

COLOURED TROUSERS No 40



NCCA CLUBBERLY COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2025

BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes

Welcome to the 40th edition of Coloured Trousers, which began in 2019 in the long dark days of Covid, initially as a means of providing some value to all our members for their continued and unwavering support, in the light of no active cricket to watch. Once normal service was resumed, albeit initially with restrictions, and in view of the positive response from members, it seemed only natural to continue providing information to those who were not necessarily social media savvy - Facebook, Twitter, Tik Tok, Instagram were languages from a distant country!

As has been mentioned before, the emphasis this season has been very much on youth development, and that approach has been justified by our initial success in the two white ball (I do so hate that description} competitions played in to date. We reached the Quarter Finals of the One Day Trophy and have qualified for the Super 12's stage of the T20 competition, yet to come. We now are entering the third and final stage of the season (already!) which is of course the County Championship – in many people's eyes the blue riband of the NCCA programme. We do have a title to defend, and as I put the final touches to this edition early on Tuesday morning, we certainly seem to be making a good fist of doing so against visiting Staffordshire. Actually, please scrub the above sentence, as its now early Tuesday afternoon and we have taken the first steps to defend our title as we have triumphed by 187 runs. Full report will be available shortly. Congratulations to Captain Conner and the whole team.

Before the match, Tom Weymes was presented with his County cap by Head coach Jason Harrison and Assistant coach Simon Stanway



Not to be undone, Bucks Women started their new final competition of the season – the Metro Bank 50 over One Day campaign - on Sunday at High Wycombe as well, and they too emerged victorious with a stunning 5 wicket win over Shropshire. More congratulations, this time to Captain Cara and her team.

Phew, time for a sit down, feet up and nice cuppa. I hope you enjoy the read.

NCCA CLUBBERLY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP – Bucks v Staffordshire

Bucks began the defence of their National Counties Clubberly Championship title with a resounding 187-run win over Staffordshire in their Eastern Division 1 match at Chesham on Sunday/Monday/Tuesday.

A stellar all-round performance from Bertie Foreman and excellent bowling displays from skipper Conner Haddow plus seamers Tom Weymes and Ed Bragg saw Bucks home with more than three hours to spare in this three-day match.

It did not look good for Bucks on the first morning when they slipped to 36-4 after choosing to bat first. With the ball darting about on the green pitch, Bucks looked in trouble, but were rescued by Foreman with 51 and later support from George Harvey (31) and Bragg (44) and reached a respectable 211 from 53.1 overs.

The Staffordshire top order also struggled, slumping to 44-5 against inspired bowling from Weymes and Bragg. Dan Lincoln, whose brother was playing for Bucks (and whom he caught), led the resistance with a dogged 43 from 153 balls, but the tail collapsed and they were all out for 143 - a deficit of 68.

At the age of 35, Weymes (5-56) returned his first five-wicket haul for Bucks and was later awarded his county cap. Bragg collected 4-41 as the seamers dominated..

In their second innings, Bucks built on their lead with most batters passing 20. Foreman again led the way with 60 from 49 balls, while Matt Pardoe (47) and Josh Lincoln, whose 37 came off just 15 balls with a six and seven fours, helped Bucks to declare just before the close on 316-9.

This left Staffordshire all of the final day to reach their formidable target of 385. Skipper James Kettleborough gave them a good start with 55 and they passed 100 with only three wickets down. But it all went wrong after lunch as they lost four wickets for one run in 17 balls to the spin of Foreman and Haddow. Some lusty hitting from the tail extended the game but they were eventually out for 195 around 3pm. Haddow returned 5-45 in 21 2 overs, while Foreman took 4-54 off 11, as spinners ruled the roost on this excellent pitch.

Five players made their Championship debuts for Bucks, namely Pardoe, Foreman, Josh Lincoln, Aum Raykar and new signing from Middlesex, Aaryan Sawant, who had a quiet game.

