

YORKSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

SOUTHERN GROUP NEWSLETTER

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The End of an Era

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Southern Group News is published by Yorkshire CCC Southern Group
PO Box 6024, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 2ZS
Website: ycccs.g.cricketarchive.com
Email: ycccs.g@cricketarchive.com

All contributions offered for publication should be sent to the Editor:
Ned Holt
1 Ryeworth Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL52 6LG.
Email: nedholt54@gmail.com

WAIVER

Every effort is made by Yorkshire CCC Southern Group to ensure both the accuracy and impartiality of articles in this publication, it should be appreciated that they may be based on, or contain, information provided by third party sources over which the Editor and YCCCSG have no control, and which may sometimes be out of date.

Thoughts of Chairman Chris:

What a difference a year makes! Last year Yorkshire were in a three way fight for the Championship with Middlesex and Somerset on the last afternoon of the last game of the season. This year all three were battling again, but this time against relegation in the final games - how fortunes change.

Yorkshire's version of Steve McQueen's "The Great Escape", starring Steve Patterson! We have to thank Patto for our win against Warwickshire - a hero with the bat sharing an eighth wicket partnership of 78 with Matthew Fisher from 91-7 to 169-8 to get us over the line. One of those nail-biting days with yet another poor batting performance overall. The win here, in retrospect, saved our first division status.

I attended the Scarborough game; over in 2 days! The best I can say is that the crowds were as supportive as ever and the sea air bracing. A poor performance in all respects with Essex rampant.

I was also at the last day at the Oval when Lees and Marsh batted us, thankfully, to a draw.

A number of the group, including myself, were at the first day of the Chelmsford match. A somewhat see-saw day with honours just about even, given the poor light all day. But then poor batting again resulted in a defeat by almost 400 runs! Only Fisher made double figures in our second innings. Our two exports Silverwood and Mags have done wonders at Essex, it has to be said.

I am not in favour of bringing in overseas players for just two or three games at a time. We have had five this year in various competitions and I do not think it helps the "spirit" in the team. Quite obviously things are not working at Headingley.

The Women's cricket final at Lords had all the drama one could hope for. England snatched a late victory from the jaws of defeat against India by virtue of Anya Shrubsole's 6 wicket haul. A capacity crowd, televised, and £1.5 million prize money. Times do change.

The day-night game at Edgbaston caused problems with the pink ball, for colour blind spectators and play going on well into the evening caused many to leave early. English weather is not conducive to evening play, even in summer.

We have the Ashes to look forward to this autumn/winter. In picking the test team a number of batsmen were being touted for vacant places. Ballance, Jennings, Hales, Vince, Malan, Westley, Stoneman, Hameed. Only Stoneman had, to my mind, cemented his place, as opener with Cook. Ballance had the support of Root but had not, since his injury, been consistent. We now know the line up with Vince being a shot in the dark to my mind.

As for the “Stokes” issue - suffice to say late night forays, alcohol and a fiery temper spell trouble for some people. The phrase “just not cricket” comes to mind and, given the apparent video evidence, I would not take him to Australia.

A fond “good-bye” to Henry “Blowers” Blofeld, who has just vacated the commentary box after some 40 years. Whilst not everyone’s favourite, his whimsical nature and chuckling asides have been a feature of the English game and he has been a “pigeon fancier extraordinaire”!

Finally may I thank all those Southern Group members who have supported our events at grounds this season. Your attendance is much appreciated. Camaraderie and fellowship are essential elements of a cricket match.

With best wishes

Chris

Editorial:

For the fourth year we finished the season watching the Championship trophy being presented, but if 2016 was painful, this was far worse. The team's recent cricket is described elsewhere, and I will not add to that, but the second and third day's cricket at Chelmsford were abject, and if we commence next season in the fashion we ended this, we could follow Warwickshire and Notts as 'test-ground' counties humiliatingly relegated to the second division.

It's easy to throw around blame, and a cursory glance at the on-line followers of the club will reveal that at once, but it's much harder to find solutions. One example of the complexities will suffice. When Mark Arthur announced to the members' forum during the Middlesex match that Kraigg Brathwaite had been signed as an overseas replacement for the end of the season, there was some appreciation and no complaint. Here was a man who had scored a century in the Headingley test, who was already in England and acclimatised to conditions. Yet four poor scores were the only reward. Getting the overseas – or Kolpak signing(s) right is just one of the dilemmas for next year. I have no doubt that the management and coaching staff will be thinking very deeply in the coming weeks.

Whatever else changes, and the early signs are that the management favours stability rather than disruption, viewing at Headingley will certainly be different. The final home game was accompanied by the sound of demolition from the rugby ground, and presumably by April, the cricket/rugby stand will have gone too. Interesting times.

To move to Southern Group related matters, I look forward with some relish to hearing the thoughts of Steven Patterson at our annual lunch (see below for booking details). 'Patto' has been one of the great contributors to the successes of 2014 and 2015. However his recent heroics in staving off defeat and almost certain relegation in the match against Warwickshire for the moment are more vivid in the memory.

It is with great sadness that we record the sudden death of Gary Waller. Gary was MP for Brighouse, and later Keighley for a period of 18 years in total, but more importantly to us, he was a member of the SG Committee for 17 years, including a period as Chairman when the County was not performing well and preserving enthusiasm for events was a real challenge. He was able to do so with success. His counsel and friendship will be much missed. He died on July 21st, aged 72.

My thanks to the contributors to this newsletter. In particular I am grateful to Martin Howe for a different take on our 'My First Yorkshire Match' theme. Please keep these contributions – and any others – coming.

