

## Chapter 33

### Season 1978

President-E.G.Nash,  
Chairman-J.B.Shackleton,  
Hon Sec- P.Thomas  
Treasurer- G.H.Lewis  
Captain 1<sup>st</sup> X1- M.J.Powell,  
Captain 2<sup>nd</sup> X1- A.K.Mead

This season brought the Benefit year for Malcolm Nash

Pictured below The 1<sup>st</sup> X1-1978 who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the TCL and won the Gwent Premier League, The Monmouthshire 20 over Knock Out Cup as well as the Gwent Indoor 6 a-side Cricket League.

#### **Six a side Team**

S.Lennox, D.Jones, K.Holmes, P.Sussex, A.Mills, A.Davies



Standing L-R L.White, A.Davies, K.Holmes, D.Harries, P.Thomas, J.Roberts, G.Thomas, K.Watkins, D.Hunt Seated L-R A.N.Other, M.Powell, D.Jones, D.Griffin



Inset photo's  
Also playing in the side regularly that year Andy Mills and Paul Sussex

## Abergavenny Cricket Club History

### **This was the season that batsmen started wearing helmets.**

The standing 'dish' for Abergavenny's start to the season, Thornbury, were beaten in a low scoring game. Abergavenny 105 all out. Peter Thomas and Brian Shackleton were top scorers. Thornbury were 84 all out with Keith Watkins 4-13 and S.Lennox 3-26. The game which was slipping away from Abergavenny turned however following a superb run out by B.Shackleton from thirty yards.

Another low scoring game followed against Bitton (Bristol) who bowled Abergavenny out for 79, only D.Jones (23) made any sort of score. However they were only to be bowled out themselves for 34 with D.Jones and S.Lennox taking 5 wickets each.

A third pre-season friendly against Mumbles away saw Abergavenny reach 135-4 M.Powell (56) D.Jones (43) 7 and D.Brown (20\*) Mumbles were all out for 84 with D.Jones 5-35. Another standing 'dish' the weather contrived to spoil some cricket for a while and Abergavenny got going again against Caerleon scoring 200-3 with G.Haggerty (57) L.Wilcock (81) D.Griffin (31\*) In reply Caerleon were 77-8 at the close with G.Haggerty 3-27 K.Watkins 3-5. G.Haggerty is not well known as an Abergavenny player and it can be assumed it was someone who was on the 'sick' and could not be named.

A good win against Lydney after being bowled out for 139 D.Jones (49) R.Brown (35) Abergavenny bowled out Lydney for 110 K.Watkins 2-17, S.Lennox 4-28 and D.Jones 4-39. A draw against a strong Worcester side who had scored 128 all out with K.Watkins taking 6-36 and D.Jones 2-38. Abergavenny holding on a 98-7.

Bristol Flaxbourton were beaten, they scored 146-9 Declared, D.Jones 3-44 and M.Drake 4-16 Abergavenny with A.Mills (44\*) and Dick Brown (37) winning by 5 wickets.

A losing draw against Winget who scored 166-8 with D.Jones taking 6-42 Abergavenny making 117-9.

Hereford 162 for 2. P.Sussex and K.Watkins taking 1 wicket each, were victorious chasing 162 to win after Abergavenny finished on 161-1 with D.Jones (98\*) & D.Griffin (43\*)

#### **Ton for Mike Powell**

A good win against Enville who made 194-3 which was not enough as Abergavenny secured victory for the loss of 3 wickets with a magnificent century from M.Powell (103\*) & D.Jones scoring (72)

Abergavenny 149 all out D.Jones (48) and A.Mills (33) Ross 136 all out P.Sussex 2-30.

A draw with Panteg who made 171-5 Denis Harries taking 4-72 in reply to Abergavenny's 189-6 D.Jones (63) M.Powell (51) and K.Holmes (42).

Pontnewynydd were beaten by 8 wickets, Pontnewynydd 154-7, Abergavenny 158-2 M.Powell (78\*) and L.Wilcock (60) A draw with Gloucester City who scored 171-7, in reply Abergavenny were 140-5 P.Sussex (23\*) R.Rossiter (28)

In the Monmouthshire Knock Out 20 over competition Chepstow were beaten ensuring a quarterfinal tie against Malpas.

