

# Fifty Years of Surrey Championship Cricket



## History, Memories, Facts and Figures

- How it all started
- How the League has grown
- A League Chairman's season
- How it might look in 2043?
- Top performances across fifty years





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# Fifty Years of Surrey Championship Cricket April 2018



PRESIDENT  
Roland Walton

**Surrey Championship 50th Anniversary 1968 - 2018**

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## **Diary of Anniversary Activities and Special Events**

### **Friday 13th April**

**Tea Party invitation to 17 Founder Clubs at the Kia Oval  
Day 1 Surrey CCC v Cambridge University**

### **Saturday 5th May**

**Sutton v Banstead - Feature match at Sutton C.C.  
Two of the four original clubs from 1968 still in top division**

### **Friday 18th May**

**Surrey CCC - Surrey Championship Capped Players Day  
Surrey CCC is inviting/hosting Chairs and capped players who graduated  
via Surrey Championship clubs  
Royal London One Day Cup Surrey CCC v Somerset CCC.**

### **Saturday 26th May**

**East Molesey v Sunbury - Feature match at East Molesey C.C.  
Two of the four original clubs from 1968 still in top division**

### **Thursday 7th June**

**Australian Aboriginal XI v Surrey Championship XI T20  
played at the Kia Oval  
150th Aboriginal anniversary and 50th Championship anniversary match**

### **Sunday 8th July**

**Surrey Championship Anniversary matches  
Exclusive use of Kia Oval from 11.00am - 6.00pm**

### **Saturday 1st September**

**BBQ for VIPs/guests at Reigate Priory C.C.  
Final League match. End league season**

### **Saturday 15th September**

**Surrey Championship XI v Travelbag XI at Wimbledon C.C.**

### **Friday 19th October**

**Surrey Championship 50th Anniversary Awards Dinner  
England Suite Kia Oval**

**Please keep an eye on the Surrey Championship web site for changes and updates to this diary. For further information and for full details of each of the above events, please refer to the web site under the 50th Anniversary page or contact Roland Walton - [rolandwalton@hotmail.com](mailto:rolandwalton@hotmail.com)**



## Foreword by Peter Murphy (Chairman)



All history is bunk according to Henry Ford, while Karl Marx considered all history to be the history of class struggle. Anyone who agrees with Henry Ford probably won't be reading this Anniversary Book while if you are of a Marxist persuasion you might but you won't find much about the class struggle to sustain your world view. What the early history of the Surrey Championship is really about is the willingness of some quite courageous souls to challenge conventional thinking about club cricket and to change the direction – dramatically – in which the club game in the South East of England was travelling, or perhaps just drifting along. Not exactly the class struggle but certainly a revolution.

The modern cricketer will find it difficult to conceive of the strongly rooted opposition to league cricket which existed in our part of England 50 years ago, to the extent that clubs which dared to embrace it had genuine fears of excommunication from the cricketing family then represented by the Club Cricket Conference. With no leagues to arrange clubs' Saturday fixtures, and fewer cup competitions to occupy clubs on Sundays, the inability of clubs to have access to the Conference fixture bureau to fill gaps in their programme or to replace cry-offs would threaten their viability. Two of the articles in this publication throw light on how fiercely contested was the right of clubs to set up their own competition. However, once the seventeen founder clubs had defied the diehards and instituted the league the floodgates were opened. Soon leagues were flourishing all around London and by the late 1970s the Club Cricket Conference itself was organising a midweek cup competition for league representative XIs.

One of the great benefits of publishing this book is that it helps to ensure that the names of those with the drive and determination to see the project through are preserved for posterity. If one gives pride of place to Raman Subba Row, it is not because he was more committed than any number of others but rather that a test match player of distinction and an administrator at the top end of the game had maintained his connections with club cricket and had the vision to realise that the club game could be on an irreversible downward path if radical decisions were not taken.

I challenged current League Statistician Martyn Holloway-Neville to make an estimate of how many different players might have made an appearance in the Championship over the whole 50 years of its existence. It's impossible to make more than an estimate but we reckon it's certainly in excess of 20,000. Not bad for a competition starting with two divisions of seventeen.

I must not neglect the opportunity to commend the work of Roland Walton, who has led the planning work for the Anniversary year with typical energy and thoroughness, and Chris Evans for his excellent work in editing this commemorative booklet. The various articles here take the reader forward from the pioneering years to the present day. It is not a comprehensive historical record (although we are fortunate to have some excellent statistics thanks to the devotion of successive league statisticians and groundwork laid by the legendary Chris Fuke). The editor has rightly concentrated on seeking contributors who were there at the times they are describing and can offer personal views and memories. They have done an excellent job. I hope everyone will find at least something of interest.

Enjoy reading the book and, above all, enjoy the 2018 season.

## The Surrey Championship – Micky Stewart

Firstly, my congratulations to all those in the Surrey Championship who have participated, both on and off the field, on reaching fifty years, and a big well done to all those who have made it possible from year to year.

When being asked to pen these few words, I realised that my aged memory required considerable help to recall how it all began, so I contacted my good friend Norman Parks of Beddington C.C.

Norman described how back in the 1960s the call for league cricket from Surrey club cricketers was getting stronger and stronger and following a discussion he had with Raman Subba Row at a club dinner, initial meetings were arranged with a cross section of clubs. Further meetings were held with more clubs which resulted in the first ball being bowled in the Surrey Championship two years later, in 1968.

I understand that all this happened in spite of strong objections from a few of the leading Surrey clubs and the Club Cricket Conference. However over time, things settled down and as a result fifty years will be celebrated this year, 2018.

For the younger reader of this piece, I will describe my own experience of Surrey club cricket before the introduction of the Championship. It was with West Surrey C.C. having been introduced by my father. It was a wandering club at the time and fielded two teams on Saturdays and Sundays – reading this today it is difficult to believe, I know!! I made my debut two weeks before my 14th birthday in September 1946!! How about that!! It was against Barclays Bank, Norbury and I didn't trouble the scorers.

The following week, the last match of the season was at East Grinstead C.C against a side that included an opening bowler who had played for Sussex and a young Jim Parks. I chalked up something in the teens, it was a great experience for me.

I continued to play for West Surrey whenever I could, particularly in September when the Surrey first-class season was over. Year after year I played for Alleyn's School on Saturdays and West Surrey on Sundays. I have gone into detail of my own experience of Surrey Club Cricket before the Championship because it was so many years ago.

However, getting married and moving to New Malden led to my membership of Malden Wanderers who had been a major club for decades with fine players. My two sons, Neil and Alec, joined as Colts and graduated through the age groups to the first team as teenagers. They both made major contributions to the club, with Neil captaining the side from a young age and eventually leading it to the Championship in 1989. Both of them owe a huge amount to Malden Wanderers for the success and enjoyment they have had from the game.

Since my retirement, I will watch a Surrey Championship match on various grounds and initially some clubs were surprised to see me. To some I had to explain that I have only ever seen cricket as one game, no matter be it first-class or a club 4th XI match. It is a game to enjoy and, most important of all, to respect regardless of the fierce competition it contains these days.

I wish the Surrey Championship every success for the next fifty years.

**Micky Stewart - Surrey C.C.C. 1954 - 1972**



## Message from Richard Thompson

What is the purpose of The Surrey Championship?

- Provide a league where the best club cricketers in the county play against each other?
- Develop the next generation of Surrey CCC players from the youngest age?
- Ensure week in, week out; players of all abilities through the different XIs are getting to play competitive club cricket that tests and challenges them?
- Provide the hub for local communities throughout the summer months?



From the South Circular to the Sussex and Hampshire county boundaries; the Surrey Championship has done all of this brilliantly for the past fifty years.

### **SURREY CCC HAVE AGREED A FUNDING DEAL WITH THE TRAVELBAG SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP THAT WILL SEE THE CLUB MAKE SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEAGUE OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.**

The Club and the Championship have signed an agreement cementing the following three principles:

- To put the best interests of players first
- The right format is the format that gets most people playing
- To provide strong leadership that will benefit cricket across the whole county/region

Under the agreement, the Club will provide significant funding over a three-year period starting this season, with the money being used to increase participation at Championship clubs all over the county.

As part of the deal, the Surrey Championship will embark on a drive to expand participation first within Fourth XIs and then Third XIs by experimenting with different formats of cricket offered at these levels.

I am delighted that the County Club has been able to step up and support the Championship in this way. We believe this is a first partnership between league and county anywhere in the country. I don't think it will be the last.

Cricket has shaped my life. I am the third generation of my family to play for Carshalton CC and then Maori Oxshott CC. I have played in the Surrey Cricket league, the Surrey County League and the Championship. Different grounds, clubs, formats and players provided the best blend of club cricket anywhere in the country. The friends I made have remained for life. That is the magic of cricket.

The importance of cricket to 'own' the summer is so important. The strength of clubs like Spencer CC at one end of the county, to Normandy CC at the other, demonstrates the diversity and importance of the burgeoning colts and girls sections. We are very fortunate and Surrey CCC is very grateful for the members of those clubs and so many others for their tireless work.

I want Surrey CCC's influence and support to grow throughout the county. We depend and need a strong Surrey Championship to provide that bedrock, which it has done so well for the past fifty years. To the thousands of volunteers since 1968, the County owes and continues to owe a great debt of gratitude. Surrey CCC can never thank those committees, volunteers, coaches, umpires, scorers and players enough for their contribution to the success of cricket in Surrey.

In the spirit of partnership, The Oval needs a strong Championship delivering the myriad of different objectives above.

The Surrey family has now grown closer; I hope our bond will become even stronger. I feel the best years of the Surrey Championship remain ahead of it. Surrey CCC will continue to be your friend and partner as you convert this fifty to be a worthy centurion in the years ahead.

**Richard W Thompson, Chairman, Surrey CCC**





HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

As Surrey's Members of Parliament, we would like to offer our warmest congratulations to the Surrey Championship for the wonderful achievements of the last 50 years. During that time, your volunteer-led organisation has grown and flourished, and we all look forward to your further successes in the years to come.

Sam Gyimah MP, East Surrey

Crispin Blunt MP, Reigate

Chris Grayling MP, Epsom and Ewell

Jeremy Hunt MP, South West Surrey

Dominic Raab MP, Esher and Walton

Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Spelthorne

Anne Milton MP, Guildford

Michael Gove MP, Surrey Heath

Sir Paul Beresford MP, Mole Valley

Jonathan Lord MP, Woking

Philip Hammond MP, Runnymede and Weybridge



## The Beginning - Memories

*by Norman Parks*

On the 20 May 1966, Raman Subba Row and myself sat next to each other at the Old Whitgiftians cricket dinner. We discussed the possibility of starting League Cricket in Surrey.

As our ideas were similar, we decided to invite four captains of four of the strongest sides to a meeting at Raman's house. They reported favourably that League Cricket was possible. See actual minutes from this **"SURREY CRICKET CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP"** on page 11.

We then invited a number of clubs to a meeting at the Old Whitgiftians club house. Raman was in the Chair and we put our ideas to the meeting and answered a great many questions. All appeared to be going swimmingly when Teddy Hart, the President of Wimbledon, got up at the back of the hall and proceeded to lambast us 'How dare we try and change a game that had been running successfully for over one hundred years. League Cricket belongs in the North and that is where it should stay.' He went on in a similar vein and then stormed out of the meeting in high fury.

Raman wisely called a halt and said "go to the bar discuss amongst yourselves if you want League Cricket or not and be back in your seats in twenty minutes to vote".

We waited apprehensively, wondering if Teddy Hart had dished us. They came back and the vote was for League Cricket!

See actual minutes of another early meeting which also took place at Old Whitgiftians titled **"SURREY CRICKET CLUBS' MEETING"** on page 13. These minutes clearly demonstrate the wide range of views around at the time, the politics involved and the emotions expressed by those present.

Shortly after the vote at the Old Whits Pavilion to go for League Cricket, Raman and myself had a meeting with Frank Dolman, the President of the Club Cricket Conference (C.C.C.), a most delightful man, and the secretary of the C.C.C., a Major Woods.



The Original SCCCA Committee (1968) and Subsequent Chairmen  
The Oval Friday 7th January 1983

CHARLES WOODHOUSE Chairman 1981/82	JIM BOOTH Chairman 1978/80	BRIAN MORTON Chairman 1983	JOHN COPE Secretary 1966	NICK BUSK Press Sec. 1966	DEREK NEWTON Chairman 1971-73
VIC HUCKNELL Exec. Comm. 1966	RAMAN SUBBA ROW Chairman 1966-68	NORMAN PARKS Exec. Comm. 1966 Chairman 1969/70	ALAN RICHARDS Fix. Sec. 1966	FRED MUNRO Treasurer 1966 Chairman 1974-76	

As we sat down at the table, Major Woods said “there will be no league cricket in Surrey except over my dead body”. We were tempted to go that route! The upshot of the meeting was that the C.C.C. would ban any club that joined the league.

You may say, so what, but the C.C.C. had stopped any chance of forming leagues in the 1920s, the 1930s and immediately after World War II and there had been some powerful figures trying to get leagues going, such as Percy Fender, Captain of Surrey in the 1920s and Monty Garland-Wells, Captain of Surrey in 1939.

The C.C.C. ran some strong representative sides against the Navy, Sandhurst and the prime fixture, that against the touring Side, but what really counted was their Fixture Bureau, on which a number of clubs relied for their lower sides and those clubs said they could not join the League if they were to be banned. All this was now hitting the National Press, most of whom were against us. However, two stood out for us and they were Reg Hayter of Hayters and Michael Williams of the Telegraph.

We were going ahead whatever the C.C.C. decided and as it happened they changed their minds without any further approach from us.

When we went to the C.C.C. meeting, we had gone with the idea of two Divisions but because of the opposition we decided to go for one Division only, get that going, and consider additional Divisions when we were up and running.

The first Committee meeting was held in the Old Whitgiftians Clubhouse on Monday 28th November 1966. No photo of the original Committee exists but at a get-together in 1983, some of the founder members of the original Committee posed with other more recent officers.

We were up and running for the 1968 Season, which was one of the wettest on record. With just the one league, everyone knew everybody else and because we were generally disapproved of, the camaraderie between the Clubs was great. We felt we stood against the world!



## President of Surrey Championship

*Roland Walton*

Fifty years of Surrey Championship cricket is amazing, especially for those of us who can remember the beginning in 1968. This commemorative booklet chronicles the journey to present day (and a little beyond) and I trust that all readers will find it interesting, stimulating and motivational, for the journey to continue.

My thanks in helping to promote, shape and produce the anniversary collection and programme go to my dedicated Project team of Commemorative Booklet Editor, Chris Evans, former Chairman and President, Graham Brown, Surrey CCC for their massive encouragement and support, all the Hosts, Contributors, Sponsors and members of today's Surrey Championship Executive Committee without whom so many Clubs and their members will not have been able to share this excitement of our fiftieth year.

**Roland Walton - President Surrey Championship**

**SURREY CRICKET CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP**

On Thursday 2nd June 1966 the Captains of the following Clubs - Beddington, N. Parks, Malden Wanderers, J. Cope, Old Whitgiftians, A. Squires and Spencer, E. Sullivan, met with R. Subba Row to examine the possibilities in introducing a championship for certain Clubs within the County.

The following decisions were taken:

1. It was agreed in principle that the establishment of such a Championship would bring a note of urgency into those Clubs who participated in it and would serve to strengthen them.
2. It was further agreed that such a championship would also help the County Club to find future players - particularly important if the structure of County Cricket were to change.
3. The Meeting stressed the importance of the control of any Championship being with the Member Clubs, so that they could ensure that the cricket would continue to be played in the same spirit.
4. Subject to the approval of the Committees of the four Clubs a meeting would be arranged to which representatives of the Clubs listed below would be invited, so that they in their turn could report to their own Committees.
5. It was decided that if sufficient of these Committees were in favour of the plan, a start should be made, if possible, in 1968.
6. It was agreed to consider the following points relative to the Championship:
  - a. That the Championship period should start on the 4th Saturday of the Season and continue - including both Bank Holiday Mondays until the last Saturday in August. This provides for 17 days.
  - b. That 18 Clubs within the County as listed here should play each other once only each season.
 

Addiscombe	Epsom	Old Whitgiftians
Banstead	East Molesey	Purley
Bank of England	Esher	Spencer
B.B.C.	Guildford	Streatham
Beddington	Malden Wanderers	Sutton
Barclays Bank	Mitcham	Wimbledon
  - c. That each Club should agree with its opponents the hours of play, provided that this is not less than 5¾ hours.
  - d. That a 2nd XI Division and possibly a 3rd XI Division should be arranged for the same clubs.
  - e. That a scoring system based on nil points for a draw and nil points for a loss be adopted to eliminate any element of negative play.
  - f. That initially there should be one Championship only and therefore no promotion or relegation.
  - g. That each Club would continue to provide its own Umpire and one new ball per match.
7. It was agreed that it would be necessary to form an Association of the participating Clubs and to elect officials in accordance with the rules of that Association.

8. Provisional Programme:

Early June	4 Captains meeting
Early July	4 Clubs Committee Meeting
Late July	18 Clubs Representatives Meeting
August	18 Clubs Committee Meetings
Early September	General Meeting

Since this Meeting it has been suggested that Dulwich and Westminster Bank should be invited to join the Championship. If this were agreed it would be necessary to amend slightly the proposed plan.



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**SURREY CRICKET CLUBS' MEETING**

Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 23rd September 1966 at Old Whitgiftians' Sports Ground.

Those present: Mr. R. Subba Row (In the Chair.)

Messrs. M.Burrows, R.Houghton (Addiscombe), S.Baker, D.Peterken (Banstead), C.Parry, D.Scrivens (Bank of England), R.Norville (B.B.C.), N.Parks (Beddington), J.Busk (Cheam), P.Rice, S.Brown (Dulwich), A.Hoole, R.Green, F.Munro (Epsom), M.Boyle, I.Moir (East Molesey), E.Woolgar, J.Humphries (Guildford), M.Alexander (Honor Oak), J.Cope H.Edney (Malden Wanderers), V.Hucknell (Mitcham), D.Newton (Old Emanuel), A.Squires (Old Whitgiftians), A.Richards, R.Ellis (Purley), L.Stubbs, R.Peach (South Hampstead) R.Tarrant, F.Milson (Spencer), N.Cadburn, A.Brockett (Streatham), J.Walter, D.Sayer, K.Ohlsen, H.Thomas (Sutton), R.Howard, R.Kelly (Westminster Bank), W.Burton, N.Evans (Wimbledon)

From the Chair R.Subba Row welcomed the gathering and expressed his thanks for the interest shown. He outlined a proposal made by four Clubs, Beddington, Malden Wanderers, Old Whitgiftians and Spencer, that a form of Championship for Surrey Clubs would be worth consideration.

A circular outlining the suggestions made by the Captains of the four Clubs had been sent to all the Clubs present prior to the Meeting. It was thought that such a Championship would add bite to the Cricket played and would serve to strengthen them by attracting young players to the game. A secondary consideration was that it may benefit the County in finding suitable players. The Chairman, however, stressed the importance that the control of this sort of Competition should be with the member Clubs. It was not the desire of the Proposers that the spirit of the game should be impaired. To begin the evening the Chairman asked for discussion on the subject of Competitive Cricket and its application to the Clubs represented.

Mr.Hucknell outlined the system that was carried out in the Yorkshire League, in which he had taken part, and made the point that the rules would have to be very rigid, and that there could be no half measures in the setting up of a League Competition.

Mr.Busk replied that these remarks were contrary to the tone set by the Chairman and that he was sure that it was not the desire of the Clubs to become 'baby farms' of the County. We are talking about benefitting our own Clubs.

Mr.Walters said that neither he nor his Club would wish to be guided by professional players or Clubs.

Mr.Hucknell pointed out that he was not advocating the introduction of professionals, but was merely pointing out the system in the Yorkshire League.

Replying to this Mr.Busk said that at this time he would have thought that the half measures were just the situation that the Clubs would require.

Mr.Woolgar added that with all the good will in the World the game would change, it would drift from situation to situation.

Mr.Cadburn said that he thought that Competitive Cricket was open to abuse, and although a player may not actually be paid, such things as the waiving of subscriptions was a possibility.

The Chairman said that this would become a matter for Club administration.

Mr. Munro raised the position of what he called the 'Institutional Sides' i.e. the Bank sides, who he thought were more open to the introduction of professional players through employment.

Mr.Howard strongly countered this suggestion by saying that his Club, Westminster Bank were not altogether in favour of the League, and his Club would certainly not acquire such players through employment.

At this point Mr.Moir said that he thought too much detail was being discussed. He urged that the League be formed and then let it develop. Too much detail at this stage would only prove a stumbling block.

Mr.Cadburn said that he thought that many of the games had enough edge at the moment and that a League would only encourage worse declarations. He added that he thought that there was some merit in a draw and that the points system should provide for a draw. His agreement with the proposal depended upon the amount of control exercised. The control must be very tight.

Mr.Alexander said that no Committee would wield sufficient power there was bound to be abuse at certain times.

From the Chair Mr Subba Row agreed that the control of the League was one of the most important issues.

Mr.Hoole wanted to know definitely what was to be gained from a League.

Mr.Parks said that he thought that it would appeal to young players especially if it were the focus of publicity.

Mr.Hoole replied that he did not think that there was much of a problem attracting youngsters.

Mr.Busk added that it was not the type of Cricket that was keeping young players out of Club cricket it was the Club Subscriptions.

Mr.Edney urged that the measure of support at the meeting be established. He said that Malden Wanderers were interested in principal and he would like to see which other Clubs had the same feeling. When the answer to this had been found, further details could be discussed.

Mr.Burton agreed that the measure of support should be established, but failed to see the point of a League.

Mr.Edney replied that it could become a source of revenue if the Clubs concerned attracted enough of a following.

Mr.Cadburn said that while it may increase the financial and numerical standing of the Clubs concerned, it would considerably weaken the Clubs not included.

Mr.Woolgar said that he thought that the structure of the League would eventually expand to include other Clubs.

Mr.Newton agreed that the League would strengthen those concerned, but it was also important to consider those left out. He suggested that each year the bottom two Clubs be replaced by two other Clubs, who would be invited by the League. The two Clubs leaving could take over the fixture lists of the incoming Clubs.

Mr.Munro said, in reply that this was far too large a gamble for the Clubs to take and that it would not be acceptable to the Clubs involved.

Mr.Newton added that it could hardly be expected that the Clubs on the outer fringe would back the idea. The Clubs on the outside must have an horizon.

Discussions into various League structures followed.

Mr.Hucknell quoted the Yorkshire League which had 102 teams in it. The top four played off at the end of the season.

Mr.Munro put forward the suggestion that in order to disrupt the existing fixtures less, games may be played on Saturdays or Sundays.

Mr.Burton asked if the C.C.C. would allow the League to go ahead.

Mr.Alexander said that he thought that this was doubtful.

Mr.Milson said that however high the motives in the foundation of the League it would inevitably develop along Northern lines and the friendly rivalry and the character of the game would disappear. Officials' attitudes would change; there was a great deal to be said against the scheme.

Mr.Moir said that while this was so, it may be that in five years' time the people playing may want these changes.



Mr.Humphries drew attention to the fact that Guildford have been playing in a five team League for this season, and that this had brought results where before there had been none.

Mr.Munro returned to the question of fixtures. This could be partly avoided if two Leagues of fifteen teams each were set up and the League fixtures were drawn from there. Clubs inside and outside must be considered. He urged to go about the formation in easy stages.

Mr.Woolgar suggested that if a Club played 10 out of 20 Clubs, the 10 should count as League fixtures.

This suggestion was considered to be too close to the organisation of the Evening Standard League, and Mr. Moir thought that the only satisfactory League was one where all the Clubs played each other.

It was decided to vote as to whether individuals present were in favour of their Clubs taking part in Competitive Cricket in some form or other. One vote was allowed per Club.

The following Clubs voted in favour of Participation in Competitive Cricket.

Addiscombe	Old Emanuel	Streatham
Beddington	Westminster Bank	Cheam
Guildford	B.B.C.	Honor Oak
Mitcham	East Molesey	Dulwich
Purley	Malden Wanderers	
Sutton	Old Whitgiftians	

The following Clubs were against.

Banstead	Wimbledon	Spencer
Epsom	Bank of England	

It was agreed that the Clubs present who were not included in the suggested list of Clubs on the circular were to vote on the assumption that they would be included if such a League should be started. The votes of these Clubs were cast with this in mind.