NCCA T20 COMPETITION

All of the Group stages of the T20 competition have now been completed and the competition moves on to the Super 12's. This is a sort of glorified Quarter Final stage but instead of just 8 teams Qualifying, the number has increased to 12 (Hence the name!) by including the top three. Bucks were narrowly pipped for the top spot in Group 3 by Berkshire, on net run rate, with Bedfordshire also qualifying in third. Coming top would have guaranteed us a home draw in the Super 12's, but as it is we will go to Exeter C.C. where the hosts will be Devon who topped Group 4. The format of the day is that we will play Wiltshire in the first match, with winners of this match then playing Devon to decide who qualifies for Finals day at Wormsley. The qualifiers from the four Group stages, table toppers in bold, are as follows-

Group One: **Staffs**, Shropshire, Cheshire

Group Two: **Norfolk**, Lincolnshire, Suffolk

Group Three :**Berkshire**, Bucks, Bedfordshire

Group Four: **Devon** Cornwall, Wiltshire

Bucks staged a remarkable turn-around to share the honours with Bedfordshire in their first NCCA T20 Cup double-header at Leighton Buzzard.

After losing the first group match by seven wickets, Bucks thrashed the hosts by 107 runs in the second game to finish the day on a high note. After being put into bat in the first game, Bucks were well-placed at 112-3 after 11 overs thanks to cameos from Rhys Nicholas (46), Josh Lincoln (35 from 14 balls) and Aadi Sharma (34). But they could not press home and collapsed to 164 all out in 19.2 overs, an under-par score on the small ground. Beds cruised home at 165-3 in 15.1 overs thanks to a spectacular 82 from 37 balls by Jamie Dunk, who hit six sixes and seven fours.

The second game also appeared to be going Bedfordshire's way when Bucks slipped to 77-5 after choosing to bat first. But a superb stand of 107 in just 65 balls between Great Brickhill's Nicholas and Gerrards Cross captain Teddy Fleming turned the innings around. Nicholas made 62 off 48 balls with three sixes and three fours, but he was outshone by Fleming whose unbeaten 66 came off just 38 balls with six sixes and three fours. Bucks reached 192-7 from their 20 overs. So many balls were lost that there were fears that there might not be enough spares to finish the game.

Once Dunk had been dismissed, the Beds reply fell away dramatically as pace-off bowling and some safe catching in the deep saw them collapse to 85 all out in 14.2 overs. Bucks skipper Conner Haddow produced outstanding figures of 3-6 in 3.2 overs.

Our next match was is a double header with Oxfordshire at Marlow CC where young Billy Dodds was the star as Bucks did the double over our near neighbours.



The 18-year-old High Wycombe all-rounder hit two spectacular half-centuries and picked up some useful wickets as Bucks went second in the Group 3 table.

On an excellent pitch, Bucks were put in to bat in the first game and got off to a flying start thanks to Dodds, who hammered 70 off just 46 balls with four sixes and six fours. He shared a stand of 75 in eight overs with Matt Pardoe (29).

After losing three wickets for two runs in mid-innings, Bucks recovered to score 31 from the last 15 balls thanks to Billy's elder brother Archie, Stony Stratford debutant Charlie Oldershaw and skipper Conner Haddow to reach 188-8 from their 20 overs.

This seemed a gettable target but Oxon never threatened after Billy Dodds took two early wickets with his off-spin, finishing with 3-39.

Only Hayden Rossouw (41) offered much resistance as Oxon were dismissed for 135 in 18.5 overs to give Bucks a 53-run success.

After Bucks chose to bat first in the second game, Billy Dodds played even better scoring 78 off 47 balls, again with four sixes and six fours. He shared a third-wicket stand of 104 in ten overs with Pardoe.

Following Dodds's dismissal, Pardoe (68 not out from 42 balls with three sixes) and Josh Lincoln, who hit five sixes while making 47 not out from 21 balls, added 72 from the last 5.4 overs to lift Bucks to a formidable 210-3 from their 20 overs.

Again Oxon never threatened despite 73 from 41 balls from Rossouw. Excellent catches in the deep supported some clever bowling and restricted the visitors to 180-6, giving Bucks a 30-run victory.

In the third match, Buckinghamshire captain Conner Haddow returned the remarkable feat of taking 6 wickets for just 9 runs from his 4 overs to help dismiss Berkshire for their lowest-ever National Counties T20 total at Wokingham.



