

## Chapter 59

### Season 2004

President - J. Brian Shackleton,  
Chairman - Paul Sussex  
Hon Sec - Mrs T. Pike, Treasurer - I. Bailey  
Captain 1<sup>st</sup> X1 - Keith Newell  
Captain 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 - Mark Winstanley  
Captain 3<sup>rd</sup> X1 - Greg Shearman  
Captain 4<sup>th</sup> X1 - Kevin Schofield

Former player Ali Fury returned to the club and dashed back into form with a sparkling 115 runs. New signings this year Alan Dewfield who scored 53 for the 2nds and Suresh who took 4 wickets for the 3rds quickly made their mark and Mike Beacham bowled well without luck.

Following a frustrating time of pre season matches being affected by the weather, Abergavenny began their competitive season back in the top flight on Saturday. The computer gifted them with a home game to start the campaign against local rivals Usk.

Batting first Abergavenny lost young James Hrastelj (25) with the score on 26, they then put together a 60 odd run partnership for the second wicket, Keith Newell carrying on from last season with yet another half century (56) From 88 for 1 Abergavenny stuttered to 91 for 4. Alistair Fury back playing for the Club after 2 seasons away in the west country unfortunately had a duck. Craig Barnsley (29) and Mark Mackinlay (28) then steadied the ship and moved the score on to 155. Mark Coles chipped in with (19) and Abergavenny finished their 50 overs on 189-7, which would prove competitive on the surface.

The Usk innings mirrored the Abergavenny one, losing a wicket on 27, followed by a partnership, then a slump from 74 for 1 to 120 for 9. The two main bowlers were Jon Newell last seasons leading wicket taker and player of the year taking 4 for 31 and veteran Kyle Holmes 2 for 19 from his 10 overs. Usk were eventually all out in the final over of their 50 for 139. Giving Abergavenny an important victory to start their season in the top flight.

With virtually the whole of the rest of the programme wiped out by rain Abergavenny travelled to champions of 2003 Sully and played a reduced overs game of 36 overs.

Sully won the toss and batted and brothers Ryan and Jamie Sylvester put on 128 in 21 overs for the first wicket, this enabled them to reach 214-6 in their 36 overs. Jonathon Newell again bowled well taking 3 for 32.

In reply none of the Abergavenny batsmen looked comfortable, Gavin Heritage (18) Mark Coles (17) and Jon Newell (16) made a late impression to ensure the total went past 100 but they finished all out for 109. This was really disappointing after opening the season with a win.

On a slow wicket at Llanrumney, which is not a ground fitting enough for the Capital City Cricket Team, Abergavenny bowlers restricted Cardiff to 177 for 8. Dan Cherry who has first Class experience top scored with 76. Gavin Heritage with 3 for 27 and Jonathon Newell with 3 for 37 were the pick of the bowlers. Unfortunately Abergavenny again batted poorly apart from Mark Mackinlay who was the leading batsman with 40 runs. The other batsman found runs difficult to come by and at least they managed to not get bowled out finishing on 137 for 9. This was a slight improvement on last weeks performance but more is needed from the batsmen in the coming weeks.

## Abergavenny Cricket Club History

Next game was home to Chepstow. Chepstow 182-9 Gavin Heritage 3-33 James Didcot 3-51 Jon Newell 2-18. Abergavenny 183-2 winning by 8 wickets Andrew Jones 115 not out Keith Newell 37 not out.

Panteg away totalled 210-8 Gavin Heritage 3-55 Andrew Coles 2-46 Abergavenny winning very comfortably by 9 wickets scoring 211-1 in only 41 overs with runs from Keith Newell 96 not out Lee James 33 James Hrastelj 57 not out

An equally great win followed next over Newport who batting first made 229-6 Andrew Coles 2-43 and a wicket each for Hlmes, Heritage and Didcot. Abergavenny in reply 230-3 with runs for Andrew Jones (28) Lee James (24) James Hrastelj (67) Keith Newell (88\*) and Mark Mackinley (12\*)

Pontypridd away saw Abergavenny batting first and reaching 284-4 Andrew Jones (111) Alistair Fury (74) with Pontypridd making 231-7 with wickets from Craig Barnsley 2-50, James Didcot 2-34 and one each for Hrastelj and Holmes.

