

July 2021

Issue 151



Open to spectators again, and awaiting Championship cricket

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Chairman's Notes: Hope and fear

After the damp squib of the optimistic promise of freedom in time for the Roses Match, all restrictions are at last lifted in time for the Decimalised Baseball competition.

The last four championship fixtures have been announced, together with Yorkshire's "home" quarter final in the T20 competition, and the Academy is getting some list A cricket in the form of the 50 over competition. Mark Arthur talks of winning four matches to secure the County Championship.

That's the hope. The fear is that Covid is still with us. The variant that arrived as India's place on the red list was delayed is rampant. Derbyshire have had to abandon fixtures (one against Yorkshire) because so many players were self isolating or otherwise injured. And Covid is the explanation for a failure to mend the drainage at Headingley, disturbed by the building of a new football stand and almost certainly skimped on when first introduced. Before the Roses fiasco, all four days of a second XI game were lost to the wet outfield. Unlike when this happened in April 2018, there had been no unseasonal rainfall in the days and weeks before.

Covid remains a continued threat to hotels, transport, individuals and cricket. The Committee is though determined to keep open the option of match events and an annual lunch and we hope members will be able to support them.

Andrew Bosi

Editorial:

The Hundred is upon us. It is not going to feature in this publication – no Yorkshire team is involved. There may be a place for a one-off evaluation of the new competition (though I suspect 'Chairman's Notes' will not be the place to look for it!), but that is for the future. The important issue is not any changes to the game, where the destruction of the over has received most attention, but will probably have limited impact on the nature of the contest. Nor is it the absurdly histrionic promotion and coverage of the matches, in which commentators, experts and players alike are required to spout nonsense which should cause them to blush. The most significant question concerns the impact this development will have on the game at all levels.

English cricket has accepted an innovation at great expense which cannot be allowed to fail without causing massive financial harm. If it succeeds however, and I suspect that it will at least be said to have done so, it is likely to do fundamental damage to

county cricket, and may become the template for much of the amateur game, particularly at junior level. As with the T20 competition before it, commercial success will be followed by a demand for more, with the traditional forms of the game required to make way. Whether those in power hope that this circle can be squared, and genuinely believe that funding will be generated to the benefit of all, or whether they in fact imagine with satisfaction a future in which the counties are superceded, it is impossible to tell. Probably there are individuals in each camp.

Meanwhile the county faithful have been attending matches again, actually in numbers higher than some in power might wish. Among those returning it has been wonderful to see familiar faces from the Southern Group. I hope this will continue to be the case as we move through the second half of the season, for which all fixtures are now available (see below, page 26).

At the time of writing Yorkshire have played some good cricket in all forms of the game. In the Championship however it is clear that they desperately need to improve the reliability of their batting, which may well cost them eventually in their final Championship placing, having already deprived them of bonus points to carry forward. However this deficiency seems oddly to have contributed to a 'never-say-die' approach in the field which would have gained the approval of wearers of the White Rose from long ago. And the result has been some brilliant cricket.



Somewhere beneath the 'event', a cricket match is taking place

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June Hirst

MONDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER – HEADINGLEY

We delayed this issue of this Newsletter until the fixtures for the divisional stage of the County Championship were announced; and we now know that the Headingley match is against Warwickshire in September. We are therefore delighted that we have been able to book a hospitality day package for Southern Group members and guests in the (new) Emerald Stand on Monday, 13 September, the second day of this match.

The price is £36.00 per person (the same as in 2019), which includes morning tea/coffee, a 2 course lunch, a light afternoon tea and access to the facilities. Ground admission is payable separately for non-Yorkshire members. Dress is smart casual, but no shorts or sportswear are allowed.

We hope that free car parking spaces will be available, as usual, at the rugby end of the ground; please indicate on the booking form if you would like one.

Please return the enclosed booking form with your cheque to June Hirst (address below) by **Wednesday, 1 September**, so that there is time to send out the tickets.

WEDNESDAY, 6 OCTOBER – ANNUAL LUNCH

We are pleased to say that our Annual Lunch on Wednesday, 6 October is still going ahead. We are booked into the Dining Room at the Civil Service Club, 13/15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ. Our guest speaker is Yorkshire batsman Adam Lyth, whose testimonial is this year. Tickets for a 3 course lunch and coffee are £39.00, the same price as in 2019. Please arrive in time to sit down for lunch at 1.00pm. Pre lunch drinks can be bought in the ground floor bar. An application form is included; please return this to June by **Wednesday, 29 September** at the latest. It will be good to see everyone again, so we do hope you will feel able to join us, and to give Adam your support.

June's address for all applications is **5 Stanhope House, 38-40 Shepherds Hill, London N6 5RR**. One cheque may be sent for the two events.

They are both obviously subject to any new Covid-19 restrictions which may be put in place between now and then.

News from Headingley from Martyn Moxon

Having reached the end of the qualifying stages of both the County Championship and T20 Blast, it is a good time to assess the season so far.

From a results point of view, we have achieved our first goals of the season by being in the 1st Division of the County Championship and the Quarter-Finals of the T20 Blast.

We have played some very good cricket in both formats and have shown great character and team spirit throughout.

