



BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

EARLY EASTER EDITION

Editor: Bill Scholes

Welcome to Newsletter No4 and we hope that you enjoy the read. As March draws to an end and April beckons, we can begin to feel the tingle of excitement and expectation as the new cricket season looms large. Of course at the moment, we do not know exactly what, and how much, cricket we will be able to play or watch but the smoke signals emanating from both the NCCA and ECB headquarters are all positive. You will see from the NCCA Press Release below that the T20 competition has been cancelled, but that was not entirely unexpected given the timing -probably just a month or so too early. However the Bucks Cricket Committee has acted swiftly to fill the dates with four 50 over friendlies as warm ups for the 50 over KO competition proper.

PRESS RELEASE- NCCA T20 TOURNAMENT

The National Counties Cricket Association has reluctantly decided to cancel this season's Twenty20 Cup competition. After seeing last year's entire match programme called off because of the coronavirus pandemic, it was hoped that all three formats could be played this summer. Although organised outdoor sports, including cricket, are due to be allowed from 29th March, following discussions with member counties, it was felt additional factors meant that it would not be possible to run the T20 competition. Among the logistical issues, overnight stays, which would be necessary for some fixtures, plus lengthy travelling distances, are not, in the NCCA's view, 'essential' at this moment in time.

Alternative options, including potentially playing the T20 competition later in the summer, were looked at, but not found to be workable. The health, well-being and safety of all players, officials and spectators is of paramount importance to the NCCA, which is why this decision has been taken. The NCCA remain positive that the 50-over format, due to start in June, and the Championship programme, scheduled to begin in July, will proceed as normal. However, we will continue to work closely with the ECB to ensure that any Government advice is fully adhered to.

ADDITIONAL BUCKS CCC FIXTURES

To replace the cancelled T20 fixtures, and as a warm-up for the KO competition, we have arranged to play 50 over matches against:

1. Intra County (Squad & Academy) on 25 April at High Wycombe CC
 2. Hertfordshire on 2 May at High Wycombe CC.
 3. If Hertfordshire can find a venue, an away match against them on 9 May;
 4. Oxfordshire on 23 May at High Wycombe CC for the Nurton- York Trophy.
- This replaces the match previously set for 31 May.

All being well, with fingers and everything else crossed, our fixture list for this season will now look like this:-

PRE SEASON MATCHES

Date	Opposition	Venue
Apr 25	Intra County Match	High Wycombe
May 2	Hertfordshire	High Wycombe
May 9	Hertfordshire	Away
May23	Nurton-York Trophy	Oxfordshire
		High Wycombe

NCCA 50 OVERS KNOCKOUT

Date	Opposition	Venue
May 30	Wales NC	High Wycombe
June 20	Bedfordshire	Southill Park
June 27	Oxfordshire	Gerrards Cross
July 4	Berkshire	Wargrave

NCCA CHAMPIONSHIP - EASTERN DIVISION TWO

Date	Opposition	Venue
July 11-13	Bedfordshire	Bedford School
Aug 1-3	Hertfordshire	Tring Park
Aug 15-17	Cumberland	Away
Aug 22-24	Northumberland	Chesham



Right, hands up all those of you who have heard of the European Cricket Championship. And keep your hands up if you knew that it was taking place in September/ early October of this year. Continue keeping your hands up if you were aware that England were amongst the 15 European countries in the competition and

finally remain with your hands in the air if you knew that the National Counties had been chosen to represent England.

Yes, you heard correctly, the NCCA will be representing England in the European Cricket Championship series in Barcelona. The draw took place a week or so ago and England will play in Group C which will run between the 27th September 2021 to 1st October. No matter the sport, we seem destined to come against Germany, although there won't be a penalty shoot-outbut there could be a Super Over! Five national teams will feature in each of the three group weeks, with the winners qualifying directly for Finals Week. The two best runners-up during the group stages will also take their place at Finals Week on October 4-8 at the picturesque Cartama Oval in Spain. Fingers crossed we can make it to the finals.



