Chapter 31

Season 1976

President- E.G.Nash
Chairman- P.F.Jones
Hon Sec- R.Jennings
Treasurer- G.H.Lewis
Captain 1st X1 - M.J.Powell
Captain 2nd X1-A.K.Mead

Pictured below Abergavenny First X1-1976

Front Row L-R: G.Williams, B.Shackleton, M.Powell(Capt) R.Brown, G.Thomas

The Season began for these highly tuned athletes (Pictured top of next page) in January with indoor nets at The Leisure Centre.
The practice paid off as Abergavenny opened their season with two draws against Thornbury and Briton Ferry. Against Thornbury Abergavenny totalled 177-5 with runs from R.Brown (56) and Sam Coles (57) these two players put together a century stand for the 4th wicket. In reply Thornbury made 107-8 with K.Watkins taking 3-32 and S.Lennox 3-29. Briton Ferry struggled as Abergavenny made 139-8 with M.Powell (36) and S.Lennox (30) Briton Ferry making 93-9 with K.Watkins returning 4-10.

A good win by 8 wickets came against Whiteheads with Denis Harries taking 6 wickets as they were all out for 68. Abergavenny knocking them of for 2 wickets. 69-2 M.Powell top scored with (44*)

Crickhowell forced a draw having bowled Abergavenny out for 136, with L.Wilcock (48) and K.Williams (26) Crickhowell were 122-6 at the close.

A likely win against Stinchcombe was spoiled by the weather Stinchcombe were a miserly 96 all out wicket takers were K.Watkins 5-44 and S.Lennox 5-39. Abergavenny were 34-0 and cruising when the rain came.

A great win came next over Worcester. Abergavenny with a modest 91-9 once again M.Powell top scored with (40) but Worcester were 56 all out with S.Lennox taking 6-26 against his old club and K.Watkins 4-25 the destroyers.

In the Gwent Premier Abergavenny were too strong for Newbridge Welfare. Abergavenny scoring 227-4 with D.Jones (97*) and L.Wilcock (42) getting the bulk of the runs. Newbridge were 60 all out thanks to D.Harries 6-21 and D.Jones 3-14.

The Sphinx amassed 188-3 with a century from M.Stadden (134) and in reply Abergavenny were 123-8 as it ended a drawn game.

Cheltenham away was the next game, David Jones gave a great all round performance taking 6-50 and scoring (88) Cheltenham 216 all out Abergavenny 193-6 M.Powell with (46) was the other batsman to get runs. It ended a drawn game.

Caerleon were easily beaten Caerleon scoring 154-7 D.Jones taking 5-41 Abergavenny passed their score to make 155-4 thanks to M.Powell (75) and D.Griffin (42)

Glamorgan 2nds played Nottingham 2nds in a two day game at Avenue Rd on May 12th and 13th which ended in a draw. This was followed by a win against Mendip Acorns who made 155 all out A.Paton taking 2-28 Abergavenny winning scoring 158-4 the feature of this innings was a brilliant century by Mike Powell (101)
A unique ‘double’ was achieved over Worcester with a win at Worcester. Abergavenny making a reasonable 134-7 M.Powell (29) R.Brown (31) S.Lennox(34) which proved too many for Worcester who were 73 all out thanks to B.Williams 3-27, K.Watkins 3-19 and D.Harries with 3-8.

Pictured below Abergavenny 2nd X1- 1976

![Abergavenny 2nd X1](image)

**Abergavenny 2nd X1**

Back Row L-R: K.Williams, R.Jennings, M.Edwards, A.Hartfield, A.Charrington, C.Coggins

Front Row L-R: G.H.Lewis, P.F.Jones, D.James, T.Mead (Capt) M.Drake, B.Shackleton

Defeat came against Panteg on a difficult wicket Abergavenny 121-6 with contributions from D.Jones (26) and K.Holmes (27) Panteg reaching their target easily 124-3.

Things were quickly remedied against Ross who after bowling Abergavenny out for 126 runs again from D.Jones (34) and K.Holmes (23) Ross in turn were all out for 91 thanks to K.Watkins with 6-38.

A Gwent League match next against Malpas who made 203-9 K.Watkins taking 3-59 beat Abergavenny 199 all out L.Wilcock (72) and M.Powell (69) made a valiant effort to win the game.

Cirencester suffered the backlash being all out for 88 with speed twins B.Williams 6-43 and K.Watkins 4-36. Abergavenny knocked them off for the loss of 3 wickets at 90-3 openers M.Powell (55) and D.Jones (21) with the decisive innings.

Abergavenny were then invited to take part in the Whitbread sponsored six a side competition in Cardiff. They took the competition by storm, beating Stroud, St Fagans, Ebbw Vale and Briton Ferry on the way to the Title, losing only one wicket all afternoon. As well as the tournament they won the batting award (M.Powell) best fielder award (K.Holmes) and best bowler award (D.Jones)


Back to eleven a side and a victory over Chepstow who were all out for 88 K.Watkins taking 6-30. Abergavenny 89-2 runs from D.Jones (48) and R.Brown (24*).
Abergavenny Cricket Club History

A very hard fought draw against Panteg who scored 214-6 Abergavenny clinging on at the close 94-9. Abergavenny Juniors/Colts were playing matches regularly in 1976. The team consisted of among others G.Thomas, M.Bloor, M.Winstanley, D.Dyer, N.Hewitt, M.Evered, I.Shackleton, A.Podder N.Haggard, S.Horton, P.Havard, W.Hickson. This investment in youngsters would stand Abergavenny in good stead over the next decade.