We have fought back on several occasions from difficult positions to win 4 day matches and although this is commendable, it also shows that we can still be better in certain areas of our game. We will continue to work on these as we will need to be at our best for the final four games of the season to have a chance of winning the County Championship.

It is pleasing to have reached the T20 Quarter-Finals for the first time since 2016 as we put a lot of work into preparing for this format during the winter. We have also been affected by international selections and injuries to key players, so the strength of the squad has been tested.

The 2nd XI also reached T20 Finals Day recently but unfortunately lost to Sussex in the semi-final and they are currently sitting 3rd in the Second Eleven Championship table.

Therefore, all things considered I am pleased with our progress but we all know we still have plenty of room for improvement and development.

I am very much looking forward to the 50 over competition to see how our players perform. We will be missing ten players to The Hundred but it will be a great opportunity for some to show what they are capable of.

There is lots to look forward to and plenty to play for over the next two and a half months. Let's hope we can finish strongly and win some silverware.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes

Martyn Moxon

(Many thanks to Martyn for this report, ed.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2021

Notice is hereby given that the thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire CCC Southern Group will be held on Saturday, 2 October 2021 at 11.00am via Zoom link to conduct the following business:

1. Apologies for absence
2. To approve the Minutes of the 2019 AGM held on 21 May 2019. (An AGM was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic).
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Committee
7. Neil Lloyd Young Cricketer of the Year Award 2020
8. Any Other Business

The AGM this year will be held via Zoom link, as the committee felt it would be more convenient for members. If you would like to attend, please email Mike Brown on ycccsgtreasurer@gmail.com or ring him on 07425 223198 to request the link.

We are very keen to encourage new committee members, as the current committee needs strengthening to more evenly spread the workload. Nominations for the committee may be made in writing to the Hon Secretary or verbally at the meeting itself. Also, if you yourself are interested please contact the Chairman, Andrew Bosi (andrewbosi2@aol.com) or the Hon Secretary, June Hirst (jmhirst17@outlook.com).

June Hirst, Hon Secretary

July 2021

ACCOUNTS 2021

End year 31/12/2020			
Income/expenditure			
		2019	2020
Income		£	£
	Subs/Donations	2,840.00	2,647.00
	Events	4,426.00	0.00
	Tie Sales	0.00	4.00
	Total	7,266.00	3,047.00
Less Expenditure			
	Newsletter	1,420.97	1,221.38
	Events	4,107.10	0.00
	Young Player Award	331.00	0.00
	Website	300.00	300.00
	Ties	0.00	762.00
	Admin	170.36	308.35
	Travel	207.50	0.00
	Donation	568.00	0.00
	Total	7,014.93	2591.73
	Surplus	161.07	455.27
Balance sheet 31/12/20			
	Surplus from previous year	6,291.50	6,452.57
	Current year surplus	161.07	455.27
	Total surplus	6,452.57	6,907.84
Represented by:			
	Bank current a/c	6,463.15	6,423.28
	Tie stock	0.00	320.00
	Stamp stock	74.42	190.45
	Total	6,537.57	6,933.73
Less creditors/accruals			
	Subscriptions paid in advance	85.00	15.00
	Creditors	0.00	0.00
	Balancing Item		10.89
	Total	85.00	25.89
Overall resulting total		6452.57	6,907.84

VOTE!

Neil Lloyd Award

If you have not yet sent in your voting form for the award for 2020, please do so as soon as possible. David Wood keeps all information closely guarded, but we are led to believe that in a good response, voting is close between the two leading contenders.

Yorkshire's Other Win by One Run (1976)

by Anthony Bradbury

There was great excitement in early May 2021 when Yorkshire beat Northamptonshire by one run, and as only once before in the previous 3129 Yorkshire championship matches, had the Club won by such a narrow margin, the detail of that earlier match is worth consideration.

When Middlesex came to Bradford Park Avenue in mid July 1976 Yorkshire were not doing well in the Championship. They had been, under Boycott's captaincy, second to Leicestershire in 1975, so early season hopes in 1976 were high. Those hopes were soon dashed, for in their first seven championship matches Yorkshire lost twice, and drew the other five games. Then they beat Kent by an innings, drew with Sussex and lost to Nottinghamshire. Supporters were now restive, and John Callaghan writing in a subsequent *Wisden* stated "*gradually the keen edge of determination which marked Yorkshire's advance in the previous summer was replaced by a dispirited and sometimes careless approach*". Boycott had been out of the side with a broken bone in his right hand, and Hampshire was in a run of games as captain.

So this Middlesex match was important if Yorkshire were to revive hopes of a decent championship position. The Yorkshire side, now of 45 years ago, was Richard Lumb, Athey, Love, Hampshire, Squires, Arnie Sidebottom, David Bairstow, Cooper, Bore, Cope and Oldham. In the first hour of their first innings Yorkshire lost three wickets for just 17 runs, and from that unpromising start they dragged their way up to 228 all

out with Love making 77 and importantly a last wicket stand of 45 from Cope and Oldham, with Cope 26*. During their innings Clive Radley of Middlesex broke a finger whilst fielding in the slips, an unhappy event that had a bearing on the future of the game.