Back in the TCL Colwall were defeated, Abergavenny scoring 182-7 K.Holmes (47) and D.Griffin (46) Colwall were all out for 173 K.Watkins taking 5-62.

A friendly away to Dursley finished in a draw. Abergavenny 167-7 M.Powell (66) Dursley 132-7 N.Martin 3-55 K.Watkins 4-21.

Usk's score of 206-5 was almost overhauled as Abergavenny finished on 202-7 M.Powell (70) K.Holmes (47) Andy Mills (39). A relatively bloodless victory came next against Newport Fugitives who were bowled out for 156, K.Watkins 5-59 and N.Martin 3-23. David Griffin scored (77\*) as Abergavenny won by 3 wickets.

## Abergavenny Cricket Club History

An exciting quarter final of the Mon KO Cup against Malpas ended with Abergavenny winning with 2 balls to spare chasing 107 D.Griffin with (58) the hero. Caerleon would be the semi-final opposition.

A poor game against Cirencester who only managed 147-6 K.Watkins 3-50 and young David Dyer 2-30. Saw Abergavenny reach 100-7.

A big improvement came against Usk when after scoring 193-5 with D.Jones (66) and D.Griffin (63) getting the bulk of the runs. Usk were all out for 66 with D.Jones taking 4-26 and P.Sussex 3-11.

### **Abergavenny win Monmouthshire KO Cup**

Abergavenny having beaten Caerleon in the semi-final went on to defeat Panteg in the Final at Usk. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the last four years Abergavenny had been in the final and the other 2 years they were in the Semi Finals.

In the semi final against Caerleon David Jones bowled 5 overs 4-10, Keith Watkins 5 overs 2-10 Paul Sussex 5 overs 0-7. In the Final Abergavenny scored 101-7 and Panteg only managed 90-9 in reply

A winning draw against Colwall and a victory over Winget followed. Abergavenny 149-8, Colwall 120-9. Winget 165-8 with Abergavenny getting them for the loss of 6 wickets.

### **Another 'ton' for Mike Powell**

The Gwent Premier League was sewn up with the demolishing of Whiteheads who scored 85-6 in reply to Abergavenny's 216-4 M.Powell (116) with another century and D.Griffin (48). Ross brought Abergavenny down to earth with a win, chasing Abergavenny's 161 all out R.Brown (58) K.Holmes (39) they reached their target for 5 wickets with P.Sussex taking 3-46.

Neath away saw a close draw Abergavenny 164-7 D.Jones (85\*) two runs short of Neath 165-7 P.Sussex 4-38. Abergavenny 123-8 D.Griffin (59) Tewkesbury 99-10 S.Lennox 5-51 and P.Sussex 2-17. Revenge came against Ross who scored 138-9 Abergavenny winning by 2 wickets D.Jones (63) and M.Powell (34).

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Century for Mike Powell**

Abergavenny 151-9 to Lydney's 121-8 resulted in a draw before Stinchcombe were beaten Abergavenny 137-8 R.Rossiter (44) Stinchcombe 129 all out S.Lennox 6-41 and K.Watkins 3-48 doin the damage. Late in the season Crickhowell were easily beaten Abergavenny 197-2 Mike Powell with his third century (100\*) D.Jones (86) Crickhowell all out for 85 D.Jones 6-42 K.Watkins 4-11.