With the voting being 16 to 5 in favour it was agreed to form a Committee to draw up proposals as to the form the League should take. The proposals would then be forwarded to Clubs for them to submit to their Committees.

The following Committee was formed.

Mr.R.Subba Row. (Chairman)	Old Whitgiftians
Mr.A.Richards.	Purley.
Mr.F.Munro.	Epsom.
Mr.V.Hucknell.	Mitcham.
Mr.N.Busk.	Cheam.
Mr.N.Parks.	Beddington.
Mr.J.Cope.	Malden Wanderers.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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## Reflections and Observations on the 1968 Season

*by Pat Batty*

The early Surrey Cricket Clubs Championship committee was keen to ensure that the progression from friendly cricket to competition cricket was gradual with a view that a tightening up of conditions and rules could be applied during the course of the following years, as the Championship developed.

In other words, it was decided to encourage clubs to play their fixtures in what was their normal way i.e. start times to be as the home side wished (unless the visiting side said this was almost impossible because of Saturday work commitments by a large number of their side) and finishing times to be agreed on the day (legislation minimal). There were no controls on the number of overs per hour or even twenty overs in the last hour in those days!

One of the big obstacles in the foundation of the organisation was the Club Cricket Conference (C.C.C.). The diplomatic title of the **CHAMPIONSHIP** was chosen rather than **LEAGUE** as the word League at that time appeared to be a dirty word, implying underhand methods!

A lot of clubs sat on the fence by not committing to "league" cricket as they were frightened of being barred from the C.C.C. Others joined the Championship as they thought that they might be left behind in the fixtures possibilities i.e. they could have been left with weaker fixture lists. However, clubs such as Beddington, Mitcham, Spencer, Malden Wanderers and Old Whitgiftians were very strong with the progressive idea of "league cricket" and its ideals.

The season was abnormally wet, with a total of 43 recorded abandoned matches overall, which was an average of five matches per club. The teams starting their matches at 11:30am appeared to be better off as hours could be adjusted somewhat to account for the weather and in some cases they may have completed a match before a late downpour or simply had more hours of play. Sutton generally played their home matches commencing at 11:30am; from memory Old Whitgiftians and Purley did likewise.

Matches changed after the formation of the Championship. Before the "league", about 90% of the teams winning the toss batted first. Once the "league" started, 85% appeared to put the opposition in regardless of the conditions. There were exceptions, as Old Emanuel, Beddington and Malden Wanderers generally liked to bat first. Sides batting first generally seemed to delay declarations longer than in pre-league matches, trying to make sure that they did not lose. There was no cut-off point in the number of overs you could bat for in the early Championship matches. Field placing became more negative, with teams starting off with extra covers and mid wickets even against the new ball (only one ball per match). Field setting only appeared to be more ambitious when a side bowled second and were very much on top, almost with no chance of losing. "Dangling the carrot" in the first innings was seldom used as a tactic.

In reply to a target some of the weaker sides (by their previous standing in club cricket) "shut up shop" after losing three or four wickets and seemed content to play for a draw, which was equal points (one) no matter what the scoring rate was (no winning or losing draws). A lot of "spoiler" cricket took place. The use of spin bowling became less – unless a side had quality slows, defensive seam bowling was very much the norm. Most sides had at least three tight bowlers, especially on the prevailing wet wickets.

Lower order batsmen developed a greater determination to save matches than in pre-league cricket. There was far less of the "open" attitude portrayed by some sides in previous years when going down in style. The "walking" element of "sportsmanship" became less in the first "league" season. There were always a number of non-walkers around pre-league but not very many, perhaps one or two in each side on average. I think this increased to 50-50 in 1968 (and became progressively worse over the following years and it is rare to see a "walker" these days!).

The 1968 League Table on page 19 lists abandoned games but these were probably only the completely washed out or cancelled matches. The draw column included games "abandoned as a draw" where weather intervened. From a glance at the table, it is difficult to tell who actually suffered most from the weather.

Each club provided their own umpire and scorer. The standard of umpiring was probably better than in the initial years of the panel umpires but the panel was definitely the way forward and ultimately improved to a high standard in subsequent years.

The new "league" introduced some "weaker" clubs into the main stream of club fixture lists as

the leading clubs (by repute) had had very strong fixtures before the Championship, which included sides from Kent, Middlesex and Sussex. Therefore some clubs now had a slightly weaker fixture list overall, whereas others benefitted as a result of playing stronger clubs. Over a period of time, associations with the sides from other counties were phased in by some clubs on Sundays.

Once "league" cricket settled down, the overall standard became very good, with much more thought put into tactics on the field, practice and fitness. Players did not take a day off for a minor reason (Mitcham, Beddington, Spencer for example never did this). The likes of Purley, Guildford and Old Whitgiftians were a bit hit and miss, it depended on what time of the season you played them. At full strength, they were a match for anyone, especially during the summer term holiday (i.e. universities and schools coming down).

Some clubs had perhaps only seven or eight quality players (regarded as 1st XI standard) but managed to achieve better results than two or three of the usually higher regarded teams. This can happen in cricket but in 1968, in particular, it depended on who you were "rained off" against. For the subsequent years, clubs generally strengthened and were better throughout the order in batting and the bowling in depth got even better. Availability of players became more regular and consistent.

### **Personal summary of the seventeen teams in the 1968 season**

**Sutton** – Obviously Sutton did well to win the league and they were a very competent side. They were a quite well balanced team and they got the breaks weather-wise but they made their opportunities count. Bamber and Bishop were the main pace bowlers, Sayers was a good slow bowler and a useful batsman and David Thompson, Razor and Philippe were the batsmen. A moderate side well captained by a nice guy John Walters.

**Guildford** – A good all-round side. Neller was a good seamer, more of the stock variety. They had a useful off-spinner Tinson and another seamer Mick Marsh. Richard Johnson, Dick Humphrey (also an excellent wicket keeper) and Charles Woodhouse were the main batters, plus Mickey Rooke. A good balanced side who played good cricket.

**Banstead** – A strong batting side. Not a lot of bowling but Derek Pratt was the main bowler and with his brother, Ron, both were bowling useful leg-spin and excellent batsmen. They had a good seamer who played minor county cricket, Morley, and another good quickie by the name of Guy Pearce. I think Morton and Corcoran were there also as batters, with Morton keeping, of course. One of the best batting sides in 1968.

**Old Emanuel** – A side with a good team spirit, skippered by Derek Newton. Vic Dodds was their main batter with that fine all-rounder Dicky Austin, a left arm swing bowler, McMillan, a very good quickish seamer and Peter Sawyer was a tight slow bowler who chipped in with some useful runs. At the end of the 1972 season, Vic Dodds was the leading run scorer, with 2,421 runs in the Championship. Their attacking cricket, good declarations and their willingness to chase totals brought them some positive results. Always fought hard defending low totals, which was quite often!

**Old Whitgiftians** – A strong batting side. Raman Subba Row, Mike Wilkinson, David Straw and Alan Squires were the main batters. Not so much in the way of quick bowling; Squires was a great trier and Leserve were the main operators, Bob Horn, Raman Subba Row the main spinners, the stock bowling of Roy N Lewis, Tosh and John Ellingham, completed a workmanlike attack. Mike Arscott was brilliant in the field. Bob Horn was a good bowler, slow medium and very accurate, did not spin it a lot, no googly just a top spinner with bounce. At the end of the 1972 season, he had taken 148 wickets in the Championship. Another well balanced side, excellent in the batting department, very good slow bowlers, moderate in the seam area, just lacking a fast type bowler to burst through the tail but overall played very positive cricket.

**Purley** – A good-wicket batting side with useful spinners. Purley possessed some excellent players but they were not always available at the same time! Brown (father of the former Surrey pro) usually attacked the bowling from the start, backed up by the solid McKinnon and the hard hitting York and Webb in the middle order. Webb was a superb seamer to back up his batting, Christie would bowl accurate tireless spells at medium quick and the three off spinners, Fenton, Adam and Tim Johnson, were match winners on their day. A more regular availability would have seen them even better placed.

**Sunbury** – A useful all-round side. A good batting side skippered by the powerful attacking batsman Ross Smith. Les Wood was a solid opener, the dashing McDonald would often turn a game,



as would Raj Sood at No. 3; he scored a century at Lords in the National KO when Sunbury won the final in 1974. Left arm swing bowler Arthur Hughes could be a real match winner; he was a top class performer. A keen competitive side, very well skippered by Ross Smith.

**Epsom** – A very tight bowling side led in this department by inswing bowler Fred Munro and the class off-spin bowling of Tony Stockley. Bob Green was a stylish opener and useful seamer and John Ledger was a solid dependable opener and a good stock bowler of the off-spinning variety. They had some good youngsters coming through; Mike Wigley, Roy Ridgeway and Bill Bellinger all did good work in the middle order and in the field. At the end of the 1972 season, Tony Stockley had taken 184 wickets in the Championship. Any side containing Fred Munro and Tony Stockley was always going to be aggressive, noisy and attacking in the field; which was certainly to their benefit when “defending” a low total.

**Beddington** – A very experienced batting side who possessed many vintage players from their powerhouse days of the 1950s and early 1960s. Unfortunately the side almost to a man had just gone past their peak. As a batting side, they possessed an experienced core with Tony Brown, Norman Parks and Neville Griffin who were still consistent but the attack had lost its sting. Ken Kasey and Griffin did some good work in the seam department and Maurice Reeves was still a useful off-spinner. Tony Brown did a bit of tight stock bowling. Mick Garner was a useful batsman but mainly he was a brilliant fielder. Ron Dolby was a steady batsman and a keen fielder. League cricket probably started a couple of years too late for them as they had to rebuild.

**Streatham** – A strange side with ever-changing personnel; hardly ever fielded the same side twice. Ross Etheridge was an excellent class batsman, Scott-Brown, very stylish and proficient against all bowlers except the quicks, he stayed very much leg side against these. Nick Potter and Mike Donnelly were their seamers; both very useful. Mike Pace was a solid opener and a good stock bowler but there was not much in the way of slow bowling, although they had a legger called Bruce Hayward who got quite a few wickets. He was very ordinary, didn't spin it much, plenty of air, no googly, just an undisguised off-spinner. Barry Hart played a season split between the 1st XI and 2nd XI. A moderate, unflamboyant side who looked for any excuse to play for a draw.

**Addiscombe** – An average side who beat Mitcham in the first league match! Mike Burrows was at No. 3 and an off-spinner; he was a good all-rounder. Austin Agard could be a match winner with the bat, Houghton and Dring had class and Brian Messon was difficult to get out and was a very consistent run-getter and useful keeper. A competent all round side, workmanlike and played to their strengths, especially at home (the small pavilion boundary!).

**Dulwich** – One of the lesser sides on paper. Stan Brown was a consistent batsman and Rossier one of the best batsmen in club cricket. Peter Rice was only just making his way then. They had a superb seam bowler by the name of Carpenter, who could bowl for long spells, and a guy called Bill Higginson, a stylish batsman and a seam bowler who was on the M.C.C. staff; he looked class. Meakins was a useful off-spinner. Destined to struggle for a few years, which they did until the Aussies arrived!

**Spencer** – A very talented side but not willing to make opportunities to force a win slightly against the odds. Inclined to bat too long or call off the “chase” too early. Good batsmen in Juster, Tarrant, Marsh and Gayton, an outstanding all-rounder in Neil Small and a really good fast bowler by the name of Cummins. Radford did a useful job as a slow left-arm spinner and Jim Booth proved his worth as a medium pace bowler and a stubborn batsman. On paper the best side in the League but they needed a bold and more imaginative captain. Spencer finished second in the “ten year” League table produced in 1978 without once winning the title in any of these years.

**Cheam** – A fairly ordinary side with not much in the way of flair. Coysh was a consistent all-rounder, a seamer and a No. 3 batsman. Harold Smith was a bold hitter and Mike Osborn was a classy batsman. David Morgan was on the way to being an excellent slow bowler (got better in the subsequent years) and a guy called Doug Ryder was a fine wicket keeper. John Holmes was an excellent fast bowler and useful batsman. Not a well-balanced side as they depended on six players.

**East Molesey** – Looked to be an average side with some experience but perhaps slightly past their better years. The batting was solid but without flair. Moir, Campbell and Boyle were the main run-getters. Bishop was a lively seamer and Woods a good legger. This side probably performed as well as could be expected.

**Mitcham** – This team was unable to live up to its own expectation and possibly those anticipated by their opponents. Hard hit by injuries, with four or five players missing for most of the season, they were always competitive but missing their usual firepower in attack. Swaby played in only the last two matches, Marriott was missing until July and Peacock missed around 50% of the season. Newcomer, left-arm spinner Winston Stafford did well and for the most part was the one danger bowler. The batting was inconsistent, with only Brian Ward showing his normal form. Peter Johnson in his first season struggled on the slow wet pitches. A better side than their final position indicated. At the end of the 1972 season, Denis Marriot had 186 wickets and Peter Johnson had 2,386 runs in the Championship.

**Malden Wanderers** – On paper, they looked to be a good well-balanced side but in this season of bad weather, results were not always a fair reflection. The two left-arm slow bowlers, Cope and Walters, were excellent. Edney and Elliott were a good pair of opening bowlers and Reid, Tredwell and Mason reliable batsmen. They were a good well-balanced side and, by repute, a side very capable of beating many of the other teams under normal circumstances.

## SCCCA - Final 1968 tables

**Final First XI Table 1968**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Aban	Points
Sutton	16	6	1	4	0	5	45
Guildford	16	6	2	4	0	4	44
Banstead	16	5	0	6	0	5	41
Old Emanuel	16	5	1	5	0	5	40
Old Whitgiftians	16	4	2	3	0	7	34
Purley	16	4	3	4	0	5	33
Sunbury	16	4	3	4	0	5	33
Epsom	16	4	5	3	0	4	31
Beddington	16	3	2	4	0	7	29
Streatham	16	3	5	3	0	5	26
Addiscombe	16	3	5	4	0	4	26
Dulwich	16	2	4	5	0	5	22
Spencer	16	2	4	5	0	5	22
Cheam	16	2	5	6	0	3	21
East Molesey	16	1	3	7	0	5	18
Mitcham	16	0	4	7	0	5	12
Malden Wanderers	16	0	5	4	0	7	11

**Final Second XI Table 1968**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Aban	Points
Purley	16	8	1	1	0	6	55
Guildford	16	7	0	3	0	6	51
Beddington	16	6	3	2	0	5	43
East Molesey	16	6	4	2	0	4	42
Old Whitgiftians	16	5	3	2	0	6	38
Spencer	16	5	4	2	0	5	37
Mitcham	16	4	4	3	0	5	32
Sutton	16	4	5	1	0	6	31
Addiscombe	16	4	5	2	0	5	31
Sunbury	16	4	5	2	0	5	31
Epsom	16	3	2	3	0	8	29
Malden Wanderers	16	3	5	2	1	5	28
Dulwich	16	3	4	4	0	5	27
Streatham	16	1	5	4	1	5	18
Cheam	16	1	4	4	0	7	17
Banstead	16	1	5	5	0	5	16
Old Emanuel	16	0	6	4	0	6	10

Points awarded: Win 6, Draw 1, Tie 3, Abandoned 1

## The First Match - Saturday May 4th 1968

*by Paul Hooper*

### 1968 – The Surrey Championship – A Cricketing Opportunity

A damp encounter against Addiscombe C.C. at Sandilands launches the Sutton C.C. campaign from 11:30am on the first day of the new Surrey Championship competition.

The team players for this historic occasion were as follows:-

#### **Sutton C.C.**

1. John Pollock
2. Doug Sayers
3. Ian Philippe
4. David Thompson
5. John Walter
6. Paul Rasor
7. Mike Parker
8. Ian Russell
9. John Bamber
10. John Bishop
11. Philip Saunders

**Sutton 223-9 declared**

#### **Addiscombe C.C.**

1. Paul Hooper
2. John Weale
3. Mike Burrows
4. Ron Houghton
5. Terry Kent
6. Brian Burt
7. Mike Every
8. David Hooper
9. Peter Williams
10. Keith McIntrie
11. Laurie Keelan

**Addiscombe 33-4**

**Rain stopped play!**

Sutton C.C. went on to be the first winner of the new Surrey Championship pennant!



#### **Sutton Cricket Club 1st XI - Winners Surrey Championship 1968**

Back row: H. Bishop, M. Parker, I. Russell, P. Rasor, I. Philippe, P. Saunders, F. Vernon, G. Gray

Front row: J. Bamber, D. Sayers, J. Walter, D. Thompson, J. Pollock



## Ten Years of League Cricket (1968 - 1977)

### A Review by Pat Batty

*This article was written by Pat Batty and originally published in the 1978 Year Book. The article has not been amended or updated and is printed "as was". All text in the present tense is therefore referring to the year 1978; this must be borne in mind when reading the article – Editor.*

A decade is a fair and reasonable period of time in which to accurately assess the Championship, its successes and its shortcomings.

Since the formation of the Championship in 1968, many other leagues have sprung up in London and the southern counties in various grades of club cricket and it is with much credit that we can modestly and rightly say we set both the pattern and, we trust, the example.

Cricket generally has obviously changed considerably over the past ten years and this is particularly so in connection with our own competition. The obvious element of tighter and more accurate bowling, more intelligent and restrictive field placing besides a general highering of the standard of fielding with particular emphasis on close catching, and also greater depth of batting, would now appear to be the pattern at 1st XI level.

Attitudes have altered and the competitive spirit has increased. Selection policies appear to be more democratic resulting in players competing for their places, rather than in some cases selection being a reward for past services or for being a nice fellow who has room for three in his car!

On the debit side, as in the county game, the flair seems to have gone somewhat from the batting. The match winners who can turn a game in a matter of minutes are now conspicuous by their absence. Likewise, the lack of spinners of any real class or for that matter the limited opportunity given to the average slow bowler, is very noticeable. Also declarations have become progressively much later and give cause for a lot of concern.

Unfortunately, gamesmanship has crept into our cricket and unfair pressure is now often put on the umpire and in many cases sheer bad manners exist and are continually displayed; the umpire's decision being openly criticised.

Umpiring at club level may or may not be at a higher standard than it was pre-league; the dearth of good players coming back into the game after their playing days are over is obvious but there is no excuse for some of the bad behaviour that has recently existed. This clearly shows a weakness of character with regard to some captains and a misplacing of priorities, with a win-at-all-costs motive coming to the fore.

However in the main, the cricket played throughout has been of a good quality and high standard and one can definitely say that, overall, the cricket has generally been more positive. The sense of purpose and determination in most sides has been obvious; one has only to play in the so-called friendly or non-league matches to notice the "flat" atmosphere and lack of bite.

Examination of the **"ten year league table on page 23"**, first published in the 1978 Year Book, shows that Mitcham, Guildford and Spencer are fairly well ahead of the rest of the field. In terms of main honours, the two leading clubs are undoubtedly Mitcham, who won the Championship three times between 1970 and 1973, and Dulwich, who performed the feat three times in succession from 1974.

Mitcham have always portrayed a single-minded professional approach and competitive spirit and lead the table ahead of the usually well-balanced Guildford side who clinched the title in 1972. Dulwich's success is very much a rags-to-riches affair becoming transformed by an influx of overseas players.

Spencer appear in third position having won the most matches (60), compared to 59 by both Guildford and Mitcham. Their only disappointment is that, of the 'top six', they are the only team not to win the major honour. Epsom who won the title in 1969 and Malden Wanderers in 1977 have both had mixed fortunes but, in the main, were somewhere within shouting distance when the championship has been decided.

The common element existing between the 'top six' clubs is obviously the excellence of their bowling. Mitcham, Dulwich and Spencer could be a match for anyone; Guildford could always hold their own whilst Epsom were always liable to bowl a side out for a low total, particularly at Epsom! Malden always possessed a good combination of slow bowlers.

Beddington, in company with Guildford and Malden are to the fore as a batting side. Similarly, Old Whitgiftians have usually been well equipped in this department. Unfortunately, like Beddington, their bowling has been a long way behind the batting in quality.

Purley have included some fine cricketers in their ranks but until recently the sharp competitive edge, which separates the top bracket from the "also rans", has been missing. A side never lacking in spirit has been Old Emanuel. They have reaped the benefit of keeping faith with their young players and are now gaining just reward. Another 'half-way' side is Addiscombe who have pushed hard for the main honours on at least two occasions.

East Molesey and Streatham have had their moments of glory but neither have really been well enough equipped to make serious challenges; Cheam, fall into a similar category. Sunbury with their array of talent are surprisingly lowly placed in fifteenth position. They have always possessed a good and attractive batting side but for some unaccountable reason when the early batting has failed, the slide has often continued down the order. They did extremely well to win the National Knockout Cup in 1974; this was an outstanding achievement and did much to enhance the name of the Surrey Championship.

Banstead have had batsmen to compare with the best but have been very thin in the bowling department throughout. Sutton, the winners of the Championship in the dismally wet inaugural year, languish more or less at the bottom of the table; technically only newcomers Ashford and Honor Oak are below them having played only 106 games in their six year association with the league, compared to 172 matches by all the other clubs. Both clubs took a little time to adjust at first but the Oak are now proving to be among the top flight of clubs with a good combination of cricketers.

In the second eleven competition five clubs have remarkable records and are well ahead of the field. Beddington lead the way with an outstanding haul of 499 points which includes 72 wins and three Championships followed by Purley, with 484 points and 66 wins and Mitcham, 479 points and 67 wins. These records would place them ahead of their counterparts in the premier competition.

Streatham, who have won 60 matches and Old Whitgiftians 63, fall into fourth and fifth places respectively. Purley and Streatham have achieved two Championships, whilst Cheam, Old Whitgiftians and Mitcham have gained one apiece.

Sunbury have the honour to have gained the first success within the 3rd XI competition, started in 1977 but the next few years are going to be crucial as much more organisation particularly regarding umpires and scorers is required, to make this venture a worthwhile success.

Unfortunately the Championship Colts section, after showing promise early on, now appears to have died, at least temporarily. The need for administrators with available time, particularly in the school holiday period, is essential. Hopefully this problem will be resolved in the not too distant future.

On the credit side, a Championship side has won the Surrey (Decca Cup) Knockout competition every year since its inception in 1969 and the Year Book, which came into being in 1973, is the envy of all around and is certainly a great 'advert' for the Surrey Championship. In this connection the Championship has been very fortunate to have the services and expertise of Ken Bolitho and the instantly available facts and figures from our statistician Chris Fuke, who also performs marvels with the league tables and press liaison. Although many people have assisted in various capacities with the 'book', Charles Woodhouse of Guildford and Mike Haigh of Cheam have played important roles as Editors and have done much to improve the book with each publication.

Representative cricket has caused problems. Initially the Surrey Championship again showed the way by compiling interesting and ambitious fixture lists, but in the main, has somewhat been let down by the non-availability of star players and at other times, the last minute cry-off. It seems, as is often the case, that the lesser players will always make themselves available whatever the hour of call-up, whilst the 'big names' have played hard to get or have been plain unreliable. With the quality of the players appearing in the Championship, we should be a match for any league in the country. Again, perhaps this is something that will satisfactorily be resolved in the immediate future. We have been pleased to see so many ex-County players taking part in the league and the way the majority of them have conducted themselves. It is particularly satisfying for many of us to have played in the company of former and current Test players, the likes of Raman Subba Row, Russell Endean, Graeme Pollock, Geoff Howarth and David Hookes. Of course we hope the list will continue over the next decade and that a few English players will emerge to this status, as products of the Championship.

Whatever the pros and cons of league cricket, it is fair to say that the Championship has come a long way since the early days, when Raman Subba Row, Norman Parks and the other pioneers were attempting to sell the idea in Surrey. Though some of us think that the Championship has not moved rapidly enough, at least our steps have been steady and sure. The change in the points scoring system coming into effect for the 1978 season is perhaps a little overdue, but to say the least, it should be interesting and, hopefully, produce better and more enjoyable cricket.

How would one forecast the next decade of Surrey Championship cricket? Well, the idea of sponsorship and even an extension to the league with other divisions and promotion and relegation, are distinct possibilities; or even a definite link-up with the County (Surrey County Cricket Club) playing a predominant part. There are of course many who see the county game being played on a four day basis and with a limited programme, thus resulting in fee-earning players who would have to perform regularly in some other form of cricket, similar to Australian Grade cricket, therefore it could well be that the Surrey Championship could play an important part in the re-shaping of our national game. Only time will tell.