Middlesex, whose captain was the redoubtable Brearley, struggled against the spin bowling of Cope and Bore. Cope had a fine match and in the Middlesex first innings took 6/60 in 24.2 overs. Middlesex were bowled out for 206, giving Yorkshire a slender advantage of 22 runs. Radley did not bat, and indeed had gone home to London on the Saturday evening (the first day).

In their second innings Yorkshire struggled again, starting with Lumb who had to retire hurt. There was only one partnership of substance between Hampshire (59) and Squires (30). This time the tail did not wag and the side were out for 214 in 72.4 overs. Spin predominated and Titmus and Edmonds bowled 48 of those overs.

Middlesex on the last day needed 237 runs to win. As they toiled away many would remember that four years earlier they had come to Bradford and required 212 to win. They then scored 211 in a tied match, another very rare occurrence for Yorkshire. Now, in 1976, they lost wickets steadily, though Featherstone scored 78 and *Wisden* made mention of *"the highly promising Gattling"*. Throughout the day the game seemed finely balanced. Mike Bore and Geoff Cope did most of the bowling. The late Tony Woodhouse, the eminent Yorkshire historian, wrote *"Mike Bore at this stage of his career was bowling after the fashion of Underwood on pitches that took spin"*.

The final descriptions can come from the writing of Stephen Chalke in his biography of Geoff Cope. At this stage 194 for 6 had gone to 210 for 7 and then 230 for 8, and 232 for 9. Cope had taken those last two wickets. *"Middlesex needed five to win when the last man stepped out – and the last man that Tuesday evening was their opening batsman Clive Radley ...summoned back on Monday night 'in case of emergency'. His left arm in a black sling, he took guard as a left-hander to face the medium-pacer Mike Bore. Then after surviving an appeal for a catch by keeper Bairstow, he discarded his sling, turned himself back into a right-hander and chopped a ball down to third man for three runs. Now it was one for the tie, two to win, and he was on strike against Geoff. But in the words of Brian Chapman [cricket correspondent in the Guardian] 'there was no fairytale finish. Radley was drawn forward by the fifth ball of the over and was stumped gleefully and noisily by Bairstow'. Yorkshire had beaten Middlesex, that summer's champions, by one run"*.

Out of the 72.5 overs in the Middlesex second innings Bore and Cope had bowled 65.5 of them. Bore took 4/83 and Cope 5/105. In the match Cope had taken 11 wickets and scored those invaluable 26 first-innings runs. A man of the match award would

have certainly gone to him, and only once did he take more wickets in a match. Yet his greatest prize has been to be the Yorkshire President, surely way beyond his thoughts in 1976. Yorkshire that year were eighth in the Championship. But for their one run victory against Middlesex they would have been three places lower and in greater strife.



The man of the match, in the author's judgement, now Yorkshire President and a much appreciated supporter of the Southern Group

Many thanks to Anthony for reminding us of this match. Scorecard follows, courtesy of cricinfo:

Yorkshire 1st innings

RG Lumb	c Gould	b Lamb	0
CWJ Athey	c Edmonds	b Jones	6
JD Love	c Gatting	b Edmonds	77
*JH Hampshire	lbw	b Jones	0
PJ Squires	st Gould	b Edmonds	30
A Sidebottom		b Titmus	23
+DL Bairstow	lbw	b Jones	2
HP Cooper		b Edmonds	17
MK Bore	lbw	b Jones	6
GA Cope	not out		26
S Oldham	c Gatting	b Featherstone	19
Extras	(b 11, lb 6, w 1, nb 4)		22
Total	(all out, 87.5 overs)		228

FoW: 1-1, 2-12, 3-17, 4-115, 5-143,
6-150, 7-167, 8-173, 9-183, 10-228.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Jones	20	6	56	4
Lamb	8	1	34	1
Titmus	24	10	46	1
Edmonds	30	13	51	3
Gatting	2	0	5	0
Featherstone	3.5	0	14	1

Middlesex 1st innings

MJ Smith		b Cope	48
*JM Brearley	c Bairstow	b Oldham	6
MW Gatting	c Athey	b Cope	38
TM Lamb	c Lumb	b Cope	15
GD Barlow	lbw	b Cope	0
NG Featherstone	c Squires	b Bore	41
+IJ Gould	c Cooper	b Cope	14
PH Edmonds	not out		28
FJ Titmus	c Hampshire	b Bore	2
AA Jones		b Cope	0
CT Radley	absent hurt		
-			
Extras	(b 1, lb 2, nb 11)		14
Total	(all out, 71.2 overs)		206

FoW: 1-20, 2-98, 3-101, 4-101, 5-124, 6-162, 7-189, 8-192, 9-206.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Cooper	16	1	45	0
Oldham	14	2	44	1
Bore	15	8	37	2
Cope	24.2	8	60	6
Sidebottom	2	0	6	0