Glamorgan 2nd X1 played a fixture at Avenue Road in 1976, the match against Nottingham 2nd X1 ended in a draw. The Glamorgan 2nd X1 began playing fixtures at Abergavenny in 1948

One of these juniors captained the winning side in the Evening League Competition. Gary Thomas pictured above receiving the Trophy on behalf of Twin Town. Also pictured is David Martin of Coopers who were runners up. Chairman Peter Jones presenting the trophies.

The First X1 got back on the winning trail against Monmouth, Abergavenny 204-8 D.Jones(57) R.Brown(47) Monmouth 169 all out D.Harris 4-29.

A defeat followed to Colwall who successfully chased Abergavenny’s score of 193-8 with 5 of the top 6 batsmen scoring double figures. At the same time Bob Jennings was taking 15 wickets for 137 over the weekend for the 2nds against Monmouth and Colwall.

Another win came against Whiteheads, Abergavenny 202-7 M.Powell(78)D.Jones (45) Whiteheads 122-10 K.Watkins 5-32.

A hard game against Usk ended in narrow defeat. Usk 177 all out K.Watkins 3-44 D.Jones 3-42 Abergavenny 167 all out with runs from D.Jones (74) and D.Griffin (34)

Newport Fugitives were comprehensively beaten. Newport Fugitives 54 all out K.Watkins returning a fantastic 8-21 Abergavenny 57-4 R.Rossiter (20)

A defeat at Hereford- Abergavenny 138-4 M.Powell (55) L.Wilcock(40) Hereford 139-7 with S.Lennox making a welcome return after injury taking 4-32.
Abergavenny 157-6 P.F.Jones (40) M.Powell (73) Cirencester held on at 119-7 K.Watkins 5-38.

In the next game in late July early August Mike Powell passed 1,000 runs for the season, Abergavenny 186-5 M.Powell (81) L.Wilcock (62) Usk 153-9 K.Watkins 5-54.

Abertillery 99 all out D.Jones 5-35, Abergavenny 100-4 D.Jones (31) L.Wilcock (34)

A defeat by Winget followed, Abergavenny 147 all out M.Powell(34) D.Griffin(34) Winget 151-6 K.Watkins 3-67 D.Harries 3-51.

Back on the winning trail against Colwall. Abergavenny 175-6 M.Powell (47)D.Griffin(52)R.Brown(34) Colwall 117 all out K.Watkins with 6-47. This took Keith to 91 wickets for the season.

Neath were next and John Bevan enjoyed another run feast. Neath 236-7 J.Bevan (83) Abergavenny 200-4 D.Griffin (72) R.Brown (40*) M.Powell (51).

Revenge came next against Tewkesbury for defeating Abergavenny a few weeks previously. Tewkesbury 134-9 with 6 wickets for K.Watkins and three for D.Harris. Abergavenny 135-4 M.Powell (54) D.Griffin (48)

A draw against Stichcombe who scored a massive 205-5. In reply Abergavenny scored 171-7 M.Powell (46) D.Jones (38) and D.Griffin (43) Ross were virtually beaten by D.Jones who took 5 wickets along with D.Harries and went on to score (86) of the 133-2 to win. His form continued against Whitchurch who were bowled out for 93 with D.Jones taking 5-42. Abergavenny had previously score 178-6 M.Powell (77) D.Jones (31) L.Wilcock (30).

Crickhowell who were promoted to the Premier for the following season were given an idea of the task they face, Abergavenny 173-8 M.Powell (39) D.Griffin (25) L.Wilcock (68) Crickhowell 86 all out D.Jones 6-42.

The winning continued against Thornbury who bowled Abergavenny out for 123, with a decent contribution from D.Griffin (42) only to be bowled out themselves for 90. With the wickets shared by S.Lennox 5-31 and D.Jones 5-37.

A trip to Sophia Gardens for a 35 over game resulted in Cardiff making 121-8 with Brian Shackleton taking 2 wickets, in reply to Abergavenny’s 188-5 where M.Powell (88) D.Griffin(42) and B.Shackleton (31) scored the runs. The Final game was against Syston Town who made 123 all out wickets for D.Jones 4-56 and K.Watkins 3-12 Abergavenny 124-8 D.Jones (77).
David Jones just missed passing 1,000 runs for the season with 961zx and Keith Watkins took over 100 wickets.
Geoff Williams another product of the youth policy is featured below

World Events
Paul Robeson dies, Military Junta overthrows Eva Peron, Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery dies, James Callaghan takes over as leader of the Labour Party and consequently as Prime Minister, the film All the Presidents men is released, United States celebrates its 200th birthday, Nadia Comaneci steals the show in Montreal Olympics, Renee Richards wins first tennis match as a woman, Mao Tse-Tung dies, the film Rocky is released, Jimmy Carter elected President