To conclude, a cheerful tale, and one which I think carries hope. Ryan Sidebottom has of course retired at the end of the season. He has made a massive contribution and

would be a contender for the difficult choice of Yorkshire's second greatest opening bowler. Apparently the squad chose to mark his retirement by a fancy dress occasion with the theme of 'superheroes'. Ryan arrived dressed as a gladiator to find the others had all come dressed as.....Ryan. Those worrying about spirit in the dressing room may find some reassurance



The End of another Era?

ANNUAL LUNCH – SATURDAY, 11 NOVEMBER

Our guest speaker at this year's Annual Lunch is Yorkshire bowler Steven Patterson, whose benefit is this year. We are delighted to welcome him. "Patto" was born in Hull and made his county debut in 2005, gaining his cap in 2012. He has been a valued and regular member of the first XI - his 44 not out against Warwickshire last month was instrumental in beating the Bears by 2 wickets to secure 21 points and first division cricket for Yorkshire next year. We do hope that you can come along to support the benefit of a well deserving cricketer.

The lunch is at our usual venue – the Princess Alexandra Hall at the Royal Over-Seas League (RO-SL), Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR – at 12.30 for 1.00 pm. Tickets are £47.00 per person for a 3 course lunch, coffee and mints. Dress is lounge suits. As usual, we will be running a raffle during the afternoon for Southern Group funds.

The RO-SL has decided that the members' areas in Over-Seas House will be for their members' use only and not for visitors. This means that non RO-SL members cannot use the main lounge bar for pre or post lunch drinks, as the Southern Group has done in past years. However, a bar will be available in the Princess Alexandra Hall from 12.15pm.

An application form is enclosed. Please return this with your cheque to June Hirst, 5 Stanhope House, 38-40 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5RR, by Friday, 3rd November.

This is the last event in 2017; the committee would like to thank you all for supporting the events during the year.

SILENCE IN THE SQUARE

For those who would like to commemorate Armistice Day before the lunch, there is a Silence in the Square service in Trafalgar Square. At the time of going to press (end September) no exact details were available on-line. Trafalgar Square is a short walk from St James's Street; alternatively the No 9 bus comes along the Strand, the south side of Trafalgar Square, Cockspur Street and Pall Mall, turning right into St James's Street.

The Bosifile, 2017 part II.

Yorkshire v. Somerset @ Scarborough, July 3rd-6th

Yorkshire lost the toss after giving a debut to Köhler-Cadmore and a welcome return to Liam Plunkett.

The first two sessions yielded eight wickets, the only downside being the retirement from the attack of Ryan Sidebottom after just 4.4 overs. He suffered a side strain. Brook, who scarcely bowls for the second team, filled the gap with a Collingwood style spell, keeping the runs down by keeping the ball out of the batsmen's reach.

With nine wickets down the new skipper missed a straight-forward chance at slip, where he is normally most reliable. This cost Yorkshire more than 50 runs and was crucial to the match since Somerset were to lead by 55 when the Yorkshire innings closed. Plunkett had four wickets and was the pick of the bowlers.

The openers failed to survive the evening, and Handscomb again demonstrated an inability to adjust to English wickets and get off the back foot. At 42-3 by the close, Yorkshire trailed by 226.

In testing conditions next day, Brook and Köhler-Cadmore batted sensibly for 31 apiece. When the rain came Yorkshire were 159-7 which represented a good performance in the prevailing conditions. Rashid batted well, until the last wicket stand when he seemed to lack a coherent strategy for manipulating the strike. A single which would have given him 50 was declined, and a tame dismissal followed.

Plunkett and Coad repeatedly beat the bat but Plunkett sustained an injury which took him out of the attack. So on a wicket suited to the seamers, Yorkshire had only one wicket-taking seamer left standing. Brook did take his first first class wicket with a yorker, but conditions were ideal for Hildreth to make his first fifty of the season and convert it to three figures.

On the last day Yorkshire were dreadful. They have never worked out how to contain batsmen in the championship, adopting tactics more suited to the white ball game. The problem with this is that keeping a side to six or eight an over is good going in 20-over a side baseball; it is what the batting side seeks in a four day game.

Yorkshire's batting was equally spineless although Brook again batted well and was out to a ball that could have accounted for any of the batsmen missing on England duty. The game was over before 3 o'clock on the fourth day, despite the loss of half a day to the elements.

Somerset 268 & 281-4 dec. beat Yorkshire 213 & 157 by 179 runs. Yorkshire 4 pts.

Worcestershire II v. Yorkshire II at Royal Grammar School, July 25th-27th

Yorkshire fielded a pace attack that would have been a welcome sight in the first team. Sidebottom and Plunkett were returning from injury at Scarborough, Coad and Brooks were superfluous to T20 requirements, as was the acting skipper Alex Lees who invited the hosts to take first use of the pitch. Sidebottom bowled five overs at the start, four after lunch and four with the new ball, taking 2-17. Brooks took 3 wickets, and the sole spinner, Shutt, impressed with his flight, rewarded with two wickets. Yorkshire let Worcestershire off the hook of 117-6 to reach 271-9 when a shower brought the players in and the covers on. Milton, a nephew of the former England international cricket and association football player, made 91. Birkhead made his debut for Yorkshire behind the stumps and kept well early on, but was clearly unused to keeping all day. Worcestershire may have missed a trick in not declaring when the rain relented, meandering to 283 and then limited to three overs before the close.

