

COLOURED TROUSERS No 43



BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes

2026 END OF SEASON WASH UP EDITION

Well, here we are in mid October and I think its fair to say that the cricket season is well and truly over. November, however, is not that far away now, and with it the usual heightened expectations as we await, and look forward, hopefully, to the publication of the 2027 fixture list, both for the National Counties and the First Class game. With no smoke arising from National Counties Towers . it does look like the format for our cricket will remain the same, with the KO Trophy starting the season, followed by the T20 competition and concluding with County Championship. We will have a slight change of opponents in the latter competition, with Cambridgeshire being relegated from the Premier Division and replaced by Lincolnshire who have bounced back after winning Division One. Sadly it does seem rather disappointing that there will still probably be only 4 red ball matches in what is still the Blue Riband of National Counties cricket.

Although the season ended in disappointment, we must now look forward to new and fresh challenges, particularly as we now have a reputation as one of the top red ball National Counties to uphold. This is not an empty boast- the latest November edition of The Cricketer magazine, just out, contains a two page review by James Coyne of the National Counties season, which opens with the following paragraph :-

On the quiet, Buckinghamshire and Devon have built themselves into the strongest red ball operation in National Counties cricket. Reaching three out of the last four Championship Finals, is no mean achievement , when one slip up in a four-game group stage can cost you the top spot you need.

Fine words indeed, and ones that every one of the 30 players who took part in those matches should be proud of.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE C.C.C.



Coloured Trousers caught up with Bucks Head of Development Jason Harrison for a brief review of the season



Overall, we had a pretty solid year - it goes without question we are disappointed we did not get further in the 2 white ball formats but looking at it objectively winning as many matches as we did ,we must be satisfied. Con had a wonderful first year in charge - tough ask to follow Tom & Alexei, but he showed good people skills and tactical knowledge in the summer ,which is encouraging all-round. All our new players fitted in well and showed the reason why they were signed - so we are all excited what the next few years could bring .

Making improvements in consistency with the 2 white ball formats were a huge focus for us as a whole - this has started to be seen in the last 2 seasons, particularly last summer - credit must be given to the squad as our quest continues of being highly competitive in all 3 formats .

Highlight of the season for me was the 3-day game v Staffs at Chesham - the levels, intensity and skill from both sides was a pleasure to watch - it had a feel of a first-class match, Pace on view ,top class spin and brave long form batting, shows why NCCA has such an important role in the domestic game. It was by far the most enjoyable multi day game I have been involved in since being Head Coach .

Regarding the winter ,we will have a bit of a recharge- then from early November, some of our players will be in, working on technical aspects of their games ,while the whole squad will be starting back in Jan.

Bucks Championship Batting Averages

	Name	Inn	NO	Runs	Mins	H S	50s	Av
JC	Bates	2	1	50	97	36*		50.00
EAJ	Cox	4	0	181	325	66	3	45.25
EWB	Bragg	8	3	200	524	57*	1	40.00
D	Sabherwal	3	0	83	186	62	1	27.67
MG	Pardoe	10	1	244	514	72	1	27.11
AM	Foreman	6	0	159	260	60	2	26.50
JM	Lincoln	4	0	100	120	37		25.00
BGS	Dodds	10	0	243	702	79	1	24.30
RJ	Nicholas	7	0	132	483	48		18.86
AS	Sawant	4	0	70	168	42		17.50
GDC	Harvey	9	0	153	466	31		17.0
AN	Raykar	7	0	110	218	29		15.71
CPW	Haddow	9	1	125	257	42		15.63
AJ	Dodds	10	0	123	556	55	1	12.30
T	Weymes	9	5	9	93	2		2.25
L	Bulsteel	1	1	0	2	0		----