The slow left-armer's stunning figures were Buckinghamshire's best in the competition – no-one had previously taken more than four wickets in an innings. Haddow opened the Bucks bowling and struck immediately, dismissing Rhys Lewis and Ben Salter with his second and third deliveries and before adding the in form Johnny Connell to his list with his 7th delivery, all without conceding a run. Almost unheard of in T20 cricket!! . Credit must also be given to the nifty glove work of keeper George Harvey who contributed 3 stumpings to Connor's 6 wickets.

Berkshire were shot out for 91 - and were beaten by 42 runs, a victory which owed much to Rhys Nicholas's 34 for getting them to what proved to be a winning total.

However, Berkshire took swift revenge in the second match of the day, dismissing Bucks for 67 – their lowest T20 total – and

romping to a 133 runs victory, a record margin for the competition,

Buckinghamshire broke a series of county records on their way to their two victories over Wales NC at Marlow .Their 235 for seven in the opener was their highest total in the competition and their 132 runs win, their biggest by runs margin. Worcestershire batter Rehaan Edavalath, with 89 from 57 balls, and Josh Lincoln (81 from 28 balls) pummelled 125 in nine overs in a Buckinghamshire record fourth wicket partnership.

In the second match former Worcestershire left-hander Matt Pardoe struck 112 not out from 56 balls and became the first Buckinghamshire batter to make a T20 century.It was a second century in the competition for Pardoe, his first coming for Herefordshire, and also a career-best. with Rahaan Edavalath (46) helping him add 123 for the second wicket.

In their last group match, some spectacular batting saw Bucks men complete two wins over NC Wales in their double-header at Marlow. on Sunday to secure second place in the Group.

Batting first in both matches, Bucks made the most of an excellent pitch to top 200 in both matches, to which their opponents had no answer. Put in to bat in the first game, Bucks hammered a record 235-7 thanks to an astonishing innings by Josh Lincoln, who made 81 from just 28 balls with seven sixes and seven fours. He shared a fourth-wicket stand of 125 in 9.2 overs with opener Reehan Edavalath, who made 89 from 57 balls with four sixes and nine fours. Earlier opener Billy Dodds had got Bucks off to a flier with 32 off 16 balls. The young Welsh side had no answer to this onslaught and succumbed to 103 all out in 13.5 overs to give the hosts their biggest win in the competition by 132 runs. This was due to some excellent catches in the deep and three wickets for skipper Conner Haddow.

Bucks chose to bat in the second game and soon slipped to 5-2. This was the prelude to an amazing innings by Matt Pardoe, who scored the county's first T20 century, reaching three figures off 52 balls. His 112 came off 56 balls with eight sixes and eight fours. Edavalath made 46 as the pair added 123 in 12 overs for the third wicket, Bucks reaching 203-5 from their 20 overs. Wales made a better fist of their reply this time as Ollie King (60) and Sam King (49) put them in pole position at 127-2 in the 13th over, but three wickets each for Haddow, Archie Dodds and Bertie Foreman plus more great catches helped to bowl Wales out for 179 in the final over for 24-run win. Although Bucks finished joint top of Group 3 on points with Berkshire, we ended up in second place thanks to Berkshire's better run rate. All this meant that we didn't get a home draw in the Super 12's, instead we will travel to Exeter CC on 9th August where we will meet Wiltshire



Matt Pardoe celebrating his century

in the opening match. The winners of this game will then play hosts Devon to decide who goes through to Finals Day at Wormsley on 30th August.

Before the match at Marlow, Connner Haddow was presented with a framed scoresheet to mark his 16 wicket haul in last year's National Counties Championship final against Devon



Credit Andy Warboys

Sandwiched in between the T20 matches was the Showcase match against Middlesex

NCCA SHOWCASE MATCH

Middlesex CC v Bucks @ Wormsley Thurs 2 July

A brilliant innings by teenager Aum Raykar could not prevent Bucks from suffering a heavy eight-wicket defeat against a strong Middlesex team in their Showcase game at Wormsley.