UN-SUNG HEROES OF BUCKS C.C.C. - No2

You may not know their names, you may not know what they look like, but they are always there, come rain or come shine. Frozen to death one day in a wooden hut with built in ventilation ie, holes in the walls, boiling hot in a small concrete box with no ventilation on another. The game cannot do without them – they are of course the scorers.

Paul Dean opened the batting in the last Newsletter, this time it's the turn of:-

Ian Thompson.

Fact no one will know about you: In 2020 I was accredited as a Level 3 Scorer. I played my last game at Elgin CC in South Africa in 2002. I was out for a duck!!

How long have you been scoring for? 34 years.

How long have you been scoring for Bucks? 11 years

Which clubs do you currently score for? Gerrards Cross CC, Buckinghamshire CCC & Hampshire CCC

Who else have you scored for? No-one

Which is your home club? Gerrards Cross CC

How did you first get into scoring? My brother played for Gerrards Cross and I would go along to watch. I can't remember whether I asked to score or was "roped" into it – I was 11 at the time!

Which is your favourite Bucks ground to score at? High Wycombe CC

Which is your favourite club ground? Arundel Castle CC & Colwall CC (Can't decide between the two!)

Which Bucks club has the best scoreboard facilities? Tring Park CC

And which has the worst? No comment.

What is your proudest scoring moment so far? Making my First-Class debut in 2020 in the Bob Willis Trophy match between Hampshire & Surrey at Arundel. This was followed by two T20 Blast games at the Ageas Bowl.

Do you have a ground where you would like to score but haven't and why? Lord's – it the Home of cricket.

When you are not scoring, what are your interests? Watching sport & reading .

What is one thing would you change about cricket? Improve the over rates at international level.

What is your favourite Bucks game you have scored? And Why? The Championship game against Bedfordshire at Tring in 2018. Beds started the last hour eight wickets down trying to salvage a draw. They were still eight wickets down at the start of the last over. Matt Rance then took two wickets in consecutive balls!!! The Beds scorer said to me at the start of the last hour "If we are going to lose this game, I'd rather we lost now than in the last over."

A FIRST CLASS COUNTY QUIZ by CRAIG TRANTER

1. At which Welsh Rugby Stadium did **Glamorgan** play its initial first class match against Sussex in 1921?

2. In which year did Ray Illingworth become **Leicestershire** Captain?

3. Who was the last **Northants** spinner to be the club's leading wicket taker in Championship cricket?

4. Between 1835-2019, **Nottinghamshire** in their history have only ever experienced one tied match in first class cricket against which county?

5. Which venue played host to its only ever List A Match back in 1972 where **Surrey** entertained Warwickshire in the John Player League?

6. Who was **Warwickshire's** first overseas Captain in the club's history?

7. The Chainwire Club Ground was used in 1980 to **host**

Worcestershire's only first class match, but where in the county can that venue be found?

With thanks and acknowledgement to Annie Chave and County Cricket Matters – an excellent Facebook group

AUSSIES RULES... OK?

Newspaper Report 1

Brawl sanctions mean teams to bat short in grand final.

Josh Barnes. Geelong Advertiser. Wednesday, 10 March 2021.

Portarlinton and Queenscliff, the two teams playing in this Saturday's Bellarine Peninsula Cricket Association (BPCA) D-grade, one-day grand final south-west of Melbourne, will only have to take either eight or nine wickets to bowl their opponents out in will be a 40-over format game. That has come about because **a number of players from both sides were suspended for their part in an on-field "brawl"** when the teams played each other two Saturday's ago and that they have an insufficient

number of other players who have played enough games for their sides to be selected for finals matches. Queenscliff is set to field nine players and Portarlington ten, however, the BPCA is allowing both clubs to have sub-fielders.