Bucks Championship Bowling Averages

	Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs Best	B Mch	AV
MG	Pardoe	5	36.5	6	11	98 5--7	7-40	8.91
CPW	Haddow	5	234.2	46	35	592 6--71	11--199	16.91
TG	Weymes	5	117	21	16	393 5--45	5--74	24.56
AM	Foreman	3	80.4	15	11	276 4--54	4--62	25.09
AJ	Dodds	5	66.2	9	7	208 2--36	2--61	29.71
L	Bulsteel	1	21.5	4	2	62 1--14	2--62	31.00
EWB	Bragg	4	92	17	8	290 4--41	4--57	36.25
JM	Lincoln	2	9	1	1	45 1--32	1--32	45.00

Apologies for being a bit tardy with interviewing our new professional, but Coloured Trousers caught up with Matt for his views and experiences of his new club after his first season.



1.All at Bucks hope you have enjoyed your new adventure over the past season , working with a new set of young players and are looking forward to helping Bucks continue to maintain their recent progress.

Firstly, I want to state how fantastic my first season with Bucks was. From the first winter session I could tell it would be a successful year. The group had an excellent work ethic and I could tell it was a good environment to learn and improve in from the discussions that took place between players. They were inquisitive and challenging, fostering learning and progress. I could also tell that there would be lots of fun and good friendship.

Moving forward, I hope to continue playing my part in the development of all the squad. Towards the end of the year I thoroughly enjoyed having conversations with several players about their winter plans, and things they could work on to expand their game. I now look forward to working with them on those aspects at various times over the winter.

2, Could you please briefly outline your cricketing career for our readers and what you believe you can bring to Bucks.

I was a professional cricketer at Worcestershire for five years, playing 56 First Class matches and a handful of short-format matches. After that I played for, and captained, Herefordshire for ten years alongside my day job as the Director of Cricket at Sherborne School, and more recently Head of Cricket at RGS High Wycombe. I naturally want to be the best player on the pitch every time I take the field, and come with lots of experience from playing for a long time at this level. However, I think one of more valuable assets to Buckinghamshire is my coaching and mentoring experience. I feel this enables me to help coach and mentor younger players on the

pitch to help them develop at a faster pace. I enjoyed batting with players such as Billy, Rys and Daksh this year, talking through the game situation and what was required, how to adapt to conditions or a certain bowler, and work out a game plan. Whilst you can do this in the nets, nothing beats learning whilst in the moment on the pitch.

3, Did you have any conversations with your predecessor here at Bucks (Alexei Kervezee) before joining as you were together in the Worcestershire County team at one time, and of course you would have known Ed Bragg from Halesowen. Given that you are here, I guess they didn't put you off!

I had heard many good things about Buckinghamshire from Alexei and Ed over the years so I was very excited when the opportunity to join the county came up.

4, You are obviously no stranger to Minor/ National Counties cricket, having spent your previous 10 years with Herefordshire in the Western Division. Are there any differences that you have noticed so far between the Western and Eastern Divisions, - attitudes, grounds, wickets (more helpful to spinners/ seamers) hospitality etc,

I would say the main difference is in the Championship format. In the Western Division I feel the first thought is not to lose the game. Don't give the opposition an inch and try to hold your discipline for longer than they can. Most games ended in draws for that reason. This was also helped by the pitches, which, in my opinion, were flatter for longer in the west. In the East there seems to be a more aggressive mindset. To go for the win and if that fails, hang on for the draw. It makes for exciting, and sometimes nail-biting cricket.

5, Obviously the format of NCCA cricket is the same (T20, KO Trophy and Championship) in both Western and Divisions - do you personally have a preference for one type over another.

Personally, I am, and have always been, a lover and advocate of the longest format. To win a three-day game takes sustained skill and execution. Generally the better team will win. Short format can still be a lottery where one person coming off is the result and sometimes the better team doesn't win. However, I know that is the focus of most people and countries as there are more trophies to win and more money to be made. Regardless of the format though, I just love playing the game and still enjoy it, regardless of the format.