The 19-year-old former Great Brickhill batter, who now plays for Moseley in the Birmingham League as he is at Birmingham University, scored a stylish 85 to rescue Bucks from a potentially embarrassing rout. Choosing to bat first on a fast bouncy pitch with a lightning outfield, Bucks slumped to 33-5 with a series of poor shots.

It looked like this game, which attracted a crowd of about 400, would be over by early afternoon. The cause of collapse was a fiery spell from Middlesex's promising paceman Naavya Sharma, who returned 5-24 from his ten overs.

Particularly strong off the back foot, Eum Raykar found support from Ed Bragg and Ryan Friend, but at 89-7 Bucks were still in big trouble.

Raykar, who struck one six and ten fours, found good support from skipper Conner Haddow in an eighth-wicket of 88 in 18 overs.

With a century beckoning Raykar was well caught in the deep for 87, while Haddow made 32 off 69 balls as Bucks were bowled out for 196 off the last ball of their 50th over.

This was a fine score considering their earlier plight, but Middlesex, who fielded at least six first-team regulars, made light of the run chase. Led by Josh de Caires, they raced to 98-0 off the first 10-over powerplay. The son of former England captain Mike Atherton, de Calres reached his century off just 72 balls. He was eventually out for 108 off 78 balls, hitting 18 fours.

He and Nathan Fernandes (71 not out from 58 balls) added 180 for the first wicket in 21.3 overs.

Haddow had the consolation of dismissing former England batter Sam Robson cheaply before Middlesex eased home on 199-2 from 25.5 overs.

BUCKS 1st X1 FIXTURES 2026

NCCA T20 COMPETITION (2 matches per day)

Date	Opposition	Venue
Super 12's 9 August		Exeter CC
Finals Day 30 August		Wormsley

NCCA COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Date	Opposition	Venue
July26-28	Northumberland	Jesmond TBC
Aug 2-4	SUFFOLK	CHESHAM
Aug 23-25	Cambridgeshire	Peterborough Town
Final Sept 6-9		West Bromwich Dartmouth

BUCKS WOMEN – 2026 REPORTS and FIXTURES

Once again under the leadership of Head Coach Ben Ungaretti and Captain Cara Duggan, Bucks made a good start to this years campaigns, winning 3 out of 6 matches in this competition and winning 2 of their Vitality County T20 cup matches . They were Bucks were drawn away in the 3rd Round to one of the biggest clubs in the Competition, the holders Lancashire Lightning

Up for the Cup

Round One: Bucks Women reached Round 2 of the Vitality T20 Women's County Cup in dramatic fashion, defeating Suffolk with just one ball to spare .

Round Two: Annie Townsend (51) and Cara Duggan (44) steered Bucks into Round 3

Round Three: Lancashire v Bucks Women

Bucks Women came away from Neston Cricket Club with plenty of pride despite a 110-run defeat to Lancashire. The home side posted a big total of 2 but Bucks fought bravely, none more so than skipper Cara Duggan. Still undefeated towards the close of Bucks reply, Cara took a single from the first ball of the final over and sealed a historic moment for herself and Bucks Cricket. Striking another boundary from the penultimate delivery, she finished unbeaten on a remarkable 54. The Neston crowd applauded an outstanding knock against a Lancashire side featuring international players. Lancashire secured a 110-run victory, but Bucks bowed out of the Vitality County T20 Cup with a performance they can be proud of.

Match Report

Zaynah Wani returned figures of 2-30 and captain Cara Duggan struck a brilliant unbeaten 54 against the defending champions, but Bucks ultimately fell short against a strong Lancashire side.

After winning the toss and choosing to bowl first, openers Eve Jones (64) and Emma Lamb (35) got Lancashire off to a flying start, reaching 62-0 at the end of the powerplay. The hosts were on top from the early stages, but Bucks continued to fight. Wani entered the attack in the 10th over and clean bowled Jones with just the fifth ball of her spell. Wani was not done there. Two balls into her second over, she claimed the wicket of an England international. Wani ripped through an attempted ramp shot from Lamb and had the Tier 1 side at 117/2 in the 12th over.