**First XI Ten-Year Table**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Aban	Points
Mitcham	172	59	18	70	0	25	449
Guildford	172	59	29	62	1	21	440
Spencer	172	60	35	61	1	15	439
Dulwich	172	57	39	57	0	19	418
Epsom	172	58	49	47	0	18	413
Malden Wanderers	172	52	32	62	0	26	400
Beddington	172	51	41	55	0	25	386
Addiscombe	172	51	45	52	0	24	382
Old Whitgiftians	172	45	53	50	1	23	346
Purley	172	44	53	56	0	19	339
Old Emanuel	172	41	51	58	0	21	331
East Molesey	172	40	46	64	0	22	326
Streatham Hollingtonians	172	42	61	45	1	23	323
Cheam	172	39	54	65	0	14	313
Sunbury	172	38	55	55	0	24	307
Banstead	172	35	59	58	0	20	288
Sutton	172	33	55	64	0	20	282
Honor Oak	108	27	29	37	0	15	214
Ashford	108	17	45	34	0	12	148

**Second XI Ten-Year Table**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Aban	Points
Beddington	172	72	33	44	0	23	499
Purley	172	66	18	65	0	23	484
Mitcham	172	67	28	55	0	22	479
Streatham Hollingtonians	172	60	37	55	1	19	437
Old Whitgiftians	172	63	53	35	1	20	436
Spencer	172	60	50	46	0	16	422
Guildford	172	49	40	58	0	25	377
Banstead	172	48	47	57	0	20	365
Sunbury	172	46	45	57	0	24	357
Dulwich	172	46	52	54	0	20	350
East Molesey	172	45	52	55	0	20	345
Cheam	172	44	54	53	0	21	338
Addiscombe	172	44	65	40	1	22	329
Malden Wanderers	172	44	71	39	1	17	323
Sutton	172	41	63	50	0	18	314
Epsom	172	37	63	45	0	27	294
Old Emanuel	172	36	76	36	0	24	276
Honor Oak	108	35	36	25	0	12	247
Ashford	108	24	44	27	0	13	184



## The First Twenty Years - some personal memories

*by Charles Woodhouse*

My luck was to play for Guildford throughout the Surrey Championship's first twenty years.

### Origins from a Guildford perspective

I can still recall the Guildford committee meeting in late 1960s when our club representatives, Eric Woolgar and Dick Humphrey, reported back from attending a meeting of Surrey clubs convened by Raman Subba Row and Norman Parks.

*Eric was a wise and greatly respected club member who captained Guildford to second place in 1968. This was the first, rain-affected year of the Championship when Sutton edged out Guildford to the title by beating East Molesey on the last day, Guildford's game that day being rained off despite the urgent mopping up efforts of the Guildford side, myself included. Eric died far too young after a heart attack in an early season game.*

*Dick, a brilliant wicket keeper batsman, was one of the best Surrey cricketers, professional or amateur, of his generation. He famously captained Guildford to the club's first Championship title in 1972, interrupting Mitcham's run of four early titles under Pat Batty and before Dulwich came to dominate for a few years.*

At that Guildford meeting, Eric and Dick explained to us Raman's and Norman's farsighted thinking that it was time to give more purpose and meaning to our cricket. In short, that we should grow up and form a league even though we might not then be brave enough to call it that. At the time, astonishing as it may now seem, there was in some quarters a stigma that leagues were only for the north and not really on for club cricket in Surrey. Eric and Dick did tell us that some clubs had stridently opposed Raman's concept. Those against included Esher, Reigate Priory and Wimbledon, whose chairman had stormed out in protest at one of the early meetings. The Club Cricket Conference were also initially very unhappy but this maybe more because they had failed to lead on all this.

However, Eric and Dick, having sat through the debates on our behalf, recommended Guildford join the new Association. And thankfully we, the rest of the Guildford committee, followed their advice unanimously without putting it to a vote. I recall no controversy at Guildford. In any event, many of the clubs we already played in what were then called friendlies were likely to join. Thus there was no practical reason for not going along with Raman's and Norman's initiative.

As a then inexperienced and junior member of the Guildford committee, I doubt I said a word when we made our decision.

I had no idea how much that decision would benefit and shape my future cricket and in effect become part of my cricketing life.

### Early years - no sledging and little change

After that momentous decision, changes in our cricket were slow at the start. The word sledging had yet to be invented. Instead there was an almost reassuring and friendly feeling of meeting old friends again as each season started. I used to open for Guildford. The greeting from early season opponents like Epsom, Banstead, Mitcham and Purley was more like "Winter well, Charlie? How's the family?" than later sharper remarks, associated with sledging. Yes, Epsom's Fred Munro with his in-duckers, and Mitcham's Eaton Swabey with his yorkers, wanted me out in the first over - and at times succeeded but they did not sledge.

My first personal recollection of serious sledging was batting at Dulwich when I was rudely awakened by an 18 year old, fair-haired Aussie at short leg, David Hookes. He later - after good schooling at Dulwich - went on famously to eyeball Tony Greig in a feisty Ashes encounter.

Many years later, I happily met up again with David in Adelaide. This was in 1990 and thanks to Epsom's Tony Stockley, the best off-spin bowler in the Championship in his time, who went to live in Adelaide and introduced me again to David. I told David I thought that sledging in the Championship was originally introduced by the Aussie and NZ influx of which he was part, initially with John Soldan's well-led and successful Dulwich sides and later Wimbledon and indeed the rest of us. He replied "No mate. It was you blokes in Surrey who taught me how to sledge when I first came over." I think we were all guilty.

## **Some very good Australians and New Zealanders - and Dulwich dominate**

Was it true that John Soldan and later Wimbledon's Chris Brown were often seen in early April at Heathrow meeting the Australian and NZ flights? Some outstanding players resulted and they enhanced the Championship.

Remember Dulwich's New Zealander, Denis Lloyd and briefly Geoff Howarth, Wimbledon's Brad McNamara and Guildford's Darren Foley, whom I was lucky enough to captain in 1984 and who, like David Hookes, died far too young back in Australia.

In particular, the Dulwich 1975 title winning side included four antipodean first-class cricketers, batsmen Denis Lloyd and David Hookes, brilliant leg spinner Kevin Lewis and wicketkeeper Rick Walsh. Add a few locals who could all play a bit, like Dave Woods, Peter Rice and squash champion Stuart Courtney, and it was no surprise Dulwich topped the Championship and did so for some years.

## **The Year Book and Chris Fuke**

I blame Pat Batty. At a weak moment in 1973, Pat talked me into taking over from John Ison as editor of the then new Year Book. It all but cost me my marriage because I spent many winter evenings for the next two years closeted with Chris Fuke, without whose records and statistics there could have been no Year Book. He became a good friend and my wife, Margaret, happily recalled cooking us supper as we struggled to get out the 1974 and 1975 Year Books.

Chris was then the glue who kept the Championship together. He had a record of every run and every ball bowled, with all the clubs' scorebooks being sent to him at the end of each season. A heroic task in the pre-computer age. Chris was always cheerful and loved sharing his knowledge of everything and everyone in the Championship. He counted all of us as his friends. He summed up all that was good about what we came to regard as the Championship family.

## **My years on the Championship Committee**

After editing the Year Book, one of the biggest challenges of which was drumming up advertisers to pay for it, I was asked to become Hon Treasurer. I was - and still am - useless at figures and don't not know how I survived but in those early years the (then much smaller) Championship accounts were more "back of an envelope" efforts than today's complex and professional accounts. My worst memory is of an annual Dinner at The Oval as Treasurer, having to go round every club table to collect the money.

Talking of Dinners, I will never forget Peter May coming to speak. He did so for no fee. After the Dinner the Committee, of which I was then Chair, decided to thank him by sending him three bottles of wine. Peter rang me at my office to say thank you and that we had no need whatever to send him anything. He said he had enjoyed the Dinner and only wanted to help and support the Championship. Today of course an all-time, legendary great like Peter May - he was my childhood hero, no question - would I imagine have an agent through whom a speaking engagement would be booked, commanding a very large fee. He was the quintessential amateur of another era. What a gentleman - and what goodwill the Championship enjoyed.

As Chairman in 1980 and 1981, I presided over many changes. Wimbledon, Esher and Oatlands Park joined the Championship and I wrote in my Chairman's Message:

"We must look more closely sooner or later to our relationship with other leagues in Surrey, particularly perhaps the Cricketers League from whom our three new members came and with whom it may well be in all our interests one day to merge, thus forming two divisions with promotion and relegation."

I did not then foresee that there would one day be more than two divisions.

In my second year as Chairman I wrote and signed the Championship's first sponsorship agreement. This was with Eve Construction and the credit goes to Chris Brown and Wimbledon, our then new member, because Eve's Chair, Gerry Ames, who used to watch Wimbledon from his Rolls Royce parked by the sight screen, had asked Chris how he could help.

As then a lawyer with much sports law work, I found the Eve contract one of the friendliest deals to conclude - we did it by exchanging short informal letters. One purpose was to enable clubs to afford two new balls and another to bring in qualified umpires. I later enjoyed seeing the Eve sponsorship contribution increase many times and indeed last for many years.

## **Guildford's titles in 1972 and 1987**

The two new balls issue reminds me of Guildford's win in 1972 because then there was only one new ball per match and we won mainly because of two outstanding swing bowlers, David Sydenham and Eric Neller. By luck, skipper Dick Humphrey won toss after toss that season. So we always inserted and Syd, fresh from being "a fag paper away" from an England cap when he had enjoyed much success at The Oval, and Eric were a devastating and skilled opening pair. One side, Ashford, was bowled out for about 40. Fortunately, as opening bat I at least got a knock as that and one or two other games that year barely lasted until tea.

Another memory of that 1972 Guildford side is that only thirteen players were used all season. We had some class players like Berkshire batsman Richard Johnson, my fellow opener Jim Denyer, another left-armer Dave Crouch, all-rounder Mick Marsh and two latter day clock experts, Mickey Tooke and Keith Boylett. At first slip, I took bets with wicketkeeper Dick Humphrey which way David Sydenham would swing it: an unforgettable privilege watching a craftsman bowler who topped the Championship averages with 61 wickets at an average of 9.52, Eric Neller backing him up with 27 wickets at 13.59.

The 1987 winning side, led by Tim Walter, was very different. I was three times the age of some players and it was, looking back, a privilege to have been part of it. A then young Tim Walter, who had taken over from me as captain in 1986, was already a shrewd leader and had the confidence and friendship of a young side (myself excepted) led by Martin and Darren Bicknell, when not playing for Surrey, an overseas player Roshan Juranpathy, who had played two Tests for Sri Lanka, Cambridge blue, Andrew Davies and many products from the brilliant Brian Ruby-led Guildford colts programme, such as Nigel Pestifield, Nick Peters and Garry Winterbourne.

Two years before in the last match of the 1984 season against Esher, I received a Friday evening phone call, as then Guildford captain, from Brian Ruby. Martin Bicknell, then just 14, was to make his first team debut next day. Brian had done so much as colts coach in teaching Martin how to bowl. His clear instructions to me were "Don't over bowl the lad". No messing with Brian. I did as I was told. Martin came on first change and only bowled a few overs but not before he had dismissed two Esher batsmen, one I am unashamed to recall being a slip catch by his captain.

## **The game that changed the Championship Rules: Malden Wanderers v Guildford 1977**

In my first year as Guildford captain in 1977, it looked for much of the season like a two horse race between Guildford and Malden Wanderers.

When I won the toss and asked them to bat, Malden's captain, Phil Carling said "You know you will have to bowl us out." He was true to his word. After nearly four hours in the field, Malden were about 260 plus for seven with no sign of a declaration. Phil was batting having blocked out a maiden against Richard Tinson, our decent left-arm spinner, when I told him that we would go off for tea after one more over if he did not declare. They could then, I said, of course come back and resume battling. He then declared. In short, he had deliberately killed the match, leaving us barely half an hour and 20 overs to chase. Malden, at the top of the table, had no incentive to risk losing and were entirely within their rights.

Monday's Daily Telegraph blasted the state of Surrey league cricket, describing the game as a disgrace. They may have known about it because Mickey Stewart had come down to watch and was unhappy about what he had seen. Several Surrey first-class cricketers were playing. Monte Lynch, Tom Hansell and Mike Hooper were in the Guildford side and Kevin Mackintosh made an unbeaten ton for Malden, rescuing them from 28 for 4.

This game was the catalyst for much debate and rule change within the Championship. For the next season we were into Playing Conditions about overs and bonus points and whatever. It saw the end of traditional declaration cricket, with which the Championship had started.

## **A captaincy nightmare**

Another later game with Malden Wanderers in 1984 gave me one of my worst moments as Guildford captain. This time Malden were blameless. We were playing at The Oval as Surrey were playing on our ground at Guildford. We were toiling in the field and John Hollioake, father of Adam and Ben, was bowling. I wanted to bring on Eric Neller instead. But John turned to me and, reluctant to hand over the ball, told me I did not understand the game (or words to that effect in strong



Australian vernacular) and said he was bowling well and had no intention of coming off. I wanted to dig a hole. I panicked and only Eric's good nature - he was an old friend whom I had played with for over 25 years - got me out of it. The incident brought home to me that I was not a good captain - and in later years John Hollioake and I have had a good laugh about it. He was right.

In fact, that game was also memorable for marking the coming of age of two high quality batsmen, Darren Bicknell and Tim Walter, the emergence as a brilliant overseas player, the Australian Daren Foley, then making his Guildford debut, who transformed our season, and match-winning knocks by Nigel Pestifield and Eric Neller. I would never have remembered any of this but for the Hollioake incident.

And to think Graham Roope, after 21 England Test caps, was also then playing for Guildford. He was the best slip catcher any of us had seen but sometimes struggled with the tempo of club cricket. Nevertheless he undoubtedly helped many of the talented young players then emerging as part of Guildford's revival.

### **Time to declare**

At the beginning of the 1988 season after only one game, I rang Tim Walter to say it was time to retire from first team cricket. I thus saved Tim, always a thoughtful, sensitive skipper, which is why he was so successful - he later captained Guildford to a third title - by then the Premier League - in 2001, from having to drop me and what might have been a difficult call to someone almost twice his age.

Tim Walter is one of many I have to thank for such an enjoyable Championship career.

### **Ashley Giles arrives - another Brian Ruby legacy**

For me, a happy by product was then to play several games in 1988 in Division 2 for Guildford 2nd XI where a young Ashley Giles was opening the bowling. Ashley was already so good that Brian Ruby, then Guildford 2nd XI captain as well as coach, would keep him on when he tired to bowl spin, which even then Ashley preferred. Ashley almost bowled unchanged in some matches.

In those 1988 games, Ashley reminded me so much of that other great Guildford left-arm bowler from another era, David Sydenham. My Guildford career in the Championship had come full circle.

### **Thanks, Raman and Norman**

My abiding thanks go to Raman Subba Row and Norman Parks.

## **Message from Martin Bicknell**

My first association with Guildford came as a 12 year old after playing in the Guildford festival for Surrey U12s. It was there I met Brian Ruby, who convinced me that playing at Guildford would benefit my cricket immensely. He wasn't wrong. I played age group cricket before making my debut in the Championship at Esher for the 1st XI under the captaincy of Charles Woodhouse as a 15 year old. I bowled well and the following year found myself opening the bowling on a consistent basis. Saturday Championship matches were incredibly important and, as a club that had been starved of success, when we won the Championship in 1987 it was a very special moment in my fledgling career. By this time Guildford were seen as a great club for developing talent and my pathway into Surrey was soon followed by others. I played for Guildford when Surrey fixtures would allow. I always saw my playing for Guildford as really beneficial, coming back to play with my mates was always enjoyable and the great tussles with our opposition will live with me for the rest of my life.

My association with Guildford is still there and I try and get down there as and when I can. When I retired from Surrey in 2006 injury issues prevented me from playing for Guildford but it's always the result I look for after the weekend to see how they are getting on. I still have many friends involved with Guildford and hope they can keep producing Surrey cricketers in the future.



## The History of the Surrey Championship 1968 to 1989

***formerly The Surrey Cricket Club's Championship Association - produced by Graham Brown***

***This article was written by Graham Brown. The article has not been amended or updated and is printed "as was". All text in the present tense is therefore referring to the year 1989; this must be borne in mind when reading the article – Editor.***

It was during an Old Whitgiftians' Cricket Dinner back in 1966 that two prominent cricketers Raman Subba Row and Norman Parks discussed the idea of Surrey Cricket Clubs forming a Championship League, the first of its kind in the South of England. It was the determination of both these distinguished cricketers that saw, within a few months, discussions taking place with other clubs about the possibility of forming a league. There followed several exploratory meetings during 1966 with some heated discussions, clubs walking out, clubs changing their mind, the threat of being banned by the Club Cricket Conference and after all these discussions on November 28th 1966 the first committee was set up. It's Chairman Raman Subba Row (Old Whitgiftians), Secretary John Cope (Malden Wanderers), Treasurer Fred Munro (Epsom), Fixture Secretary Alan Richards (Purley), Press Officer Mick Busk (Cheam), two other members Norman Parks (Beddington) and Vic Hucknell (Mitcham).

It was at this first meeting that the S.C.C.C.A. formed its first Championship of 17 clubs. The founder clubs being Addiscombe, Banstead, Beddington, Cheam, Dulwich, East Molesey, Epsom, Guildford, Malden Wanderers, Mitcham, Old Emanuel, Old Whitgiftians, Purley, Spencer, Streatham, Sunbury and Sutton. The other items on that first Agenda were the introduction of Guest Stars. Spencer Cricket Club thought that some form of provision should be made to cover paying Guest Stars, the general view was that individual clubs should decide what they wanted but the committee agreed that such an inclusion would be against the spirit of the Championship and that the Association did not wish to register players. How things have changed, there is now a Registration Committee for overseas and contracted players which started in 1987.

The first points system was agreed, 6 points for a win, 3 for a tie and 1 for a draw or abandoned game. Since those early days there have been several changes in the points system, a bonus points system has been applied and also a system where the average of the number of games played. If you applied the current points system to the 1968 League Table, almost without exception the positions would be the same.

Whilst the current points system gives more points for a win and winning and losing draws, the outcome is virtually the same. Sponsorship was also mentioned in those early days. The Sunday Telegraph, the Evening Standard, the Croydon Advertiser and Rothmans were all talked about but nothing was to come of this. After all the off-field activities the League started in earnest in 1968. The winners of the first XI competition were Sutton and of the second XI competition Purley. The cricket remained very much as it was prior to the League starting, the side winning the toss batting, with the odd exception of course. From those early days there are still six players playing first XI cricket and they have played in every season of the Championship in at least one first team game or more. The six players are Graham Brown (Beddington), David Morgan (Cheam), Giles Mason (Malden Wanderers), Pete Sawyer and Ian Blair (Old Emanuel), and Richard Tarrant (Spencer from 1968 to 1977 and Old Emanuel thereafter).

1972 saw the League increase by two more teams, Honor Oak and Ashford and in 1973 the first Year Book was produced, price 15p. It was then that all the players became aware of the statistics involved in running the Championship and a great deal of thanks must be made to Chris Fuke who produced the first set of averages and still does so to this day. His house must be full of averages of one kind or another! The Leading Batsman in 1972 was Richard Johnson from Guildford who scored 408 runs at an average of 68. The bowling was topped by David Sydenham also of Guildford taking 61 wickets at 9.42 each; needless to say Guildford won the League that year. Also during 1972 Spencer Cricket Club celebrated 100 years of cricket; the League played two representative games, lost in both, and in both games a hat trick was recorded against us by Chris Waller and David Sydenham. Banstead lifted their birth and residential qualifications in this year, what an interesting game it would be now if this rule was re-introduced!

In 1977 the introduction of the clubs' third XIs playing cricket came into being. The winners of the first third XI League were Sunbury.

In 1980 the League reached its now maximum number of teams, 22, with the introduction of the three most consistent sides from the then Surrey Cricketers League, Esher, Oatlands Park and Wimbledon.

1980 will also be remembered for a highly exciting and titanic struggle for the first XI championship which was not decided until literally the last few minutes of the season. On that final Saturday one point separated three clubs at the top of the League, Beddington, East Molesey and Spencer; however, Beddington lost to Honor Oak, Spencer had a fine win over Mitcham on the Green but East Molesey, led by Nigel Ross, won against Addiscombe and took the title by one point. Also during this season the Representative side led by Ian Reed of Malden Wanderers won the Club Cricket Conference inter-league Knockout Competition.

1982 saw the current sponsors Eve Group PLC commence their sponsorship; they commenced with a small investment but this grew to a substantial figures over a three year period starting in 1989. The deal was put together by the current Chairman, Chris Brown and Eve Chairman, Gerry Ames and much is owed to these two gentlemen.

1987 was a big year. On the 1st January, 1987, the Surrey Cricketers League became the second division of the Surrey Championship, with promotion and relegation. This year also saw the restrictions placed on clubs who wanted to import overseas players. One overseas player per team together with a restriction on contracted players to one per club. The exception being if the contracted player was a member of that club prior to obtaining his contract. Two other notable and progressive changes in 1987 were the introduction of two grade A Sovereign Reader cricket balls and the use of a panel of umpires for first XIs of both divisions. This could not have been achieved without the considerable help of our Sponsors, Eve Construction.

In 1988 the Second Division was increased by four clubs Old Alleynians, Warlingham, Chipstead & Coulsdon and Oxted, so now we have 44 clubs in the Surrey Championship with two up / two down promotion and relegation.

In 1989 we also formed a second division for the third XI and it is hoped that promotion and relegation will come in 1990 for this section of the Championship. In summing up the past 22 years of the Championship there have been several International Cricketers who have taken their place in Championship matches from one time or another; Raman Subba Row, Russell Endean, Roy Sweatman, Graham Pollock, David Hookes, Mike Selvey, Alan Butcher, Geoff Howarth, Roland Butcher, John Emburey, Monty Lynch, Mickey Stewart, Jack Richards, Chris Cowdrey, Martin Crowe, Graham Roope, David Gilbert and Alec Stewart is the latest line up of distinguished players to represent their Country.

Also the current Surrey side has players that have been developed through clubs within the Championship. These include Darren and Martin Bicknell (Guildford), Alec Stewart (Malden Wanderers), Monty Lynch (Guildford and Walton-On-Thames), David Ward (Banstead), Graham Thorpe (Farnham), Keith Medlycott (Sutton), Chris Bullen and Ray Alikhan (Wimbledon). All these players have come through colts systems from within the Championship and who knows how many of them will go on to make future International Cricketers.

What of the future of the Surrey Championship in 1990? During the cricket season Chairman Chris Brown along with Graham Brown, John Fox and John West will be looking at the facilities of another 40 clubs with a view to making a recommendation at the Championship's Annual General Meeting in November 1990 to expand the League further to either a Third and/or Fourth Division. How much more can we achieve? Youth cricket is a great possibility and we hope that we can improve our contribution to youth cricket in Surrey.

In conclusion, I would like to quote an article from the 1980 Year Book, the article '**Cricket My Way**' by Vic Dodds. "I believe the most important point in cricket is that Captains should always be prepared to lose a game in order that they might win it - so remember be positive - score runs quickly and bowl your overs quickly, when declaring leave enough time to bowl the opposition out and for them to get the runs - do not pressurise umpires - talk to the opposition in the bar, enjoy yourselves while playing cricket and smile and be prepared to lose so that you may obtain victory." All these points must be put over by the Captains to ensure that we all have an enjoyable game of cricket.



Finally, I would like to say that the last 22 years of playing championship cricket have been most enjoyable from my point of view. It has however, been in the latter days that certain behaviour problems have emerged and as a Committee Member I now receive both officially and unofficially a wide variety of complaints as to personnel in the way they conduct themselves and the teams general behaviour. All these incidents could be rectified by a tighter internal club discipline. It is the Club Committees themselves that must remedy this and I am sure that the good sense of Club Captains will see that it will disappear, after all we all stand to lose such a lot and such behaviour should not be allowed to develop.

As to the running and important role played by the Surrey Championship Committee, it is true a number of people have made a major contribution but the real hard work has been and still is done by a body of hard working officials who all give up their valuable time, free of charge, in trying to improve the Surrey Championship.