6. Over the last few years, there does appear to have been slightly more emphasis on the shorter form of the game, with the potential to play more matches in this format because of the qualifying rounds/ quarter /semifinals / super 12's etc. For most clubs, 4 is the most championship matches they will get to play. What are your views and do you think this is a worrying trend? Are we in fact developing a white ball cricketer rather than a red ball cricketer?

It is a shame we only get four (or five) longer format games a year but as I said, the professional game is white ball dominant and, rightly so, the National Counties competitions reflects that. The National Counties, and Buckinghamshire, are aiming to

produce professional cricketers, to help people achieve their dreams. As such I feel it is the right thing to prepare players for that through more white ball cricket and skills. Although I still believe the best players can play all formats, and white ball skills are built on the foundations of red ball basics, so red ball skills will always be important - even if they aren't as eye catching.



2026 NCCA Championship Most Valuable Players

1	Connor Haddow	Buckinghamshire
2	Will MacVicar	Cornwall
3	Jonny Bushnell	Northumberland

It had to happen at some time.....

At Lords, in the recent County Championship match at the end of September , two Bucks Old Boys came face to face in the match between Middlesex and Northants. Saif Zaid playing for Northants notched up his third century for the club in the their second innings before falling victim to the bowling of Tom Helm, who had Zaif caught behind by the keeper. In Northants first innings, Zaif had only made 2 before he was caught by....you've guessed it , Tom Helm.!

BUCKS WOMEN



After our second successful season in ECB Tier 3 cricket, Coloured Trousers spoke to Bucks Women's Head Coach Ben Ungaretti for his views of the campaign .



1. Ben, third place in the league. Excellent finish to the season?

To finish third is a really positive result and I think it is a fair reflection of the progress the group has made. We have had some really strong performances throughout the season and, importantly, we finished the campaign strongly. The 230-run win against Cambridgeshire to secure third place was a great way to finish, with contributions throughout the side.

2. Overall view of the season. Has Tier 3 cricket improved performances?

I think the biggest positive is the consistency of our performances. The standard of Tier 3 cricket is certainly improving, and that has challenged us to improve with it. The players have had to become more adaptable and understand what winning cricket looks like in different situations. We have also shown that when we play to our potential, we can compete against sides with players who have experience at higher levels.

3. Highlights of the season. T20 Cup against Lancashire?

There have been a number of highlights, but playing Lancashire in the T20 County Cup was certainly one of them. They are a professional Tier 1 side and it was a fantastic opportunity for our players to test themselves against that level. The result went Lancashire's way, but Cara Duggan top-scored with 54 and Zaynah Wani impressed taking some big scalps including Emma Lamb who has played for England.

4. Number of new young players introduced. Likelihood of more?

One of the things I am particularly proud of is the number of young players who have come into the environment and contributed. We have continued to give opportunities to players coming through the Bucks pathway, and I think that is vital to the future of the women's game in the county. There is a really good group coming through, so I would expect to see more young players given opportunities next season. The key is making sure they are introduced at the right time and supported properly when they come into the senior environment.

5. More individual highlight performances than previously?

Definitely. We have had a greater number of players producing match-defining performances this year, and that is something I think is really encouraging. It hasn't just been one or two players carrying the team. We have seen big contributions with the bat, ball and in the field from different players at different times. That competition for places is exactly what you want within a squad.

6. Importance of Cara to the team. Her maiden Tier 3 century and unbeaten performances

Cara has been hugely important to this team, not just because of what she produces on the field but because of the leadership she provides. This was another significant season for her, particularly reaching 100 appearances for Buckinghamshire and then producing her maiden Tier 3 century in our final game. To score a hundred the way she did and she also showed throughout the season that she can perform in different situations. Her 54 against Lancashire was another example of her standing up against high-quality opposition. She sets standards for the group and is someone younger players can look towards.

7. T20 versus 50-over. Do they require different skill sets?

They definitely require different skill sets, although there is obviously a lot of crossover. T20 demands a high level of intent, decision making and execution because you have very little time to recover from mistakes. In 50-over cricket, there is more opportunity to build an innings, manipulate the game and work through different phases.