BUCKS CCC OVER 60's FIXTURE LIST 2021

All matches start at 1.00pm, unless stated otherwise

**Matches are 45 overs per side, but captains can agree to 40 overs
Fixtures for the Over 50's and Over 70's will appear in next Edition.**

First Eleven (Division South Central)

April 20 Tue	Oxfordshire	Fr	h	High Wycombe CC
April 27 Tue	Berkshire		a	Wraysbury CC
May 04 Tue	Sussex		h	Bledlow Ridge CC
May 11 Tue	Hampshire		a	Ramsdell C
May 18 Tue	Middlesex		a	Eastcote CC
May 25 Tue	Kent		h	High Wycombe CC
June 01 Tue				
June 08 Tue	Surrey		a	Banstead CC
June 15 Tue	Berkshire		h	Farnham Royal CC
June 22 Tue	Sussex		a	Horsham CC
June 29 Tue	Hampshire		h	Beaconsfield CC
July 06 Tue	Middlesex		h	Bledlow Village CC
July 13 Tue	Kent		a	Gore Court CC
July 20 Tue				
July 27 Tue	Surrey		h	Princes Risborough CC
Aug 03 Tue				
Aug 10 Tue				

Second Eleven (Division South Central)

April 20 Tue	Oxfordshire	Fr	a	Wolverton CC tbc
April 27 Tue	Essex		h	High Wycombe CC
May 04 Tue	Norfolk		a	Garboldisham CC
May 11 Tue	Hertfordshire		a	Watford Town CC
May 18 Tue	Cambs/Hunts		h	Wolverton CC
May 25 Tue				
June 01 Tue	Bedfordshire		h	Farnham Common CC
June 08 Tue	Suffolk		a	Stowmarket CC
June 15 Tue	Essex		a	Copford CC
June 22 Tue	Norfolk		h	Wolverton CC
June 29 Tue	Hertfordshire		h	The Lee CC (TBC)
July 06 Tue	Cambs/Hunts		a	Eaton Socon CC
July 13 Tue				
July 20 Tue	Bedfordshire		a	Kempston Hammers CC
July 27 Tue	Suffolk		h	Chalfont St Giles CC
Aug 03 Tue				
Aug 10 Tue				

Third Eleven

May 06 Thur	Hertfordshire		h	Wolverton CC
May 11 Tue	Sussex		a	Ardingly CC
May 18 Tue	Essex		a	Kelvedon & Feering CC

May 27 Thur Suffolk	h	Winchmore Hill(Penn) CC
June 03 Thur Oxfordshire	a	Cropredy CC
June 08 Tue Kent	a	Gore Court CC
June 17 Thur Surrey	h	The Lee CC
June 24 Thur Essex	h	Wolverton CC
July 01 Thur Suffolk	a	Ipswich CC (Clay Hall)
July 08 Thur Oxfordshire	h	Chearsley CC
July 15 Thur Kent	h	Bledlow Village CC
July 20 Tues Surrey	a	Horsley & Send CC
July 27 Tues Hertfordshire	a	Broxbourne CC
Aug 05 Thur Sussex	h	Chalfont St Giles CC

Fourth Eleven Beds/Bucks Combined

April 29 Thur Surrey	h	Kimble CC
May 06 Thur Kent	h	Beaconsfield C
May 13 Thur Hertfordshire	a	Knebworth CC
May 20 Thur Sussex	h	High Wycombe CC
May 27 Thur Essex	h	Ickwell CC
June 03 Thur Surrey	a	Oxshott CC
June 10 Thur Hertfordshire	h	Ickwell CC
June 17 Thur Essex	a	East Hanningfield & GB CC
June 24 Thur Kent	a	Gore Court CC
July 01 Thur Surrey	h	Chearsley CC
July 08 Thur Kent	a	Gore Court CC
July 15 Thur Hertfordshire	h	Blunham CC
July 22 Thur Sussex	a	Roffey CC
July 29 Thur Essex	a	East Hanningfield & GB CC
Aug 05 Thur		
Aug 12 Thur Sussex	a	Ifield CC (NOON START)

