We are of course obviously very grateful to all our sponsors and especially to Andy Bone and Luke Stafford of Sports Shots for their excellent media coverage. All contributions are gratefully received of course – there is just time before the season starts to put pen or quill to paper by writing an article or two and join our happy band of literary contributors.

*Billscholes*

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**The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Bucks C.C.C**