More rain delayed the start of day 2 to 2.15 but this still allowed for 78 overs. Just before tea Yorkshire were well placed at 130-2, but they contrived to lose their last eight wickets for 67 and miss out on a second batting point. Plunkett and Sidebottom did not bowl on the second evening, which ended in the 8 p.m. sunshine with an over from Andrew Hodd.

After a shower, Plunkett and Sidebottom took up the attack and in six overs each, took 2-18 and 1-9 respectively. Coad and Jordan Thompson both took 2-21. Worcestershire declared nine down to set Yorkshire 264 in 54 overs. Lees and Tattersall scored 95 in 14.4 overs before tea. Unfortunately, two showers robbed Yorkshire of eight and then nine overs. Yorkshire continued to go for the target, and though the rate required rose steadily so did the rate of scoring. Plunkett failed to clear the long boundaries, but Lees had spectators scurrying to protect their cars. 43 were needed from three overs with just four wickets left, but Lees took 16 off the antepenultimate over. He was caught for 135 (ten fours and five sixes) off the last ball of the next, leaving Birkhead and Brooks to seek 14 from the final over and they fell four runs short for a moral victory.

Worcs. II 283 & 177-9 dec. drew with Yorks. 197 & 260-7. Yorkshire 10 pts.

Yorkshire v. Essex at Scarborough, August 6th-9th

The second visit to Scarborough was even more disappointing than the first. Yorkshire had a so called result wicket, when a draw would have been a satisfactory result and one that would have boosted Scarborough's coffers. There were huge crowds on the two days of play, and though day three would have been rained off, there was more good weather on the scheduled day four.

Essex exercised their right to insert Yorkshire. Lyth batted superbly, but wickets fell steadily at the other end as Yorkshire faced, in Mohammad Amir, the best pace bowler in County Cricket. Only when Sidebottom came to the crease was there any prolonged resistance, extending the morning session by half an hour and then by a further over as the umpires erred over the regulations which obtain when nine wickets are down at the start of the scheduled interval. Lyth was last out, for 68 out of 113, in the second over after lunch.

Yorkshire did fight back with the ball. The acting skipper was back to his best with the ball, having received a harsh decision when batting. Coad also bowled well, and Sidebottom was incredulous that the Essex captain (unlike his Yorkshire counterpart) survived a confident lbw shout. On the other hand, Brown was incredulous to be adjudged caught at the wicket. Ten Doeschate profited from his reprieve and completed an unbeaten half century before the close. Essex slipped to 164-8, but the skipper was largely responsible for the addition of 67 runs for the last two wickets which meant that Yorkshire had to improve on their first innings just to make Essex bat again.

That seemed unlikely when the first two overs claimed both openers. Yorkshire's inexperienced middle order – two batsmen were representing England and two internationals were unavailable through injury – needed the openers to take the shine and the hardness from the new ball. By the time that had been achieved, seven wickets were down for 56. Leaning had survived and went on to a valuable 70, receiving good support from Brooks, Coad (a career best 28) and Sidebottom. However, Essex needed only 33 with as many overs still to be bowled. As in the first innings, Brooks' wickets came at a price, and Essex won by eight wickets with 23 overs and two days to spare. Mohammad Amir had 5-54 and 10-72 in the match.

Warwickshire had also been dismissed for a small score in their first innings at Lord's, but their openers did the job Yorkshire's could not, so that their lower order posted a sizeable third innings score and they completed a first win of the season. They remained bottom, but no longer tailed off. Middlesex, like Yorkshire, were in the relegation mix and would be Yorkshire's next opponents after their game in hand at The Oval.

Yorkshire 113 & 150 lost to Essex 231 and 34-2 by eight wickets. Yorkshire 3 pts.

Durham II v. Yorkshire II at the Riverside, Chester-le-Street, August 15th-17th

Despite those four runs at Worcester, Yorkshire retained a slim chance of winning the Northern group of the Second XI championship going in to this final match of the season. For varying reasons, six of the side involved in the last first team win, at

Taunton, played here, but the wicket was the most benign ever witnessed at the Riverside. Durham's latest on loan signing, Podmore, made his impact with the bat rather than the ball.

Captain Ballance chose to insert but Brooks and Wainman wasted the new ball and continued to bowl poorly throughout the match. Warner bowled well and picked up a brace of wickets, and Rhodes was also rewarded. The only other two wickets fell to Logan as the home captain, Harte, propelled his side to 393-5 declared. The declaration allowed eight overs at Lees and Tattersall, and the final ball found the edge of the younger player's bat.

He must have regretted his error the more next day. Lees and Rhodes were largely untroubled in adding 200 in the morning session. Lees may have been missed in the gully on 49, but he took the attack apart and continued to do so after Rhodes was out for 77 soon after lunch. Ballance was quickly into his stride and it was something of a surprise when he departed for 69.

A young lad limited to six overs by ECB directive took 2-28 including the wicket of Lees and apart from over stepping three times, bowled well. The innings rather lost its way although Waite made a good half century. Yorkshire could have declared behind in the hope of a last day target, but on this pitch that was unlikely. Instead they took a modest lead of 115, reduced by 38 at the close.

However, on the fourth morning, once the opening bowlers had been rested, Warner, Carver and Logan took four wickets before the arrears had been cleared. All bowled well. Harte and Coughlin were able to bat through the afternoon session, and though Carver was unlucky towards the end – Harte dropped at slip and Coughlin reprieved a catch at the wicket as a strong wind took the sound away from the umpire – by that stage the result was beyond doubt.

Durham II 393-5 dec. & 256-5 drew with Yorkshire II 508. Yorkshire II 11 points.