Seren Smale then came to the crease and quickly found her rhythm with two boundaries in four balls. However, her cameo came to an end when Eva Lewis beat the outside edge with flight and turn. Tilly Fellows whipped off the bails to stump Smale for 8. With two new batters at the crease, Bucks had an opportunity to build pressure during the remaining overs, but Fellows' namesake and university teammate Kesteven had other ideas. After a tidy first over from Lewis, Kesteven smashed 25 runs from her next over, shifting the momentum back in Lancashire's favour. With four overs remaining, Molly Carter took the ball for Bucks and wasted no time in claiming a wicket of her own. She trapped Ellie Threlkeld (6) lbw, leaving Lancashire on 178/4 with three overs to go. Kesteven continued to motor along and brought up her half-century from just 21 balls. Fi Morris (18) added some crucial runs, with the penultimate over costing 24 and taking Lancashire beyond the 200 mark. The fight from Bucks remained throughout and was evident again when MacBean dismissed Morris in the deep, with Rosie Burton-Pye taking a good catch in the final over. Lancashire Lightning finished on 221/5.

Faced with a big chase, Lancashire were quick to impose their quality with the ball. Tara Norris dismissed Afra Rose Mohamed and Burton-Pye in the third over, reducing Bucks to 10/2 halfway through the powerplay. The challenge was on for Annie Townsend and Duggan, and after batting through the powerplay unbeaten, the pair took on Dani Collins and struck 16 runs from the ninth over. Unfortunately, the third-wicket partnership was broken shortly afterwards as Townsend (23) fell to Venus Weerappuli, caught at long-on by Norris, leaving Bucks 51/3 at the halfway stage. Fellows (4) was the next to depart after going aerial against Morris, but Duggan remained undeterred, smashing Norris for six in the following over. Tegan Stockdale (12) was beginning to settle into her innings until she lost her balance, allowing

Smale to complete a sharp stumping. Wani (3) fell late in the innings to debutant Olivia Brinsden, but the skipper continued to fight until the end.

Duggan took a single from the first ball of the final over and sealed a historic moment for herself and Bucks Cricket. Striking another boundary from the penultimate delivery, she finished unbeaten on a remarkable 54. The Neston crowd applauded an outstanding knock against a Lancashire Lightning side featuring international players. Lightning secured a 110-run victory, but Bucks bowed out of the Vitality County T20 Cup with a performance they can be proud of.

Coloured Trousers caught up with Captain Cara to obtain her personal in depth account of the historic occasion of Bucks first ever encounter with the top layer of Womens. professional cricket.



Journey up:

In anticipation of the day, we travelled up the day before to stay in a hotel overnight, as we do for long journeys. The energy was high, and everyone was ready to enjoy the evening and the following day. We shared a team meal as usual which was a great way to spend time together before the game, and enjoyed some down time in the morning before travelling to the ground to settle nerves and anticipation.

Travel:

We had a mixture of individual cars and shared travel. Due to universities and travel, lots of our players travel from several areas of the country, so many chose to share lifts with those closest to them, or individually. There were a few that chose the train, but mainly cars, and we all enjoyed lift sharing the morning of the game, to keep team spirit

high and easy.

Reaction to the ground:

Neston CC was an incredible facility to play at. They were welcoming and it felt very professional. It was a gorgeous place to play, with views of hills and fields, as well as the old town that surrounded the ground. The pitch was good and the ground was lovely to play on!

Lancashire's attitude to us :

Lancashire were professional, everything was set up and ready to go for them from the get go, but the players were lovely and very welcoming as we arrived. They pointed us in the correct directions, and made the atmosphere feel official but still relaxed and enjoyable. They were lovely people, and it was incredible to meet and play against professional cricketers, and something that few of us have been around!