For our players, learning to switch between those formats has been really important. You need players who can adapt their game rather than simply having one way of playing. That adaptability is something we have worked hard on this season.

8. Where next? Aims for next season

The aim has to be to keep moving forward. Third place gives us a really good platform, but we don't want to stand still. We want to become more consistent, improve our performances against the strongest sides and develop more players capable of performing at the next level.

From a pathway perspective, continuing to bring young players through will remain a major priority. We want to create an environment where players are challenged, where they can develop their game and where Bucks becomes a really strong place for female cricketers to progress. Ultimately, we want to be competing at the top end of Tier 3 and challenging for trophies.

Thanks Ben, we look forward to following the Women as they continue their upward progress in Tier 3..

AND NOW AN INTERVIEW WITH BUCKS CAPTAIN CARA DUGGAN



1.It was a great finish to the season for both Bucks and yourself, a late run enabling you to end up in 3rd place in the One Day Trophy league in only the second season of the current format. What will be your aim for next season?

Yes, a brilliant end to the season for us. We've had a sandwiched season, with a couple of losses and a draw early in the 50 over comp and T20 league. Thankfully, the girls stuck through it and we pulled ourselves back into a brilliant run of games. I was so proud of them for being so resilient, and we ended on a high! Next season we want to be pushing the top two in the 50 over comp, as we continue to move up the league table, and want to get back to the final in the T20s. We deserve to get there with the time and effort that the group puts in, and to reach the T20 final again would cement that! However, the T20 cup was a highlight for us, so that gave us a positive look on our T20 performance!

2.Congratulations to you personally on a great season, how does that rank against previous seasons!?

Thank you. I loved last season. My batting has come on so much, and I felt that that was the area that I was really able to support the team in this season.

A bit of a lull with my bowling, having been injured at the start of the season, and then a bit of inconsistency, but overall thoroughly loved it. As I progress, every season seems to get better, and I'm loving being able to consistently contribute and bring on the girls. They are a great group to captain, the girls and coaches are endlessly supportive of me and my development, and I'm grateful for that.

3. The second season of Tier 3 cricket is has now been completed . As a player , what do you think have been the main plusses of the new format....and do you think there have been any downsides,

This season has been very positive, the ECB took on feedback from last year, specifically the leg side wides, and from discussing with other captains across the season, it's something that has benefitted the game in its professional feel. The next thing to look forward to will be the prospect of promotion. I think there must be some sort of reward to win the leagues, or for progressing in the cup competition. We were surprised that the ECB have left just six Tier 2 teams in their leagues, so adding the possibility of promotion for top tier three teams would be positive motivation for those of us looking to win the divisions.

4 The new Chairman of the National Counties Cricket Association ,George Dallow, has stated that. amongst his other aims, he would like to explore taking responsibility for Tier Three Women's cricket. Do you think that being more closely aligned with the National Counties Mens game would be a positive step forward for the Womens game?

It's the first I've heard about it, and I think it's brilliant that people such as George are now invested into progressing the women's game. To see the progress across the last ten years in both the pathway and adult cricket has been incredible, and having a similar structure may be the way forward. I think the women may still be a couple of years out, but the prospects are exciting, and if the NCCA is looking to get involved, working with the counties and ECB to discuss the best way forward can only benefit the game.

5 Looking fo the future, what improvements, if any, would you like to see in the Womens game in general?

5. The change in the women's game has already improved so much, and with the influx of money and effort into creating more opportunity for coaching, training and grounds it has already benefited women's cricket! I would like to see improved coaching at the higher age group and women's level (both club and county), and when I say improved coaching, I think of training from specific role coaches, separating batting, bowling, fielding and keeping etc. We had a taste of this over the winter last year with a bowling coach, and

every girl benefitted from the season! General training is brilliant, but success in higher tiers and men's cricket comes with the specific training of skills. Furthermore, I'd like to see more work with clubs. I think the women's game at club level is improving greatly, however, I think counties should work alongside clubs, to see how they can intertwine their structures - coaching, matches etc, and to help grow the club game for women's teams. Now, I do understand with money and budgets it can be difficult to input this, however the game is only going to grow if money is put into the foundation, and clubs are where the women are found, so I think it's something to look at.