An incredible number of matches, 27 being at home and taking in 17 different venues. For those of you who have been starved of watching live cricket, hopefully you will be able to fill your boots this summer. Looking at the venues, they are well spread over the County, so there should be some near you, wherever you are. Ron Hedley, who is the Over 60's head honcho, has done an amazing job co-ordinating and overseeing all the arrangements with these clubs, aided and abetted of course by Tony Greenham, who arranges the umpires, and by Kevin Beaumont who arranges the scorers. Talking about scorers, the club are always on the lookout for new additional ones, so if you fancy contributing to this well oiled machine, please get in touch with Kevin or Ron. Contacts/Captains for each of the XI's are below:

Bucks Seniors Chairman : Ron Hedley 01494 812645 (h) 07710 987950

1st XI Keith Wallis 07908 074526

2nd XI Matthew Hind 07768 028819

3rd XI John Moffit 07889 756608

4th XI Ron Hedley 07710 987950

Spotted in this months editon of The Cricketer was an interview with Richard Osman, host of House of Games, co- host of Pointless and now author of a best selling novel. He grew up in Haywards Heath and watched a lot of Sussex in the 1980's and declared his desire to retire and watch cricket from a deck chair at Hove. I can only that hope he doesn't sit in front of my deckchair, as I will never be able to see over him!



To book your place at either or both, please contact
Ian Hodgson 01494 721780 or Su Klyne 07914 251530

AUSSIES RULES... OK

Newspaper Report 2

Banned grand final club decides not to continue with appeal process.

Ben Higgins . Hume Leader. Wednesday, 10 March 2021.

Tullamarine from Melbourne has decided not to appeal its disqualification from playing in the season-ending grand final of their competition. The club's decision not to proceed means the grand final, which was due to be played on Saturday, will not go ahead and the premiership will be awarded to Roxburgh Park which won the other semi final on the day **Tullamarine's parallel game against Strathmore Heights ended in a brawl.** Strathmore were also banned from proceeding to the grand final. Individual players from both teams are facing suspensions and the association's investigation into the matters involved remains ongoing.

Thanks to Kevin Beaumont for spotting these two Australian press items

BUCKS C.C.C. A.G.M

The Bucks CCC AGM was held on March 18th by Zoom Video conference in front of 25 members, all sat in front of their various devices at home. Whether it was the novelty or whether it was much easier than attending in person, for whatever reason. there were 10 more attendees than on the previous year. It was good to see some faces that I personally

had not seen for well over a year. Attendees were muted on admission to the meeting (might be worth using that idea in other meetings!) but questions could be asked at the end.. Thanks must go to Catriona Hodgson who did a marvellous job in marshalling the troops and sorting out any technical queries.

CRICKET: AS EXPLAINED TO A FOREIGNER

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in. There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out. When both sides have been in and all the men have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the men have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game.

I know it's an old un, but still a goody

I KNOW THIS IS NOT CRICKET, BUT QUITE FUNNY

The "offside rule" in football explained to a woman

You're in a shoe shop, second in the queue for the till. Behind the shop assistant on the till is a pair of shoes which you have seen and which you must have. The female shopper in front of you has seen them also and is eyeing them with desire. Both of you have forgotten your purses. It would be rude to push in front of the first woman if you had no money to pay for the shoes. The shop assistant remains at the till waiting.

Your friend is trying on another pair of shoes at the back of the shop and sees your dilemma. She prepares to throw her purse to you.

If she does so, you can catch the purse, then walk round the other shopper and buy the shoes! At a pinch she could throw the purse ahead of the other shopper and "whilst it is in flight" you could nip around the other shopper, catch the purse and buy the shoes!

BUT, you must always remember that until the purse has "actually been thrown", it would be plain wrong for you to be in front of the other shopper and you would be OFFSIDE!

Not quite sure what VAR would make of it!