**Surrey Championship Division One Representative XI  
1992 CCC Interleague Champions**

**Standing:** Peter Richardson (Sunbury), Tim Elliot (Esher), John Fry (Sutton), Marcus Wight (Wimbledon), Mark Lane (Guildford), Darrel Carter (Cheam), Henderson Clarke (Sutton), Rowan McGregor (Wimbledon), Brian Paul (scorer: Beddington)

**Seated:** Stephen Henderson (captain: Wimbledon), Graham Brown (Chairman & Manager: Beddington), Bob Falconer (Cheam), Andrew Bernard (Esher)

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## The Umpires Panel

*by Jeremy Beckwith and Bob McLeod*

For the first nineteen seasons of the Surrey Championship, all matches were overseen by umpires appointed by the clubs. Not everyone was happy with the standard or impartiality of the umpires, to put it mildly!

In 1987 when the Championship was increased in size to forty clubs in two divisions with promotion and relegation, it was decided to create a Panel of Independent Umpires for the 1st XI matches. forty umpires were needed each week, including matches on the two Monday bank holidays. The Championship Executive Committee approached the umpire who was appointing umpires for Surrey to County Championship 2nd XI matches – Fred Garnett, from Banstead CC. He had a friend called Derek Dennis who was a first-class umpire who had stood with Fred many times in Surrey 2nd XI matches. Together they set about approaching umpires to join the Panel. Their efforts concluded with 73 umpires on the initial Panel list. Interestingly, there were ten umpires from the existing Middlesex County League Umpires Panel. The attraction was that Surrey matches started one week earlier than Middlesex and had the two Monday bank holiday matches in addition. The initial list contained two test-match umpires, Udaya Wickremasinghe and Val Williams now Gibbens.

There are two umpires from that original Panel who have umpired in all 31 years since then – Mick Martin and Graham Jackson.

Fred set about appointing a Committee with Derek Dennis as Chairman and himself as Appointments Secretary. Those who stood as Committee members in that first year were Peter Euridge and David Edwards. They introduced a system of postcards addressed to Fred for umpires to report on Facilities, Pitch, Punctuality of Teams, Behaviour of Teams and Co-operation of Captains. The Executive Committee invited a Panel umpire to join their disciplinary Committee and in the early days Geoff Knight took on this difficult but essential task. Clubs were provided with similar cards on which they rated their umpires. Marks were out of 5 but a mark of 2 or under needed a written report. Two such reports meant that a senior member of the Panel would be detailed to monitor the umpire's performance.

The full extent of the written advice given to umpires before the first season got underway was:

1. If in doubt, check that the match is still on.
2. Why not phone your colleague and, if convenient, travel together.
3. Arrive at the ground in plenty of time. You will need to check the boundaries, local conditions etc.
4. Introduce yourself to the Groundsman and Captains as soon as possible.
5. Have a chat with the scorers.
6. Act as a pair, be firm – but with dignity.
7. Remember, it is the players' game.
8. A quiet word can work wonders – so don't be officious.
9. Lastly, enjoy yourselves. Players prefer two happy officials.

That is all the advice they were given. It is amazing in its lack of mention of the playing regulations that were new to so many of the panel's membership.

An umpires' meeting was held mid-season for an informal discussion of the Panel's progress and problems. Inevitably, it was almost all about the regulations.

From year two the Committee was restructured. Derek Dennis was replaced by Bob Bannell of Guildford as Chairman. David Edwards became General Secretary, and Roger Croft and John Rowbotham joined the Committee. Fred quietly left the scene but David, Roger and John all served for more than twenty years. The key role of the Committee evolved to ensuring that the best umpires were appointed to the best matches.

Discussions with other ECB Premier Leagues of their successes and failures was common and eventually led to a system of exchanges of umpires between those leagues to test in practice the merits or otherwise of different playing conditions.

Bob Bannell led the Panel until he stood down in 2001, to be replaced by Bob McLeod, who was

keen to standardise how umpires interpreted the playing regulations and produced “The Blue Book”, the Surrey Panel umpires’ matchday bible, which has been updated every year since.

He stood down after the 2008 season and Jeremy Beckwith took on the Chairmanship. Then the Championship decided to introduce limited overs cricket and playing conditions. Panel umpires now had to deal with the complexities of Powerplays, Free Hits and adjusted run targets when weather intervened. The Blue Book more than doubled in size as the more complex regulations needed to be applied.

In 2014, the Panel found itself with enough umpires to cover all the top four divisions (now of ten clubs each) and have some left over. It was decided that, where possible, Panel umpires would be used in Division Four, meaning that up to fifty Panel appointments could be made each week. On average, Panel members stand for thirteen of the eighteen weeks of the League season, demonstrating the commitment and dedication that they bring to the League and the game of cricket.

The top Panel umpires will get selected to stand in County 2nd XI matches, where they will stand with first-class colleagues – tips and techniques from the professional game are thus passed down into club cricket. This system provides an umpiring pathway from the Championship in the same way that players can progress into professional cricket.

The system of reporting by umpires on the pitch, outfield, facilities and player discipline and the captains’ reports on the umpires’ performance continues today. The only change is the technology where we have moved from postcards sent via Royal Mail to a bespoke online reporting system.

The Executive’s ambition for the Panel is that the whole of the 1st XI League is covered by Panel umpires. Achieving this will require a further twenty or so Panel umpires joining the 64 who stood in 2017. Could one of them be you?

## **The Second 25 Years**

*by Peter Murphy*

My own pathway into the Surrey Championship opened up when (as Chairman of the Surrey County Cricket League) I was approached in 1988 by Chris Brown about his plan to further extend the size of the Championship, of which he was the Chairman. The Surrey Cricketers League clubs had been brought in two years earlier to create a second division, and Chris was keen to add a third, and possibly a fourth. This time new clubs would not come from any single existing league but through choosing a group of Surrey-based clubs with the best credentials from a range of leagues. Chris approached Graham Jackson to work with me on the identification of clubs with requisite playing strength, grounds and facilities. I did not know Graham well at the time but as we planned our review process and started on an extensive round of ground visits, we got to know each other better and worked effectively as a team. We started our travels on Saturday 8th April 1989; Normandy was the first ground visited.

The expansion was not favoured by all the existing Championship clubs, particularly those who had seen division two as a means of access to the “top table” of Surrey club cricket, not an opportunity to be demoted to the third level. After a lot of review work, including ground visits by Chris Brown himself, a proposal to create a third division of eighteen clubs was taken to a 1991 SGM. Folklore has it that only the decision of a club representative on the night to ignore his club’s instructions and vote for the proposal gave it the necessary two thirds majority. I remember getting the news via a late-evening phone call from Guildford’s representative Brian Ruby. My club having been one of the “approved” eighteen, I was invited by Chris to stand as a new Executive Committee member and “Division Three Representative” from 1992, when the new clubs would start playing.

Graham Brown had taken up the chairmanship by the time I started to attend meetings. Although I had “previous” in managing a league, now I was operating at the more rarified level of the Surrey Championship I tended to take a low profile in meetings while finding my feet and taking stock of the other folk around the table. I knew only a few of them well, such as John Fox, Secretary (I had worked with John on the Surrey County Cricket League Committee before Worcester Park’s elevation to the Championship) and Denham Earl, against whom I had played many times and who had taken on the role of Fixture Secretary. At this stage the administration of the league was grappling with the recent rapid increase in member clubs and teams (the third eleven league was also expanding).



The first major issue for me to get my teeth into was the setting up and voting in of an agreement establishing the Fuller's Brewery Surrey County League (FBSCL) as a feeder league to the Championship. The FBSCL was the successor to the Surrey County Cricket League which I had chaired through the 1980s and was now led by a former fellow-committee member and good friend, Richard Anstey. He and I enjoyed a few alcoholic lunches in the City in the interests of developing the relationship between the leagues which led in 1998 to the initiation of promotion and relegation between FBSCL's top 1st XI and 2nd XI divisions and the Championship's third divisions for those XIs.

There was then no Grounds and Facilities Sub-Committee as such, so one of my roles was to accompany Chairman Tony Shilson on inspection visits to FBSCL clubs with promotion tickets. When Paul Bedford took over the chair in 2004, he quickly persuaded me that the league's focus on grounds and facilities needed to be extended so as not just to look at new entrants but to monitor the standards maintained by existing clubs and to challenge shortcomings. This marked the start of eight interesting (and at times not uncontroversial) years I spent as chair of the Grounds and Facilities Sub-Committee during which the various rules and processes we now have in place for keeping tabs on grounds, and in extreme cases imposing penalties for e.g. inadequate pitches, first came into being.

As I got more years of service under my belt, I had more confidence in contributing to Committee debates and I recall participation in the discussion which led to the removal of the word "amateur" from the league constitution, voted in at the 1998 AGM. This was done reluctantly but we knew the rule was unenforceable and that it was pointless to pretend otherwise.

A regular debating topic throughout 25 years has been the rules on overseas players. I was often not clear on exactly what we were trying to achieve. The basic proposition that no club should have more than one "imported" player was clear enough but the range of cases which the playing conditions didn't quite cover and which might or might not be seen as a loophole, coupled with obscure government rules on nationality and entry requirements, led to a lot of difficult discussions. Only when I became Chairman did I acknowledge that I was going to have to give myself a crash course on all of this, the more so as Virginia Edwards who had overseen our registration rules and processes for so many years was in failing health. I can lay claim to understanding the subject better these days even in the age of "managed migration" and ECB/Home Office scrutiny, but it remains easily the least favourite of all the issues I have to spend time on.

Mention of Virginia is a convenient moment to reflect on the contribution she made to the Championship (twenty years as Registration Secretary) and that of her husband David (Secretary from 2004 until his most untimely death early in 2013). All of the administrators listed at the back of this book deserve the thanks of the clubs for the part they have played in taking the league forward but none can match the extraordinary amount of time and effort devoted to our affairs by Virginia and David. The losses of first one then the other while still in harness have been the saddest events to befall the league during my time. Everyone around the Championship knew they could go to the Edwards for information and advice. Apart from dealing with a myriad of day-to-day issues, their efforts were largely responsible both for getting the T20 competition up and running and a website launched.

David was the driving force in getting the T20 competition under way. From its beginning in 2006 to his last season with us in 2012, he and Virginia managed the club application process and the draw, chased progress against the deadlines for each round, and worked with the host club to organise finals day. Following David's death, it was easy to identify the naming of the T20 trophy as the "Edwards Cup" as one of the ways in which the contribution of David and Virginia could be marked in a totally appropriate way.



*None can match the extraordinary amount of time and effort devoted to our affairs by Virginia and David Edwards*

Wimbledon won the competition in its first year and have been easily the most successful side subsequently, winning in half of the twelve years of the competition's life to date. No other club has won more than once. From 2008, the ECB provided the opportunity for clubs winning their various league competitions to enter first regional, then national knock-out phases to find a national champion. The Surrey qualifiers have emerged as South East regional winners in most years and gone on to national finals day on several occasions. Wimbledon have twice emerged as national champions, in 2012 and 2013. Up to now the early stages of the competition have largely used weekday evenings, which despite a regional draw are still often difficult for travelling and player availability. In 2018, we are adopting a "Super Monday" approach under which the rounds of 32 and 16 will take place at eight league grounds on the Spring Bank Holiday Monday, leaving just the quarter finals to be played on long June evenings to find the four qualifiers for our own finals day.

Virginia was the leading figure in setting up a league website which would in due course be a focal point for results reporting and league tables, sweeping away the need for results cards and posting out of tables. The first website was introduced in 2000 with limited functionality, and the ability of the Executive to recognise the potential for technology to change the way the league operates was not great at that stage. It's fair to say that we have become much more tech-savvy in recent years, a process in which Helen Ross and Crispin Lyden-Cowan have each played a major part. The ECB's PlayCricket application first became used by the League for results and tables in 2006 and has progressively become our main resource for scores, tables and other cricketing data. While the former raft of requirements on captains to make phone calls and submit cards has disappeared, there remains a significant burden on certain Committee members, our administrators in the Surrey Cricket Foundation (SCF) and the League Statistician to carry out weekly checking to ensure that we are basing our tables and statistics on complete and reliable data.

Mention of the SCF administrators is a reminder of one of the significant developments of recent years – the agreement reached with the Foundation that, subject to funding support from the League, they would provide the part-time services of one of their staff to carry out a range of secretarial and administrative functions on the Championship's behalf. This was partly a recognition that finding any volunteer to take on the volume of work carried out by David and Virginia would almost certainly not be possible. While the increased use of technology has reduced the overall burden of administrative work, there has never been a danger of Mark Babb being underemployed in the league component of his job, which he has carried out with diligence and good humour. Recently some of his work has been passed across to his colleague, Harry Ellis, who has demonstrated similar qualities.

Paul Bedford's two articles elsewhere in the booklet provide some wider background to the changes which have taken place in the last twenty years to the way we structure our divisions and the cricket they play. The initial move from the twenty-team divisions to divisions of ten with all opponents played home and away was taken experimentally just for the Premier and First Divisions in 1999, and extended across all 1st XI and 2nd XI divisions in 2005. I do not recall a lot of discussion being necessary to agree those changes but the move to the "split format", with a mix across a season of timed and limited overs matches, was a different matter, with some seeing it as the thin end of a wedge which would ultimately result in the demise of timed cricket. However it appeared that this was something the majority of players wanted and it was duly steered through. The Premier Division 1st XIs led the way in 2008, soon followed by other 1st XI Divisions, all 2nd XIs and the 3rd XI Premier. Since then the split format has become embedded at every level.

In 2012, Crispin Lyden-Cowan took over the chairmanship from Denham Earl and invited me to move on from the grounds and facilities remit (which I passed to Graham Jackson) and take over as Treasurer. Crispin made clear his wish that, in addition to keeping the Championship finances on an even keel, I should get more involved in the cricketing issues facing the league as a result of a well-publicised fall nationally in cricket participation, with the fall-out for our league showing up in increased concessions at 3rd and 4th team level. Crispin had himself played an active role in expanding the amount of cricket overseen by the Championship when a 4th XI division was launched in 2007. This was agreed in the Executive Committee, not without some opposition from those who thought that administering the volume of cricket already played under the league's auspices was as much as could reasonably be coped with. The basis for agreeing that the new division (just eight clubs initially) could operate as part of the league was that the participating clubs would handle the

additional administration themselves. Ten years on there are forty teams playing in the 4th XI league, including a few club 5th XIs, which was a clear vindication of the decision to set up the league, whilst bringing its own challenges given the inevitability that the most junior team in any clubs will bear the main brunt of variable availability and late drop-outs.

For much of Crispin's three-year term as chairman and my own subsequent three years in the role, concerns about participation levels have been a main focus of the Committee. The agenda for this has been heavily promoted by the ECB, and at the start of 2018 we have been able to publicise the introduction of a fund made available by the Surrey County Cricket Club directed to schemes which improve participation. Prior to this, we have tried through various means to establish the views and preferences of players about the cricket they want to play. Evidence from surveys, captains' meetings etc shows that there are widely ranging views on such things as start times, playing formats and length of games, all of which have been mooted as issues which affect individuals' attitudes to league cricket and willingness to offer regular availability.

Some changes in playing conditions have gone through, particularly bringing start times forward for various tiers of cricket, and these seem to be clearly favoured by the majority, while being far from universally popular. The introduction of a bonus points system in 2015 partly reflected a view that players were dissatisfied with an existing system which they saw as providing only a meagre haul of points from well-contested games drawn or lost. Other potential changes such as shorter games and limited-overs matches only, which are mentioned in Paul Bedford's article about today's ECB perspective of League Cricket, have not found favour with our clubs so far.

2017 was the first year since 1973 in which the Championship did not publish a Year Book in hard copy. This was not a decision taken lightly (many leagues produced similar publications but the Championship Year Book was widely seen as leading the way) and was greeted with disappointment and criticism in some quarters. In making the decision, there were two key issues as we saw it. First, the material within the Book which we believed was most used was factual and reference data such as playing conditions, fixtures and details of club officials, just the sort of thing which people were now more likely to look for on laptops and phones, especially as they would expect information there to be up-to-date whereas a printed book could never reflect changes taking place after it was published. Our ever-expanding playing conditions had already been moved out of the Year Book into separate booklets because they were taking up so much space in the former. The second issue was one of cost. We knew that fewer and fewer of the books we printed were being read by club members while what we paid for the printing was a significant component of the costs we were collecting through club fees.

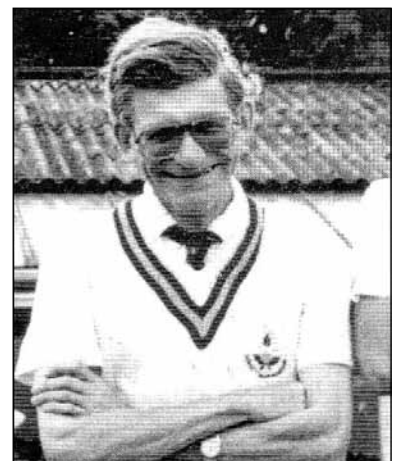
Jack Prosser had already been editor of the Year Book for five years when I joined the Executive Committee and carried on in the role for another 21. While not denigrating any of the development work done by his predecessors, Jack must take the greatest credit for the quality of a production which gained much praise and admiration down the years. Since the Year Book always has carried comprehensive statistics (a tradition maintained in the pdf version of the Year Book still published on



*Jack Prosser - Year Book  
Editor 1987 - 2012*

the website) this is an apt place to pay tribute to the remarkable work in this area (and others) carried out by the late Chris Fuke, almost a legendary figure in Championship annals, who was recruited at the formation of the league by Raman Subba Row and was tireless in its service until the end of the millennium. It is to Chris, who died in 2011, that we owe gratitude for having such comprehensive knowledge of individual performance and records spanning the Championship's lifetime.

So to a final observation, based on my three years as Chairman, in which I have gained a clearer view of what



*Chris Fuke, a legendary figure  
in Championship annals*



individual Committee colleagues and their sub-committees do just to keep the Championship going as a day-to-day, week-to-week, year-to-year, properly-functioning, cricket-playing organisation, I have been overawed by the time and commitment given by dedicated people that is part and parcel of running a league of our size. It is only right also to acknowledge the support that all these people will need to have had from (often) long-suffering spouses, partners and other family members. My overwhelming thought is that what has been built by this group of people I work with and all those that went before is something we can rightly be proud of, even if never satisfied that we can't do better. It is with that mind-set that we take guard again with a second fifty in our sights.

## **Restructuring and The Premier League 1994 - 2005**

*by Paul Bedford*

Before discussing the restructuring of the Surrey Championship and the introduction of the Premier Leagues, we must understand some of the history of the game at local, at county and at National level in the mid-1990s. It was clear to most cricket enthusiasts that major restructuring was essential but exactly how, and what the result should look like, were not obvious. One thing was clear, the game needed additional funding.

In November 1994, the modern National Lottery was launched. It was not the first time as Elizabeth 1st and her Privy Counsellors had a lottery idea in 1567 when new sources of revenue were needed. Unlike the 16th century version, the modern National Lottery was the catalyst for altering the contemporary sporting landscape and cricket was about to change.

At the time, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), the Cricket Council and the National Cricket Association (NCA) ran the game. However, the Sports Council, established in 1996, to become Sport England in 1997, were clear that cricket under the current structure was unable to receive public funding. It was a decision that precipitated the formation of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) established on January 1, 1997 as the single national governing body for all cricket in England and Wales.

The formation of the ECB was the culmination of a drive towards creating, for the first time, one unified body responsible for the management and development of every form of cricket for men and women and, as a result, the previously mentioned cricketing bodies ceased to exist. Like many sports governing bodies in the United Kingdom, it is a company limited by guarantee, a legal status which enables the body to concentrate on maximising funding of the sport rather than making a return for investors.

Two years of research into how cricket in England and Wales could be better organised to attract more players to the game, raise standards at all levels and promote cricket as a spectator sport took place prior to the formation. Scotland and Ireland chose to follow their own path as ICC Associate members.

Under the Chairmanship of Ian MacLaurin, 38 years with Tesco and former Chairman of Vodafone, Chief Executive, Tim Lamb and senior executives, Hugh Morris, John Carr and Frank Kemp the game began to take the shape it has become today.

At the outset, the ECB was short of reserves and a lucrative television deal meaning that a major event, such as a tour being called-off or an incident during a Test Match, could put the game at significant financial risk.

It did not take long for the former Malvernian MacLaurin, a great school friend of Bill Burton from Wimbledon, who really knew his sport having played in the Chelsea Youth side with Jimmy Greaves in the 1950s and captained the English Schools XI, to identify what needed to happen. With County Cricket at risk and 2nd XI cricket in jeopardy without funding, a ten-year action plan was announced, entitled 'Raising the Standard'. The Chairman wanted to make England the best team in the world in both forms of the game by 2007 and central to his plan was a pyramid structure, with school and club cricket feeding into two-day club Premier Leagues and on into three conferences of County Teams. In his book 'And God created Cricket' Simon Hughes wrote, "that two day cricket never caught on. We are not like Australians. We English men have other things to do on Saturday mornings like go to B&Q for a new rechargeable drill or mow the lawn in neat stripes"

MacLaurin also believed that by taking cricket off the protected list of televised events he would encourage a competitive bid for Test Match rights. He was correct and this did happen, though not without its difficulties.

One part of Raising the Standard would come to life with the formation of the ECB Premier Leagues.

The Premier Leagues were accredited by the ECB on the basis of certain criteria, specifically relating to clubs allowing promotion and relegation, having adequate facilities, Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 Junior sides and qualified umpires. Latterly, mandatory use of the on-line play-cricket system was also added.

The Birmingham League was the first League to be accredited in 1998 with their twelve member clubs playing 'timed cricket'. The Kent League was encouraged to try two-day cricket, Australian style, with each club being offered £2,000 to try this new competition. The two year trial was not popular with players in the first year and it was hoped that in the second year they would warm to the idea. This was not to be the case.

Tony Shilson, Esher, was Chairman of the Surrey Championship at the time of gaining ECB Accreditation in 1998, along with 24 other Leagues from around the country. The Surrey Championship Premier League's first season was 1999.

Many of the Premier Leagues were the top leagues in their county. The biggest change for the Surrey Championship was moving to a minimum of 120 overs play in a day, which allowed the greatest level of available funds for clubs to be provided by the ECB. Another tranche of funding, though much smaller, came in the form of 'performance related fee payments'; these payments rewarded clubs for playing a number of Under 21s in their side.

Many of the Leagues simply aligned the rest of their rules, ground and facilities criteria and enjoyed their matches in a way that the founder members of each League had beforehand. However, for some, the changes were tough to push through, particularly in the West of England where the Western League had only been in existence a short while, containing sides from Gloucestershire, Somerset, Avon and South Wales. In other areas, Regional Leagues were formed expanding the travelling distance for players whilst at the same time raising the standard of cricket.

The Regional Leagues were the:-

- **Birmingham and District Premier League**, incorporating Warwickshire sides together with Shropshire, Worcestershire, South Staffordshire and Herefordshire.
- **East Anglian Premier League** with sides from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.
- **Home Counties Premier League**, encompassing sides from Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Hertfordshire.
- **North East Premier League**, containing sides from Durham, Northumberland and Tyneside.
- **West of England Premier League**, incorporating, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire and Avon.

The Lancashire League, Central Lancashire League, Bradford League and the North Yorkshire South Durham League were not part of the original cohort. The reasons were wide and varied, from lack of promotion and relegation to a distrust of the ECB. Whilst these Leagues maintained their autonomy, some of their member clubs began moving towards a model that would prove beneficial to the future. These moves, combined with dwindling attendances, lack of a number of Test quality overseas players, young players migrating to Premier League clubs or being selected for County Academy teams playing in the new Premier Leagues, left these Leagues outside of the pyramid system.

Club cricket has come a long way since the formation of the Premier Leagues. Many changes have taken place, most of which are certainly of benefit to club cricket in general. However, there are still areas where improvements can be made and further changes are being considered in light of increasing competition from other sports and a general reduction in leisure time.

## The Evolution of the Surrey Championship

**30 Years of Reporting by Richard Spiller**

***Richard Spiller is the Surrey/London based freelance sports journalist,  
covering Surrey CCC for Wisden.***

To see Ollie Pope and Ryan Patel making their first-class debuts in the 2017 season was another chapter in the production line of young players who have emerged from Surrey Championship clubs.

Both owed much to the county's academy and their schools but playing league cricket, with and against older players, is a fundamental part of any youngster's education.

Graham Thorpe reckoned he discovered much about the intricacies - and black arts - of cricket after making his debut for Farnham as a 15-year-old, playing alongside old soaks like Chic Stedman and Rabbit Warriner.

The Championship honours board tells its own tale of success – titles and promotions gained - over the 50 years since league cricket was launched in Surrey. What it does not convey is the contribution that so many of the clubs have made to promoting the careers of youngsters.