Yorkshire 2nd innings

RG Lumb	retired hurt		
17			
CWJ Athey	c Gatting	b Titmus	24
JD Love		c & b Edmonds	2
*JH Hampshire	c Brearley	b Jones	59
PJ Squires	c Gould	b Jones	30
A Sidebottom	c sub	b Jones	1
+DL Bairstow	lbw	b Featherstone	13
HP Cooper	c Gatting	b Titmus	29
MK Bore		c & b Featherstone	14
GA Cope	c Lamb	b Featherstone	6
S Oldham	not out		1
Extras	(b 8, lb 9, nb 1)		18
Total	(all out, 72.4 overs)		214

FoW: 1-35, 2-58, 3-133, 4-146, 5-147, 6-184, 7-194, 8-210, 9-214.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Jones	16	4	44	3
Lamb	2	0	14	0
Titmus	21	5	66	2
Edmonds	27	10	60	1
Featherstone	6.4	2	12	3

Middlesex 2nd innings (target: 237 runs)

MJ Smith	c sub	b Oldham	2
*JM Brearley	c Athey	b Bore	44
MW Gatting	c Oldham	b Bore	40
TM Lamb	c Bairstow	b Bore	6
GD Barlow	c Oldham	b Bore	7
NG Featherstone	c Hampshire	b Cope	78
+IJ Gould	c Athey	b Cope	13
PH Edmonds	c sub	b Cope	0
FJ Titmus	c Bairstow	b Cope	20
AA Jones	not out		0
CT Radley	st Bairstow	b Cope	3
Extras	(b 12, w 7, nb 3)		22
Total	(all out, 72.5 overs)		235

FoW: 1-12, 2-89, 3-126, 4-154, 5-158, 6-194, 7-210, 8-230, 9-232, 10-235.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Cooper	5	1	18	0
Oldham	2	0	5	1
Bore	33	10	83	4
Cope	32.5	7	107	5

Andy Naylor has found an interesting way at looking at today's county cricket.

Comparison of County Squads 2021

In April I found myself in hospital for the weekend after an operation on a broken ankle sustained when keeping wicket in my first match of the season. The plan to pass the time following Yorkshire's victory at Hove went awry when I found my wife had packed the wrong cable for my laptop, so when the power ran out I instead turned to the bumper centenary edition of the *Cricketer* magazine for entertainment.

The 36-page spread on the counties, including the first-class career records of the players known in April to be available to them, caught my eye. I chose three batting and three bowling metrics, and proceeded to establish how Yorkshire compared. If nothing else, the stats may indicate whether a county seemed to be prioritising red or white ball cricket.

County	Most Runs	10,000+ Runs	Best Batting Average ¹	Most Wickets	400+ Wickets	Best Bowling Average ²
Derbyshire	12,177	1	46.40	274	0	25.86
Durham	9,288	0	35.72	510	1	22.81
Essex	24,230	4	47.79	646	2	23.66
Glamorgan	6,641	0	44.58	602	1	24.50
Gloucestershire	9,151	0	41.63	277	0	21.62
Hampshire	10,365	1	38.92	485	3	20.94
Kent	15,710	3	41.01	546	2	24.67
Lancashire	9,119	0	42.02	986	1	21.34
Leicestershire	8,243	0	41.00	464	1	28.82
Middlesex	9,965	0	37.75	841	4	24.77
Northamptonshire	6,876	0	36.21	325	0	19.84
Nottinghamshire	12,692	1	39.35	811	1	26.84
Somerset	17,282	2	42.64	475	1	21.99
Surrey	17,809	3	48.52	682	3	26.18
Sussex	12,841	2	44.35	344	0	21.78
Warwickshire	10,691	1	44.17	562	2	24.06
Worcestershire	13,450	3	39.44	376	0	24.49
Yorkshire	12,705	5	48.86	512	3	19.93

¹ Minimum qualification 50 matches² Minimum qualification 100 wickets

Yorkshire's ranking: 7th (Root) 1st 1st (Root) 9th (Rashid) 2nd 2nd (Coad)

The most prolific batsman was Joe Root, whose total of 12,705 was surpassed by players from six other counties. He will do well to end his career ahead of Sir Alistair Cook, who began 2021 with almost double that number.

Yorkshire were unrivalled when it came to players with at least 10,000 first class runs. Joining the England captain were Bairstow (11,845), Malan (11,561), Ballance (11,282) and Lyth (10,894). The 2021 beneficiary may have been fifth here, but he has scored more first class runs for Yorkshire than the others.

Based on the 50-match qualification only two players started 2021 with an average over 48, with Joe Root just pipping Hashim Amla's 48.52. Another Surrey batsman, Ollie Pope (52.89 in 45 matches) will likely end the season above them, having passed the minimum qualification.

Whilst doubtful that Adil Rashid will play first-class cricket again, he was listed as Yorkshire's most prolific bowler with 512 wickets. Eight other counties had at least one bowler who could top this.

Taking the benchmark of 400 career wickets, Yorkshire also had Duanne Olivier (456) and Steve Patterson (420). Middlesex were the only county who could call on more than three bowlers to have reached this milestone, with Murtagh (841) comfortably ahead of Finn, Harris and Roland-Jones.

