

Chapter 36

Season 1981

President-E.G.Nash,
Chairman-Ken Williams
Hon Sec-P.Thomas
Treasurer- R.Thomas
Captain 1st X1-Richard Brown
Captain 2nd X1-Mike Bradley

Pictured below Abergavenny First X1 - 1981, Runnersup - John Macey
Knockout



Back Row L-R

C.Cox,B.Mohammed,K.Holmes,A.Morris,R.Rossiter,G.Loder,K.Watkins,M.Bloor,C.Coggins

Front Row L-R M.Powell,R.Brown,A.Charrington,GH Lewis.

Abergavenny fought their way to the Monmouthshire Knock Out (20 Over) Cup Final, having beaten Chepstow in an exciting semi-final, the victory secured by tight bowling from Stuart Lennox, Kyle Holmes, Keith Watkins and Paul Sussex who restricted Chepstow to 94-5. In reply with 4 overs left Abergavenny needed 26 to win this was achieved with the fourth ball of the 20th over with Mike Bloor (20*) and Paul Sussex (19*) still there at the death.

The Final was played at the Newport Athletic Ground adjacent to the Newport Rugby Stadium. The cricket pitch is pictured at the top of the next page.

Abergavenny lost in the Macey Shield Final played on July 24th 1981 at Newport Athletic Club Rodney Parade. Malpas batting first totalled a moderate 97-7 in their 20 overs. Abergavenny seemed doomed early on as quick wickets fell but Mike Powell and skipper Dick Brown steadied the ship and victory looked assured with 82 on the board in the 18th over, leaving 16 runs to win off the last two overs. Powell was spectacularly run out by Malcolm Gumbs and Mike Heames restricted Abergavenny to 3 runs off the penultimate over. That left 13 required from the last which proved too much, Skipper Dick Brown finishing on a valiant 29 not out.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History

Malpas

P.Edwards N.Kinman M.Gumbs G.Scott R.Jenkins R.Gregg D.Carlyle L.Robinson M.Heames
(capt) B.Nagle M.Davies 12th man R.Hughes

Abergavenny

M.Powell R.Brown(Capt) D.Griffin K.Holmes P.Scott S.Hughes M.Bloor
P.Sussex S.Lennox P.Bowker P.Watkins 12th man G.Loder
Man of the Match- M.Heames adjudicated by Malcolm Nash

Pictured below Newport C.C. Ground



In April the Club held their Annual Dinner at the Club House

This was the 1981 Season Annual Dinner but held in 1982 at the clubhouse,
John Chadd the Guest of Honour presented the awards. Clubman of the year, The William
Hancock Cup went to Paul Sussex.

The Firemen's Cup for the best young player of the year went to Mark Rossiter, this award
was presented by the Mayor Councillor Peter Coleman.

Pictured below Mark Rossiter and Councillor Peter Coleman with Chairman
Ken Williams



Abergavenny Cricket Club History

The Malcolm Nash Cup for the most improved player went to Gary Thomas. The Ladies Committee treasurer Polly Mead presented a cheque for £500 to the Cricket club. It was announced that former Glamorgan player Kim Norkett would join the club for the 1982 season

Pictured below is the top table that evening, P.Thomas, M.Nash, K.Williams, M.Nash, R.Williams, E.G.Nash & E.Thomas.



Early on the April 11th game against Mumbles was rained off, but the Club opened with a new competitive spirit, wickets for Net practice had been cut on the Avenue Road side of the ground. The early start against Cardiff HSOB produced a tie, as Abergavenny played themselves into the record books, with the earliest start to a season recorded in Wales and England.

Against Cardiff HSOB a tie was recorded Cardiff HSOB made 95-8 Bappi Podder took 4-27. In reply Abergavenny were all out with 3 balls to go for the same score. Newcomer Bashir Mohammed (20) and Paul Sussex (21) almost pulled off the victory.

The Caerleon and Mendip Acorns matches were both rained off but the Winget game at home was lost by 5 wickets.