June 12<sup>th</sup> saw a defeat to Penyrch at Avenue Road. Abergavenny 181-9 A.Fury (33) C.Barnsley (39) Jon Newell (25) Pentyrch reahin their target for the loss of 4 wickets. One wicket each for Andrew Coles and James Didcot.

For the second time this season Abergavenny lost out at the seaside! Having been put into bat by Penarth they got off to a sound start with Alistair Fury and Skipper Keith Newell putting on 54 before the latter was bowled. James Hrastelj looked comfortable until given out LBW for 17. but Fury continued his run of fine form until he was another LBW victim having scored 63. Mark Mackinlay had made 35 including 5 boundaries when he guided a long hop from part time bowler Dave Rickets into square legs hands and Jonathon Newell immediately copied him.

Endeavouring to increase the run rate ,and trying to learn from the previous weeks slow scoring at the death ,they instead suffered a collective rush of blood to the head and aided by two calamitous run outs collapsed from 160-3 to 187 all out.

The bowlers did their best to rectify the damage with James Didcote bowled 9 overs for 14 runs and took 2 wickets and Penarth were wobbling at 132-5 with one batsman retired hurt but a 6th wicket partnership of 40 steadied the ship and the winning runs came in the 50th over with 4 wickets and 4 overs to spare.

Kyle Holmes was the deserved winner of June's Free Press Player of the Month award .Coming on first change his niggardly bowling has frustrated batsmen and has been a major factor in gaining wickets for the side. His economy rate of 2.78 and number of maiden overs bowled are by far the best in the side.



Pictured above Kyle Holmes and Andrew Morris

## Abergavenny Cricket Club History

On Wednesday, July 21st the Welsh Ladies Cicket Team played at Avenue Road against Middlesex Ladies. This was the first time a ladies match of this importance had been played at Abergavenny and is a far cry from the 1920's when the Suffragettes attempted to set fire to the stables at the bottom end of the ground where the groundsman's horse was kept!

Sudbrook away were soundly beaten. Abergavenny 230-6 A.Fury (69) K.Newell (66\*) G.Heritage (29) Sudbrook 147 all out Craig Barnsley 3-16 James Didcot 2-22 Jon Newell 2-33.

At Usk, Abergavenny made 220-6 with runs from A.Fury (48) L.James (27)K.Newell (73\*) and James Schofield (25\*) However Usk prevailed by 6 wickets with a century from Mark Tamplin. C.Bansley 3-49, J.Didcot 1-41.

Top of the table Sully, who had only lost one league game, came to Abergavenny reinforced by Glamorgan's Andrew Davies but left soundly mauled by Abergavenny. Winning the toss, captain Keith Newell put Sully into bat and opened the bowling together with Neil Skelton who making his first team debut in place of the injured Gavin Heritage. The Sylvester brothers got off to their normal quick start but the early introduction of Kyle Holmes applied the brakes and forced Ryan to play a scooped shot to mid wicket where James Didcote held a Juggled Catch. Sylvester joined by Mike O'Shea, the winner of June League player of the month award and they added 88 in 25 overs before Sylvester was stumped by Mark Wallace off the bowling of James Schofield who then bowled Andrew Davies around his legs, hit the top of Lloyd Smith's off stump and had O'Shea caught at deep midwicket by Andrew Jones. Didcote and Skelton weighed in with a brace of wickets each.

Andrew Jones got off to an explosive start but Ali Fury was undone by the pace of Davies and was out for 8. Mark Wallace (pictured below) was subdued and took 29 minutes to score 4 before he was caught by Jamie Sylvester.



James Hrastelj repaid the captain's faith in batting him at four by batting fluently and with Andrew Jones put on 107 for the third wicket before being caught in the covers for 47. Newell joined Jones and their opponents' score was passed without further loss of wickets. Andrew Jones scored 112 not out.