Some have a rich history of achievement, others have taken a little longer to join in, but as a whole the Championship can certainly be proud.

The Surrey team which dominated the County Championship at the turn of the 21st century was a particular high point, given its homegrown backbone was formed from the likes of Adam Hollioake and Ian Ward (Send), Darren and Martin Bicknell (Guildford), Mark Butcher and Alistair Brown (Cheam), Alec Stewart (Malden Wanderers), Alex Tudor (Spencer) and Thorpe.

The most recent graduates - Patel (Wimbledon), Pope (Guildford, before his switch to Cranleigh last spring) and Amar Viridi (Sunbury) - all hit first-class level as teenagers and there should be plenty more to come. Will Jacks, having already played for England Young Lions (U19s), is an obvious candidate, as is his Woodbridge Road colleague Nathan Tilley after scoring two Premier Division centuries before the age of 18.

Just as every county should aspire to produce players for England, surely every club should aim to do the same for their county side - even if some of them end up playing elsewhere, like Ashley Giles (Warwickshire) and Toby Roland-Jones (Middlesex), whether by accident or design.

Over the 30-plus years I've had the pleasure of watching and reporting Surrey Championship cricket, it is no surprise that much has changed and not just that matches no longer start at what now seems the absurdly late time of 2pm.

Having instant access to the scores and results, rather than having to wait for them to arrive through the post is a huge advance, much as Chris Fuke's labours in rattling out the details of each division on his manual typewriter before stuffing them into envelopes were greatly appreciated for so long.

Clearly the Championship has become a lot more competitive with six small divisions, rather than the big one of 22 clubs with no promotion and relegation which existed before 1987, although my personal belief is that the standard of the Premier Division has never been so high as when all the games were played over time, rather than half limited overs.

The longer format not only gives the stronger side more chance of prevailing but offers more opportunities for captains who show ingenuity and seek the initiative. I suspect I'm swimming against a strong tide on that one but just hope that whenever decisions about format and playing conditions are taken, they will be made for solid cricket reasons.

Happy 50th birthday to the Surrey Championship, may there be many more years to come.



## Today's ECB Perspective of League Cricket

*by Paul Bedford*

Since 2005 Premier Leagues have gone about their business making necessary changes to rules and playing conditions at AGMs. The most dramatic change to the landscape has been in Yorkshire, where 12% of the total playing population exists and where the famous Yorkshire League was dismantled in 2015, replaced by four Premier Leagues on a geographic basis.

The new backdrop consists of the North Yorkshire and South Durham League containing wonderful grounds that have previously hosted first-class cricket such as Darlington and Middlesbrough. The equally renowned Bradford League continues, having gained Premier League status and two new Premier Leagues, Yorkshire League North, serving big name clubs such as Harrogate, York and Scarborough and Yorkshire League South, with Sheffield Collegiate, Barnsley, Wakefield Thornes and three Lincolnshire sides.

The changes were driven by Mark Arthur, Yorkshire CEO, on the back of two County Championship wins where the County Clubs players and CEO went on the road with the trophy and explained how four Leagues would be of more benefit to clubs than having one League which was being compromised due to significant travelling distances. The 'icing on the cake' was an offer to an expenses paid trip for the winners of each of the newly formed Leagues to Abu Dhabi to play off for the title of Yorkshire Champions. Wakefield Thornes were the inaugural winners of this innovative way of engaging with the clubs and rewarding the changes.

As readers will be aware, the opportunity to view cricket on free-to-air television changed after the home Ashes win in 2005 and so too did the funding available for all stakeholders. Extracts from the Department of Culture and Media Select Committee minutes of evidence show that in 1999 the ECB was set a target of investing around 5% of broadcasting income into grassroots cricket, in 2004 this investment had grown to just over 16% of broadcast income, interestingly against only 8% in Australia. With the new Sky TV deal, 30% of the income is now invested into grassroots and this is with a significantly larger income stream enabling increased sums of money to be placed into the non first-class environment.

Anyone older than 16 who had travelled around the country watching professional cricket is likely to recall the poor state of many first-class and international grounds. A visit to grounds now provides a very different view and customer experience including new stands and floodlights, in many cases allowing spectators to experience watching and for some, playing under lights for the first time.

With the advent of professional T20 cricket, which has inspired a new fan base and a few full houses outside of Test matches, the ECB has since launched a Club T20 and Club under 19 T20 competition. These competitions have been popular with players in clubs and Surrey have enjoyed success with Ashted, Reigate Priory and Wimbledon, twice winners, playing Finals' Day featured on Sky Sports and Sunbury played in the first Club U19 T20 finals.

The onset of the T20 format and players requiring win/lose cricket has caused changes to the formats across the Premier Leagues and now four-fifths of the Leagues play a different format to the full season diet of 'timed' matches that were encouraged by the ECB in 1998 in the formation of the Premier Leagues.

The spread of formats is linked to regional preference with Leagues in the South West and Wales preferring 50 overs a-side win/lose. The Southern based Leagues are predominantly split format with a mix of timed cricket, 120 or 110 overs in the longer form and 50 overs win/lose in the shorter form. The Midlands, both east and west except the Birmingham League, still enjoy their timed cricket mainly a minimum of 100 overs per match. The powerhouses of Yorkshire enjoy 50 over win/lose cricket, whereas Lancashire Premier Leagues mostly play timed cricket.

The Southern Premier League were the leaders of change to a split format. The clubs agreed to play 120 overs of 'timed' cricket for the nine 'middle' weeks of the summer and at the front and back of the summer, clubs would play 50 over win/lose cricket, four matches at the start of the season and five at the end. The playing conditions included Power Plays and the subsequent fielding restrictions.

The Surrey Championship were first to follow the example set by their Southern associates. In aiming to gain consensus in 2008, the Premier Division clubs plus the two clubs promoted from

Division One were invited to a meeting. To make the change required a two-thirds majority and interestingly, Spencer who had been promoted, made a really good case, through their captain Neil Baker, for not disadvantaging the newly promoted clubs. However, following further discussion Spencer agreed to advocate the new format and by taking that risk and focussing their efforts on becoming an effective limited overs team they were rewarded by becoming finalists in the National Club Championships, losing to a strong Chester le Street side at Derby CCC in 2009.

Clearly a new world is emerging, following the inception of the Indian Premier League and the Big Bash League, the ECB has recently signed a £1.1bn media rights deal, for their own version to start in 2020 with Sky Sports and BBC sharing some of the broadcast opportunities. Children are growing up enjoying the blaze of colour that surrounds the shorter format and cricket's ability to adapt is being tested once again.

Cricket has great opportunities to showcase the game in 2018 with India and Pakistan as visitors followed by a once in a generation opportunity to showcase cricket in 2019. Not only do we host the Ashes series but also act as hosts for the 50 over-a-side World Cup, twenty years after Australia won against Pakistan at Lord's.

In light of these opportunities and the emergence of the new professional competitions, it is likely that the Saturday afternoon cricket experience will be a blend of either all three formats, timed, limited overs and T20 cricket or even more likely for the majority of teams in clubs only two of the three formats with the Win/Lose preference prevailing. It is foreseeable that the first teams in the top divisions will play 50 over win/lose cricket with lower XIs playing 45 and 40 over limited overs cricket which could, in some instances, become double header T20 matches with the aim of ensuring that all players get a bat or a bowl in leisure time which is becoming more prized to young people.

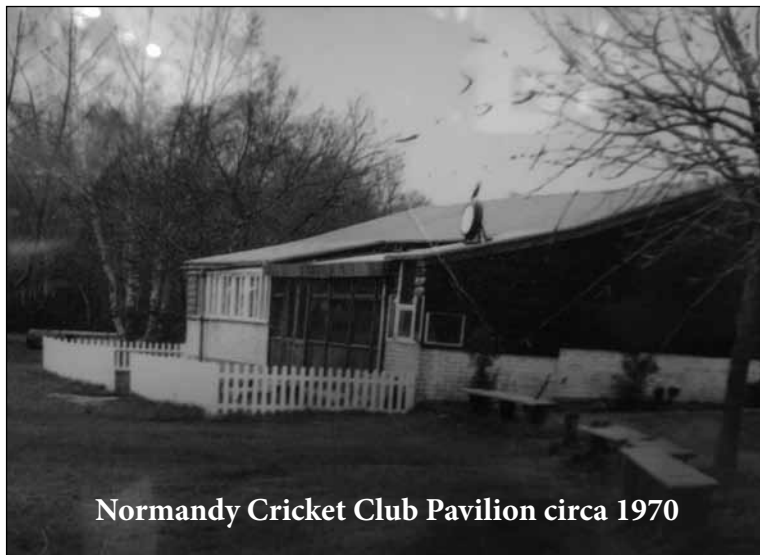
Cricket has continually adapted to change and the administrators, whilst conservative by nature and due to voting mechanisms, have been able to develop the Surrey Championship in line with contemporary views with due regard for the consequences of any change on volunteers at clubs.

## **Normandy - From Grass Roots to the Top**

### ***Normandy Cricket Club by Peter Scott***

In the fifty years since the formation of the Surrey Championship, few clubs, if any, have come as far as Normandy, a west Surrey village club who at the time of the league's conception was playing friendly cricket, running two teams from the Hunts Hill ground where the club had made its home since 1947. Although Normandy had a reputation for good teas and being a side who punched above its weight in the local 16 over Flora Doris Cup, having won the competition in 1961, at that time even the idea of playing league cricket would lead to long and heated debates at committee level. Normandy was a club blessed with two metronomic medium pace bowlers (the duo of Phil Potter and Alec Forbes accounted for an astonishing tally of over 5,000 wickets between them) and a ground created from a Home Guard training area by soldiers made available for vocational training, who together with contractor Norman Harris created a perfectly circular ground of 180 yards in diameter from an area of gorse and heather. The fixture list was comprised of games against local villages, the occasional touring side and (usually on a Sunday) a chance to pit themselves against the top local sides of Guildford or Farnham.

However, as league cricket became more popular and friendly fixtures became harder to find as a consequence, Normandy finally took the plunge and joined the Three Counties League in its inaugural year



**Normandy Cricket Club Pavilion circa 1970**

in 1972. And that's where the club stayed for twenty years, with a couple more Flora Doris Trophies garnered and a third eleven who had a four year spell where they were never out of the top two. Normandy were one of a number of village clubs bobbing around the Three Counties League enjoying some good years and some leaner ones. Then as the 1980s drew to a close and sensing that the league was beginning to fragment, Cricket Manager David Woodcock persuaded the committee to apply to join a newly forming third tier of the Surrey Championship. This was seen as a huge step, the Championship having been regarded as a stronger league and while by this time Normandy were in the top tier of the Three Counties League they were not considered to be one of the strongest cricket sides. However, the club did have the advantage of a magnificent ground, a strong colts section and ambition to improve, all of which were viewed favourably by the Championship panel who duly accepted the club's application and in 1992 Normandy lined up with sixteen other clubs in the brand new Division three, the sole representatives of the Three Counties League. Despite initial reservations that the standard might be too high, under the captaincy of Jim Cox the 1st XI acquitted itself admirably, gaining promotion as runners-up in that first season.

The following year the club opened its new second ground, providing a permanent home for the previously nomadic 3rd XI (and eventually for a 4th XI too), and while the facilities on the second pitch were basic at first (that season teams changed in an ex-army tent complete with bullet holes!) being able to accommodate 3rd and 4th team cricket within the confines of the club became a major factor in retaining the club atmosphere and ethos upon which Normandy has continued to develop.

The 1st XI acclimatised to life in Division Two and under the captaincy of the legendary Junior Simpson won promotion in 2000 and two seasons later Simpson's side pushed on further taking the Division One title, reaching the top tier of the Championship for the first time in 2003.

Adapting to life in the Premiership was tough and the side developed an attritional style based around setting a score and then making runs as hard to come by as possible. Particularly at home this proved an effective method and in 2007 Normandy finished runners-up with Dave Jones in charge, only to find themselves relegated the following year. The side then yo-yoed for a period until Howard Grice took over the captaincy in 2013 with the side in Division One. In his first year they



**Surrey Championship Premier Division Champions 2017**

**Standing:** Chris Jones, Will Pereira, Oskar Kolk, Will Harris, Alex Grimshaw, Jayanth Ganapathy

**Seated:** Dan Miles, Olly Batchelor, Neal Prowse (capt), Viggay Venkateswaran, Sam Wellfare



finished third and were champions the following year. Having returned to the Premiership for 2015 the young side finished runners-up to Sunbury in a fantastic year before 2016 saw a fall to mid-table and Grice stood down as captain and other senior players were lost from the 1st XI, leaving some sizeable gaps in the squad.

The nucleus of the squad was still young, keen and above all talented and Neal Prowse was invited back to his old club as captain and with opportunities offered to youngsters from the 2nd XI the side embarked on the 2017 season full of enthusiasm but fully aware of the tough task ahead just to stay in the Premiership. However, things went well from the off and the squad gelled quickly, playing an exciting brand of cricket, full of energy and as the victories mounted the older heads around the club kept waiting for the bubble to burst, but it never did. Against all expectations Normandy won the 2017 Premier league title for the first time with two games to spare.

This was undoubtedly the club's finest hour and while the Championship itself has grown and



**Normandy's Neal Prowse receiving the Premier Division Trophy from Matthew Hoggard**

developed over the last fifty years, Normandy's progress has been remarkable. To rise from a village club playing friendly cricket to being crowned Surrey Champions is testament not just to the 1st XI squad of 2017 but to all those who have toiled behind the scenes for many years to maintain the club's facilities and traditions. Normandy remains a family club, and it is no coincidence that of the side who played in Normandy's first Surrey Championship match against Brook in 1992, five are still active within the club in senior roles and two - Jim Cox and Peter Scott - are still playing (albeit these days in the 3rd XI) helping to develop the next generation of Normandy cricketers.



**Normandy Cricket Club Pavilion 2017**

# Diary of a League Chairman's Season

*by Peter Murphy*

**30th April** - Six days to go to the start of the new league season and the pre-season friendlies are all played. It will be full-on now until early September for Executive Committee members dealing with the issues which we know will arise across our large and (mostly) flourishing competition. Results, discipline, playing condition queries, ground conditions, weather issues; all of these and more will have to be addressed and resolved to the best of our ability. It goes with the territory and we put our hands up for these jobs. I have great faith in the able group of people on the Executive whom I work with and rely on. We hope and believe that beyond the odd bit of hassle and controversy there will be great swathes of games going ahead without problems and to the enjoyment of the several thousands of players who at some point in the season will play Travelbag Championship cricket (in 2016 "unique player participation" across the whole league was nearly 5,600 according to play-cricket).

**8th May** - The first Saturday has passed with all matches played in decent weather other than a handful of conceded games, the latter not a big surprise at this early stage but something to be watched. Some clubs would like a shorter league season for 3rd XIs and 4th XIs while others are happy to play on all eighteen Saturdays. Although possible, in theory, to split clubs between ten and eight team divisions according to choice, it could make fixture generation difficult in practice and would reduce upward and downward movements between divisions. Concessions are by no means limited to May, although we do hope for clubs to improve availability and fixture fulfilment as the season progresses. The Chairman had a social engagement in the Surrey Hills on Saturday afternoon (even for me the summer is not all cricket) but I managed to watch some play in newly-promoted Dorking's Division Two game with Bank of England. Early wickets for the Bank seemed to have put them well in the hunt when I left but Dorking eventually prevailed in a game of 554 runs - decent for the first weekend.

**15th May** - More good weather on the second Saturday and a short tour for the Chairman from his Woking base, firstly to watch an hour or so of Normandy v Sunbury and take an opportunity to chat to one of my fellow Executive Committee members, Olly Roland-Jones. Sunbury were finding the going difficult against a Normandy side which went on to win comfortably after I left and look like a team building on its strong performances of recent seasons. From Normandy on to Valley End where their 2nd XI were hosting Wimbledon, enabling me to chat to two more of my Committee, Crispin and Alex, who were umpiring and scoring respectively. Crispin's view at tea was that Wimbledon's total was competitive but by no means unattainable, but a quick perusal of play-cricket later in the evening reveals that the Valley End batting was not able to meet the challenge.

**24th May** - The Chairman like many cricketers got into the habit of taking autumn and winter holidays in his playing days and this has not changed much in subsequent years. However for reasons beyond my control I started a week's break in Wales on the Friday just past with a large group of friends who had been unimpressed by my case for taking this holiday about a month earlier. Various cricketing "issues" giving rise to email traffic mean that I am switching on my laptop each evening with a degree of reluctance; the issues range from clubs playing unregistered players through to some disturbing reports of poor on-field discipline. Not the sort of stuff you want to be reading about on holiday really.

**29th May** - I missed seeing cricket on Saturday in order to be at the Aviva Premiership final to see my team (Wasps) beaten in extra time. Tough to take but there can't be any doubt that Exeter deserved their victory. In theory I should have got back to Woking and Horsell in time to watch the closing overs of the 2nd XI's match at Brewery Road so it was a shame they couldn't postpone Old Whit's victory until I got there, but a few consoling beers in the club bar restored me to a more cheerful mood by the time I set off for home.

**4th June** - We have passed the date when any club can register an overseas player. We have been asked by the ECB to let them have all the registration applications for such players so that some sort of checking process can be run which takes account of the tougher stance being taken by the Home Office. This was the subject of regular communications by the league with clubs during the winter and pre-season, and we hope that no breaches will emerge but recognise the risks that some clubs may have taken. Escaping the bureaucracy (and after a three-week gap in watching Championship cricket) I spent time yesterday watching a couple of Division Five 1st XI matches – first at Farncombe (Chertsey the impressive-looking visitors) then on to Merrow v Battersea Ironsides.

**11th June** - Yesterday I was at a Championship club's ground but not at a league match, having been invited with my wife Angela to Guildford's "tented village" to watch Surrey play Essex. I was able to remind Tim Walter and Martin Bicknell of a Sunday game they played in here when young colts in which I scored a hundred. For some reason they seemed to remember it much less well than I did, which is to say not at all. I sat next to Guildford CC's Director of Cricket, Bob Cunningham, at lunch chatting about the challenges of running a cricket club in this day and age. My one-time opening partner at Woking, Chad Murrin, was playing host and in very good form – an enjoyable afternoon.

**18th June** - I have been considering an appeal from a club against a penalty imposed by the Rules and Playing Conditions Sub-Committee. Having kept clear of the initial decision I can come at the appeal without being conflicted and have consulted a couple of other previously uninvolved Committee members. We decide the RPC was right in principle to apply a penalty but that the penalty can be reduced. I have also been drawn into some email exchanges about a bowler allowed to exceed the new overs limit in timed matches. In this case the bowler has taken several wickets in his extra overs, but given that nobody noticed it at the time there is little to be done other than to warn the club to be more careful. We can't second guess the match outcome but the club had better ensure none of its teams repeat the offence.

**2nd July** - A month on from my last comment about registration of overseas players and we are starting to see some fall-out from the new monitoring processes. It was almost inevitable that some clubs would run into trouble with this despite all the letters and emails issued during last winter. I just hope it doesn't cast a shadow over the cricketing summer. Having said that, a bit of shade has been a welcome sight recently on a cricket ground as something resembling a "barbecue summer" has developed over the past few weeks. Long may it last, although no doubt groundsmen across the south of the country are already scanning the forecasts for indications of some welcome rain.

**9th July** - It was clear at the time of last winter's AGM that the proposal to adopt earlier start times for some 1st XI and most 2nd XI cricket was dividing opinion, although the majority in favour of more 12.00 starts was convincing enough. Those unhappy with the change are still letting their concerns be known and I have asked the Executive Committee members to canvass views of their own club players and opponents. I have an inkling it is more of an issue at 2nd XI level and as I didn't have access to the car yesterday I caught a train from Woking and visited Malden Wanderers where the home 2nds were playing Epsom. Either side of the tea interval I had a chat with both sides and it was no great surprise to find diametrically opposed views on offer (Malden for the change, Epsom against on the grounds that it was affecting availability). Personally I wouldn't have favoured a start any earlier than 1.00pm most of the time that I was playing but many of the younger players now have a different view of what they want to do post-match and want to be free for their chosen activities by early evening. Other factors such as Saturday morning jobs and the wish of ex-players to have cricket to watch with beer in hand at "traditional" times on a Saturday evening also influence opinion.

**23 July** - The hot summer I mentioned in my diary entry only three weeks ago seems to have come to a soggy end. Yesterday's forecast of showers turned out to be prolonged afternoon downpours which washed out just about the whole league programme. England's varied weather means that cricketers have little option other than to be philosophical about days like that, providing there are not too many of them. The ECB's "Get the game On" initiative has placed a lot of emphasis on playing conditions which offer the flexibility to get some sort of match out of a day of interruptions, and fair enough. However, there is a need for a balance and most players I know take a dim view of hanging around for hours just in case there is a chance late in the day of a farcical slogging contest in treacherous conditions. Common sense sometimes needs to prevail. Fortunately the weather relented on Sunday so that finals day of the Championship T20 competition could take place without any delays or shortening of matches. Everyone was pleased for Ashford whose previous experience of hosting the finals in 2015 had been seriously rain-affected. I watched Wimbledon comfortably overcome Reigate Priory in the evening sunshine to confirm their status as the most consistently successful side in Championship T20 history and we now await the regional play-offs and national quarter finals to see if once again Surrey has a representative on National Finals day in early September.

**25 July** - Today we had the big annual meeting of the ECB Premier League chairmen, across the road from Lord's. A lot more chat about "managed migration"; the ECB has looked at some 800 overseas player registrations and nearly sixty of them "potentially" breach visa regulations. No

names or other details can be given yet however. There's also a discussion about what a Premier League is for. What is striking is the range of different approaches which exist around the country with a number of PLs consisting just of two Divisions of ten (1st XIs and 2nd XIs) while others are on the lines of the Surrey model with many more clubs and teams. It's an interesting topic but seems a bit academic – we are what we are and in our case we have taken many years and much sweat and toil to get what we have. How and why would we become something quite different? Of course what this is leading to is a review of the “contract” between the PLs and the ECB and what we get given money for so this space will need watching.

**31 July** - We have just had a second very wet Saturday in a row with this time a fairly accurate forecast correctly predicting a curtain of rain moving across the county in mid-afternoon. Some ingenuity, within the letter of the playing conditions, was exercised by at least one pair of clubs who got a match played and finished just before the rain got heavy. This has given rise to some concerns about collusion and the Executive is being called on to offer a view. Should we encourage this “creative” approach, or try to put some formal rules around it, or simply stop it from being attempted? I think the debate will continue for some time after the Executive ruling on last Saturday's match has been passed down (the match result stood).

**6 August** - It's a relief to get back to an almost completed league programme, albeit not on a completely dry day. We are back to overs matches and into the business part of the season with championships, promotions and relegations at stake. Playing condition 13(J) now comes into effect which requires clubs wanting to drop players who have played most of the season in a higher team to seek prior permission from the league. Players must have twelve matches under their belt before they are caught by this requirement and with the numbers who play almost every match in a season steadily declining there has to be a question mark about whether twelve qualifying games is too many in this day and age.

**14th August** - Another day when the chairman is without a car and this time the train is taken to Guildford where the visitors are Normandy, increasingly short-odds favourites to win their first Premier Division title. Two of my Executive Committee colleagues are officiating so I use the tea interval to catch-up with Anthony Gamble, Guildford scorer, and Jeremy Beckwith who is on umpiring duty with Anthony Blondell. The general consensus at tea is that Guildford's 205 is short of par but with the visitors unable to progress at much above three an over in the first 20 of the reply, and with Chris Jones being third out with just 67 on the board, the match looks in the balance. However, these are the games that teams with title-winning pretensions generally win and Normandy make it by three wickets in a well-fought game. Guildford's lowly position in the league is difficult to understand on this showing. Aside from the cricket, some frustration is expressed by Guildford people at the slowness with which the major pavilion refurbishment is progressing but now it is clear that none of the new facilities will be available this season there is still satisfaction that what promises to be one of the best pavilions in the league will be in use from the start of 2018.

**20th August** - Terrible news is coming through this morning from Effingham CC, whose away match at Newdigate yesterday was abandoned amidst desperate and ultimately unsuccessful attempts to save the life of a stricken player; a wife and young family had seen their husband and father off to play cricket but would not see him return. This puts in its true context the triviality of so many of the issues which the league is called upon to deal with week-to-week through the season. A quick decision is taken that the Championship should encourage clubs to show solidarity with the Fuller's Brewery Surrey County League in holding silences before next week's fixtures. The pain and loss is felt across Surrey cricket.