The match:

We knew that it was going to be a hard game, probably one of the most difficult we'll play this season. The difference in physicality and standards was outstanding, something for us to aspire to. Their batting was unreal, punishing every ball that wasn't perfect, and playing the correct shots nearly every time. It was amazing to watch and face up to that challenge as a bowler and fielder. Their fielding was a huge difference. They attacked everything, took every chance, and had clear plans to every batter and bowler. I felt that every ball they ran up and bowled was planned - nearly everything was looking to attack the stumps, and being able to face that was a brilliant experience for me. We wanted to show that we could face a Tier 1 side and be competitive, holding our own, and I felt we did just that. We chose to field first ultimately because that's our strength, and starting off with our strengths gave us the boost we needed going into batting. Despite the loss, it was unreal from all angles, and so incredible to play against.

My innings:

I appreciate you mentioning it. For me it was another game. I wanted to show, for personal development, that I could hold my own in every area. My batting has come along a lot this season, and with more bowlers stepping up, I felt having a good batting innings was the most important thing for the team. I love my job, I love to adapt to every situation and complete the job that the

team requires me to do. Personally, I can't explain how much I loved the game and day in general, the most exciting thing about the day for me was the challenge. Facing up to paid professionals, some having played and playing international cricket was going to be brilliant. I can often feel from ball one in a T20 if my batting is feeling good, and getting off the mark on the first ball was one of those days. I didn't feel I gave any chances. I feel that one of my main strengths is my brain. I love to use my experience and mind to get us through every situation, and that's what I drew on. It became clear that we were going to struggle to get the total, so turning it into an opportunity to bat through and for the team to hold their own was something that I was proud of, both myself and the girls.

After the game:

The aftermath was very relaxed, we were so incredibly proud of the whole team, and proved to ourselves that we deserved to be there. It was lovely to be fed both before and after the game, and made the day end as it began, keeping up the professional look for the entire time. To get to speak to some of the p[layers was also lovely, and we felt like we had done ourselves proud.

Journey home:

The journey home was relaxed and chilled as it is for most of our games. I can't speak for the others, but I feel that we spoke about everything good and bad, covered ourselves and debriefed to finish the day on a high! It was a very easy journey home (I didn't drive so can't complain, thanks to Mum), and overall had a great weekend.

Any Regrets:

Team wise, I have no regrets. The girls were brilliant, they performed in the ways I had asked them to, and everyone put in an amazing shift. Playing a Tier 1 side, we knew that we were up against some of the best, so taking everything in our stride, but realistically, was huge for us.

The Learnings:

Their standards are something that we will look to take forward, from the whole day. The way they approached their warm up, their batting, fielding and bowling, and their mindsets were all things that we will look to try and embody going forward, and for those of the team looking to progress to higher levels in their cricket, it's something that they haven't just seen, but something they've played against and can take from to help their own aspirations.

Personally, there are always things that I feel I can take forward and improve on. That's the amazing thing about playing professionals, as they give you things to aspire to in every area, and please take these with a pinch of salt, as I know realistically we were playing a Tier 1 side, and I performed well. My batting I feel that I did brilliantly. I would have liked to score a bit quicker, seeing as it was a T20, but in what the team required, I did my job and got us to a very respectable score. My fielding I would have liked to gather the ball quicker and take my diving catching chance, but overall it went well. My bowling unfortunately was an area that fell away after the first over; my action lacked a little consistently, so getting that back going into the rest of the season will be my challenge!

METRO BANK ONE DAY CUP - LEAGUE 3

Hot off the Press: Bucks kicked off their campaign in the One Day cup on Sunday with an excellent victory over visitors Shropshire. Batting first, Bucks recorded 268- 9 off their allotted 50 overs,

, Captain Lara Jones leading the way with an unbeaten 63. Hannah Down was the pick of the Bucks bowlers with 3-23.

Chasing a large total, Bucks were undaunted and a 1st wicket partnership of by Chloe Hill and Molly Carter set the scene for an exciting run chase. Skipper Cara Duggan carried on the good work and remained unbeaten as she led her side to victory by 5 wickets.

REMAINING BUCKS WOMENS FIXTURES

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

Date	Opposition	Venue
July26	WILTSHIRE	HIGH WYCOMBE
Aug 2	CHESHIRE	HIGH WYCOMBE
Aug16	Staffordshire	Little Stoke CC
Aug 30	Berkshire	Finchampsted
Sept 6	Cambridgeshire	Fenners

National Counties Cricket Association {NCCA} By long time Bucks life member Jonathan Lilley

A few years ago I wrote an article regarding the NCCA. I felt that it was time to review the progress or otherwise of the new association.