6. And What aspects, if any, of the Bucks Mens game would you like to see in the Womens game eg Scorecards, Programmes, Hospitality, Wider coverage of match results/ reports

6. I have two things. The first is more on the hospitality front. I think, unfortunately, we haven't always had the best hospitality care, including simple things like food at tea, or teas and coffees available for players and staff. At the men's county games, and even from playing at a men's club team, the teams that offer tea are proud to put on great ones, however the women's game for those that host us don't always apply the same care. Similarly, players should be able to have tea and coffee, same with coaches and managers as a welcoming factor. I think if we are looking to professionalise the game, the same care should be provided, as we notice when we don't think care has been put into making us feel welcome. Secondly, is coverage. We love when our games are streamed, as it definitely creates a more professional feel. We've been grateful for George, who works the Bucks social media, who when he's there, sets up our NV play. It's amazing to go back and watch our games, and be able to share them so others can watch it as well. I know my club team love to watch them, and I'd love to see this our country wide, so every county team has access to it!

Thanks Cara , for your excellent insights. Some very interesting points that you make and which are certainly well worth following up.

A PROUD MOMENT FOR BUCKS WOMENS CRICKET



A proud moment for Bucks Cricket as our work in the community is featured by Wisden.

The full story can be found on the Bucks Cricket website

Congratulations to Bucks Pathway players Tilly Fellows and Daksh Saberwal , who both surpassed 1000 runs for Bucks this season, with Tilly making history as the first Women & Girls player to reach the milestone since Play-Cricket records began in 2003



TELL THEM ABOUT IT!

A lesson learnt very early on in my marketing/ advertising career was

“ if they don't know about it, they can't buy it!”

and that phrase can be equally translated and applied to Bucks CCC matches

**“ If they are unaware of a match (date, venue, time, etc),
then how can they be expected to come and watch?”**

If we wish to increase attendances at our home matches, we need to have strong advertising campaigns, particularly in those areas around the grounds that we will use. Clearly any campaigns should extend to a wider audience, as we know from Andy and Su's excellent research and postings on Facebook that spectators are prepared to travel to watch the game that they love. What can we do? We could, for instance do more (sometimes any) advertising before each game, such as:-

- putting articles/ ads in local papers (where they still exist!)
- adverts/leaflets in local shops, particularly those close to the ground

- Why not use the captive audience that we already have of our very own Cricket Clubs. There are around 120 clubs affiliated to Bucks Cricket .
- Probably about 100 of the clubs have their own ground, so why not put an ad or poster in each and every one.

At least we can be pretty sure that most people using each club have an interest in cricket !

I am well aware of the strong social media presence that Bucks Cricket (website/twitter/facebook/ instagram, etc) has but there is still a reasonable % of our potential market who are not. Content Creators and You Tube Influencers are words from another world !

Their social media is possibly/probably local radio, samples of which I believe are below:-

Wycombe Sound: Bucks Radio:BBC Three Counties Radio:MKFM:Mix96 (Aylesbury);Radio Bucks

I must point out that all of the above comments / ideas/ suggestions re advertising / marketing etc apply equally to both Bucks Mens and Womens Cricket.

INTERVIEW WITH NEW NCCA CHAIRMAN - GEORGE DARLOW

As it appeared on the NCCA Cricket website



Martin Darlow's vast experience in cricket administration is now being put to use for the benefit of National Counties cricket. Darlow had seven years as a board member of the England and Wales Cricket Board, latterly serving as Deputy Chairman and interim Chairman, as well as representing the ECB on the International Cricket Council. During his time at Lord's Darlow, a former senior detective, sat on the Minor Counties Review Group which oversaw the formation of the National Counties Cricket Association in 2019 and the creation of the existing format of National Counties cricket – promotion and relegation in the NCCA Clubberly Championship – when cricket resumed after the Covid lockdown in 2020.