Round without Yorkshire

Yorkshire remained sixth when the bottom two sides lost to the top two. Their other rivals for relegation, Surrey and Middlesex, were heading for a draw when the game ended bizarrely. An arrow was projected from outside the ground at the Vauxhall End, landing harmlessly on the square. Middlesex should be used to Cross Arrows on a neighbouring pitch. The draw points took Middlesex above Yorkshire.

In the second division, Notts' promotion seemed assured after a win over Northants, who managed to squander five points by dawdling through their overs. Sussex and

Worcestershire both won, and it seemed certain that one or other would join Nottinghamshire in the first division next season.

Tattersall and Rhodes were joined by nine first team players in the drawn friendly second XI game at Harrogate. Lees made yet another big century at this level.

Yorkshire v. Middlesex, Headingley, September 5th-8th

Despite a dry afternoon and a sunny evening, there was no play on the first day because of a wet outfield. Following complaints at the Members' forum that the specification for the drainage system was not being met, Mark Arthur undertook to conduct a review.

Play began on time, 10.30, on day two, and inevitably Yorkshire were invited to bat. The new opening pair of Lyth and Marsh kept the Middlesex seamers at bay, and when Lees replaced Marsh he and Lyth took Yorkshire to 78-1 at lunch, taken at 12.40. After the interval, however, the more familiar pattern of wickets was witnessed, but then Leaning and Hodd combined in what was to be the only century stand of the match. Leaning's third significant score of the season was perhaps his most fluent and it was something of a surprise when he was bowled by the second new ball. Less surprisingly, as soon as the clock reached 1800 hours play was halted, even though there was no perceptible change in the light and six overs remained. Middlesex used seven bowlers born in six different countries, the last of whom had an ample girth that would not have looked out of place in the Northamptonshire XI.

Yorkshire by this time had amassed three batting points, for only the second time this season, and on the third morning they picked up the fourth. There was something of déjà vu when Sidebottom came out to join Bresnan with 330 odd on the board and one wicket to fall, provoking renewed debate about the efficacy of what had taken place the last time these sides had met in September.

The Yorkshire seamers bowled well without reward up to lunch. In an inspired move, Sidebottom was switched to the Kirkstall Lane End and collected a brace of wickets, the second to an excellent Leaning catch, before rain and bad light. The players returned and Sidebottom took a third wicket before the light closed in for good, with less than half the day's allocation of overs bowled. Unfortunately, there had been more play at Edgbaston with the result that the seventh placed team was able to beat the eighth and close the gap on the two sides at Headingley.

On the final day the outfield was at least as wet as it had been on day 1 but there was a greater desire to play. After several inspections play was under way at 3.10. Yorkshire took a second bowling point and Middlesex a batting point, and when Rayner came to the crease the visitors still need 3 to save the follow on. A stand of 66

took Middlesex within range of the third batting point, but when Rayner was bowled they declared to stop Yorkshire's quest for the final bowling point. This left the sides level 13 points above Somerset, Yorkshire having one more win. Draws in the other games meant that, after a round in which first played second, third played fourth etc., the next round would pit top against bottom, second against second bottom, &c.

Worcestershire's win at Trent Bridge seemed to settle the promotion issues because Sussex lost heavily and Kent narrowly scraped a draw.

Yorkshire 358 drew with Middx. 272-8 dec. Yorkshire 11 points.

Surrey v. Yorkshire at the Kennington Oval, September 12th-15th

Denuded of five players, Plunkett and Rashid were replaced but further changes were occasioned by paternity leave for Adam Lyth and an apparent need to rest Ben Coad. Brooks, Patterson, Rafiq and Köhler-Cadmore took their places.

Yorkshire declined to insert Surrey but the home side won the toss and batted anyway. Scarcely has a Yorkshire attack looked less likely to take a wicket. With 178 on the board, they were given one, the only umpiring mistake of the game. Sidebottom switched to the Vauxhall and produced the best spell of the day, with the reward of a wicket, and when Bresnan dismissed Stoneman for 131 Yorkshire had a bowling point. They did not take another wicket as Sangakkara (164) and Foakes (110) added 258 for the fourth wicket, doubling the score. The Sri Lankan maestro, who had not played for Surrey since the day-night game at Headingley, gave a difficult return catch chance to Patterson on 47 but otherwise batted imperiously.

Brooks had leaked runs, although he was not alone, there were four Yorkshire centurions in the innings, and was the fifth bowler to be tried on the second day. A short delivery, a mistimed hook, and Sangakkara was gone and the door opened to Yorkshire. Brooks took four wickets in the spell to finish with 5-113, and Patterson took the last three. Rafiq dropped a straightforward chance when nine wickets were down, costing another 30 runs, but the last seven wickets went down for only 79.

Köhler-Cadmore came out with Marsh, and the new pairing outshone every opening stand hitherto in the 2017 championship. They had put on 162 before the former Academy player forgot that discretion is the better part of valour. Surrey's attack did not look strong, Curran apart, so Yorkshire had to help them take wickets. Marsh lost his balance and was stumped. Lees repeatedly tried to sweep from outside the off stump, and when he connected induced the most spectacular catch imaginable. Ballance was batting serenely when he needlessly ran himself out. Leaning and Bresnan made part scores, and Hodd batted well for 57 (scrambling a fourth batting point) until he emulated Rashid at Scarborough with a completely brainless approach

to batting with the last man. Yorkshire needed 49 to avoid the follow on and guarantee a draw. Crease occupation would have at the very least reduced the task facing the batsmen on their second dig.