While it was probably time for the Minor Counties Cricket Association {MCCA} to be rebranded I would suggest the overall situation is now worse than it was before. Some of the strong points of the MCCA were:-

- * It produced an excellent almanack providing extensive information on each county.
- * Individual MCCA membership was available at a reasonable cost.
- * Match reports and scores were available in certain parts of the national press.
- * The general cricket supporter seemed to be aware of Minor Counties.

Since the inception of the NCCA the following changes have been made;

- * Individual membership has been abandoned.
- * The Annual handbook has been scrapped.
- * No reports, articles, or scorecards are ever published in the monthly Wisden Cricketer.
- * The Wisden Almanack hardly mentions the National Counties.

The improvements I should like to see to the NCCA are:

- * An improved and publicised web site.
- * Individual membership be reinstated.
- * An Annual hand book be reinstated funded by commercial companies.
- * Negotiate with the Wisden Cricketer for magazine space for reports etc on National Counties matches.
- * The annual games against the first class counties to have a real purpose, ie the winners then proceed to the 50 over competition.
- * The quality press be encouraged to report at least NCCA scores.
- * All cricket followers be encouraged to take an interest in their local National County,

In conclusion the NCCA has much work to do its and on the image of National Counties cricket.

I should however like to acknowledge that Bucks cricket web sites and those of other National Counties are usually up to date and provide good and relevant information.

Jonathan Lilley July 2026

Thanks for the article, Jonathan, .I know from comments I have received from a number of our members that they, as do I , really miss the Annual Handbook. Certainly for my role, it has been a big loss as I used to rely on it for background information.

Another excellent article from Yahoo Over Cow Corner on the joys of watching cricket at our level without the angst of whatever is happening above... and I admit the word Doomscrolling does seem to sum it up admirably. The last paragraph, in bold, is a very good summation.

DOOMSCROLLING

Doomscrolling. One of those terms that seems to appear from nowhere due to a particular phenomenon, accepted norm or change in lifestyle of society at large. The sort of term that is often deemed 'word of the year.' Undoubtedly, the veracity and relevance of doomscrolling cannot be underestimated as it has certainly become a practice. And to some extent, one feels that there could be an equivalent with cricket in which one is drawn into constantly reading negative news regarding the less palatable aspects of cricket. Indeed, at times cricket feels like it could produce it's own lyrics to Billy Joel's song '*We Didn't Start the Fire*.'

Detaching oneself from such a downward spiral regularly feels imperative during the cricket season, particularly on a day when the sun is shining and a countryside venue is beckoning alluringly. One of one's personal favourite locations for such an indulgence is the village of Warnford and the home of the Hampshire Hogs cricket club.

Little more than a twenty-five minute drive from one's home on the edge of Southampton, the route is a pleasant B-road drive through Hedge End, Botley and Curdridge prior to venturing up to the market town of Bishops Waltham and thence descending into the Meon Valley at Corhampton. For almost a century and a quarter the Hogs have been playing matches; the last sixty years in this quiet, unassuming corner of north-eastern Hampshire. With a membership in excess of 400, declaration cricket remains the format of choice. Each season features a full fixture list including touring teams from abroad. The current season features a match against Cote d'Azur glamour in the form of St Tropez CC whilst last summer one personally undertook the journey to Warnford for the contest against Singapore CC.

In a modern day cricketing world that is a churning maelstrom, one imagines that the Hogs raise their collective head, note the current cause celebre and carry on regardless. Whatever the contretemps, there are teams and players who wish to play their preferred form of cricket, a sort of esoteric form that trundles along merrily year after year regardless of trends and fashions in the wider game. There are no tables and divisions, no bonus points or overseas pro's, just the game on any given day and the joy that it generates, particularly when played in beautiful places. Cricket in the United Kingdom still retains a place for such a form of the game in a manner that is perhaps not present elsewhere.