Earlier this year Darlow was elected Chairman of NCCA as successor to former Staffordshire captain Nick Archer and he is delighted to see the highest level of recreational cricket in England and Wales flourishing.

"I chaired the Minor Counties Review Group that included Nick Archer and Paul Bedford, who was the ECB's Head of Recreational Cricket," Darlow said.

"There were so many experts telling us that we would fail to make changes, but we pressed on regardless and after lots of consultation managed to secure the name change to National Counties, introduce the league format for three-day cricket, develop a white ball format structure and make some regulation amendments to improve and enhance the competitions." This also enabled a funding increase via the County Partnership Agreement. Not much has fundamentally changed since the review so I regard that as success.

"As NCCA Chairman Darlow represents an organisation which covers 19 English counties and the whole of Wales, in a larger geographical spread than the 18 first-class counties and providing opportunities and exposure for players, coaches and umpires from some of the cricketing outposts.

Around a quarter of players involved in any round of Rothesay County Championship matches will have played National Counties cricket at some stage in their careers with that figure increasing for the Metro Bank Cup when players such as Berkshire batter Johnny Connell (Somerset), Dorset wicketkeeper/batter Joe Eckland (Gloucestershire), Shropshire batter Joe Johnson (Sussex) and

Cambridgeshire leg-spinner Mo Rizvi (Leicestershire) are recruited on short-term contracts.

Any new recruit to the First-Class Umpires' Panel will also have got there having officiated in National Counties cricket while on the National Panel with Sam Hollinshead and former Lancashire wicketkeeper Gareth Cross the most recent to graduate.

"It is important the NCCA showcases talent and provides a route where appropriate into the professional game. This applies to players, coaches, umpires, scorers, physios, administrators, etc. who were it not for the NCCA would not be identified," Darlow said.

"The strength of the National Counties is in the 20 clubs who provide opportunities for players, officials and supporters to participate or watch the pinnacle of the recreational game. This is augmented by the rich and long history of Minor Counties and now National Counties success.

"Other strengths are live streaming and commentaries providing more eyes and ears on our games and the pathway for players and officials as once again this season we have witnessed more players and umpires given Metro Bank opportunities following strong performances in NCCA games.

"We are also very fortunate to have an experienced, well respected and expert Operations Director in Richard Logan and a strong, diverse, knowledgeable Board of Directors."

Darlow's own connections with National Counties cricket are strong. One of his sons, George, plays for Cambridgeshire and previously played for Bedfordshire and another, Ally, works as Berkshire Cricket's Schools Development Manager.

Darlow himself umpires in the East Anglian Premier League – a competition which features many National Counties players - each weekend in the summer months and he is Chairman and assistant groundsman at the Southill Park club whose stunning ground in the grounds of the Whitbread family home is one of Bedfordshire's home venues. But it is Darlow's experience and knowledge of the ECB that have been of most beneficial to National Counties cricket with meetings with ECB Chairman Richard Thompson and Chief Executive Richard Gould already held and Gould a guest at Sunday's National Counties T20 Finals Day at Wormsley.

"I have had a number of meetings with senior ECB staff including Richard Gould and they appreciate what the NCCA offers and delivers. I have met with Richard Thompson and have a further meeting scheduled this month," Darlow said.

"I am challenging the ECB with two questions: 1. How can the NCCA assist the ECB with delivering the Inspiring Generations strategy? and 2. How can the ECB further support and assist the NCCA?"

"These have led to some exciting discussions on collaboration and access to ECB resources.

“Andy Lees is our operational ECB lead and I know Andy well having worked with him for many years whilst I was an ECB and ICC Board member. The support and advice from Andy to Richard Logan, the Board and me has been first-rate.”