Köhler-Cadmore fell lbw, pad clearly before bat, so the final morning, like day three, commenced with Lees and Marsh at the crease. However, this time both showed the necessary resolution. Batty seemed reluctant to attack, and after a few alarms the pair settled and were still together at lunch. Both completed centuries before Lees was unlucky to play on. By this stage, Surrey looked resigned to a draw. Lees and Marsh compiled Yorkshire's first ever double century stand for the second wicket against Surrey. The final session began five minutes late and ended after a single over. Although the lbw decisions were consistent, the decisions on light were not.

Wins for Essex and Somerset over Warwickshire and Lancashire confirmed the former as champions and the relegation of the Midlands side. Surrey rose to third but remained enmeshed in the relegation battle. Worcestershire moved to the top of division 2 and more or less guaranteed promotion.

Yorkshire fared better in the second XI fixture at Wimbledon Park against the same opposition. Borthwick, dropped from the first team, made 150 before Tattersall, who had batted through Yorkshire's first innings for an unbeaten 76, declared overnight 124 in arrears. Yorkshire then bowled out the hosts for 58, and knocked off the runs for the loss of four wickets, including Tattersall for 66. Waite's half century saw Yorkshire home.

Surrey 592 drew with Yorkshire 394 and 281-2. Yorkshire 10 pts.

Surrey II 288 & 58 lost to Yorkshire II 164-7 dec. and 183-4 by six wickets.

Yorkshire v. Warwickshire, Headingley, September 19th-22nd

For long seen as a must win game for Yorkshire, anxious looks at the weather forecast revealed little prospect of play on the third day, but the game began in sunny conditions which may have persuaded Warwickshire to eschew the chance of inserting Yorkshire despite the 10.30 start.

By lunch one could hear the perennial response of Sgt. Wilson (Do you think that's wise?). Warwickshire lunched at 49-6, which might well have been seven had a confident lbw shout against Bell been upheld. Yorkshire, without Sidebottom who failed a fitness test, bowled as well as they have done all season, and Brooks took the first two wickets. Lyth took two splendid catches. After the break, Yorkshire could not replicate this intensity and it was something of a surprise when Bell was adjudged lbw having made 51. Fisher followed up with a further wicket, but there was another stand

of 66 for the ninth wicket. Patel completed his third championship ton, and then Fisher wrapped up the innings to finish with a career best 5-54.

Brathwaite had taken the place of Marsh and with Lyth equalled the second best start of the 2017 campaign, but just before the close he paid the penalty for a loss of patience. Patterson came in as night watchman, but next day appeared to have been asked to press on when a period of consolidation would have better served Yorkshire. All the batsman got a start without going on, Lyth making the top score of 62. At the fall of the sixth wicket, Yorkshire still trailed by 40, but dogged batting from Leaning, Bresnan and Fisher saw Yorkshire to a modest lead. The decision to disallow four leg byes preceded Bresnan's dismissal and ultimately cost Yorkshire what seemed a crucial third batting point.

There were twenty overs to bowl, but Yorkshire took only one wicket as the visitors reduced their arrears to 28. A very sparse crowd attended on the third day, those absent being deterred by the weather forecast. But with only a half hour break for bad light and light rain, we lost only the extra over promised from the earlier finish on the previous day. Runs came slowly, and so did wickets. Lamb looked out of his depth, but somehow survived for 80 balls. Patterson was the pick of the bowlers, and accounted for Bell and Trott, the latter facilitated by Hodd's decision to stand up. Hodd made a number of difficult stops, which proved crucial in a low scoring game. As the innings proceeded, Ballance dared not risk Brooks and Patterson's marathon stint of 26 overs included all of the final session during which he took the new ball and cleaned up Patel. He finished with 4-46.

Yorkshire needed 175, and lost Lyth to the new ball. Lees struggled against spin, introduced in the tenth over, and soon perished. As the post 6 p.m. light deteriorated, Brathwaite fell in the final over of the day to leave the game precariously balanced.

Sunshine greeted Yorkshire, but scoring was difficult. A major blow came when Ballance went lbw, and after an hour only thirty had been scored with Leaning also gone. Bresnan tried to counter-attack before his eye was in, with disastrous consequences, and then Hodd edged the imposter Ryan Sidebottom to Patel at slip. With only three wickets left and the hundred not yet raised, it seemed that defeat and relegation were now inevitable.

Patterson joined Fisher and though both adopted a safety first approach, in 45 minutes added as many runs. Patel was showing signs of tiring, and Trott like Ballance was reluctant to use his erratic third seamer. The lunch interval should have afforded Warwickshire time to recuperate. However, the first two overs after the break brought 11 runs. Most of the scoring was being done by Patterson, chiefly through extra cover. The batsmen were not fazed however when successive maidens went down. They knew the runs would come if they stayed long enough, and in one over

eight byes eased the tension, to huge cheers from the partisan crowd. Extras threatened to be top scorer when they reached 40, but then Patterson caught up with yet another drive to the extra cover boundary. This brought the scores level. Nine balls later they were still level when Patel claimed his sixth wicket, in the leg trap. Fisher may never make a more valuable 15.

Brooks came out and blocked the one ball left of the over. Another Patterson cover drive settled matters. This restored Yorkshire to fourth: six points at Chelmsford would guarantee first division cricket in 2018. Middlesex had unexpectedly beaten Lancashire, and Somerset failed to get a draw at the Oval. They had to win at home to Middlesex but if they were to do so, Middlesex, Hampshire and ourselves would need bonus points to be safe. Northamptonshire defeated Notts to retain an outside chance of promotion. This exciting finish to the season was well covered on digital radio. Anyone listening to the more widely available stations would have remained in ignorance of it all.