Finally, only two qualifying bowlers started 2021 with an average below 20, and both were Yorkshiremen named Ben. Sanderson (19.84) was narrowly ahead of Coad (19.93). It is a far cry from the 19th century, when upwards of fifty bowlers took at least 100 first-class wickets at an average below 15. Allegedly Fuller Pilch (1820-1854) took 142 wickets at 1.35 each! Compared to today, though, the odds were massively stacked against the batsman in that era, with inferior pitches, little protective equipment, no sightscreens and the requirement for the batsmen to run all their runs.

Andy Naylor

Bosifile 2021 part 2

Yorkshire v. Kent, Headingley, May 6th-9th

The Yorkshire attack was strengthened by the return of Ben Coad. Willey was rested, and Root allowed to play so that Fraine returned to the second team. Patterson returned to winning ways with the toss. He may have had an eye of the weather forecast in inserting the visitors. Conditions were easier than in the previous game, but the seam attack made regular progress despite the fact that Crawley at last came good for Kent with 90 and Leaning battled hard against his former club for 47. In between the showers, Kent closed the first day on 224-7.

(Down south, Yorkshire II were securing their second win in three games at Billericay. The writer had the privilege of viewing professional cricket for the first time since 2019, albeit from outside the ground. In between three ludicrous interruptions for the merest spot of rain (maybe it was heavier inside the ground than out), Matthew Waite had advanced from his overnight 102 to reach 163 by lunch, taking toll of the bowling of Quinn. He is a good starter and perhaps the best player to be batting when the players are regularly trooping on and off the field. After the 40 minute break Yorkshire missed out on the fourth batting point by two runs, Waite falling for 170. Quinn missed the later stages of the game because he had been signed on loan to Kent and was on his way to Headingley.)

Quinn did not detain the Yorkshire bowlers over-long, but by the time he came to the crease a ninth wicket stand of 60 had brought Kent an unlikely third batting point and denied Yorkshire theirs for bowling, the crucial wicket falling in the 111th over. Coad had three wickets but Thompson with 2-41 in twenty-three miserly overs was most impressive.

The openers made a start without going on to a major score, and Yorkshire were indebted to Gary Ballance. Scratchy at first, he added 83 with Root (strangled down the leg-side nine runs short of a half century) and 102 with Brook who achieved the minor landmark that had eluded Root. Two late wickets brought Kent back into the game, but a close of play score of 240-5, sixty-five behind with Ballance unbeaten on 91, was just about the better position.

As anticipated, there was no play on Saturday, indeed it was called off at 11 a.m. The wet outfield delayed a restart until after lunch on the final day. Conditions were far more bowler friendly when play resumed, and Yorkshire crawled along at one an over. At the start of the day three more points had looked within reach, in the end Yorkshire struggled to make that two. Ballance called for a single that was not there and was

run out for 96 It took Ben Coad to lift the tempo and a first innings lead was only secured by the last pair after a further break for rain. Once the final wicket fell (Coad unbeaten on 33) the players shook hands on a draw.

Kent 305 drew with Yorkshire 321. Kent 14 points, Yorkshire 13.

Glamorgan v. Yorkshire, Cardiff, May 13th-16th

Willey returned and it was Olivier's turn for a rest, but everyone was rested on day 1 because a wet outfield prevented play until lunch on day 2. Patterson won the toss and there was a debut for the 19 year old Harry Duke behind the timbers. He thus leapfrogged Ben Birkhead, three years his senior, and impressed with the gloves though his batting was limited to one ball.

About half an hour before lunch it seemed that Yorkshire had failed to take advantage of inserting the hosts but then wickets began to fall and Glamorgan were bowled out for 149. At one point five wickets fell for 13 runs, as the wicket clearly suited seam bowling without the pace: Patterson and Brook were the most successful bowlers with three wickets apiece. In the end, 149 represented something of a recovery from a score of 82-7.

By tea Yorkshire were 10-3 and although ahead at the fall of seventh wicket still trailed by 38 runs when Patterson came out to join Joe Root, the one player to master the conditions. This was Root doing what he does best, working the ones and twos and reaching the boundary only six times in his 99. Patterson also missed out on a landmark when Coad was out soon after, leaving him unbeaten on 47. The ninth wicket stand of 118 had transformed the feel of the game. Yorkshire went into the final day with hopes of a win, but they were soon washed away by more rain. Only one wicket was taken in the short session possible.

Glamorgan 149 & 164-4 drew with Yorkshire (12 points) 230.

Rain disrupted the round of matches which Yorkshire sat out, so they trailed Lancashire by just three points going in to the first Roses Match of 2021.

Lancashire @ Old Trafford, May 27th -30th

The joy of being able to watch cricket in the sunshine was somewhat tempered by the anaemic batting performance witnessed. Root was back with England, Ballance, Malan and Bairstow unavailable for various reasons, and Yorkshire fielded an inexperienced batting line up which included a debut for George Hill. This might have been a good toss to lose. Patterson chose to bat, and found himself at the crease before lunch with the score forty for seven. That included the criminal waste of Brook's wicket, called for a quick single that was never there, and bowling figures from T.E. Bailey that did justice to a famous name.

There are countless examples in this column of the last three wickets being more productive than the first seven, as the ball loses its hardness. In Brisbane seventy years ago Hutton was dropped down the order to await more favourable conditions and one wonders when a county might try the same trick. Here it was the Yorkshire skipper batting sensibly in partnership with the last recognised batsman, Harry Duke, who atoned for his first ball duck at Cardiff with an excellent half century. His acknowledgement of the crowd's applause confirmed we had been missed.