The Hogs opponents on this afternoon are Wine Trade Cricket Club, a team who comprise, as the name suggests, of individuals who work in the wine industry. Inevitably, they have brought a selection of bottles with them, creating, according to one Hogs player, the best game of the season. The lunch interval lasts a little longer than the usual forty minutes.

The Hogs dominate the first session; scoring at a run a ball in reaching three figures inside of eighteen overs. Godalming Cricket Club's Oscar Mikail records a half century; all but eight of which are from boundaries. Even at such an early stage the Hogs openers are scoring fast enough to provide the home bowlers with plenty of overs in which to claim ten wickets; an important, yet capricious, balance to achieve in declaration matches. Fellow opener Tim Hammond also reaches a half century and the lunch interval likely represents something of a relief for the labouring Wine Trade bowlers and fielders.

Runs continue to flow freely in the early part of the afternoon session as Mikail begins to hit out. An insouciant flick over midwicket for another boundary marks his century whilst a majestic drive into the sentry sycamore tree at the far end of the ground results in a lost ball and prompts the Hogs to retire Mikail.

The innings meanders toward an inevitable declaration as the Hogs pass 250 but before any such closures play is suspended for a few seconds as a helicopter descends and lands on the property of

the neighbouring farm. Post a couple of towering sixes that might have troubled the helicopter were it on a slightly different flight path, the declaration finally arrives.

As the summer's second heatwave approaches, two soaring horse chestnut trees, with a combined wingspan of something approaching forty yards, provide a canopy of shade at the pavilion end on a warm day whilst the occasional pied wagtail skitters away near the boundary. Birds of prey soar on thermals in the big skies above eastern Hampshire.

The top right hand corner of the Hogs home ground, by the pair of nets, provides the best view of the gentle decline down toward the neighbouring house and farmland. A pair of sentinel trees offer shade on the warmest of afternoons when one undertakes a perambulation of the boundary rope.

The far corner from the pavilion features an idiosyncratic portion of the outfield where the land has acquiesced to time and weather, falling away at a noticeable rate quicker than the rest of the playing area. Fielders chase gamely after well struck shots but once the ball scuttles down the slopes of the trimmed grass there is normally only one winner.

Big skies over eastern Hampshire

Eight overs are possible between the change of innings and tea but such a short spell is enough for the Hogs to claim three Wine Trade wickets. One ponders whether there will be a procession of wickets after the resumption in play but Christo Lockhart and Martin Allen offer a modicum of resistance to the impressive Hogs attack.

Said resistance crumbles as first change bowler Richard Norris enjoys the purplest of purple patches. He dismisses both Lockhart and Allen before systematically making his way through the Wine Trade middle and lower orders. Within a dozen overs the visitors fall from a position of relative comfort in attempting to salvage a draw to losing their final wicket. Norris ends with extraordinary figures of seven for eight from just over half a dozen overs and the Hogs complete a handsome, if dramatic, victory.

From a personal perspective the numbers and minutiae of the day's play are not really of great import. Rather, the purpose of the day is to escape from the tomfoolery of day to day life, both tangible and electronic, to breathe fresh air, enjoy the vast blue sky, sense one's stress levels fall, ephemerally forget the current travails, take pleasure in the beauty of a game of cricket, forget the current cricket contretemps and just enjoy the sport for it's sheer beauty.

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@bucksccricket.co.uk)



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Annual Agreement
Player Sponsorship will be maintained until end of 2026



BUCKS CRICKET HEADLINE SPONOR 2026

Thanks to Bloom Health Hospitals for becoming Bucks Cricket new Headline Sponsor for the current 2026 season,



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@bucks cricket.co.uk)

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: bucksccricket.co.uk

Twitter : @BucksCricket

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

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

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.



Tickets available from Ron Hedley 07710 987 950

Once again, I would like to thank all those who have helped and contributed to Coloured Trousers with interviews, articles and photos over the past year, particularly Andy Bone and Sports Shots, Jason Harrison, Mike Knox, 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., , Conner Haddow, Carla Duggan, Andy Warboys 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 –why not join our happy band of literary contributors.

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