Clubhouse 1978  
Following the fire the  
ruins on the pine end  
facing Avenue Road can  
be seen

## Abergavenny Cricket Club History



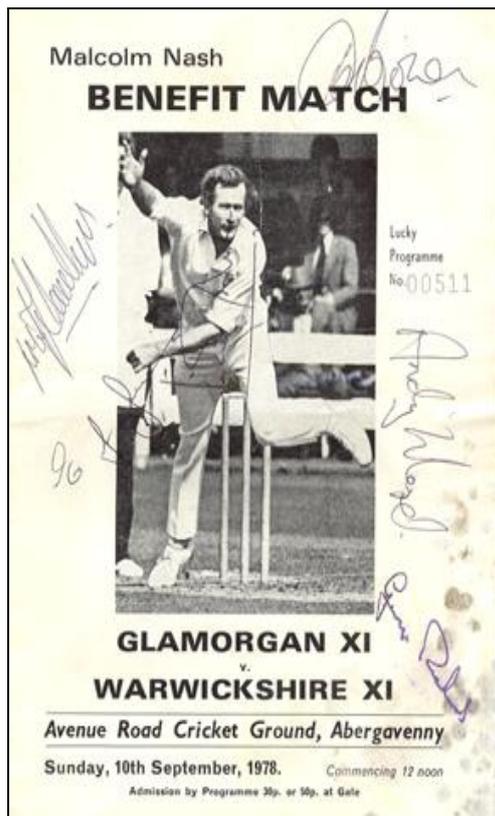
By 1980 the upgrading has been completed with a brand new Lounge/Tea room which was opened in 1979

COMMITTEE	
Chairman : J. B. SHACKLETON	
Vice-Chairman : L. WHITE	
M. James	M. Drake
R. Brown	D. Hazard
A. Breeze	I. Coggins
K. Watkins	B. Rossiter
G. Steer	D. Butler
K. Davies	P. Sussex
R. Thomas	
LADIES' COMMITTEE	
Chairman : MRS. BARBARA SHACKLETON	
Vice-Chairman : MRS. BRENDA LEWIS	
Treasurer : MRS. POLLY MEAD	
Secretary : MRS. RAE ENGLAND	
Mrs. Pat Jennings	Mrs. Betty White
Mrs. Yvonne Watkins	Mrs. Kathy James
Mrs. Carol Drake	
GROUND — AVENUE ROAD	
Tel : 2350	
Groundsman — D. JAMES	

In 1978 as today there was a strong General Committee supported by an equally strong Ladies Committee. Our President was Mr E.G. 'Ted' Nash



The Mayor and Mayoress and other Council Dignitaries at the Malcolm Nash Benefit Match



**THREE COUNTIES LEAGUE  
SEASON 1978 – FINAL POSITIONS**

1st XI	Pld	W	WD	LD	L	BA	BO	Pts	Ave
Worcester	18	8	9	3	—	56	43	253	14.06
Hereford	17	8	5	2	2	43	40	207	12.18
Abergavenny	17	8	4	4	1	34	47	201	11.82
Panteg	17	5	7	1	4	35	37	180	10.59
Stritchcombe	18	5	4	3	6	34	41	163	9.06
Usk	18	5	3	1	9	48	54	188	8.54
Winget	22	6	3	4	9	42	39	145	8.53
Colwall	17	6	—	8	3	31	38	145	8.53
Ross	19	7	1	5	6	21	43	152	8.00
Cirencester	18	3	4	4	7	31	37	140	7.78
Lydney	16	3	2	2	9	31	34	115	7.19
Tewkesbury	19	2	—	6	11	13	33	80	4.21

2nd XI	Pld	W	WD	LD	L	BA	BO	Pts	Ave
Worcester	19	10	6	2	1	45	54	251	13.21
Hereford	20	9	6	2	3	50	55	247	12.35
Usk	18	8	6	1	3	37	50	217	12.06
Stritchcombe	19	8	3	3	4	19	41	180	10.00
Colwall	19	7	3	4	5	21	33	176	9.26
Panteg	14	6	1	3	4	15	34	123	8.79
Abergavenny	18	4	5	—	9	33	35	148	8.22
Winget	21	7	3	2	9	21	45	164	7.81
Lydney	18	5	1	4	8	21	39	126	7.00
Ross	20	6	—	7	7	16	42	132	6.60
Cirencester	18	2	1	3	12	12	36	82	4.56
Tewkesbury	18	—	9	8	10	11	11	77	4.28

The League Table above indicates a good season with the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Left is a signed copy of Malcolm Nash's Benefit Programme