As he completes his first season as Chairman, Darlow has also identified areas of improvement for National Counties cricket, to further strengthen the pinnacle of recreational cricket.

“The areas I am keen to enhance or improve are to further professionalise what we deliver from boundary to boardroom, to increase the number of eyes and ears on NCCA games through technology and digitalisation, to Promote and support pathway opportunities for players, officials and administrators and to explore taking responsibility for Tier Three Women’s cricket,” he said.

THE CRICKETER MAGAZINE - November Issue



As mentioned at the beginning of this Newsletter, a review of the National Counties season was included in the latest edition of The Cricketer magazine,-above is the first page of the article.

THE CRICKETER MAGAZINE - PODCAST

Just out and available to listen to now is an excellent Podcast interview by James Coyne with our skipper Conner Haddow about life on the National Counties circuit. A must listen to interview.

And it leads very nicely onto the next article.....

Seasons Reflections - The Hardest Working Cricketer

Another excellent blog from Yahoo Over Cow Corner, and one that may well resonate with a number of our 1ST XI squad, and in particular our current captain.

From the start of the County Championship on the 3rd April to its conclusion on 27th September there are one hundred and seventy-eight days. For many a professional county cricketer the season will be mapped out according to the phases / blocks of fixtures into which the county program is now not so neatly partitioned. For the professional cricketer not part of the different first XI's the six month season proves to be a little more changeable according to various demands and commitments.

Under such circumstances, the more peripatetic county player may well discover that there are demands on their playing time that are notably higher than players who are a constant in the first XI. One such example is Hampshire squad member Felix Organ, for whom the season just completed amply illustrated the variable life of a player who is not always a first team regular.

The basic numbers provide a little insight into the matter. Out of those aforementioned one hundred and seventy-eight days, Organ played cricket on ninety-two days, all but fifty percent of the season. The details behind the numbers provide rather more interesting context and nuance to the bare numbers though. The lion's share of Organ's season plays out in the colours of Hampshire, for both the first and second XI, but during the 2025 season the off-spin all-rounder also became an integral part of his home club, St Cross Symondians, and there double winning season in the Southern Premier League. Understandably, the Winchester based club were keen for a repeat, both of Organ's availability and the overall success. Predictably, Hampshire would have first priority, but the twin demands of club and county led to a season of constantly changing formats and changing teams.

Indeed, as the campaigns of the respective teams began to gather momentum so the playing commitments began to increase. During the month of May Organ played, or was involved, on twenty of the thirty-one calendar days, changing teams on seven occasions and formats on four occasions. The fluid nature of Organ's season was perhaps no better illustrated than when Hampshire's demise inside of three days against Essex in the County Championship match at Chelmsford provided Organ the opportunity to join the Second XI match against the South Asian Cricket Academy for the second and third days of play. Similarly, he would play on consecutive days for St Cross Symondians, (a fifty over Southern Premier League match followed by a forty over ECB Club Championship equivalent) guiding his club to victory with an unbeaten century in the latter. Somewhat thankfully, both contests were at the club's home ground in Winchester.

The break in May's heatwave afforded a likely much needed cessation through early June but the retirement of Liam Dawson from red ball cricket part way through

the season further changed the landscape as Organ was instantly elevated from back-up spinner to first choice, if one were to be selected. Surrey's requirement for a period of grace prior to the second test against New Zealand dictated a ten day gap between Hampshire's two mid summer Championship fixtures, allowing Organ to return to club cricket, albeit in a somewhat reduced capacity as St Cross' Southern Premier League match lasted just forty-four overs.

Whilst Organ may have flittered around the fringes of the first XI he undoubtedly became a vital cog in St Cross' various campaigns. Indeed, one assumes that the Winchester club were paying very close attention to Hampshire's squad selections for the Championship matches against Surrey and Sussex; both of which Organ would feature. Proceedings at the Oval proved chastening as Dan Lawrence blitzed the Hampshire attack but at Hove Organ chiselled a crucial innings of forty-eight and claimed three vital second innings wickets as the visitors escaped with a much needed success.