Tewkesbury were defeated, Tewkesbury 127 all out P.Sussex 4-32 P.Watkins 3-42
Abergavenny 131-3 M.Bradley (34) Bashir Mohammed (28)

A defeat by local village team came next, Llanarth 147-7 K.Holmes 4-55 Abergavenny 127 all out with Roscoe Powell a stalwart of Llanarth cricket taking 7-44

Rain then spoiled a few more games, when the weather did improve Ross were 'thumped' at both 1st and 2nd Team level. Ross 1st X1 were 74 all out with S.Lennox 6-26 and A.Charrington 3-31 Abergavenny 75-3 won by 7 wickets Ross 2nd X1 were 135-8 with P.Sussex taking 3-35 chasing an Abergavenny total of 215-7 with A.Davies (70) Mark Rossiter (49) and P.Sussex (42)

Abergavenny then succumbed once again to Hereford despite a stylish (90) from Kyle Holmes, Abergavenny only managed 184-5 Dick Brown chipped in with (29) Hereford knocked the runs with very little fuss.

In the home game against Cirencester Mike Powell carried his bat for (134*) That was the highest not out score in the league, the best opening batsman score for Abergavenny since the war and the Abergavenny total of 232-1 was their highest ever League score. David Griffin supported Powell with (58*). In reply Cirencester only managed 139-8 with K.Watkins 4-42, S.Lennox 1-23 K.Holmes 1-17 and P.Sussex 2-10 all chipping in.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History

In contrast the following week Abergavenny were all out for 120 and Winget scraped home for the loss of 7 wickets. Abergavenny 120-9 Winget 121 -7 K.Watkins 4-30,K.Holmes 2-29, A Charrington 1-36.

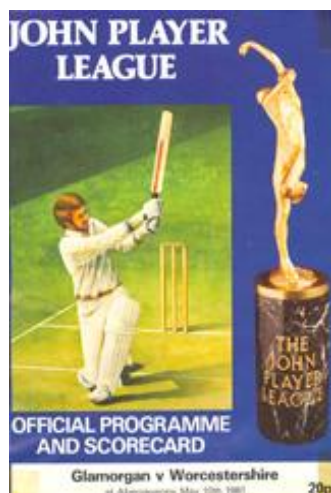
Chepstow were then well beaten at Avenue Rd Chepstow 86 all out A.Morris 3-34,K.Holmes 2-28, D.Dyer 2-8,P.Sussex 2-8 Abergavenny 88-0 won by ten wickets.

A good all round performance by Viji helped Abergavenny gain their next victory Abergavenny 178 all out R.Viji (81) Stinchcombe 171-9 R.Viji 5-55 S.Hughes 3-32. A draw with Monmouth followed. Monmouth 150-8 A.Goldsworthy 4-45 Abergavenny 119-8 R.Viji (23) Then a sound defeat by Ross. Ross 179-9 K.Holmes 4-35 K.Watkins 3-48 Abergavenny 84 all out

May 10 1981

Abergavenny hosted Glamorgan v Worcestershire in the John Player Sunday League

Glamorgan skippered by Malcolm Nash saw the game relayed live on BBC Wales Television, unfortunately Worcester won. The fact the match was played at all was down to the hard work of ground staff mopping up the water using blankets.



Glamorgan

A.Jones
J.A.Hopkins
D.A.Francis
Javed Miandad
N.G.Featherstone
R.C.Ontong
G.C.Holmes
E.W.Jones +
M.A.Nash *
E.A.Moseley
A.A.Jones
R.N.S.Hobbs

Worcester

G.M.Turner *
P.A.Neale
Younis Ahmed
E.J.O.Hemsley
S.P.Henderson
J.A.Ormod
D.J.Humphries
J.Birkenshaw
N.Gifford
J.D.Inchmore
A.P.Pridgeon
D.N.Patel

Worcester scored 170-7 with (M.Nash taking 2-31) Glamorgan 152 with only (R.Ontong 30) making a significant contribution. The umpires were W.E.Alley and D.J.Halfyard

In what was Glamorgan C.C.C. Diamond Jubilee Year 1921-1981

The Club also hosted a Second X1 game against Worcester C.C.C. 2nds. This was played on June 24, 25, 26th Glamorgan 136 all out (R.Ontong 38, A.L.Jones 29) and 186 all out (A.Francis 79, Terry Davies 29) lost by 9 wickets to Worcester 289 all out (A.A.Jones 4-51) and 34-1. The wicket was described as a slow turner.

Pictured below is David James the man responsible for the wickets at Avenue Road. These wickets have always been excellent for batting in recent times.



Attractive ground

THE Avenue Road cricket ground is one of the most attractive in South Wales. The ground is owned by the Cricket Ground Company of which Abergavenny Cricket Club is the major shareholder. Other shareholders live around the ground and the Bowling Club is also a shareholder.