Supporting Bucks CCC

- * Interviews
- * Previews
- * Match reports
- * Action images
- * YouTube Match Highlights



Sports Shots raises money for Macmillan Cancer Support & Vasculitis UK
No personal gain is made

Sad news emanating from Sussex CCC last week as they announced that they would be playing all men's home first team matches at Hove in 2021 and therefore would not be making their annual visit to the beautiful outground of Arundel. Chief executive Rob Andrew explained "After being unable to visit our wonderful outgrounds last summer, we had all hoped that Sussex would be able to play at Arundel, Eastbourne and Horsham in 2021. Sadly, the operational requirements of hosting matches as the country emerges from the pandemic mean that it isn't feasible to take the team away from Hove. Sussex have also had to switch their opening match of the Championship season against Lancashire to Old Trafford due to the outfield suffering from a recent leatherjacket grub infestation. Hope my deckchair is OK !

I could not close without including the latest offering from my favourite blogger Yahoo over Cow Corner. Hector Capelli, for it is he who is behind this excellent blog, has long extolled the virtues of watching Minor, now National, Counties cricket and the many hidden gems that can be found outside of the First Class game.

WELCOME (HOPEFULLY) TO THE NEW SEASON

by Yahoo over Cow Corner

Every spectating season begins in the same manner. Whether under leaden skies and amid the keen breezes of winter's last rites or basking in the sun of a summer's precursor, each year's cricket watching begins with a Panglossian optimism as the following half a dozen months yawn into the distance with many an afternoon to be enjoyed. Fixtures abound with the promise of much travel to new and familiar places along with hoped for lazy, sultry, sunny afternoons watching players perform great deeds that one can only dream of equalling. Hope springs eternal in the cricket fixture list and the wan, receding days of September seem aeons in the future. Once the year's spectating begins the various contretemps and cause celebres that currently plague the sport seem to be pushed to the margins. Once at a match all the woes and ills of the sport at large drift away into the ether and one can concentrate on why one remains in love with this sport despite its parlous state.

Each season begins with particular certainties and equivalent uncertainties. Indeed, some are Rumsfeldian in the uncertain nature of their certainty. Thus, one is certain that the weather will intervene in one's plans, but one is not certain exactly when such an interruption will occur, for how long or how often. One maps out a list of fixtures but is cognisant that some may fall foul of the elements.

Another level of uncertainty has wreaked its influence on the present landscape though courtesy of you know what. The development of testing, vaccines and better understanding of the virus has dictated that professional sport is in a more stable position in the lead up to the 2021 season than it was amidst the stasis of the first lockdown twelve months previous but such a position most definitely does not translate into the status quo ante prior to the outbreak of COVID19. Indeed, one ponders whether one will be able to attend the professional fixtures that one has earmarked or even if they will take place at all. Even then there is another angle to consider. Should the professional fixtures admit spectators then one will have to consider whether one is prepared to travel to matches. The actual spectating would likely prove comfortable enough but can one sufficiently reconcile the

notion of a train journey to Hove, Lord's, Taunton, Bristol or the Oval in one's fragile mind in order to enjoy a day's play. Some will likely find such issues to be of no consequence at all but for others the landscape has altered, potentially irrevocably, to the point where previous norms are no longer so simple. Hence, one has a plan of fixtures to attend but, for arguably the first time, one also possesses an alternative list in the event of the professional game remaining behind closed doors.

Perhaps said alternative list will provide more spectating fodder than expected because, in some respects, the current state of play in the professional game is rather Dickensian: these are the best of times, the worst of times. Emails aplenty arrive in one's inbox advertising matches and contests with great fanfare and gusto but many prove unappealing. You know what was supposed to change plenty but when one particular establishment sees fit to ask £165 for a ticket for an international match then one ponders whether anything has changed at all in some quarters.

There is so much cricket to watch but plenty that one is happy to avoid. Vignettes appear throughout the season though and one has to dig a little deeper and with a little more fervour in order to fulfil a full card of spectating. There remains much fine quality cricket to be enjoyed though, particularly if one can toss aside the old bugbear of status. The newly named National Counties provide great entertainment and a high standard of cricket even if the competition is not listed as first-class. Supporters in other sports hold no qualms about watching matches from lower divisions afterall.