For the second time this season all Four Saturday sides won; 1st and 2nds beat Chepstow and the 3rds and 4ths were triumphant over Crumlin. Andrew Jones & Ross Lupton were both century makers.

Abergavenny were proclaimed July Team of the Month and Andrew Jones was the Premier Division Player of the Month. Andrew completed the month with 3 consecutive centuries, 112 not out, 134 and 104 and has now scored 628 runs in league games this season.

## Abergavenny Cricket Club History



A cracking match against Cardiff on July 24<sup>th</sup> saw Cardiff score 273-4, Keith Newell taking all 4 wickets. Tons for Kirtley and Weston. Dan Cherry missing out. Abergavenny winning by 5 wickets with superb tons from Andrew Jones (134) and Alistair Fury (100) seeing Abergavenny home in the last over.

Chepstow away were beaten despite a ton from Adrian Dale. Abergavenny 259-6 Andrew Jones (104) James Schofield (50) Craig Barnsley (38) and Alistair Fury (30) Chepstow were all out for 218 Gavin Heritage 3-44 Kyle Holmes 3-28

For the second home game in succession Abergavenny achieved victory in the 100th and final over winning by one wicket with two balls to spare.

Panteg won the toss and chose to bat on a beautiful hot cloudless afternoon and with Captain Worrad and Bird averaging a run a ball the score soon reached 49 when a diving catch in the gully by James Didcote off the bowling of Gavin Heritage dismissed Worrad.

England Under 19 Test player Adam Harrison joined Bird and together they made full use of the fast outfield and had put on 116 when Bird was caught by wicketkeeper Ioan Lilly off the bowling of Craig Barnsley for 73. Barnsley took two more wickets as Panteg put their foot on the accelerator and the return of Keith Newell signalled the end of Harrison who was brilliantly caught at deep extra cover by a diving Andrew Jones inches from the turf, 10 runs short of a deserved century. The innings closed at 265-8

Andrew Jones started the pursuit with 5 fours in his first six scoring shots but his former pupil Ali Fury was soon bowled for 6. James Hrastelj though not quite on top of his game scored a valuable 45 in a stand of 103 with Jones but with Newell and Schofield quickly returning to the pavillion the run rate had to be increased whilst a minor consolidation had to be achieved. Barnsley hitting Bird out of the ground twice and hitting the boundary boards three times in one over relieved the pressure. Jones continued to look secure but James, Heritage, and Lilly all departed after brief stands as the screw was turned. Experienced Kyle Holmes came in next and the score moved agonisingly to 263 when the last over started. A short dab and scurry for 1 gave Jones the strike but he managed to edge a full toss onto his wicket and was out for 124. James Didcote hit the next ball gently to a fielder but the next he hit high over midoff for four and victory.

After both captains had inspected the wicket at Spytty Park, Abergavenny captain Keith Newell knew by the delight on the Newport captain's face that he had lost the toss and that his side would be put into bat on the damp drying wicket. Within 6 overs his worst doubts were confirmed with 4 wickets lost including master batsman Andrew Jones for only 12 runs. The main destroyer was Huw Waters with 3 scalps and Perera with 1 and all victims were caught behind the wicket. Runs were slow in coming but James Schofield and Craig Barnsley managed to protect their wickets for 18 overs until Barnsley was out caught at point, endeavouring to increase the rate, for 34. Schofield was 7th out for a painstaking 26, an innings which lasted 93 balls and Abergavenny subsided to 120 all out.

To stand any chance Abergavenny needed to take quick wickets but Glamorgan batsman Ian Thomas had other ideas and repeatedly sent the ball either against or over the boundary boards and when the 1st wicket fell at 56 James the outgoing batsman had scored 4! Thomas continued to show why he is such an aggressive county player until he

## Abergavenny Cricket Club History

was well caught in the deep by Gavin Heritage off Schofield's slower ball for 88. The same combination accounted for Wood but Newport passed the target with 7 wickets to spare leaving Abergavenny wishing they had won the toss and that Thomas had stayed in Hampshire with the rest of the Glamorgan side.