Although it has a comparatively short boundary on the Pen-y-pound end, it has one of the best squares in South Wales.

It is a good batting strip and also has a reputation for taking some

spin. So it is a good cricket wicket, also helping the bowlers.

Groundsman David James has been at the club four years and has been hard at work preparing the wicket for the big match.

As he prepared the pitch for Sunday, Mr James said, "It has been bad weather for preparing wickets and at the moment it is a bit spongy. We want several days of fine weather now. But I have no fears about the strip."

● Groundsman David James is pictured above using the heavy 30-cwt roller as he prepares the pitch.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History



Glen Turner



Alan Jones

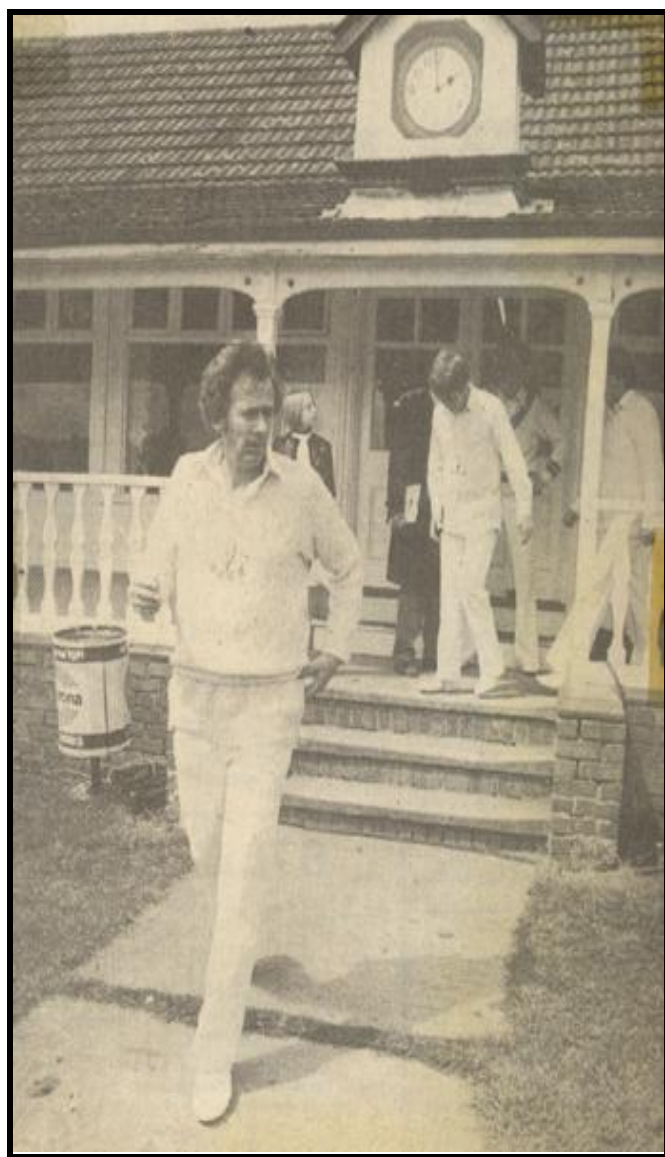


Preparation almost Complete, TV gantry in place



Eifion Jones in action behind the stumps

Malcolm leads out the Glamorgan side



World Events

Abergavenny Cricket Club History

Susan Brown becomes the first woman cox in the Oxford and Cambridge university boat race in England, steering the Oxford crew to victory. In nine days the English runners Steve Ovett and Sebastian Coe establish three new world records for the mile; Joe Louis, US world heavyweight champion boxer 1937-49, dies in Las Vegas, Nevada (66) Charles, Prince of Wales, marries Lady Diana Spencer in St Paul's Cathedral in London, England. Television coverage attracts 39 million people, the largest British audience to date. Australian publisher Rupert Murdoch buys The Times group of newspapers in Britain. François Mitterrand becomes the first Socialist president of France

Pictured below is the Glamorgan C.C.C. First X1 of 1981 Significant I that the Captain is Abergavenny's own Malcolm Nash who nurtured his talent at Avenue Road in the early sixties.



Abergavenny's Malcolm Nash poses proudly as Captain of Glamorgan C.C.C.