The current campaign will also hopefully feature the intriguing round of fifty over contests between the National Counties and their First Class brethren which will provide great novelty due to also taking place at the chosen home venues of the National Counties. Those of a glass half empty nature will highlight that the teams representing the first class counties will be little better than Second XI equivalents and that the matches may well prove little more than glorified friendlies but the return of this type of fixture surely provokes great intrigue and possesses an element of novelty value. Can any of the National Counties ambush any of their first class counterparts? How will the first-class counties perform on the smaller confines of the National Counties' chosen venues? Will the fixtures attract a reasonable level of support to provide the National Counties with a financial bonus?

Much like the League Cup in Football, which has lost great value and lustre due to the diminishing interest of the headline clubs, the round of fixtures may prove little more than a sideshow for the first class counties but for the National Counties the opportunity to perform against such stellar opposition, regardless of the personnel involved, will surely prove a great fillip to an increase in performance and the chance to inflict a giantkilling defeat. The kudos of such an achievement will surely outweigh the reduced strength of the opposition.

In such circumstances, one needs to remember to enjoy the matches along the way rather than focusing too much on what lies ahead. April and May are unlikely to prove the most hospitable of months for spectating but wouldn't the hardened aficionados amongst us be lost without any cricket to watch? The season is short enough as it is after all. The lack of first-class county cricket during the previous season has arguably heightened one's desire to watch the shires in action. The early season Championship matches may end up being played behind closed doors but the late season equivalents hopefully will provide an abundance particularly as two chief bugbears have been partially addressed: the lack of weekend cricket and the dearth of play on Bank Holidays. A round of Championship

matches on the August Bank Holiday Monday proves particularly mouth watering and as lay supporters we need to rejoice in such small developments.

Any dearth of early season county cricket may provide an opportunity to explore the rich tapestry that is the amateur game though and, in particular, the curious genre that is wandering cricket. The length and breadth of the island is pockmarked with such teams playing their brethren in some of the land's more picturesque venue. Indeed, one attended a match between Sussex Martlets and Hampshire Hogs in the glorious surrounds of Arundel's Castle Ground last season that featured two Hampshire players, one from Dorset and a Sussex Second Eleven performer. Admittedly, most matches will not feature players with county experience and wandering cricket matches may lack the cut and thrust of leagues, points, promotions and relegations but they often feature a higher standard of play than many people realise. Similarly, one will no doubt indulge in an evening fixture or three during the campaign with the sun setting toward the horizon and when one can momentarily dispel the cares of the day as eventide approaches.

Thus, one concludes that there is plenty to enjoy below the clichés and the semantics of the international calendar treadmill and the over the top hyperbole and hoopla of the franchise league circus. For this blogger the joy of watching a match remains paramount whether wandering down to the Rose Bowl, catching a train to Hove, humming up the motorway to a day at the Minor / National Counties or bimbly along the southern back roads to a local club contest. The tingle of anticipation, the frisson of excitement is omnipresent on each occasion. Many a Football fan has discovered that there is much to enjoy away from the hysteria of the Premier League where everything degenerates down to money. Perhaps cricket supporters need to embrace a similar ethos.

Quiz Answers

1. Cardiff Arms Park 2.1969 3.Jason Brown (2005 – 55 wickets) 4.Worcestershire
5. Charterhouse School, Godalming 6.Brian Lara (1998) 7.Stourport-on-Severn

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

Can't get to a game – never fear, help is at hand. Don't miss a moment

Website: bucksccc.org.uk

Twitter : @bucksccc

Facebook:/ [www.facebook.com/Bucks County Cricket Club](http://www.facebook.com/BucksCountyCricketClub)

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

Once again, many thanks to all those who have helped and contributed, particularly Kevin Beaumont, Ian Thompson, Ron Hedley, Su Klyne, Craig Tranter, Mike Knox, Yahoo Over Cow Corner and County Cricket Matters. All, or any, contributions gratefully(very) received, as of course are comments – good or bad.

Stay safe, and remember HANDS FACE SPACE and now FRESH AIR

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