Conditions had eased when Lancashire went out and Yorkshire bowled poorly. Davies was scoring at a run a ball and Yorkshire were fortunate to be given his wicket to a poor ball down the leg side. Lancashire ended the day only 64 behind.

Yorkshire bowled much better on the second day and the hosts could only add 255 in a full day's play. Patterson was as usual to the fore in the economy stakes, but until hit for a couple of sixes Bess was also limiting the home side to one an over. The second new ball brought three wickets. Jennings appeared fortunate to survive an appeal for a catch at the wicket shortly after completing his century, but he added only thirteen more. The stand with Wells was worth 175. Bohannon meanwhile took forty balls to get off the mark. Vilas perished trying to accelerate, perhaps with a fourth batting point in mind; Lancashire thereafter settled for depriving Yorkshire of a second for bowling. The day ended with Brook and Hill containing the batsmen more interested in the morrow.

Lancashire batted on for another 47 overs on Saturday, adding a further 159 runs to lead by 350. Bohannon completed the second century of the innings and Lamb the third half century.

Lyth and Kohler-Cadmore started well but both were dismissed before the close, Patterson coming out as night-watchman. On the final day there were glimpses of hope that Yorkshire might save the game. Hill and Brook added 59 in seventeen overs;

Duke and Bess 58 in twenty-eight. The last three wickets fell at the same score; Yorkshire were ten overs from safety.

Northants' win at Hove took them to within two points of Yorkshire. As to who might be in Yorkshire's division come the Autumn, Gloucestershire's winning run came to an end at the Oval, but Johnny Tattersall, on loan for one game, made an unbeaten 86 in a losing cause. No Yorkshire batsman at Old Trafford exceeded 52. Essex completed the double over Durham and Warwickshire over Notts; all four remained in contention for division 1. Leicestershire chased down 378 to doom Middlesex, now rooted to the foot of group 2.

Yorkshire (1 point) 159 & 271 lost to Lancashire 509-9 dec. by an innings and 79 runs.

Yorkshire v. Sussex, Headingley June 3rd-6th

Yorkshire welcomed back Malan and Ballance, playing together for the first time, and a crowd in excess of 3,000 each day. Members found ways of meeting up, for the first time in 21 months. Willey was preferred to Olivier.

Patterson again won the toss and invited a very young Sussex team to bat first. Hope for more than three wickets in the opening session was not realized. The bat was beaten many times but edges did not go to hand. However, when Travis Head was truncated straight after lunch, Sussex were reduced to 68 for four. Thereafter the wicket eased as the sun emerged, and Yorkshire took only one more wicket in the day. The Sussex skipper, Ben Brown, proved the chief thorn in Yorkshire's side, not for the first time in his career. He was well supported by Thomason, recruited from Warwickshire, who made a dogged 40, and he himself completed three figures before the close.

However, the second day could hardly have been better for Yorkshire. First, they dismissed the last five batsmen for just 46 more runs, and then Kohler-Cadmores and Lyth made a sound start with a partnership of 83. Shorn of Ollie Robinson and Jofra Archer, and with several leading players in the second XI preparing for another competition, the attack was the weakest seen in the championship for many years. Lyth was frustrated to lose his wicket after making 48, but Ballance doggedly and Malan fluently ensured that Sussex awaited a first bowling point at the end of the day. Malan completed his century in the final over after a miscalculation by Brown ensured he had the strike.

Although the debutant Atkins went on to record the most impressive figures, it was the Sussex spinner Carson who impressed most and on the third morning he produced an excellent delivery to cut short Ballance's innings. Brook made an attractive 49, and Malan was beaten for the first time in his innings one short of a second double century for Yorkshire. Having missed out on the final bowling point it was a relief to see maximum batting points for the first time in 2021; Yorkshire no longer had the smallest tally of the 18 counties. Harry Duke again impressed with a career best (by 2 runs); Tattersall was also registering a second half century on his continued loan to Gloucestershire. Yorkshire batted until dismissed not long after tea, with a lead of 245. There was time for 23 overs, during which the Sussex openers made sedate progress without losing a wicket.

The wicket remained true on the final morning, and Sussex opted for all out defence rather than attempting to clear the deficit. With only four wickets down at tea, the draw was firm favourite, but a loose shot by Thomason opened the door to Bess and Willey and five wickets disappeared for seven runs. Just as at Old Trafford the previous week, but without the disappointing adjudication, time and overs were running out as Brown and the last man stood firm. But once again it was Patterson who had the last word, removing his opposite number with nine overs left to secure an innings win.

News of Glamorgan's win over Lancashire had drawn the biggest cheer of the Saturday crowd, and results across the country ensured that four teams were in contention for division 1 in each of the three groups, going in to the last two rounds, with no side very far ahead. Yorkshire had to face their chief rivals, so the outcome remained in their own hands.

Sussex 313 & 215 lost to Yorkshire (23 points) 558 by an innings and 30 runs.