Peter Jones

**Peter Frederick Jones** (Above) an Abergavenny man renowned for his sporting activities, passed away this season aged 46 years. As well as being the proprietor of the Priory Tuck shop, Peter worked as a legal executive at Gabb and Co where he had been employed since he left King Henry V111 Grammar School. He had been Chairman of the Club since 1975, and over the years an opening batsman for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> X1's. He scored one century in 1970 against Chepstow



**Dennis Harries**

Abergavenny Cricket Club pace bowler Denis 'Dinky' Harries (Above) collapsed and died during a match against Monmouth on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1978. He was 35 years old. He had just completed his 14<sup>th</sup> over, having taken five Monmouth wickets for 24 runs. A Doctor living nearby the club's Avenue Road ground gave the player the kiss of life, but Mr Harries was dead on arrival at Nevill Hall Hospital. 'Dinky' joined the Club from Tredegar five years ago. He quickly established himself as a favourite at the Club

In his first four years he took over 300 wickets, last year 1977 was his best ever with a bag of 96 wickets. He was also a keen rugby player and played regularly for Brynmawr RFC. He was also a member of the General Committee of Tredegar RFC and lived with his mother and sister in Poachin Crescent Tredegar. A Quality Controller at BSC Tinsplate works at Ebbw Vale 'Dinky' was very well known in Gwent and Three Counties League cricketing circles. The day before his death he had returned from a weeks cricket tour in Kent with Abergavenny C C. A spokesman for the club said " Dinky's death has been a tremendous shock to all members of the Club. He will be sadly missed, not only by us, but by cricketers throughout the County."

### **World Events**

P W Botha becomes prime minister of South Africa. Vietnam begins a full-scale invasion of Cambodia. US computer programmer John Barnaby develops the word processing program 'Wordstar'; it becomes the most popular word processor in the early 1980s. Louise Brown is born at Oldham Hospital, London, England; she is the first 'test tube' baby. Reinhold Messner of Italy and Peter Habeler of Austria become the first climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, without bottled oxygen. Muhammad Ali beats fellow US boxer Leon Spinks on points in a World Boxing Association world heavyweight title bout in New Orleans, Louisiana, becoming the first boxer to regain a world heavyweight title twice. Viv Anderson of Nottingham Forest becomes the first black footballer to play for England

**MALCOLM NASH,  
ABERGAVENNY CRICKET CLUB'S FIRST COUNTY CRICKETER**

Malcolm Nash was born and bred in Abergavenny and the Abergavenny Club takes great pride in staging this match in aid of his benefit. Mr. Ted Nash, Malcolm's father, is the popular and enthusiastic President of the Club and his brother Colin played for Abergavenny with distinction for many years before leaving the area to play for Hornsey in North London. In contrast to most of the Welshmen on the Glamorgan staff, Malcolm did not develop in the Glamorgan coaching nursery, joining them directly from club cricket with Abergavenny in 1966.

As a youngster, Malcolm and his elder brother Colin were coached by the great Somerset batsman Harold Gimblett and his Somerset colleague Bill Andrews, who were, in turn, club professionals with Ebbw Vale Cricket Club. In school, at Wells Cathedral School, another Somerset player, Alan Whitehead, now a first-class umpire, was responsible for his coaching. However, much of his progress was made under the watchful eyes of Lewis White, club coach and Captain of Abergavenny, aided, of course, by brother Colin.

Malcolm played his first match for Abergavenny at age of 10, but first stamped his mark in 1959 at the age of fifteen, being called upon when the 1st XI were one short on a visit to their great friends and rivals, Panteg C.C., one of the strongest sides in the area. This proved to be a sensational debut, as Malcolm saved Abergavenny from disaster with a superb innings of 61. From that day, Abergavenny knew that they had a player of considerable potential and both Malcolm and his brother Colin were to make vast contributions to the success of Abergavenny Cricket Club in the following six seasons.