The return of the Blast at the end of June for nearly a month dictates a little more flexibility in Organ's schedule. As St Cross defend both their Southern Premier League and T20 Cup titles one suspects Organ's dual skills will be required as much as permitted. Post a chastening early season defeat to newly promoted Sarisbury Athletic, St Cross administered a trio of statement responses against the Hampshire Academy, Portsmouth and Bashley, skittling all three sides in little more than seventy overs across the three matches.

Early July witnessed a drop off in Hampshire Second XI fixtures and a fourth different team for Organ. Fresh from scoring 156 and taking 3 wickets for St Cross on a Saturday, Organ undertook the 130 mile journey from Winchester to Ebbw Vale in south Wales in order to represent Dorset in their first National Counties Championship match of the season the following day. Organ's journey mirrors a scenario that many a National Counties player will face during the season: playing for the club on a Saturday, representing the county on a Sunday at a different venue, often at a distant venue. Throw in the 110 over days for National County Championship matches and the level of demand is highlighted even further.

Late July and early August now presents a have and have nots scenario as the Hundred has gouged a huge divide in the domestic game. Residing on the side of the have nots, Organ's schedule would revolve around the eight Metro Bank Cup matches and fixtures for St Cross on free weekends. With competitions reaching their denouements for the latter, one imagines that the Winchester based club would be keen to include Organ in their plans as much as allowed by Hampshire. Hampshire's early fixtures dictated that potential weekend appearances for St Cross would be limited as the south coast county would play matches on both Friday and Sunday for the first two weekends of the One Day Cup. Organ acts as drinks carrier for the first weekend of fixtures but still manages to squeeze in an appearance for St Cross in between the matches at the Rose Bowl and Worcester. The second weekend features a near repeat with a day carrying drinks in Chelmsford followed by a shimmy down to Portsmouth to record a fifty and take a couple of wickets for St Cross before heading up the M27 to play for Hampshire against Durham on the Sunday; concluding a round trip of some 260 miles for the three consecutive days of play. Organ's requirements were aided by St Cross' happy knack of finishing their

matches in good time. None of those in which Organ appeared required the full 100 or 120 overs whilst four matches didn't even require half of the day's overs to be utilised before the Winchester club had claimed victory.

Hampshire's group stage exit in the One Day Cup unwittingly freed a section of the fixture log-jam but the second half of August featured the return of both the County Championship and the Second Eleven Championship. Selected for the first team's relegation battle, Organ performed creditably against Yorkshire at the Rose Bowl, claiming four second innings wickets and batting with grit in both innings in a low scoring match. Hampshire preferred the left-arm spin of Andrew Neal for the next two matches though, leaving Organ to fulfill twelfth man duties.

An abject defeat to Warwickshire at the Rose Bowl prompted a recall, albeit as a makeshift opener against reigning champions Nottinghamshire and the crucial relegation battle against Leicestershire; a role not undertaken at county level for a number of years. Organ's performances with the bat arguably mirrored that of Hampshire's in the second half of the season; somewhat meagre with the occasional moment of grit as the final two matches of the season ended in defeat and relegation from the top flight.

All of which concluded an extraordinary season in terms of playing commitments. Out of the aforementioned 178 days, Organ played or was involved on 92 (including 15 as a substitute), effectively every other day. Almost two thousand runs and eighty odd wickets, twenty-two changes of format, a couple of trophies and copious amounts of travel. Quite possibly, the hardest working cricketer.



We're recruiting a **Facilities Development and Operations Manager** to lead Bucks Cricket's facility projects and support clubs to improve their facilities. Build strong council and funding partnerships and, as Bucks Cricket sites open, manage welcoming, well-used and financially sustainable facilities alongside the Grounds Manager.

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@bucksccricket.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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BucksCricket>

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.

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, Ben Ungaretti and Matt Pardoe. 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