Northamptonshire, Wantage Road, July 4th-6th

Having named a stand after him, Yorkshire decided to sign Sam Northeast as soon as it became known that he was unhappy at being omitted from Hampshire's 20 over side. The well monied south coast side quickly filled the gap with a signing from Middlesex. Injuries to Tom Kohler-Cadmore and Will Fraine had further depleted the batting resources, soon put to the test after Patterson again won the toss.

And found wanting again, with only one player reaching 25. That player, however, was Yorkshire's latest opener, the former England under 19 George Hill, who impressed with half of the first 142 runs scored. He was missed on 32, but either side of that scored more runs than any other Yorkshire player. However, the all out score of 158 meant yet another blank return of batting bonus points.



George Hill, who made a fine 71 opening the batting, and was also one of the heroes of the 50 over match at Leicester (page 24).

Yorkshire bowled poorly in response, Coad and Thompson, normally so reliable, being the main culprits. Just before the end Bess began to make good use of a worn pitch, and Patterson removed the first night-watchman.

After another poor start, Yorkshire came back into the game the following morning. The second night watchman tapped a tame catch to Patterson at mid-off, and Bess, coming on after two overs at the former Football Ground end, steadily worked his way through the innings for career best figures of 7 for 43. And this despite a finger injury that affected his ability to hold the ball. Moreover, only nine wickets were available, as Procter was absent for family reasons. Northants were limited to a lead of twelve, which Yorkshire cleared, before again losing three early wickets. Northeast's Yorkshire career began quietly, being stumped playing a defensive shot for just a single and a total of four runs in the match.

Brook joined Ballance and added 40 before Kerrigan struck again. Similar stands with Bess and Duke after tea took Yorkshire to 159-6 at the close. Brook was increasingly fluent, and passed the previous highest score of the innings shortly before the close.

Another horrendous weather forecast on day three bore no resemblance to reality, as a strong wind kept the clouds moving. Brook continued to bat sublimely. The stands were adding around 20 now, but this was enough for Brook to reach three figures in company with Ben Coad. He was last out, caught on the boundary for 113 out of 217, his third ton and like the first, made in testing conditions and crucial to the eventual result.

Patterson opened the bowling before lunch, and took the vital wicket of Vasconcelos who had made 55 first time round. Soon after lunch Bess and Patterson claimed two more soft dismissals. Keogh was caught at short leg and Zaib to a thrilling low catch at second slip, to leave the home side 43-5. Oddly, the pitch offered less to Bess than in the first innings and he failed to take a wicket in his last 19 overs despite bowling steadily. In fact Lyth was preparing to take his place until Olivier's pace accounted for the last two, after a worrying stand of 49 for the ninth wicket. Before that, however, Coad had at last produced a good spell and a brace of wickets, and Procter (family crisis over) contrived to get his partner run out in the last over before tea, taken at 103-8.

Yorkshire may have been reliant on some imported players to cover for injury and the ECB, but they remained indebted to exiled Yorkshiremen for results elsewhere that went their way. Ed Barnes with an unbeaten 83 ended only by rain, secured a first innings lead for Leicestershire at Taunton, while Leaning and Logan held out for a draw at Old Trafford that ensured Yorkshire would top their group going in to the final match. Glamorgan could not beat Sussex, so the Roses rivals were guaranteed a place in division 1. Surrey's draw at the West End, and the win for Gloucestershire over Middlesex also suited Yorkshire. If Gloucestershire were to partner Somerset in Division 1, their win at Taunton would reduce the points Somerset would take into that division. Unfortunately Yorkshire faced the same difficulty. A win for Notts over Derby looked to have secured their first division place, with Warwickshire favourites to join them.

Yorkshire (19 pts.) 158 & 217 beat Northamptonshire 170 & 152 by 53 runs.

Lancashire @ Headingley, July 11th-14th

Yorkshire are used to making more news off the field than on and this was certainly the case here. A minor injury to Olivier gave a chance to Dominic Leech and on the third morning he received his Second Team cap along with George Hill and Harry Duke. This was on the field, but not during the hours of play.

It was the one bright spot of the day. After the previous day had been washed out, the umpires decided the ground would be fit at 12 noon and play duly began. Yorkshire, who mysteriously had eschewed the chance to bat on a benign pitch, continued to bowl woefully although Leech should have gained a point, only for Harry Brook to spill the chance at slip. It would have allowed Yorkshire to top group three, though remaining at the bottom of Division 1.

Yorkshire did manage to limit their opponents to three batting points. Thompson put sawdust on his run up but it was brushed away at lunchtime and thereafter Bess bowled from the Football stand end. Wells was racing towards three figures when Leech effected a good stop. Unfortunately he continued over the rope onto the grass watered with the blotter's discharge and crashed his knee into the concrete stand. Although the seriousness of the injury was immediately apparent to the crowd, the immediate priority seemed to be drinks for the other players. After about twenty minutes Leech was stretchered off, whereupon the umpires also retreated and summoned the players from the field. It was announced that an early tea would be taken, with 64.4 overs remaining in the day.