**24th August** - I write this latest entry in a week of contrasting emotions. On Saturday at Normandy where the Premier Division title was duly secured with a thumping ten-wicket home win against Cranleigh, there was a justified sense of delight and achievement amongst the home members and supporters. A day later came the shocking news from Newdigate mentioned above. Having now to consider a string of heated emails generated by a “Mankad” incident in a recent 2nd XI game is almost the last thing I feel like. However, that is what I have to do. This is ever a difficult area since whatever conventions exist (or are believed to exist) around such an incident, the laws provide for a player to be run out by the bowler if taking undue advantage and it is hardly for the league to declare that a player given out on the day was actually not out. Nonetheless there are inter-club relationships here that need



to be repaired, particularly as the two teams concerned seem certain to be in the same division again next season. It's a job for the League Chairman which is made much easier on this occasion by the mature and supportive involvements of the chairmen of the two clubs. Well done to them.

**6th September** - So the season is over and all the issues are decided, a few of them on the last day of the season, which fortunately sees a return to the sunny and warm weather we were enjoying in May and June. If it must rain at some point on a Saturday, let it not be on the last Saturday. My own last sight of Championship cricket in 2017 is at Woking's Brewery Road ground just past 7pm where by completing a five-run victory against Esher – already crowned divisional winners – the 2nd XI ensure their survival in Division Two. They haven't had a great season and could not complain if they went down, but the dramatic win secured in the 49th over sets everyone in a good mood for a hilarious and well-attended awards evening. But league business does not come to an end because cricket finishes and by Tuesday evening the Executive Committee is in session (Reigate this time) for the meeting which traditionally follows hard on the last weekend and starts looking towards issues and possible changes in playing conditions for discussion at the Council meeting some six weeks away.

**12th September** - Wimbledon did not let us down and yesterday morning bright and early I was driving up the A3 to get a lift to National Finals Day at Derby on the Wimbledon supporters coach. It's one of those rare days when the Chairman is allowed to forget neutrality. The weather has turned seriously autumnal and we arrive at the Derbyshire CCC ground in the middle of a heavy shower. Remarkably the rest of the day escapes any significant rain, although the wind is cutting. Wimbledon comfortably dispose of Clifton CC from Lancashire in their semi but against South Northumberland in the final their batting against tight bowling in the closing overs cannot get them to a challenging enough target. Nonetheless Wimbledon deserve nothing but praise for their long unbeaten run through the county, regional and national competitions and have ensured that Surrey maintain their record of regularly getting clubs to the closing stages of the national competition.

**18th October** - In the last fortnight I have attended the League Dinner, an ECB Regional meeting for PL Chairs, the autumn meeting of the Umpires' Panel and a meeting of the Surrey Senior Leagues Working Group. In between the last two of those, I chaired the League Council meeting. It's fair to say that the Chairman's workload has not appreciably reduced since the cricket finished. Anyway, I'm off on holiday tomorrow evening for ten days and, while I will keep an eye on the inbox, cricketing matters will be low on the agenda until I return. And this will be my final diary entry. Despite the impression some of my comments may have given, I do – mostly – enjoy the job! Well done for those of you who have read right through to the end. Although it hasn't had much of a mention in this somewhat random and personalised selection of the season's issues, planning for our fiftieth Anniversary Year in 2018 has been going on throughout. It should be a good year!

## Surrey Championship Competition

by Roland Walton

To win two Test Match tickets for England v India at Lord's on Sunday 12th August, simply answer the following three questions.

1. Who won the last Lord's England v India Test?
2. What was the result of the last home England v India Test series?
3. Who is the current Surrey Championship Sponsor?



The winner will be drawn at random from all correct answers. The winner will be notified by July 8th and publicised on the web site.

Send your answers to Mark Babb [mababb@surreycricket.com](mailto:mababb@surreycricket.com). The closing date for entries is 30th June 2018.

Note: Terms and conditions apply - see web site for details.



## Expansion and where are they now?

*by Chris Evans*

### The Expansion

The Championship was originally formed of seventeen clubs. The founder clubs being **Addiscombe, Banstead, Beddington, Cheam, Dulwich, East Molesey, Epsom, Guildford, Malden Wanderers, Mitcham, Old Emanuel, Old Whitgiftians, Purley, Spencer, Streatham, Sunbury and Sutton**.

In 1972 it was agreed to expand the Championship by two clubs to a total of nineteen when **Ashford** and **Honor Oak** were invited to join. In 1979 the Championship was expanded again to twenty-two clubs when **Esher, Oatlands Park** and **Wimbledon** were elected. Matches were played on Saturdays throughout the summer, as well as on the Whitsun / Spring and August bank holiday Mondays.

In 1986, at a Surrey Championship EGM, the decision was taken for the Surrey Cricketers League to merge with the Championship in 1987 to form a Second Division. The clubs joining the Championship in 1987 were: **Ashtead, Avorians, Bank of England, Barclay's Bank, Camberley, Cobham, Cranleigh, Dorking, Farnham, Leatherhead, Limpsfield, Met Police, Old Pauline, Reigate Priory, Send, Walton on Thames, Weybridge** and **Worcester Park**.

At the end of the first season of "structured cricket", Streatham and East Molesey were relegated to Division Two while **Limpsfield** and **Met Police** were promoted to Division One.

In 1988 the Second Division expanded by a further four clubs, namely: **Chipstead & Coulsdon, Old Alleynians, Oxted** and **Warlingham** to align with the First Division.

In 1991, at another SGM, the Championship voted to add a Third Division from the start of the 1992 season. These clubs were elected by the Championship from a list of applicants from recommendations of a working party set up for the purpose. The eventual list of eighteen new clubs were: **Brook, Chertsey, Chessington, Egham, Horley, Long Ditton, Maori, Normandy, Old Mid Whitgiftians, Old Rutlishians, Surbitonians, Old Walcountians, Oxshott Village, Richmond Town, Sanderstead, Shepperton, Woking & Horsell** and **Woodmansterne**.

The Championship had come a very long way since it all began in 1968 with just seventeen clubs. In 1992 only twelve of those original clubs were still playing in the Division One 1st XI, yet, with the formation of the Third Division, the Championship had swelled its ranks to no fewer than sixty-two member clubs.

Unfortunately, prior to the start of the 1992 season, Long Ditton was forced to withdraw from the Championship after they lost the use of their home ground in Sugden Road shared with Surbiton Hockey Club. **Old Hamptonians** were elected to replace them from the start of the 1993 season.

In 1994, **Albury** and **Old Tiffnians** were elected to Division Three to replace Barclay's Bank who folded due to the sale of their Norbury ground and Surbitonians after a merger with Cobham.

At the end of the 1996 season Oatlands Park withdrew from the Championship.

The Championship continued in this format with two up, two down between Division One and Division Two and between Division Two and Division Three at both 1st XI and 2nd XI levels until the end of the 1998 season when it was also agreed that promotion and relegation between the bottom of Division Three and the top of the Fuller's Brewery Surrey County League (FBSCCL) would commence. The first two teams promoted as a result of this "merger" were **Alleyn Old Boys** at 1st XI level and **Old Wimbledonians** in the 2nd XI League. To balance the number of clubs in the Championship and the FBSCCL, two teams were relegated, Old Pauline and Leatherhead from the 1st XI league and Woodmansterne and Oxted from the 2nd XI league.

At the end of the 1998 season, the top ten teams in Division One formed the new Premier League, while the next ten formed the new Division One, with the old Division One and Division Two becoming Division Two and Division Three respectively.

Following the 1999 season, **Blackheath** and **Farncombe** joined the Surrey Championship at 1st XI level following promotion from the FBSCCL, while **Haslemere** and **Alleyn Old Boys** were promoted at the 2nd XI level. The teams relegated to the FBSCCL were Woodmansterne and Ashtead (1st XI) and Shepperton and Leatherhead (2nd XI). With a couple of other adjustments between the Divisions at both 1st XI and 2nd XI levels, the Championship then consisted of two divisions of ten clubs plus two divisions of twenty clubs, a total of sixty at both 1st XI and 2nd XI level.

In 2005, Division Two and Division Three were both split into divisions of ten clubs so that the Championship consisted of a Premier Division and five further Divisions each of ten clubs.

This movement between the Championship and the FBSCL continued:

First XI				
Year	Promoted to the Championship		Relegated to the FBSCL	
1998	Alleyn Old Boys		Old Pauline	Leatherhead
1999	Blackheath	Farncombe	Woodmansterne	Ashted
2000	Ashted	Southern Railway	Horley	Oxshott Village
2001	Old Wimbledonians	Ripley	Sanderstead	Old Walcountians
2002	Pyrford	Kingstonian	Cobham	Old Alleynian
2003	Thames Ditton	Churt	Albury	Old Tiffinians
2004	Wallington	Carshalton & Croydon Gas	Kempton	<i>Note 3</i>
2005	Leatherhead	Staines & Haleham	Shepperton	Blackheath
2006	SinjunGrammarians	Chobham	<i>Note 4</i>	<i>Note 5</i>
2007	Croydon MO	Valley End	Addiscombe	Ripley
2008	Addiscombe	Stoke D'Abernon	Chobham	Oxted & Limsfield
2009	Godalming	<i>Note 6</i>	Wallington	<i>Note 6</i>
2010	Oxted & Limsfield	Marrow	Thames Ditton	Croydon MO
2011	Sanderstead	Hampton Wick Royal	Chertsey	Worlingham
2012	Guildford City	Old Pauline	Mitcham	<i>Note 7</i>
2013	Chertsey	Byfleet	SinjunGrammarians	<i>Note 9</i>
2014	Weybridge Vandals	Battersea Ironsides	Marrow	Southern Railway & Kenley
2015	Kempton	Haslemere	Godalming	<i>Note 10</i>
2016	Merstham	Marrow	Alleyn	Old Pauline
2017	Alleyn	Old Pauline	Battersea Ironsides	Farncombe

Second XI				
Year	Promoted to the Championship		Relegated to the FBSCL	
1998	Old Wimbledonians		Woodmansterne	Oxted
1999	Haslemere	Alleyn Old Boys	Shepperton	Leatherhead
2000	Oxted	<i>Note 1</i>	Haslemere	<i>Note 6</i>
2001	Farncombe	Leatherhead	Cobham	<i>Note 2</i>
2002	Pyrford	Sinjuns	Old Rutlishians	Horley
2003	Southern Railway & Kenley	Carshalton & Croydon Gas	Old Walcountians	Old Hamptonians
2004	Ripley	Kingstonian	Old Alleynian	<i>Note 3</i>
2005	Wallington	Olinda Vandals	Albury	Kingstonian
2006	Old Rutlishians	Valley End	<i>Note 4</i>	<i>Note 5</i>
2007	Thames Ditton	Godalming	Ripley	Olinda Vandals
2008	Stoke D'Abernon	Hampton Wick Royal	Old Tiffinians	Wallington
2009	Old Hamptonians	<i>Note 6</i>	Kempton	<i>Note 6</i>
2010	Carshalton	Woodmansterne	Farncombe	Mitcham
2011	Guildford City	Staines & Haleham	Old Paulines	Southern Railway & Kenley
2012	Ripley	Kempton	<i>Note 7</i>	<i>Note 8</i>
2013	Deando Ruxley	Kingstonian	Woodmansterne	<i>Note 9</i>
2014	Lingfield	Battersea Ironsides	Worlingham	Staines & Haleham
2015	Merstham	Staines & Haleham	Maori Oxshott	<i>Note 10</i>
2016	Hampton Hill	Marrow	Godalming	Horsley & Send
2017	Mitcham	Thames Ditton	Lingfield	Staines & Haleham

### Notes to Promotions and Relegations from the FBSCL

1. In 2000 only one club was promoted from, and relegated to, the FBSCL at 2nd XI level.
2. Prior to the start of the 2001 season and following the loss of their original home ground, Maori merged with Oxshott Village to be known as **Maori Oxshott** based at the Oxshott Village Sports Ground.

3. Prior to the start of the 2004 season and following the loss of the Honor Oak home ground, Alleyn Old Boys merged with Honor Oak to be known as Edward Alleyn & Honor Oak based at the Alleyn Old Boys ground.
4. In 2006, Oxted and Limsfield merged to form **Oxted & Limsfield**. The 1st XI and 2nd XI would play their home games at Master Park, while the 3rd XI and 4th XI would use the old Limsfield ground at Grub Street for their cricket.
5. At the end of the 2006 season, **Carshalton & Croydon Gas** resigned from the Surrey Championship and re-joined the FBSCL, where they subsequently disbanded (as Carshalton) in 2011.
6. Due to ground and facility issues only one club was promoted from the FBSCL at 2nd XI level in 2000 and only one club was promoted at both 1st XI and 2nd XI level in 2009.
7. **Brook** withdrew from the Championship part way through the 2011 season as they were no longer able to field two XIs. Brook subsequently joined the I'Anson League.
8. At the end of the 2011 season, Carshalton withdrew from the 2nd XI League (also see Note 5).
9. In 2012, the **Met Police** was given a year's sabbatical by the Executive Committee due to fears about being able to fulfil fixtures during the London Olympics. This was with a view of coming back strongly in 2013, albeit, one division lower. Unfortunately this was not to be and in 2013, only one club was relegated to the FBSCL after the Met Police had to withdraw from the Championship.
10. In 2015, only one club was relegated to the FBSCL due to the withdrawal of **Pyrford** from the Championship.

### Other Mergers and Name Changes

Streatham merged with a number of local sides (amalgamating with Streatham Wanderers in 1973 and Old Hollingtonians in 1977), after which the club was known as Streatham Hollingtonians for a number of years. In 2003, Streatham merged again with Marlborough (1870), since when the club has been known as **Streatham & Marlborough** with its home ground at Cox's Walk, Dulwich Common.

**Horsley & Send** was founded in 1999 as a result of the merger of Horsley and Send when Send were forced to move from their old ground at Sendholme and they now play at the former home of Horsley, Twinn's Field, West Horsley; a ground that incorporated a second pitch to accommodate the merged clubs.

In 1993, Cobham moved out of their home ground in Cobham Village and merged with Surbitonians; they continued to play under the name of **Cobham** at the Surbitonians ground in Fairmile Lane and later merged with Leatherhead as explained below.

**Kempton** was formed at the start of the 2003 season from two well-established and successful Sunbury based teams, Richmond Town and Sunbury Village. They continue to play at the old Lazard's Bank ground which was purchased by a club member when it was put up for sale. Also in 2003, Southern Railway and Kenley merged to be known as **Southern Railway & Kenley**, retaining the use of Kenley's ground in the process. Both of their sides now play in the FBSCL.

Alleyn Old Boys changed its name to Alleyn in July 2003 but months later in December 2003 as a result of the increasing cost of playing cricket in the Dulwich area, merged with Honor Oak and then Old Alleynian were also subsumed by the merged club at the end of the 2004 season. The name of the club was changed to Alleyn & Honor Oak for the 2004 season then to Edward Alleyn & Honor Oak (2005-2008), then back to Alleyn & Honor Oak (2009-2014) until finally in November 2014 it reverted to **Alleyn**!

In 2005, Chipstead & Coulsdon merged with Old Walcountians to be known as **Chipstead Coulsdon & Walcountians** with the club retaining Walcountians' ground at Carshalton Road as a second ground.

In 2005, Sinjuns merged with near neighbours Old Grammarians from the FBSCL. The merged club was renamed **SinjunGrammarians** and the club plays on adjacent squares.

**Leatherhead** was promoted to the Championship in 2005 but merged with Cobham prior to the start of the 2006 season. They played as Leatherhead & Cobham until 2010 before reverting back to their original name.



In 2006, Avorians was renamed **Cobham Avorians** to give them a better identity within the local community.

In 2009, Old Mid Whitgiftian was renamed **Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian** to make clearer that their link is with Trinity School and not Whitgift School.

With effect from 1st January 2017, Deando Ruxley was renamed **Ewell**. Their ground is in Ruxley Lane, Ewell.

### Other Highlights

During the first ten years of the Championship, Mitcham was the dominant club in the 1st XI Championship with Guildford and Spencer hot on their tails. In the 2nd XI Championship, Beddington was top closely followed by Purley and Mitcham.

The once great Mitcham club has had a sad slide in fortunes since those dizzy heights and, whilst their 2nd XI have been promoted back to the Surrey Championship, their 1st XI will be playing in the FBSCCL Division Two in 2018.

Wimbledon 1st XI is by far the most successful side in the Surrey Championship, having won the top Division an incredible eleven times (including five Premier League titles) in their 39-year association with the League. In addition, Wimbledon 2nd XI has won ten titles (including five Premier League titles).

Reigate Priory is second in the all-time list, with five titles all of which are since the Premier League was formed. Reigate Priory also has five 2nd XI Premier League titles. Mitcham, Weybridge and Sunbury come next with four 1st XI titles each. Cheam 2nd XI also deserves a mention with six titles, all pre-Premier League.

Valley End 1st XI gained promotion to the Championship in 2007, following a meteoric rise through the FBSCCL and they gained promotion to the Premier League in 2013 following a similar rise through the Championship. Unfortunately, they have been unable to maintain a regular slot in the top division. In 2008, they won the NPower Village Cup at Lord's Cricket Ground with a side almost entirely formed from Valley End youth cricketers.

Leatherhead had a similar (steadier) rise, having been promoted from the FBSCCL in 2005. They too achieved Premier League status in 2012 but again have been unable to maintain this position.

Wimbledon 1st XI has also had tremendous success in the Surrey Championship T20 competition, winning the event on six occasions. In two of these seasons, 2012 (see page 57) and 2013, Wimbledon also went on to become ECB National NatWest Club T20 winners.

In four of the remaining six seasons of the Surrey Championship T20 competition, it has been won by clubs from outside the Premier League: Old Whitgiftians (Div 2 in 2007), Ashford (Div 4 in 2008), Valley End (Div 2 in 2011) and Ashted (Div 2 in 2014). Both Ashford and Valley End fell at the final hurdle in trying to reach the televised National Finals Day but Ashted went one step further, unfortunately losing in the National Final.

There is a separate article about Normandy and their magnificent achievement in winning the Premier League in 2017. Normandy were one of the eighteen clubs elected to form Division Three of the Championship in 1992 and they have steadily worked their way up to the Premier League.

Sunbury is the only Championship club to have achieved success in the ECB National Club Cricket Championship, winning the title against the odds in 1974. The competition has changed its name many times since it started in 1969 and is now the Royal London Club Championship. Cheam in 1990, Spencer in 2009 and Sunbury, again, in 2014 have reached the final of this competition.

Finally, Epsom became the first club in Championship history to record a 'perfect' season, scoring the maximum 207 points available in Division Three in 2013. This included the maximum nine bonus points from the limited overs fixtures.



## Old Grounds ..... and New!

**Graham Jackson reviews Championship grounds that really have seen the “close of play”, those which have survived through adversity, and new grounds created during the past fifty years.**

Since 1968, the Championship has seen significant changes to its cricket clubs and cricket grounds. With the benefit of satellite technology, it is revealing how many have been closed or redeveloped even within the last twenty-five years. Whilst some grounds have become “second grounds”, as a result of mergers and amalgamations, the general decline in participation in amateur sports (and not just cricket) has meant that more grounds have been lost than created. This is therefore a personal account, having umpired on all of them, of how our grounds have fared, over the lifetime of our league, and remembering some grounds that will never see another ball bowled again.



The changes started at the end of the 1977 season when **Streatham**, having ground shared with Streatham - Croydon RFC for fifty years, vacated Frant Road and moved to Hollingtonians' ground at Dulwich Village. The Frant Road ground had perhaps seemed a rather curious place for cricket, with a stand dominating one end, suggesting that two rugby teams would emerge at the start of play rather than a team of cricketers and batsmen coming and going as the game progressed! Today nothing suggests cricket was ever played there, but the ground layout remains similar,

although a new stand has replaced the old, and a rather austere looking perimeter steel palisade fence has replaced the previous wooden fence that was partly blown down in the great storm of 1987. Then, when in 2002, the Hollingtonians' ground was handed back to Dulwich Estates, the club took a pragmatic decision to amalgamate with Marlborough (1870), onto a ground which boasts two cricket squares. Interestingly, after years of lying fallow, the old cricket ground at Dulwich Village has been recently revived, and although the entrance to the ground from Burbage Road has apparently been sold for redevelopment, and as the pavilion has been condemned, players now change at Dulwich Sports Ground next door and walk over.

**Barclays Bank** were one of the first of many financial institutions to dispose of their ground, and the club breathed its last (in Surrey that is) at the end of the 1992 season. Today, a Health, Fitness & Wellbeing Gym has taken over the pavilion, and a football pitch runs across the rest.

1993 saw the end of **Ashford's** tenure at Woodthorpe Road. Although the ground had much character, with a large scoreboard over the far side of the ground, it was obviously too small for top league cricket and the club were concerned about the threat of a legal injunction. As a result, the ground was sold to developers. The only sign today (literally) that cricket was ever played there is a cul-de-sac containing a small housing development known as “The Wickets”, which cuts across where the square would have been, and a new building houses the Salvation Army on the site



of the old school that was easily accessible beyond the boundary by batsmen from the middle of the square! The club then spent five seasons at a temporary ground in Short Lane, jointly leased with Ashford Hockey Club and Ashford Town Football Club, which is now used for football. This was only

yards away from their new ground, opened in 1999 which, having two squares and covering a vast area, is everything the former Woodthorpe Road ground was not!

Also in 1993, **Cobham** left their ground in Cobham Village to take up residence with Surbitonians. Although Cobham retained their name, the merger did little to improve matters and several years later the club was struggling again. In 2006, Leatherhead agreed to a merger with Cobham with a view to using Fairmile Lane as a second ground, but this arrangement was short lived and at the end of 2009, as the home of Cobham RFC, the ground closed to cricket for good. Today, a new clubhouse serves two full size rugby pitches and the trees that lined the road between both grounds have gone to be replaced with a new car parking area. As to Cobham's original ground, the entrance next to the Village Hall no longer exists and the best way to access the ground is by walking 200 yards from the Painshill Park car park. Although meadow grass covers the entire ground, there are clues that cricket was played there once. A portacabin sits on the foundations of the old cricket pavilion (which was destroyed by fire). There are the remnants of an old cricket net surface, and on the side adjacent to the garage there still is netting to stop balls reaching their car park. A wooden fence still encloses almost three sides of the ground, complete with chicken wire mesh to stop balls straying beyond the boundary and strangely there is a newish locked set of gates from the access

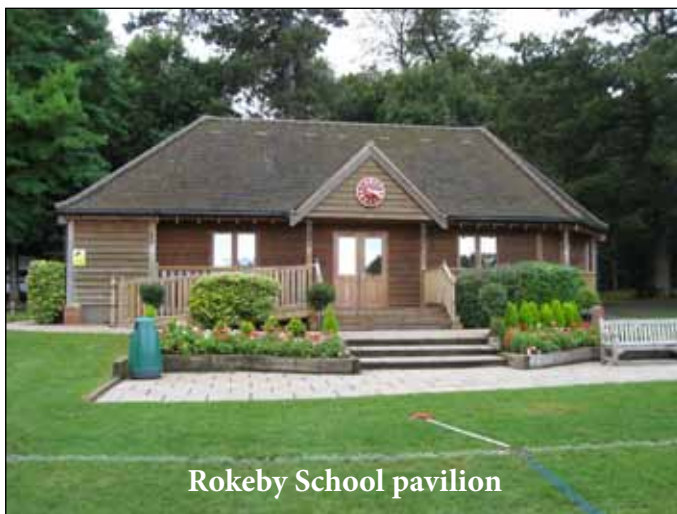


road by the houses which apparently serve as an emergency route for ambulances when the ground is occasionally used by a school!

**Oatlands Park** effectively folded after the 1996 season and although the ground was sold to developers a year later it took a further six years to negotiate what would take its place. Today six properties on the western part of the ground bear testament to the result. The rest is given over to the rather unimaginatively named "Cricket Way Open Space" ("Boundary Park" to the locals) which comprises, amongst other things, a couple of new hard surface tennis courts and a children's play area.

Three years later, **Send** were forced to vacate their attractive ground at Sendholme, and amalgamated with Horsley who, at the time, were a Surrey Downs League club. Cricket at Send had been under threat for some while but Horsley had been given about 150 yards of land by Lord Forte to the east of the existing ground and this fully came into operation, with a new double aspect pavilion in 2000. A new, although rather protracted, driveway to the ground replaced the old entrance via the railway bridge. The club's 3rd XI and 4th XI continue to play on the original pitch in the Surrey Downs League. As for Sendholme, it survived, and is still used for Sunday cricket by another club.