Warwickshire 219 & 251 lost to Yorkshire 296 & 178-8 by two wickets. Yorkshire 21 points.

Essex v. Yorkshire @ Chelmsford, September 25th-28th

Large crowds put seating at a premium as locals flocked to salute the champions elect and a sizeable Yorkshire contingent travelled down. Yorkshire also brought a squad of 14, but Carver for Bresnan was the only change after Sidebottom was declared unfit. A specialist spinner was welcome – Yorkshire had to maintain a decent over rate – but the batting looked thin. However, with nine ducks in the season, Bresnan's batting no longer justified his place.

Play began at 11 after overnight rain and Yorkshire exercised the right to insert. After an indifferent spell from Brooks, the pace bowlers did well and at lunch the score was 80 for five. After they had collected a second point, news came through from Taunton that Somerset had been bowled out for 236 and could not now overtake Yorkshire, whose first division status was thus assured. There were still three teams vying to avoid the second relegation place.

Any hope that lifting the pressure from Yorkshire's players would improve their performance was swiftly dissipated. Carver did mop up the tail with two cheap wickets, and bad light deferred Yorkshire's innings to day 2. Yorkshire's score of 111 was the lowest of the season, with Fisher surviving longest. He scored nine. Brooks took two quick wickets when Essex batted again but Lawrence and Browne soon put Essex beyond reach. The only highlight of the bowling performance thereafter was Coad's fiftieth championship wicket, which ensured that he had taken a wicket in every

innings in which he had bowled. Bresnan, Sidebottom, Patterson and Brooks were next with 98 wickets between the four of them.

Essex on the other hand had two bowlers with 75 & 72 wickets but it was neither of these but Cook who was chiefly responsible for Yorkshire's second innings demise. Fisher this time made the only double figure score. Lyth and Carver did seem harshly treated by the umpire, but the shots played by Lees (Yorkshire's only ever-present in 2017) and Hodd were embarrassing as well as inept. Hodd has played the reverse sweep several times this season with little reward except to the bowler, and to try it four minutes before tea with Yorkshire already struggling was deeply disappointing to those who had paid good money to travel in the hope of four days' cricket. Yorkshire's defeat was the largest by runs in their 154 year history. The previous worst heralded Ritchie Richardson's resignation.

Leicestershire had bowled out their local rivals for 202 which meant that Worcestershire were promoted. On the final day of the season, Somerset completed a win over Middlesex before lunch. The Taunton pitch was exonerated from a points deduction. This left Middlesex reliant on Warwickshire, who had gone wicketless to lunch after a delayed start. Their failure to beat Hampshire meant the two points deducted for a slow over-rate had been critical to the relegation outcome.

Worcestershire were promoted as champions, along with Notts who held off Northants by the five points they squandered with a dilatory over-rate at Trent Bridge. Perhaps we can look forward to improved over-rates in 2018.

Essex 227 & 334-7 dec. beat Yorkshire 111 & 74 by 376 runs. Yorkshire 3 pts.

1st Essex 248, 4th Yorkshire 148, 5th Hampshire 148, 6th Somerset 147, 7th Middx. 146, 8th Warks. 86. Yorkshire ahead of Hants by virtue of more wins.

Book review

MAURICE LEYLAND by MIKE POPPLEWELL: reviewed by Anthony Bradbury

When I was growing up in the days long before Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan and Joe Root, the obvious cricketing hero for me was Len Hutton. If it hadn't been Len Hutton, then the next greatest Yorkshire batsman would have been Herbert Sutcliffe – he who played in 54 Tests with 16 hundreds and an astonishing average of 60.73, (and 112 centuries for Yorkshire). The name of Maurice Leyland would not have been in the frame – perhaps because, he was in a way sandwiched in his career between Sutcliffe and Hutton, though the careers of all three did for some years overlap.

Biographies and autobiographies of Sutcliffe and Hutton abound, but there have been none about Leyland – a man who scored 62 centuries for Yorkshire, and 80 in all, who

played 41 Tests at a batting average of over 46, who made nine Test centuries, seven of which were against Australia and who scored three centuries against Australia in a single home series in 1934. Peter Thomas who wrote a wonderful book, *Yorkshire Cricketers 1839-1939* said of Leyland - [he was] *“one of the great left-handed batsmen of all time. He was the perfect Yorkshireman, too; not tall, but broad of shoulder, thick of chest, clear eyed, kindly spoken, the man of which Yorkshire dreams are made. He succeeded Frank Woolley of Kent into the England team. Here were the antipodes of left handed batsmen, Woolley the tall graceful charmer of southern vintage, a rare port matured over the years and here was Leyland, burly Tyke, a harder but perfect ale.....”*

Now some balance has been restored. Mike Popplewell, a freelance journalist born in Portsmouth, brought up in Ilford, but with an ancestor who played once for Yorkshire, has written an affectionate and cheerful biography of another affectionate and cheerful man. It is an enjoyable read, not, I feel, a totally full biography but not the worse for that, though I would have liked to have known more about some of Leyland's early private tours of India and MCC tours to South Africa and the West Indies. Nor is any light at all thrown on the mystery as to why Leyland was christened *“Morris”* but always known as *“Maurice.”*

However for the first time I have read a detailed account of how Leyland was run out for 187 in his last Test innings (in 1938), and who might have been to blame for that. This extraordinary innings against Australia was rather overshadowed by the batsman at the other end who scored 364. There is also a fine account of Leyland's 137 against Australia in his first innings against the old enemy, played at Melbourne in 1929 in front of a crowd of 50,000 people who all wanted him out.