However, although undoubtedly a genuine all rounder from the start of his playing days, it was principally as a batsman that Malcolm made his reputation in cricket at club level. His powerful stroke-play brought him many a century for the club and he frequently bowled his side to victory both with seam and spin. His best bowling performance was, without question, against Lydney on Whitsun Bank Holiday Monday in 1965, when he took all ten Lydney wickets for 29. It was this outstanding season in 1965, when he completed the double of 100 wickets and 1,000 runs, which brought Malcolm to the notice of several counties, including, of course, Glamorgan. He was offered a trial and, grasping the opportunity with both hands, he became a contracted Glamorgan player in 1967.

Everyone in Abergavenny Cricket Club has followed Malcolm's professional career with the greatest of interest and pleasure. He has added an extra dimension to the interest of Abergavenny people in Glamorgan cricket and, whenever he produces a notable performance, the news is swiftly relayed throughout the club. He has never forgotten his allegiance to Abergavenny Cricket Club and has always been willing and anxious to have the occasional game whenever possible.

It gives our club the greatest of pleasure to have the opportunity of hosting our very good friends, the Glamorgan and Warwickshire teams. It is most fitting that the highly entertaining and friendly cricketers from Edgbaston will be gracing us with their cheerful presence, once again, especially as Alvin Kallicharran has captained the West Indies Test Team, since he last visited us. May we join Malcolm in thanking them for contributing to the success of this unique occasion in the history of Abergavenny Cricket Club. The club is also most grateful to the advertisers, who have contributed to the printing of this programme.

We all feel very sad that our former Chairmen, Peter Jones, Bill Macpherson and Dennis Harries, all of whom tragically passed away within the past twelve months, will not be with us this year. Their vast contribution to previous benefit matches will be sadly missed.

The members of Abergavenny Cricket Club wish Malcolm every success in this, his benefit year, and may he continue his great success on the cricket field in the years ahead. May the weather be kind to everybody on the day and let the people of Abergavenny express their gratitude for the pleasure that he has given by turning out in force to support him.

Glamorgan Under 25 versus Worcester Under 25 was played at Avenue Road on June 20<sup>th</sup> 1978 and ended in a draw.

**Abergavenny are on top**

Abergavenny Cricket Club have finished top of the Gwent Premier League. Winners of the second team league were Usk, with Abergavenny in third place behind Panteg.

**TABLES**

**First XI**

	P	W	Pts	Ave
Abergavenny	7	4	113	16.14
Panteg	12	9	175	14.58
Usk	19	8	126	13.60
Chepstow	13	10	179	13.86
Aberthaw	12	6	129	10.75
Monmouth	15	4	148	9.87
Newbridge	14	7	154	9.57
Pugetres	14	6	124	8.86
Pwllnewydd	15	5	139	9.27
Cerlent	14	7	117	8.36
Whiteheads	14	7	92	6.64

**Second XI**

	P	W	Pts	Ave
Usk	9	9	145	16.11
Panteg	10	9	158	15.80
Abergavenny	9	7	119	13.22
Aberthaw	11	8	142	12.96
Chepstow	15	7	142	12.80
Pwllnewydd	15	6	127	9.13
Monmouth	13	4	100	7.69
Pugetres	13	3	107	7.13
Newbridge	15	4	105	7.00
Whiteheads	12	4	83	6.92



**Pictured Left is David Dyer** Capped three times by Welsh Schools, he has also been selected a number of times to play for Glamorgan Colts. Far Left the Gwent Premier League Table 1978



**Pictured Left Mike Powell and David Jones.** Abergavenny's Opening batsmen who have been the main run scorers for Abergavenny this season

The Club decided to go ahead with the project of building The Bill Macpherson Score box this season despite the serious fire that recently damaged the kitchen and tearoom. Bill Mack a former player, treasurer and groundsman died In October 1977. He was brought up and educated in the Town and started playing for Abergavenny in the fifties, and soon established himself as a fine club opening bowler, he retired from playing in 1971. The club is anxious to provide some permanent tribute to Bill and the score box should be a fitting memorial