At the end of 2000, **Maori** also lost the use of their ground, and moved in with Oxshott Village who were struggling to run sides. When the ground in Worcester Park was sold, it was split into two lots with the cricket ground being sold separately. Access is now from the road leading up to Surbiton Town Sports Ground. The ground was bought by Rokeby School, who have built a new pavilion adjacent to the new access road at the top of the ground.



In 2003, **Honor Oak** and then in 2004, **Old Alleynian** joined forces with Alleyn's. The old Honor Oak ground is now used by Dulwich College, and was renamed the "Trevor Bailey Sports Ground". Although the scoreboard, located on top of the



“mound”, has disappeared, the ground is remarkably unchanged since the Championship days. Old Alleynian’s ground next door had seen occasional cricket matches on the ground since the merger (although now home to Old Alleynian RFC) but will see Championship cricket in 2018 as a result of the closure of Alleyn’s Burbage Road ground, owing to major drainage works this spring.

With reference to newer grounds, in 2012, **Valley End** moved to their new purpose-made ground at Woodlands Lane. The financial implications of providing permanent facilities have been challenging but look likely to be completed during 2019. Additionally, their original Windlesham ground will be retained for junior cricket in the future.

Finally to **Normandy**, who were elected to our new Third Division in 1992 and inspected as a candidate for that division in 1989. Their ground was situated in a pretty and secluded setting. It was explained that a second ground was planned, and the area in which this was proposed fell away considerably from the main ground and was covered in trees, brambles and undergrowth. Their 2000 Year Book report downplays the vision and challenges involved to bring this project to fruition. Much of the financing of the new ground came from using it as a temporary landfill site. Today it is more than an adequate second ground and has been the making of the club, cumulating in their 1st XI winning our Championship in 2017 for the very first time.

Trying to find more second grounds for 3rd XI and 4th XI cricket is becoming increasingly difficult. However, the grounds that have survived surely offer far better facilities than fifty years ago. New pavilions have been built and others extended. All main grounds have sightscreens and most of these, in conjunction with the ECBs “Get the Game On” initiative, now have “roll on roll off” covers, boundary ropes and electronic scoreboards.

Who knows what the next fifty years will bring?

### Old Pavilions ..... and New!

There are many historic grounds in the Surrey Championship and some pavilions still survive.

Although converted from a stable block on the back of Elm Tree House directly behind the Clubhouse, the oldest building used as a “pavilion” today is on Ripley Green. It is a “listed” building and probably dates from the late seventeenth century.

Also “listed” is the “purpose made” Edwardian cricket pavilion which overlooks Mitcham Green which dates from 1904. Indeed, the club claim that with cricket having been played on the Green since 1685, it is “generally acknowledged to be the oldest continuously used ground in existence in the world”. More details about the ground can be found in *Remarkable Cricket Grounds by Brian Levison*.

Whilst in the past five years, for instance, a new pavilion has been built at Hampton Hill to replace the previous one destroyed by fire and substantial extensions and refurbishment have taken place



at Reigate Priory and Stoke D'Abernon, the newest is the redevelopment of the County Ground at Woodbridge Road Guildford which is due to open in time for the 2018 season.

With increasing financial support becoming available in recent years, it seems that more pavilions will be built or upgraded in the future.





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# Sponsors of the Surrey Championship

*by Chris Evans*

In the 25 years of sponsorship, the Surrey Championship has received an astonishing total injection of **£500,000** to improve the Championship and the game of cricket in Surrey in general.

## **Eve Group plc. 1982 - 2000**

Sponsorship was first introduced in 1982 when The Surrey Championship was greatly indebted to Chris Brown of Wimbledon and Gerry Ames for setting up an arrangement with then Eve Construction. Eve Construction were later to become Eve Group plc.

Eve's sponsorship was to continue for a remarkable 19 years, during which time **Eve** had become synonymous with Surrey Championship cricket. Their help had assisted tens of thousands of cricketers and will never be forgotten. From the very early days of Gerry Ames and his son Roger through all the incumbent Chief Executives to Alan Robertson, **Eve** were always wholeheartedly supportive of the Championship and its ideals.

It was thanks to Eve's generous support that the Championship was able to introduce two new balls (1983) for each match and subsequently the significant impact of the Umpires Panel (1987).

## **Castle Lager 2001 - 2005**

**Castle Lager** announced their sponsorship of the Surrey Championship in 2001; this marked the first time that the South African beer has sponsored cricket in England.

**Castle Lager** had been involved in the promotion of sport since the early 1900s. It had been involved in such sponsorship projects as the South African Football and Rugby teams and was, in 2001, sponsor of the South African Cricket side.

The **Castle Lager** Surrey Championship formed an integral part of summer life in Surrey and these community-based events were dependent upon the support of sponsors such as **Castle Lager**. The **Castle Lager** Surrey Championship not only provided a superb standard for established cricketers, but also gave the opportunity for new generations to flourish, and safeguard the future of the game.

During the **Castle Lager** sponsorship, the 3rd XI Premier Division was formed and the 1st XI and 2nd XI leagues were split into six Divisions of ten clubs each.

## **Shepherd Neame 2006 - 2010**

In 2006, **Shepherd Neame** became sponsors of the Surrey Championship. **Shepherd Neame** began an association after enjoying working with other cricket clubs across the South East at both grass-roots and first-class levels. **Shepherd Neame** is the oldest brewery in Britain and it has been brewing on the same site in Faversham, Kent since 1698.

During the **Shepherd Neame** sponsorship, the split format was introduced which saw all 1st XIs and 2nd XIs playing nine limited overs matches and nine timed matches during the season.

## **Ryman 2011 - 2015**

In 2011, **Ryman** became sponsors of the Surrey Championship.

The Surrey Championship lured straight-talking Theo Paphitis from his Dragon's Den and persuaded him to invest in sponsoring cricket throughout his county. **Ryman** were already investing in grass-roots soccer but this was his first venture into cricket.

The sponsorship package raised the profile of the **Ryman** stationery brand to a highly sought after audience - businesses looking to be served by the UK's leading specialised stationery company.

During the **Ryman** sponsorship, the 3rd XI increased to five divisions and the 4th XI to four divisions. In addition, the split format was introduced to all divisions.

## **Travelbag 2016 to date**

In 2016, **Travelbag** became sponsors of the Surrey Championship.

**Travelbag** is a worldwide travel specialist. **Travelbag** offers the Surrey Championship special deals and competitions for all its members and member clubs. Prizes include holidays in Dubai.

So far during the **Travelbag** sponsorship, the 3rd XI Regional League has been formed and run jointly by the Surrey Championship and the Fullers Brewery Surrey County League.

## What might the League be like in 25 years?

### ***The Future by Antony Down, player and long-standing member at Beddington C.C.***

I am honoured to have been asked to write an article on where I see the future of the Surrey Championship in the next 25 years. I have seen many changes during my playing time but the fundamentals of the game have always remained the same. These are just a few ideas based upon my own experiences of playing in the league.

The Championship has evolved over the years since its formation in 1968. The introduction of divisions of ten has increased the competitive element and ensured that matches retain their importance later into the season. In comparison to other leagues who have a straight overs format, our combination of timed and overs cricket means that the best all-round sides are generally the most successful. This has been reinforced with the use of bonus points for batting and bowling. The introduction of on-line scoring and data collection has greatly improved the efficiency and organisation of the league. The Championship has an international reputation for its high standard of cricket and this is highlighted by the number of overseas players we have attracted.

However, looking ahead there are present issues which could have a negative impact upon the league in the future. According to the ECB, player numbers are falling and this threatens the very existence of some clubs. Various factors contribute to this including time, expense, adequate playing facilities and other distractions. The Championship needs to continue to adapt to keep pace with modern society.

One such method the Championship has adopted is the earlier starting times which was aimed at retaining younger players in the game. However, this has repercussions on others who cannot commit to the early starts, such as those who work or have young families, which in turn has a negative impact upon availability. Maybe a reduction in the number of overs played would be worth a trial. By no means am I suggesting a T20 format for everyone but rather a gradual progression from 4th XI to 1st XI with all overs matches starting at 1.00pm. The format as follows: 4th XI - 35 overs, 3rd XI - 40 overs, 2nd XI - 45 overs, 1st XI - 50 overs.

The other constraint is the amount of time and difficulty spent travelling across the County. Having to leave home before 9.00am for a match and still not arriving in time to avoid being fined is not conducive to enjoyment! I would therefore advocate, where possible, divisions beneath the Premier league for each XI being regionally based. The top teams from each of these divisions would play one another in a 50 over semi-final and then, similar to the Championship in football, there would be a grand final, ideally held at The Oval for 1st XIs with the winning team being promoted to the Premier league. Although I can see difficulties in implementing such an idea, it would certainly increase interest towards the end of the season and reduce frustrating time spent in traffic.

In an attempt to make a fairer competition for the 1st XI Premier League, it would be good for Surrey CCC to encourage representation from their academy and contracted players at each club. This has happened in the past and brought obvious benefits. However, perhaps a draft system where the newly promoted club would have first choice of a player would increase the chance of survival. To avoid certain clubs being able to dominate the league and attract all the best players a points system could be introduced based upon representative level played and experience. Clubs would not be able to exceed a certain limit and this would encourage players to play where they will be given the most opportunity. Such a system has already been trialled in Australia with mixed reviews.

Other changes will inevitably happen, some faster than others. The Championship T20 will continue to be popular but perhaps rather than an evening game this could be moved to a Sunday or Bank Holiday. Four clubs, again based upon area could play one another with the winners progressing to the next stage. The aim would be to encourage a more festival-like atmosphere with fundraising opportunities for the home club. Coloured clothing will also feature in the 50 over format with whites only being worn for timed matches. Finally, with the popularity of women's cricket, I am sure there will soon be a ladies Surrey Championship.

The aim of any league should be to promote the highest standard of cricket possible. Nevertheless, the spirit in which the game is played and the importance of creating lasting friendships should be at the heart of any changes made in the future.

I would like to wish the Surrey Championship a happy fiftieth birthday!





**Surrey Championship Silver Jubilee Dinner 1992**

*Standing l to r: Bryan Richardson, Roger Ames (Eve Plc), Arnold Long, Geoff Arnold, Ron Gibbons (Eve Plc) and Micky Stewart. Front: Chris Brown.*



**Wimbledon Cricket Club 1st XI 2012**

**Standing:** Crispin Lyden-Cowan (secretary), Simon Robins (chairman), Ray de Passos, Jack Snape, Gerry Penford, Andrew Lousber, Darren Hooey, Johnno Gordon, Will Leith, Sean Davies  
**Seated:** Seb Franke-Matthecka, Hiran Marambe, Neil Turk (capt) Graham Grace, Dan Pratt, James Brown (wkt)



## Surrey Championship Capped Surrey Players

The Surrey Championship is proud of the close relationship between its members clubs and Surrey County Cricket Club. The following is a list of players who have risen through the ranks of the clubs within the Surrey Championship and who have been capped by Surrey County Cricket Club since the league began in 1968.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Capped</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Capped</b>
Ansari ZS	2014	Lynch MA	1982
Batty JN	2001	Meaker SC	2012
Bicknell DJ	1990	Medlycott KT	1988
Bicknell MP	1989	Monkhouse G	1984
Brown AD	1994	Newman SA	2005
Bullen CK	1990	Rooke GRJ	1969
Burns RJ	2014	Roy JJ	2014
Butcher AR	1975	Skinner LE	1975
Butcher MA	1996	Smith DM	1980
Clarke R	2005	Smith WA	1968
Clinton GS	1980	Stewart AJ	1985
Curran TK	2016	Thorpe GP	1991
Dernbach JW	2011	Tudor AJ	1999
Feltham MA	1990	Waller CE	1972
Hamilton-Brown RJ	2011	Ward DM	1990
Harinath A	2016	Ward IJ	2000
Hollioake AJ	1995	Wilson GC	2014
Hollioake BC	1999		



The list does not include players who have played for Surrey but who have not been capped, although the League does recognise the enormous effort of all players who have developed and progressed through the member clubs to represent the County.

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# History

## History of the Surrey Championship (in brief)

- 1968 – Formed by 17 Founder Member clubs, 1st & 2nd XI sections only: Addiscombe, Banstead, Beddington, Cheam, Dulwich, East Molesey, Epsom, Guildford, Malden Wanderers, Mitcham, Old Emanuel, Old Whitgiftians, Purley, Spencer, Streatham, Sunbury and Sutton.
- 1972 – Increased to 19 clubs – Ashford and Honor Oak joined.
- 1977 – 3rd XI section introduced.
- 1980 – Increased to 22 clubs in 1st & 2nd XI sections - Esher, Oatlands Park and Wimbledon joined.
- 1982 – **Eve Group plc** commence sponsorship of Championship.
- 1983 – Two new balls per match introduced.
- 1987 – Second Division of 18 clubs, 1st & 2nd XI sections added, with promotion and relegation introduced.  
Panel of umpires installed to stand in 1st XI matches.  
Limitations on contracted and overseas players.
- 1988 – Second Division sections increased to 22 clubs. 3rd XI section increased to 18 clubs.
- 1989 – Second Division of 3rd XI section introduced.
- 1990 – 3rd XI, Second Division increase in clubs. Promotion and relegation introduced.
- 1991 – SGM votes for Third Division, 1st & 2nd XIs, in 1992.
- 1992 – 3rd XI, Division 3 introduced.
- 1993 – 3rd XI, Division 1 reduced to 10 clubs playing on a home and away basis.
- 1994 – Championship became members of League Cricket Conference.
- 1995 – Division 2 and 3, 1st & 2nd XIs, re-formed in 1996.
- 1996 – AGM votes to indemnify Executive Committee members against legal action.
- 1997 – SGM votes to introduce a Premier Division and a First Division for 1st XIs, each of 10 clubs, to commence in 1999.
- 1998 – SGM votes to delete the word 'amateur' from Rule 2.  
Promotion and relegation with the Fuller's Brewery Surrey County League to take effect from end of 1998 season.
- 1999 – SGM votes to introduce a Premier Division and a First Division for 2nd XIs, each of 10 clubs, to commence in 2000.
- 2000 – 19th and final season of sponsorship from Eve Group plc. SC website goes live.
- 2001 – **Castle Lager** become new sponsors of the Championship.
- 2002 – Premier Division of 10 clubs for 3rd XIs commences. New website in place.
- 2005 – Commencement of six 10-club Divisions at all 1st & 2nd XI levels.
- 2006 – **Shepherd Neame** become sponsors of the Championship.  
Scoresheets and statistics directly onto Surrey Championship play-cricket website.
- 2007 – 4th XI League commenced with one Eastern Division of 8 clubs.
- 2008 – ECB Premier 1st XIs only: half the itinerary (9 games) played as 50-over matches.
- 2008 – 4th XI League increased to 18 clubs in two Division called East and West with 9 clubs in each.
- 2009 – Registrations on play-cricket for Premier and 1st Division of 1st XIs.  
Limited overs introduced for half the itinerary (nine games) for all 1st & 2nd XIs and Premier 3rd XIs.
- 2009 – 4th XI increased to 24 clubs in 3 Division, Premier, East and West with 8 clubs in each.
- 2010 – 4th XI increased to 30 clubs consisting of the Premier, East and West Divisions to 10 clubs in each.

- 2011 – **Ryman** commenced sponsorship of the Championship.
- 2011 – 4th XI extended to 34 clubs in 4 Divisions. Premier (10 clubs), Central (8 clubs), East (8 clubs) and West (8 clubs).
- 2012 – Duckworth Lewis introduced into the Premier and First Division 1st XI 50 over matches.
- 2012 – 4th XI increased to 36 clubs in four Divisions. Premier (10 clubs), Central (8 clubs), East (9 clubs) and West (9 clubs).
- 2013 – 4th XI increased to 39 clubs in four Divisions. Premier (10 clubs), Central (9 clubs) East (10 clubs) and West (10 clubs).
- 2013 – 3rd XI split into four Divisions. Premier, Division 1 and Division 2 each with 10 clubs playing half the itinerary (nine games) as 50-over matches. Division 3 with 16 clubs to play all timed matches.
- 2014 – 3rd XI Division 3 split into two Division. This results in all 3rd XIs playing half the itinerary (nine games) as 50-over matches.
- 2014 – 4th XI increased to 40 clubs.
- 2015 – 4th XI structure amended to match 3rd XI; Premier, Division 1, East Division and West Division.
- 2015 – All Championship Divisions playing the split format; nine timed games and nine limited-over matches.
- 2016 – Formation of Fuller's Brewery Surrey County League / Surrey Championship 3rd XI Regional League.
- 2016 **Travelbag** commences sponsorship of the Surrey Championship.
- 2018 The Surrey Championship celebrates its 50th birthday.



**The Surrey Championship Annual Awards Dinner  
When all the effort is rewarded**

## Surrey Championship - Fifty Years Tables

	Joined	First XI Performance in Top Division						Second XI Performance in Top Division					
		Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Aban	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Aban
Addiscombe	1968	520	128	138	193	0	61	541	123	186	174	1	57
Ashford	1972	438	83	143	161	2	49	501	98	193	149	1	60
Ashtead	1987	72	25	33	4	1	9	90	26	37	16	0	11
Bank of England	1987	162	31	69	44	1	17	162	27	70	45	0	20
Banstead	1968	841	230	227	283	4	97	736	186	220	246	0	84
Beddington	1968	559	139	158	194	0	68	538	166	140	165	2	65
Camberley	1987	18	2	12	2	0	2						
Cheam	1968	697	185	195	249	0	68	682	224	153	231	0	74
Chipstead Coulsdon W	1988							84	11	29	35	0	9
Cobham Avorians	1987	111	30	52	14	0	15						
Cranleigh	1987	144	23	52	58	0	11						
Dulwich	1968	637	169	176	228	0	64	733	201	207	235	1	89
East Molesey	1968	430	105	123	149	1	52	469	127	152	138	0	52
Epsom	1968	502	162	123	175	0	42	673	188	226	183	0	76
Esher	1979	543	199	103	188	1	52	546	156	148	190	1	51
Farnham	1987	261	76	83	83	0	19	306	96	83	98	1	28
Guildford	1968	931	298	255	268	3	107	766	198	222	244	1	101
Honor Oak	1972	543	112	157	217	1	56	564	159	158	190	1	56
Leatherhead	1987	36	7	24	3	1	1	18	5	6	6	0	1
Limpsfield	1987	189	34	75	57	0	23	168	28	66	53	0	21
Malden Wanderers	1968	787	226	210	261	0	90	880	245	305	244	5	81
Maori Oxshott	1992	42	8	19	11	0	4						
Met Police	1987	210	40	57	96	1	16	210	49	58	85	0	18
Mitcham	1968	607	181	114	241	0	71	607	188	119	229	1	70
Normandy	1992	198	81	74	25	0	18	252	99	87	44	2	20
Oatlands Park	1979	231	38	76	87	0	30	210	46	64	75	1	24
Old Emanuel	1968	502	108	166	174	0	53	502	94	212	142	0	54
Old Hamptonians	1993							42	5	18	12	0	7
Old Whitgiftians	1968	544	106	193	186	3	56	622	166	217	175	1	63
Purley	1968	439	99	142	151	0	47	460	145	85	178	0	52
Reigate Priory	1987	513	223	134	114	0	42	492	197	102	141	1	51
Send	1987	63	7	26	27	0	3	21	4	8	9	0	0
Shepperton	1992	42	5	20	13	0	4						
Spencer	1968	646	194	180	206	1	65	700	199	210	233	0	58
Streatham H'tonians	1968	376	69	133	123	2	49	376	95	103	132	2	44
Sunbury	1968	877	279	213	282	1	102	913	308	237	264	6	98
Sutton	1968	895	267	259	273	2	94	808	231	240	250	3	84
Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian	1992							36	5	23	7	0	1
Valley End	2008	54	10	36	2	0	6	18	3	10	1	1	3
Walton-on-Thames	1987	168	45	40	58	0	25	279	80	76	93	0	30
Warlingham	1988							63	9	23	20	0	11
Weybridge	1987	471	175	136	111	0	49	492	184	134	123	1	50
Wimbledon	1979	723	340	114	187	3	79	744	366	110	190	1	77

Club name is either current name or the club name when it last played in the top Division.



## Surrey Championship - Officers 1968 - 2018

### Surrey Championship Presidents

1978 - 1985	Raman Subba Row
1986 - 1990	Norman Parks
1991 - 1996	Christopher Brown
1997 - 2005	Graham Brown
2006 - 2013	Andy Packham
2014 to date	Roland Walton

### Surrey Championship Chairmen

1968	Raman Subba Row (Old Whitgiftians)
1969 - 1970	Norman Parks (Beddington)
1971 - 1973	Derek Newton (Old Emanuel)
1974 - 1976	Fred Munro (Epsom)
1977	Harry Edney (Malden Wanderers)
1978 - 1980	Jim Booth (Spencer)
1981 - 1982	Charles Woodhouse (Guildford)
1983 - 1985	Brian Morton (Banstead)
1986 - 1990	Christopher Brown (Wimbledon)
1991 - 1994	Graham Brown (Beddington)
1995 - 1996	David Franklin (Cheam)
1997 - 2003	Tony Shilson (Esher)
2004 - 2008	Paul Bedford (Wimbledon)
2009 - 2011	Denham Earl (Warlingham)
2012 - 2014	Crispin Lyden-Cowan (Wimbledon)
2015 to date	Peter Murphy (Woking & Horsell)

### Surrey Championship Secretaries

1966 - 1972	John Cope
1973	John Bamber
1974 - 1975	Don Beckett
1976 - 1980	Brian Chivers
1981 - 1985	Ken Williamson
1986 - 1989	Tony Shilson
1990 - 2003	John Fox
2004 - 2012	David Edwards
2013	Virginia Edwards
2014 to date	Brian Driscoll

### Surrey Championship Treasurers

1966 - 1973	Fred Munro
1974 - 1976	Harry Edney
1977	Jim Booth
1978	Pat Batty
1979 - 1980	Charles Woodhouse
1981 - 1983	Brian Chivers
1984 - 1986	Graham Brown
1987 - 1989	A Michael Wilmore
1990 - 1991	John Spalton
1992 - 1993	David Straw
1993 - 1997	Robin Jarvis
1998 - 2008	Toby Bain
2009 - 2011	Crispin Lyden-Cowan
2012 - 2014	Peter Murphy
2015 to date	Crispin Lyden-Cowan

**Other Officers, Officials and Sub-Committee Chairmen 1968 - 2018****Fixture Secretaries**

1973 - 1975	Brian Chivers
1976 - 1992	Chris Fuke
1993 to date	Denham Earl

**Registration Secretaries**

1987 - 1990	Graham Brown
1991 - 1994	John West
1995 - 2015	Virginia Edwards
2016 to date	Anthony Gamble

**Umpires Panel Member**

2011 to date	Jeremy Beckwith
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**Statisticians**

1968 - 2001	Chris Fuke
2002 - 2005	Veronica Parr
2006 - 2007	Maurice Henderson
2008 - 2009	John Smith
2010 to date	Martyn Holloway-Neville

**League Tables**

1968 - 1999	Chris Fuke
2000 - 2012	David Edwards
2013 - 2014	Virginia Edwards
2015 to date	Helen Ross

**Webmasters**

2000 - 2001	Tony Shilson
2002 - 2012	David Edwards
2002 - 2014	Virginia Edwards
2015 to date	Helen Ross

**Yearbook Editor**

1973	John Ison
1974 - 1975	Charles Woodhouse
1976 - 1977	Mike Haigh
1978 - 1982	Maurice Alexander
1983	Mike Watson
1984	Ken Bolitho
1985	Chris Fuke
1986	Graham Brown
1987 - 2012	Jack Prosser
2013 to date	Chris Evans

**Disciplinary**

1988 - 1990	Christopher Brown
1991 - 1994	Graham Brown
1995 - 1996	David Franklin
1997 - 2003	Tony Shilson
2004 to date	John Bramhall

**Grounds & Facilities**

2004 - 2011	Peter Murphy
2012 to date	Graham Jackson

**Sponsorship**

2011 to date	Crispin Lyden-Cowan
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**Cricket & Competitions**