There are nice sections about one private tour in India when he played for the team of His Highness the Maharajah Dhiraj Mohinder Bahadur of Patiala, and then of enjoyable times when he played at Hovingham Hall, the home of Sir William Worsley, one of his Yorkshire captains and with whom, and with whose family, he had a happy friendship. Mike Popplewell enjoys a diversion so in the middle of this biography, we have a few pages devoted to the Australian Test player, Bill Brown, against whom Leyland had played in 1933. We also are given a brief glimpse of Norman Mitchell-Innes, the last survivor of any English Test team to have played with Leyland and whose only match for England had been in 1935.

Of course there is sadness too. Having been Yorkshire coach in post war years with Arthur 'Ticker' Mitchell, ill health forced Leyland to retire from that position earlier than he would have wished but he was to be at Scarborough when Yorkshire arrived there in September 1959 having triumphantly won the Championship the day before down at Hove. Some years of that ill health finally led to his death in 1967.

This much needed book is enhanced by a host of good photographs taken from a family album retained after Leyland's death by a nephew, and hopefully still in Leyland family possession. Many of these photographs may not have been seen by the broad mass of cricket followers before. The one real disappointment is the absence of any statistical appendix – very surprising for a book published by an association of cricket statisticians. Figures can be wearisome but in this case they would have helped to have cemented Leyland's true position in the top ten of great Yorkshire batsmen, and have illustrated what England are missing today in the upper end of their team.

Maurice Leyland by Mike Popplewell is published by the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians at £15 (obtainable through the online shop at <http://acscricket.com/>).

Letters:

Dear Mr Holt

In the July 2015 Newsletter, you were kind enough to publish my letter in which I advocated awarding extra bonus points to compensate for test calls. Now Yorkshire have narrowly avoided relegation having entered the last crucial county game missing five players, all apparently needed for some routine end of season ODIs. Perhaps the time has come to look at my suggestion again.

Best wishes

Tony Roberts

In the absence of a 'My First Yorkshire Match offering for this edition, I am grateful to Martin Howe for suggesting the following:

My First Match for Yorkshire by the late Paul Gibb

I shall never forget my first match for Yorkshire. In my first year at Cambridge I played in seven matches for the University in 1935, including the Varsity match, without achieving much of note. In fact, I was jolly lucky to get my Blue. I was wondering how to occupy the summer vacation when a telegram arrived inviting me to report at Bramall Lane, Sheffield, to play for Yorkshire against Nottinghamshire. Because of Test match calls and injuries, Yorkshire were without Arthur Mitchell, Maurice Leyland and Willf Barber, the engine room of the side, and also Hedley Verity and Bill Bowes, the main bowlers. Although I was an aspiring wicket keeper, it was for my promise as a batsman that I was drafted into the side, along with W.E.Harbord, an Oxford University

man who had played a few games for the county, and Cyril Turner, an all-rounder who was still trying to establish himself in the Yorkshire side. The vacant bowling places went to Horace Fisher, a medium pace left arm bowler who had a good record in club cricket but had still to break into the first-class game, and Eric Rawlin, a little-known fast medium bowler who also had played in just a handful of matches for the first team to this point. I was the youngest of the draftees and rather over-awed when I entered a Yorkshire dressing room for the first time. I am a naturally shy and retiring person and I knew none of the players. Compared with the jollity of the Cambridge dressing room, the atmosphere was subdued as if players would speak only when spoken to by skipper Sellers or senior professional Herbert Sutcliffe. Arthur Wood was an exception. "So you fancy the'self as a stumper do yer" he said. "Well, that's my job so thi had better concentrate on yer batting."

Nottinghamshire won the toss and chose to bat. I had heard about the cutting remarks the flat-capped men in the Lane's "grinders stand" could direct at a player so I decided not to wear my light blue Cambridge cap when I went out to field. The Notts opener W.W. Keeton scored a splendid 120 but no one else contributed much and the visitors were dismissed for 232 well before the close of play. I had the satisfaction of catching Knowles off the bowling of off-spinner Ellis Robinson and was pleased for Eric Rawlin who took three for 58 runs, his first wickets in the county championship. Yorkshire had an hour or so to bat before stumps. I had been a trifle disappointed to be as low as number seven in the batting order but in the end glad that I would not have to bat in Bramall Lane's characteristically gloomy atmosphere as the surrounding factories - so different from the greenery of Fenner's - came to the end of the working day. There was also the small matter that Harold Larwood and Bill Voce would open Notts' attack. I am not afraid of fast bowling, even though I have to wear spectacles, but I am a nervy starter to an innings at any time, not just in poor light. Well, Len Hutton was bowled by Larwood for a duck and Sellers went for 31 so Yorkshire were 61 for 2 at the close.

The next day was perhaps the best of my life. Yorkshire wickets tumbled quickly and I went to the crease with the score at 110 for 5 wickets. Herbert Sutcliffe was at the other end, his usual imperturbable self, and he encouraged me to get my head down and play each ball strictly on its merits. I had a lucky escape when I was missed early on. But I settled and began to score quite freely as the score mounted until Sutcliffe reached his century and then was out for 135. We had added 178 runs for the sixth wicket. Frank Smailes followed without scoring and I supposed that the innings would soon be over. I accelerated and with useful stands, first with Horace Fisher and then Ellis Robinson, I managed to push the Yorkshire score to 421. After batting for four and a quarter hours, I finished with 157 not out including 14 fours and two late sixes. I returned to the pavilion to loud applause and to the congratulations of teammates

and opponents alike. There was a centurion among the Notts bowlers too; Bill Voce took no wickets for 136 runs off 38 overs. Rarely had he had so unsuccessful a day.

