

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



Back Row L-R: D.Hunt, D.Griffin, L.Wilcock, S.Lennox, D.Harries, D.Norton,
E.Hughes,R.Rossiter

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.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History



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)

Abergavenny Cricket Club History

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

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 out 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)

The team: M.Powell,K.Holmes,L.Wilcock,D.Jones,B.Williams,K.Watkins.

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 Cricket Club History

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).

Mike's 1564 meant 40 runs an innings

AN ASTONISHING 1,564 runs were scored by Abergavenny first XI cricket Captain Mike Powell during the 1976 season giving him an average of 40 runs an innings. His run total included one century and 13 scores over 50.

Close behind was D. Jones who scored 961 runs to give him an average of 27 an innings. A first class all-rounder Jones also took 959 wickets at an average of 14 runs each.

The most successful bowler on the team however, was S. Lennox who took 39 wickets for 390 runs for an average of 10.

The most wickets, went to K. Watkins who took 107 at an average of 12.8 runs each.

Wicket keepers Des Norton led the fielding with 37 catches and six batsmen stumped, with G. Thomas

taking 22 catches and stumping five.

A good performance during the season also came from Len Wilcock who scored 767 runs for an average of 20, as well as holding 22 catches.

BATTING

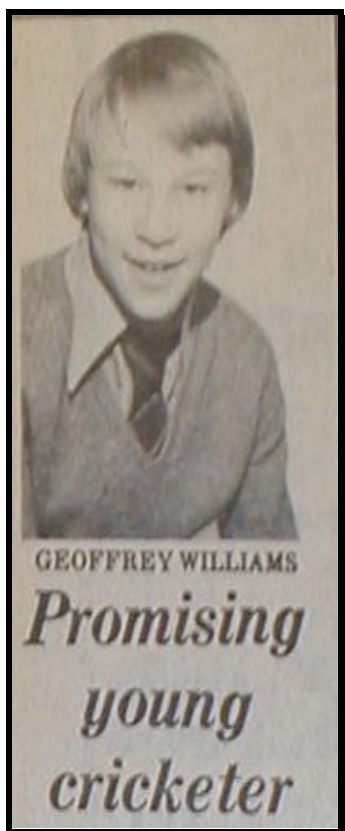
	In/o	R	HIS	AV	Catch
M. Powell...	40	1	1,564	101	40.10
D. Jones	39	4	961	97*	27.46
D. Griffin ...	31	4	622	72	23.04
L. Wilcock ..	42	4	767	72	20.18
D. Brown ...	37	5	519	56	16.22
R. Rossiter..	18	4	241	72	17.21
K. Holmes ..	18	2	242	51	15.13
D. Norton ...	16	6	133	25	13.30
S. Lennox ...	22	5	217	34	12.76
S. Norris	13	2	125	18	11.36
K. Watkins ..	17	6	100	30*	7.69
G. Thomas ..	11	2	62	22	6.90
P. Jones	8	1	157	55	22.43
J. B. Shackleton	6	1	84	31	16.00
D. Harries	8	3	45	13	9.00
B. Williams	5	1	34	9	8.50
A. Barnett	5	2	24	16*	8.00
P. Thomas	7	2	39	13	7.00

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W	AV
S. Lennox	194	48	390	39	10.00
K. Watkins	531	133	1,372	107	12.82
D. Jones	247	34	959	67	14.31
D. Harries	382	92	1,098	71	15.46
B. Williams	131	38	323	20	16.15
A. Barnett	65	8	199	7	28.43

David Jones just missed passing 1,000 runs for the season with 961 runs and Keith Watkins took over 100 wickets.

Geoff Williams another product of the youth policy is featured below



It seems that Abergavenny Cricket Club's policy of giving young players experience of first XI matches, if paying off. One such player was recently chosen to play for Wales under 16s against Ireland.

Geoffrey Peter Williams, aged 15, a pupil at King Henry the VIII school, is that rare combination of a good leg spin bowler and a proficient batsman.

"He has done very well for someone who hasn't spent a lot of time playing cricket," said his coach Len Wilcock.

"At the moment he is concentrating on his bowling, but he has proved himself a useful batsman as well."

Young Geoffrey, the son of Councillor Peter Williams, has had a good season. Besides the Ireland match, he has played for the Abergavenny XI on several occasions and in June won his county cap.

His best figures for the season are five wickets for 23 runs in 11 overs playing for South Wales against Brecon.

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