2013 - 2015	Olly Roland-Jones
2016 to date	Phil Trayner

**Surrey CCC Liaison**

2012 to date	Crispin Lyden-Cowan
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**Rules & Playing Conditions**

2011 - 2016	Richard Laudy
2017	Crispin Lyden-Cowan
2018	Alexandra Anderson

**Surrey Championship Vice Presidents**

1987 to date	Jim Booth
1987 - 2011	Chris Fuke
1987 to date	Brian Morton
1987 - 2007	Fred Munro
1987 to date	Derek Newton
1987 to date	Norman Parks
1987 to date	Raman Subba Row CBE
1987 to date	Charles Woodhouse CVO
1997 - 2015	Roger Ames
2000 to date	David Franklin
2004 to date	John Fox
2004 to date	Tony Shilson
2006 to date	Graham Brown
2009 to date	Paul Bedford

## Competition Records - 1st XI

Compiled by Martyn Holloway-Neville

2017 records indicated in **bold**, All-Time records also listed as **All Record**

### BATTING

**Most Runs in Competition:** - **18935 C Evans (Ashford)**, 18667 J Fry (Sutton) (970 Purley, 10365 Sutton, 3901 Dulwich, 3431 Mitcham), 11909 B Messom (Addiscombe), 11159 A Bernard (Esher), 11023 N Angus (361 Horsley & Send, 10662 Epsom)

#### Highest innings by a club

<b>Premier</b>	419-5	Avorians (a) vs Guildford	2004
<b>Division 1</b>	420	Sutton (a) vs Avorians	2005
<b>Division 2</b>	355-4	Esher (a) vs Cobham Avorians	2012 (lo)
<b>Division 3</b>	409-5	Valley End vs Horsley & Send	2010 (lo)
<b>Division 4</b>	<b>436-7</b>	<b>Kingstonian (a) vs Old Emanuel</b>	<b>2015 (lo)</b>
<b>Division 5</b>	403-5	Dorking vs Croydon MO	2010 (lo)

#### Lowest Innings by a club

<b>Premier</b>	21	East Molesey vs Mitcham	1970
<b>Division 1</b>	26	Epsom (a) vs Spencer	2010 (lo)
<b>Division 2</b>	20	Leatherhead vs Worcester Park	2011
<b>Division 3</b>	21	Richmond Town (now Kempton) vs Brook	1993
<b>Division 4</b>	23	Byfleet vs Farncombe	2015 (lo)
<b>Division 5</b>	36	Chertsey (a) vs Kingstonian	2010
		Godalming vs Chertsey	2015 (lo)

**All Record**     **4**     **Maori Oxshott (a) vs Woking & Horsell**     **2009 (lo)**     **2nd XI**

#### Most Runs In a Season

		Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave.	Year
<b>Premier</b>	<b>D Ward (Banstead)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Division 1</b>	M Higgs (o) (Avorians)	17	3	1118	187*	79.86	2003
<b>Division 2</b>	S Macdonald (Weybridge)	21	3	964	102*	53.35	1991
<b>Division 3</b>	CP Singh (o) (Old Wimbs)	16	3	1084	128	83.38	2016
<b>Division 4</b>	L Reece (Egham) (o)	16	4	1077	141	89.75	2013
<b>Division 5</b>	N Woods (Chipstead CW)	18	2	1064	137	66.50	2010

**Original**     **M Roberts (Met Police)**     **1116**     **1989**     **OD1**

#### Highest Individual Innings

<b>Premier</b>	220*	D Ward	Banstead (a) vs Cheam	2003
<b>Division 1</b>	208*	M Daykin (o)	Avorians (a) vs Bank of England	2001
<b>Division 2</b>	188	T Burns	Camberley vs Esher	2016
<b>Division 3</b>	186	D Redwood	Valley End vs Horsley & Send	2010 (lo)
<b>Division 4</b>	170	AK Tyrone (o)	Cobham Avorians vs Woking & Horsell	2016 (lo)
<b>Division 5</b>	<b>225*</b>	<b>A Redpath (o)</b>	<b>Blackheath vs Carshalton &amp; Croygas</b>	<b>2005</b>

#### Record Wicket Partnerships

1st	301*	D Dempsey (o) and T Hodgson	Weybridge (a) vs Limpsfield	1998	(OD1)
2nd	284*	H Grice and M Shoveller	Camberley vs Cranleigh	2007	(D2)
3rd	275*	P Harrison and A Ansari	Cheam vs Guildford	2005	(D1)
4th	253	K Prashad and AK Tyrone (o)	Cobham Avorians vs Woking & Horsell	2016 (lo)	(D4)
5th	210	A Ahmed and S Dissanayaka	Guildford City (a) vs Stoke D'Abernon	2013	(D5)
6th	215*	J Webb and P Yorke	Purley (a) vs Malden Wanderers	1968	(SC)
7th	177*	M Watts and F Uddin	Kempton (a) vs Limpsfield	2003	(D3)
8th	163*	E Coplestone and J Weller	Cranleigh vs Epsom	1997	(OD2)
9th	138	R Pearson and P Redwood	Wimbledon (a) vs Cheam	2003	(P)
<b>10th</b>	<b>116*</b>	<b>J Sadler and N Wilson</b>	<b>Sanderstead (a) vs Streatham &amp; Mar.</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>(D3)</b>

**TRAVELBAG<sup>TM</sup>**  
With you all the way

**BOWLING**

**Most Wickets in Competition: - 1325 D Morgan (Cheam)**, 849 C Page (764 Sunbury, 42 Malden Wanderers, 43 Beddington), 807 P Sawyer (Old Emanuel), 708 D Marriott (707 Mitcham, 1 Beddington)

**Most Wickets in a Match**

<b>Premier &amp; OD1</b>	9	S Bahutule (o)	Reigate Priory	2003	
		J Bamber	Malden Wanderers	1987	
		M Cornelius	Ashtead	2011	
		I Curtis	Old Whitgiftians	1983	
		S Dyson	Wimbledon	1980	
		G Evans	Addiscombe	1973	
		T Gripper (o)	Weybridge	2002	
		G Grobler (o)	Sutton	1985	
		T Jewell (cp)	Guildford	2013	
		R Kotkamp	Wimbledon	2002	
		D Marriott	Mitcham	1975	
		D Morgan	Cheam	1983	
		F Munro	Epsom	1971	
		H Naseem	Spencer	1995	
		D Pauline	Malden Wanderers	1988	
		M Roberts	Banstead	1988	
		S Russell	Sutton	1969 & 1975	
		S Trenorden (o)	Ashford	1986	
		P Sampson	Sutton	2007	
		J Webb	East Molesey	1976	
<b>Division 1</b>	9	R Gould	Sunbury	2003	
		T Miles	Purley	2012	
		R Pineo	Bank of England	2003	
<b>Division 2</b>	10	A Murphy	Maori	1998	(13.3 – 5 – 21 – 10 vs Old Whitgiftians)
<b>Division 3</b>	10	A Nazir (o)	Ashtead	2001	(12.4 – 6 – 15 – 10 vs Alleyn Old Boys)
<b>Division 4</b>	10	S Sharma (o)	Epsom	2005	(24.2 – 7 – 71 – 10 vs Ripley)
<b>Division 5</b>	9	A Miller	Dorking	2014	
		S Naqvi (o)	Wallington	2005	
		J Scowan	Old Hamptonians	2005	

**Most Wickets in a Season**

Premier & OD1	M Roberts	Beddington	427.3	125	1163	78	14.91	1991
Division 1	B Oldroyd (o)	Reigate Pry	369.2	143	875	72	12.15	1999
Division 2	P Petrusiewicz	Dorking	371.4	93	1037	75	13.82	1990
Division 3	A Nazir (o)	Ashtead	216.5	45	640	85	7.52	2001
Division 4	S Sharma (o)	Epsom	293.5	94	678	82	8.27	2006
Division 5	S Naqvi (o)	Wallington	341.2	97	850	77	11.03	2005

**WICKET-KEEPING**

**Most Catches in Competition: - 348 M Graves (Epsom)**, 320 G Meadows (1 Guildford, 17 Camberley, 69 Esher, 233 Egham), 285 P Clare-Hunt (263 Esher, 23 Oatlands Park), 277 B Messom (261 Addiscombe, 16 Purley), 218 J Spalton (Wimbledon), 208 M Rowland (175 Cheam, 33 Banstead)

**Most Stumpings in competition: - 128 M Graves (Epsom)**, 104 J Spalton (Wimbledon)

**Most Catches in a Season**

<b>Premier &amp; OD1</b>	32	M Bennett	Reigate Priory	2008
<b>Division 1</b>	29	S Houghton	Walton-on-Thames	2010
<b>Division 2</b>	33	G Hopkins (o)	Pyford	2005
<b>Division 3</b>	28	G Green	Woking & Horsell	2005
<b>Division 4</b>	24	M Graves	Epsom	2006
<b>Division 5</b>	26	A Rannie	Byfleet	2014

**Most Stumpings in a Season**

<b>Premier &amp; OD1</b>	20	P Bates	Reigate Priory	2003
<b>Division 1</b>	15	S Hewitt	Farncombe	2002
<b>Division 2</b>	15	P James	Beddington	1994
		S Macdonald	Avorians	1993
		M Patel	Warlingham	1996
		A V Patel	Warlingham	2003
<b>Division 3</b>	14	A V Patel	Warlingham	2003
<b>Division 4</b>	12	M Wood	Oxted & Limpsfield	2014
<b>Division 5</b>	11	G Thomson	Godalming	2010
		S Ramdin (o)	Stoke D'Abernon	2014



**Most Dismissals in a Season**

<b>Premier &amp; OD1</b>	41	M Bennett	Reigate Priory	2009	29 c, 12 s
<b>Division 1</b>	33	S Hewitt	Farncombe	2002	18 c, 15 s
		S Houghton	Walton-on-Thames	2010	29 c, 4 s
		T Hutcheson	Camberley	2013	20 c, 13 s
<b>Division 2</b>	35	S Macdonald	Avorians	1993	20 c, 15 s
<b>Division 3</b>	35	A V Patel	Warlingham	2003	21 c, 14 s
<b>Division 4</b>	35	M Wood	Oxted & Limpsfield	2014	23 c, 12 s
<b>Division 5</b>	30	G Francis	Chessington	2006	22 c, 8 s

**Most Catches in an Innings**

<b>Premier &amp; OD1</b>	6	N Baker	Spencer	2008
		D Brown	Spencer	1975
		J Brown	Wimbledon	2013
		S Lee Sang	Dulwich	1987
		A London	Sunbury	2015
		S Macdonald	Weybridge	1998
		H Norman	Oatlands Park	1985
		G Pearman	Weybridge	2005
<b>Division 1</b>	6	R Arthur	Cheam	2005
<b>Division 2</b>	6	G Notton	Weybridge	1989
<b>Division 3</b>	6	M Graves	Epsom	2002
<b>Division 4</b>	6	J Lawrence	Alley & Honor Oak	2013
		D Rowntree	S Railway & Kenley	2005
<b>Division 5</b>	7	<b>R Redmond</b>	<b>Chertsey</b>	<b>2015</b>

**Most Stumpings in a Match**

Premier & OD1	4	C Bates	Reigate Priory	1994	
		D Brown	Spencer	1985	
		D Edwards	Guildford	2014	
		M Laidman	Weybridge	2017	
		M Lane	Weybridge	2000	
		M Roberts	Streatham	1987	
		E Strange	Dulwich	2005	
		I Turner	Walton	1991 & 1992	
		J Winslade	Guildford	1989	
Division 1	4	C Collins	Ashtead	2009	
		R Coombe	Sutton	2005	
		B Kingsnorth	Valley End	2012	
Division 2	4	J Cox	Normandy	1994	
		G Mawson	Old Paulines	1987	
		G Notton	Weybridge	1990 & 1991	
		M Patel	Warlingham	1996	
		G Strudwick	Send	1987	
Division 3	4	J Winslade	Avorians	1997	
		T Duffill	Chipstead	1996	
		P Lloyd	Old Mid-Whitgiftians	1996	
		S Mohammed	Guildford City	2016	
Division 4	3	J L Taylor	Churt	2008	
		M Wood	Met Police	2013	
		S Ramdin	Stoke D'Abernon	2013	
Division 5	4				
All Record	5	M Pryor	Woodmansterne	2016	3rd XI

**FIELDING****Most Field Catches in a Season**

<b>All Record</b>	24	<b>R Oliver</b>	<b>Reigate Priory</b>	<b>2016</b>
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**Most Field Catches in an Innings**

<b>All Record</b>	6	<b>D Redwood</b>	<b>Valley End</b>	<b>2010</b>
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**OTHER RECORDS**

Beddington and Old Whitgiftians were the first pair to achieve the unique feat of tying both their Championship games in 2013 (in Division 1) - Round 2: Bed 164-8 vs Wgt 164 (lo) & Round 13: Wgt 212 vs Bed 212

Epsom became the first club in Championship history to record a 'perfect' season, scoring the maximum 207 points available in Division 3 in 2013. This includes all 9 bonus points available from the LO fixtures

## Surrey Championship Previous Winners

SEASON	FIRST XI	SECOND XI	THIRD XI
1968	Sutton	Purley	
1969	Epsom	Beddington	
1970	Mitcham	Streatham	
1971	Mitcham	Beddington	
1972	Guildford	Streatham	
1973	Mitcham	Old Whitgiftians	
1974	Dulwich	Beddington	
1975	Dulwich	Purley	
1976	Dulwich	Mitcham	
1977	Malden Wanderers	Cheam	Sunbury
1978	Mitcham	Epsom	Beddington
1979	Epsom	Epsom	Beddington
1980	East Molesey	Purley	Sunbury
1981	Wimbledon	Cheam	Epsom
1982	Epsom	Epsom	Cheam
1983	Esher	Epsom	Cheam
1984	Wimbledon	Dulwich	Wimbledon
1985	Wimbledon	Honor Oak	Cheam
1986	Banstead	Cheam	Sunbury
<b>Original Division 1</b>			
1987	Guildford	Wimbledon	Sunbury
1988	Sunbury	Wimbledon	Sutton
1989	Malden Wanderers	Wimbledon	Cheam
1990	Cheam	Cheam	Sutton
1991	Sutton	Cheam	Sunbury
1992	Wimbledon	Wimbledon	Wimbledon
1993	Esher	Sutton	Wimbledon
1994	Spencer	Spencer	Wimbledon
1995	Wimbledon	Malden Wanderers	Wimbledon
1996	Esher	Wimbledon	Wimbledon
1997	Wimbledon	Banstead	Wimbledon
1998	Sunbury	Cheam	Banstead
<b>Premier League</b>			
1999	Weybridge		
2000	Wimbledon	Wimbledon	
2001	Guildford	Reigate Priory	
2002	Wimbledon	Wimbledon	Reigate Priory
2003	Weybridge	Sunbury	Wimbledon
2004	Weybridge	Reigate Priory	Spencer
2005	Reigate Priory	Reigate Priory	Reigate Priory
2006	Sutton	Sunbury	Wimbledon
2007	Reigate Priory	Weybridge	Wimbledon
2008	Reigate Priory	Weybridge	Wimbledon
2009	Sutton	Sutton	Wimbledon
2010	Reigate Priory	Normandy	Wimbledon
2011	Wimbledon	Wimbledon	Reigate Priory
2012	Wimbledon	Wimbledon	Wimbledon
2013	Wimbledon	Weybridge	Wimbledon
2014	Reigate Priory	Reigate Priory	Wimbledon
2015	Sunbury	Reigate Priory	Sunbury
2016	Sunbury	Spencer	Spencer
<b>2017</b>	<b>Normandy</b>	<b>Wimbledon</b>	<b>Spencer</b>

SEASON	FIRST XI	SECOND XI	THIRD XI
<b>Original Division 2</b>			
1987	Limpsfield	Met Police	
1988	Farnham	Chipstead & Coulsdon	
1989	Cranleigh	Sunbury	Barclays Bank
1990	Walton-on-Thames	Walton-on-Thames	Bank of England
1991	Limpsfield	Weybridge	Farnham
1992	Farnham	Oatlands Park	Chessington
1993	Spencer	Limpsfield	Esher
1994	Ashford	Guildford	Warlingham
1995	Reigate Priory	Epsom	Ashford
1996	Beddington	Ashford	Mitcham
1997	Avorians	Addiscombe	Beddington
1998	Purley	Old Whitgiftians	Normandy
<b>Division 1</b>			
1999	Wimbledon	Sunbury	Wimbledon
2000	Malden Wanderers	Malden Wanderers	Wimbledon
2001	Cheam	Old Whitgiftians	Sunbury
2002	Normandy	Bank of England	Spencer
2003	Avorians	Walton-on-Thames	Old Wimbledonians
2004	Dulwich	Spencer	Normandy
2005	Guildford	Dulwich	Esher
2006	Sunbury	Walton-on-Thames	Old Mid Whitgiftians
2007	Malden Wanderers	Old Mid Whitgiftians	Sutton
2008	Weybridge	Malden Wanderers	Weybridge
2009	Pyrford	Spencer	Guildford
2010	Normandy	Ashtead	Beddington
2011	Camberley	Sutton	Sutton
2012	Spencer	Ashtead	Guildford
2013	Leatherhead	Sunbury	Cheam
2014	Normandy	Leatherhead	Old Rutlishians
2015	Ashtead	Spencer	Ashtead
2016	Valley End	Valley End	Sutton
<b>2017</b>	<b>Sutton</b>	<b>Malden Wanderers</b>	<b>Weybridge</b>

## T20 SURREY WINNERS

2006	Wimbledon
2007	Old Whitgiftians
2008	Ashford
2009	Reigate Priory
2010	Wimbledon
2011	Valley End
2012	Wimbledon
2013	Wimbledon
2014	Ashtead
2015	Wimbledon
2016	Sunbury
<b>2017</b>	<b>Wimbledon</b>





SEASON	FIRST XI	SECOND XI	THIRD XI
<b>Original Division 3</b>			
1992	Shepperton	Woking & Horsell	Woking & Horsell
1993	Brook	Old Hamptonians	Dulwich
1994	Old Hamptonians	Normandy	Shepperton
1995	Camberley	Old Rutlishians	Egham
1996	Old Mid Whitgiftians	Egham	Maori
1997	Chessington	Dorking	Old Mid Whitgiftians
1998	Dorking	Send	Purley
<b>Division 2</b>			
1999	Old Mid Whitgiftians	Purley	Sutton
2000	Normandy	Normandy	Weybridge
2001	Met Police	Old Mid Whitgiftians	Old Mid Whitgiftians
2002	Old Emanuel	Woking & Horsell	Old Wimbledonians
2003	Dulwich	Cheam	Warlingham
2004	Streatham & Marlborough	Leatherhead	Carshalton & Croydon Gas
2005	Ashted	Old Wimbledonians	Chipstead, Coulsdon & Walcountians
2006	Old Mid Whitgiftians	Egham	Caterham
2007	Brook	Farnham	Valley End
2008	Pyrford	Epsom	Pyford
2009	Cheam	Ashted	Old Rutlishians
2010	Camberley	Cheam	Old Emanuel
2011	Dulwich	East Molesey	Hampton Wick Royal
2012	Leatherhead	Sanderstead	Woking & Horsell
2013	Cranleigh	Spencer	Old Rutlishians
2014	Ashted	Old Rutlishians	Normandy
2015	Walton on Thames	Worcester Park	Worcester Park
2016	Camberley	Dulwich	Old Whitgiftians
<b>2017</b>	<b>Esher</b>	<b>Esher</b>	<b>Battersea Ironsides</b>
<b>Division 3</b>			
1999	Richmond Town	Old Wimbledonians	Woking & Horsell
2000	Dorking	Old Emanuel	Chessington
2001	Ashted	Brook	Sanderstead
2002	Dulwich	Leatherhead	
2003	Pyrford	Maori Oxshott	
2004	Warlingham	Cranleigh	
2005	Brook	Maori Oxshott	
2006	Old Emanuel	Cobham Avorians	
2007	Epsom	Warlingham	
2008	Egham	Ashted	
2009	Worcester Park	Old Rutlishians	
2010	Valley End	Esher	
2011	Horsley & Send	Valley End	
2012	Cranleigh	Woking & Horsell	
2013	Epsom	Old Whitgiftians	
2014	Old Rutlishians	Esher	
2015	Egham	Cranleigh	
2016	Oxted & Limpsfield	Streatham & Marlborough	
<b>2017</b>	<b>Kingstonian</b>	<b>Chertsey</b>	

SEASON	THIRD XI EAST	THIRD XI CENTRAL	THIRD XI WEST
<b>Division 3</b>			
2013	Worcester Park*		
2014	Streatham & Marlborough		Guildford City
2015	SinjunGrammarians		Ashford
2016	Epsom	Ripley	Battersea Ironsides
<b>2017</b>	<b>Cheam</b>	<b>Esher</b>	<b>Farnham</b>

\* The 3rd XI Division 3 was first re-introduced in the 2013 season and split regionally from the 2014 season.

SEASON	FIRST XI	SECOND XI
<b>Division 4</b>		
2005	Worcester Park	SinjunGrammarians
2006	Epsom	Old Emanuel
2007	Leatherhead & Cobham	Ashtead
2008	Ashford	East Molesey
2009	Valley End	Thames Ditton
2010	Addiscombe	Valley End
2011	Staines & Laleham	Woking & Horsell
2012	Chipstead, Coulsdon & Walcountians	Oxted & Limpsfield
2013	Egham	Dorking
2014	Oxted & Limpsfield	Chipstead, Coulsdon & Walcountians
2015	Guildford City	Guildford City
2016	Kingstonian	Chertsey
<b>2017</b>	<b>Churt</b>	<b>Chessington</b>

<b>Division 5</b>		
2005	Wallington	Ed Alleyn & Honor Oak
2006	Leatherhead & Cobham	East Molesey
2007	Old Hamptonians	Old Rutlishians
2008	SinjunGrammarians	Ashford
2009	Addiscombe	Dorking
2010	Chipstead, Coulsdon & Walcountians	Stoke D'Abernon
2011	Old Hamptonians	Maori Oxshott
2012	Oxted & Limpsfield	Dorking
2013	Guildford City	Guildford City
2014	Byfleet	Ripley
2015	Sanderstead	Battersea Ironsides
2016	Churt	Merstham
<b>2017</b>	<b>Haslemere</b>	<b>Cobham Avorians</b>

4th XIs	PREMIER	CENTRAL / DIVISION 1	EAST	WEST
2008			Wimbledon	Ashtead
2009	Wimbledon		Valley End	Malden Wanderers
2010	Wimbledon		Sutton	Woking & Horsell
2011	Dulwich	Cheam	Streatham & Marlborough	Normandy
2012	Dulwich	Epsom	Reigate Priory	Guildford
2013	Wimbledon	Oxted & Limpsfield	SinjunGrammarians	Hampton Wick Royal
2014	Dulwich	Banstead	Streatham & Marlborough	Normandy
2015	Wimbledon	Old Rutlishians*	Ashtead	Walton on Thames
2016	Spencer	Oxted & Limpsfield	Battersea Ironsides	Chertsey
<b>2017</b>	<b>Wimbledon</b>	<b>Old Rutlishians</b>	<b>Sutton</b>	<b>East Molesey</b>

\* The 4th XI structure was amended in 2015 to match the 3rd XI; Premier, Division 1, East Division and West Division.



# Complete Records Management

From archiving solutions to a full lifecycle records management programme that puts you in complete control, Restore's account managers listen to you and get to the heart of your needs. We offer a range of flexible services local to you, wherever you are in the UK, backed by our years of experience and customer support that's second to none.

## GDPR: don't get caught out!

On 25 May 2018 the law on how you handle and protect data is changing. Just like the laws of cricket, this is not simple but it is important. The introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation will have serious consequences if you drop the ball.

We can help you and your teams understand the new rules and take smart steps towards complete compliance – here's how.

By using our proprietary and industry-leading applications that dovetail perfectly, you can track, monitor and properly manage your assets. All your on- and off-site data is instantly accessible and traceable, right through to destruction, thus closing the gap for risk.

Benefit from:

- Swifter operations
- Up to 25% improved staff efficiency
- Up to 20% smaller archive size
- Access control
- Certificated audit trail through to destruction
- A perfect risk impact assessment to show your customers

**Call Restore Records Management on  
03333 310 772 to start a no-obligation  
conversation about managing your business and  
customer information securely and compliantly.**

Part of Restore plc, whose market-leading businesses include: Restore Records Management, Restore Datashred, Restore Digital, Restore Harrow Green and Restore Technology



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