I kept my place for Yorkshire's next match but, with the county championship firmly in the county's sights, I was chosen for just five more matches including the penultimate match against Sussex at Hove where Sellers gave me the chance to keep wicket after he had heard Arthur Wood boasting that he had played in 255 successive matches for the club.

If the rest of the 1935 domestic season did not live up to the expectations set at Bramall Lane, it ended on another high. To my surprise I was given the captaincy of a near full-strength Yorkshire side that toured Jamaica in March 1936 as neither Brian Sellers nor Norman Yardley, his heir presumptive, was available. We played six matches, three of them first-class. It was a daunting task for me to lead a team of seasoned professionals, most of whom I still barely knew, and in playing conditions with which I was totally unfamiliar. There were also the social demands that were part and parcel of any touring captain's lot. Small talk and speech-making were never my forte. But it is results that count. Of the three first-class matches against a full Jamaica side, the first was won (the first time the island side had lost a home match for ten years) and the other two drawn. I scored 126 runs in the three matches at an average of 31.50, not bad all things considered. I reckoned my reputation as a promising amateur cricketer had survived unscathed and that I could look forward to the future with confidence.

[Martin Howe writes: In fact the rest of Paul Gibb's career had its ups and downs. To summarise, his time at Cambridge was crowned in 1938 by selection as wicketkeeper for the Third Test at Old Trafford against the Australians as Ames was injured but the match was abandoned without a ball being balled. He retained his place for the next Test but a head injury meant he could not play. He had a successful tour of South Africa in 1938/39, scoring 93 and 106 in the First Test and 122 in the infamous Timeless Test. Yet Gibb played no more first-class cricket before the Second World War. After the war, in which he was a pilot in Coastal Command, Gibb played for Yorkshire in 1946, and appeared in two of the three Tests against All-India. He went to Australia in 1946/47 as the senior wicket-keeper but was dropped after a poor performance in the First Test. Disillusioned, he played little further part in the tour. Gibb gave up first-class cricket after his return from Australia but then in 1951 joined Essex as a professional (MCC suspending his membership in consequence). He played for Essex with distinction until 1956 after which he became a first-class umpire for ten years.]

Gibb was a quirky character about whom there are many amusing stories. But this is not the place to recount them.]

Scorecard:

Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire
Bramall Lane, Sheffield
27,29,30 July 1935 (3-day match)

Result: Match drawn

Toss: Nottinghamshire

Umpires: W Bestwick and EJ Smith

Close of play:

- **Day 1:** Nottinghamshire 232, Yorkshire 61/2 (H Sutcliffe 27*, C Turner 3*)
- **Day 2:** Yorkshire 421, Nottinghamshire 6/0 (WW Keeton 4*, CB Harris 1*)

Nottinghamshire 1st innings

WW Keeton		b Rawlin	120
CB Harris	c Sellers	b Rawlin	2
W Walker		b Rawlin	9
A Staples	c Sutcliffe	b Turner	31
+B Lilley	c Turner	b Smailes	5
J Knowles	c Gibb	b Robinson	36
*GFH Heane	c Turner	b Fisher	6
D Jones		b Robinson	8
H Larwood	c Sellers	b Robinson	0
W Voce	lbw	b Smailes	5
HJ Butler	not out		0
Extras	(lb 7, nb 3)		10
Total	(all out, 101.2 overs)		232

FoW: 1-8, 2-26, 3-73, 4-80, 5-172,
6-197, 7-216, 8-216, 9-232, 10-232.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Smailes	17.2	8	22	2
Rawlin	18	4	58	3
Fisher	29	10	68	1
Turner	19	7	34	1
Robinson	18	6	40	3

Yorkshire 1st innings

H Sutcliffe	lbw	b Knowles	135
L Hutton		b Larwood	0
*AB Sellers	lbw	b Staples	31
C Turner		b Larwood	4
WE Harbord		b Staples	23
A Wood	c Lilley	b Butler	1
+PA Gibb	not out		157
TF Smailes		b Knowles	0
H Fisher		b Knowles	28
EP Robinson		c & b Larwood	19
ER Rawlin		b Larwood	0
Extras	(b 12, lb 10, w 1)		23
Total	(all out, 143 overs)		421

FoW: 1-1, 2-55, 3-65, 4-109, 5-110,
6-288, 7-288, 8-372, 9-421, 10-421.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Larwood	40	13	80	4
Voce	38	5	136	0
Butler	21	6	30	1
Staples	28	8	73	2
Heane	2	0	13	0
Knowles	11	2	55	3
Harris	3	0	11	0

Nottinghamshire 2nd innings

WW Keeton	c Robinson	b Rawlin	6
CB Harris	c Hutton	b Turner	67
W Walker	lbw	b Rawlin	39
A Staples	lbw	b Robinson	50
+B Lilley	lbw	b Rawlin	12
J Knowles	c Wood	b Hutton	36
*GFH Heane	c Fisher	b Robinson	8
D Jones	not out		52
H Larwood	c Sutcliffe	b Hutton	0
Extras	(b 4, lb 5, w 4, nb 3)		16
Total	(8 wickets, 139.1 overs)		286

DNB: W Voce, HJ Butler.

FoW: 1-10, 2-99, 3-139, 4-180, 5-180, 6-194, 7-286, 8-286.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Smailes	16	10	19	0
Rawlin	30	12	42	3
Fisher	32	23	30	0
Turner	21	6	57	1
Robinson	24	6	72	2
Hutton	14.1	3	50	2
Sutcliffe	2	2	0	0

With thanks to cricinfo.