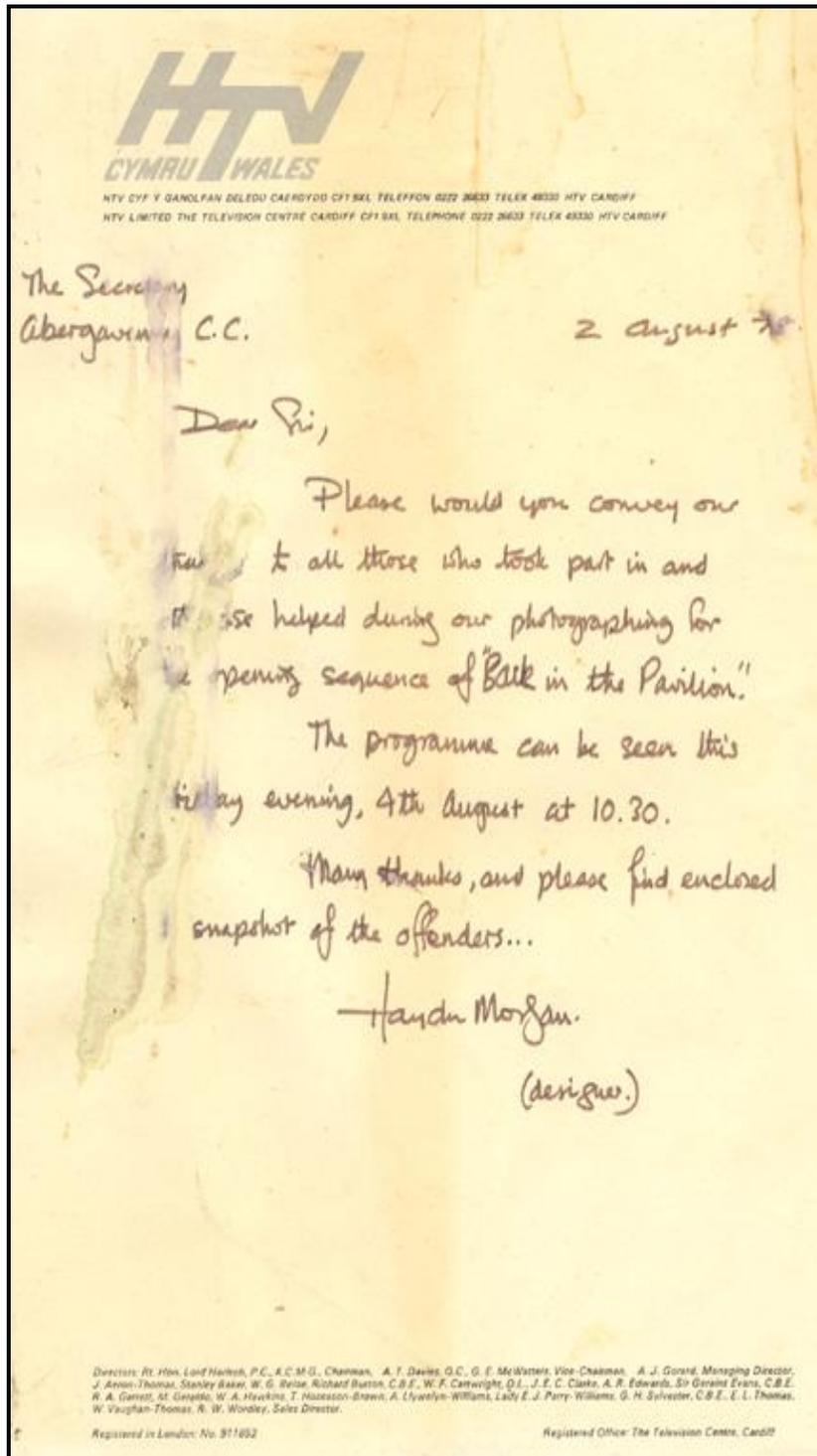
## The Official Opening of the Bill McPherson Scorebox



Players from the various teams that have played against Abergavenny played a fixture to 'christen' the new Scorebox built as a memorial to 'Bill McPherson'



Col Harry Llewellyn hands over the Sports Council Grant to President Ted Nash, to build the new extension



Abergavenny Cricket Club featured in a HTV programme, letter of thanks from Designer, Haydn Morgan