The umpires then carried out an inspection, mainly of the bowlers' run ups, and a meeting followed between them, the captains and the match referee. Eventually a remarkably patient crowd was told there would be a further inspection at an unspecified time; an hour later a perfunctory inspection revealed that the sunshine had had the effect of bringing water to the surface. Play was abandoned for the day, just in time for the evening rush hour.

Play was called off before the scheduled start of the final day, and the decision communicated on the club web site an hour later. There have been previous indications that all was not well with the drainage system; the first post lockdown second XI game was abandoned with no play on any of the four days. Hampshire won at Cheltenham to reach the first division.

Lancashire 411-2. Match drawn. Yorkshire 8 points.

“Maybe someone will Step Up”.

One Day Trophy, Leicestershire v Yorkshire, Sunday July 25th.

There were two reactions to the scheduling of this competition this season. The first was that the clash with the Hundred had destroyed it. The second was that it would present an opportunity to see young players in action, and perhaps to visit pleasant out-grounds. As the predictable loss of our established international white ball players was followed by a steady trickle of further names, including our effective overseas signing for the T20, and when England then announced that Dom Bess would be in the England squad after the first two matches, thus taking the numbers of the lost to ten, a certain fatalism descended even among those taking the more positive view. The consensus was that Yorkshire would not be able to compete effectively. The ‘glass half full’ amongst us could still not go far beyond an unconvinced ‘maybe someone will step up’. Well, somebody did.



Harry Duke greets his first century for Yorkshire

Yorkshire’s first fixture did nothing to reassure anyone, as Surrey achieved a comfortable victory. The next, Leicestershire, were seen as one of the favourites for the competition, simply because they had suffered few losses to the Hundred. The first innings of the match appeared to confirm this. Leicestershire made their way comfortably to 327-7 from their 50 overs, essentially built on the foundations of a third wicket partnership between centurions Marcus Harris and Lewis Hill. If there was a crumb of comfort and hope it lay in the fact that after the partnership was broken, the feared late assault never really developed, and only 60 runs were added in the last nine overs for the loss of 5 wickets, almost all caught in the deep. Matthew Waite picked up a five wicket haul in the process. These late overs arguably turned out to be crucial.

While Leicestershire may have been slightly disappointed, no-one amongst the significant Yorkshire contingent in the ground was heard to suggest the target was likely to be reached. However those expecting early wickets as batsmen tried to maintain a required rate in excess of six an over soon changed their view. Will Fraine began powerfully but sensibly, making his first real mistake, to his visible frustration, when he was out for 45 of the first 61. This brought in Gary Balance who we all assumed would be crucial to Yorkshire's chances. For a time he batted typically, managing to combine safety with power whenever given the opportunity. It was totally unexpected when he succumbed to what appeared a rather obvious slower ball and was caught behind square on the off-side. Yorkshire were now 147-2 from 23 overs, and the general feeling was that the inexperienced remaining batting had been left with too much to do. Instead George Hill and Harry Duke remained together until, in effect, the match was won.

It was a superb partnership. The two young men batted with confidence but with very few rushes of blood in maintaining and then increasing their scoring rate. They each played many good shots, off front and back foot and all round the wicket, including the area which makes us all shudder directly behind the wicket-keeper. In addition their running between the wickets was a sight to behold. There was a little rashness in their pursuit of quick singles, indeed Harry must have covered a couple of hundred yards just in getting back after his optimistic calls had been rejected. In creating, judging, and sprinting twos and threes they were near faultless. The old men in the crowd were exhausted just watching.

Leicestershire tried all their bowlers, bringing their openers back when they would have wished to avoid doing so. It made no difference, they were all plundered. Duke was the lesser scorer in all three of his partnerships, but that clearly did not worry him in the slightest. It was a most mature innings, finally ended when he was bowled, playing, at last, a shot which suggested a little tiredness. He had after all, kept wicket for 50 overs and then immediately batted for 45. He scored 125, George Hill, who looked a quality batsman once again, finished with 90 not out. When their partnership was broken, 8 runs were required from 5 overs.

Leicester 327 -7, 50 overs. (Harris 127, Hill 108, Waite 5-59)

Yorkshire 329-3, 47.5 overs. (Duke 125, Hill 90 not out)

Yorkshire won by 7 wickets.

CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES:

Following Yorkshire's success in going through to the top division for the second phase of the County Championship, their fixtures are as follows.

30 August – 2 Sept	Hampshire (A)	Southampton Ageas Bowl
Sept 5 - 8	Somerset (H)	Scarborough
12-15	Warwickshire (H)	Headingley
21-24	Notts (A)	Trent Bridge

These fixtures will be followed by the Bob Willis Trophy at Lord's from September 27th to October 1st, for the top two counties.

Photo in issue 150: Three correspondents correctly identified the picture of a party at the grave of Hedley Verity as members of the Ashes party of 1954-55. After some uncertainty, we think the men shown were (left to right): Peter Loader, Vic Wilson, Len Hutton, Bill Bowes (then Yorkshire Post?), Bob Appleyard, Bill Edrich, Jonny Wardle.

Another challenge. The club president very much the youngster here. The location is probably obvious, but can any member identify the occasion and date (or indeed spot anyone in the crowd)? Those moustaches suggest some time in the eighties?