The seconds, thirds and fourths all won their games and Lee James, Ioan Fury and Ross Lupton all scored centuries and Paul Havard had a Hat Trick all clean bowled

1sts and 4ths continued their winning ways with triumphs over Pontypridd & Blaina.

The Fourth's victory consolidates their second/Third position and the firsts rejoin the 2/5th position squeeze. Seconds and Thirds games were cancelled.

The heavy showers which had fallen throughout the week had contributed to a well grassed wicket and a wet outfield and Abergavenny captain Keith Newell had no hesitation in putting Pentyrch into bat. Heritage and Newell opened the attack and Heritage was particularly difficult to get away, only conceding 13 runs in a permitted spell of 7 overs. He was unlucky not to obtain several L.B.W. decisions but on each occasion the umpire decided the inswinging deliveries were moving too much. The two spin bowlers Andrew Coles and James Didcote proved equally difficult and runs mainly accumulated in ones and twos and each captured 2 wickets. Khristian Bell continued to bat steadily and being joined by Malik the scoring rate increased due to a mixture of good running and cross batted swipes by Malik which frustrated fielders and bowlers but provided valuable runs for the home side who reached 178-8.

Andrew Jones and Ally Fury opened the batting and both were soon troubled by the pace of Shiraz Hyder, reputedly the quickest bowler in the league. He soon accounted for both of them, Fury clean bowled and Jones L.B.W. to one which kept low. Newell was caught behind but luckily a no ball was called and together he and James Hrstelj weathered the storm and 44 runs were added before Hrstelj was L.B.W. for 29.

James Schofield coped well with the conditions but found difficulty in piercing the ring of fielders but he and the captain added 50 valuable runs before Newell was bowled by a ball which left him and just flicked the off stump. Newell batted almost 2 hours for his 37 runs but had held the innings together and 45 runs were now required off the final 7 overs. Schofield was run out, James followed after 6 quick singles, but Craig Barnsley with a hard hit 31 off 23 balls and aided by a massive straight driven 6 by Heritage, saw Abergavenny to victory by 3 wickets and 4 balls to spare.

August 30<sup>th</sup> home to Penarth. Penarth 235 for 5. Gavin Heritage 2-31 Andrew Coles 2-41 Abergavenny 214-9 in reply A. Jones (49) Lee James (47) K. Newell (43)

September 4<sup>th</sup> St Fagans 247-8 G. Heritage 4-55, M. Beacham 2-54. Abergavenny 160 all out A. Jones (63) L. James (19)

The following Saturday against Sudbrook Abergavenny won the toss batted, lost 2 early wickets but a stand of 86 between Jones and skipper Keith Newell corrected the situation which was further improved by a partnership of 67 in 38 minutes between Jones and the hard hitting Craig Barnsley. Jones secured his 7th century of the season in the final over with a six high over the midwicket boundary and was 106 not out and Abergavenny had accumulated 232-6.

Sudbrook were 35-1 when a heavy shower sent the players off for the last time this season.

Andrew Jones rounded off the season with his seventh league century bringing his aggregate runs to 983 at an average of 98.3 This incredible record is the best ever in the 172 years of the club's history and despite the fact that he sacrificed his wicket on at least two occasions for the benefit of the team. His virtue of playing each ball on its merits and patience has been an object lesson to the younger players who have all benefited from his presence and advice. He has been outscored by Ryan Sylvester of League champions Sully but Ryan has played several more games.



At the Welsh Conference Dinner held at Cardiff, two of our players were awarded ties for being;

1 1st Centurion in Division -1st XI.....Johnathan Viveash

2 1st 7-wicket taker Division4-2nd XI..... Nathan Byrne

The ties were represented at the clubs Annual Dinner by former club skipper and current England wicket keeper batsman Geraint Jones.

## Club Annual Dinner at the Angel Hotel

The club held the annual dinner at the Angel Hotel on Friday 15th October. Guests of honour were Geraint Jones, and the Mayor of Abergavenny Chris Woodhouse.

The awards went to :

### Players of the Year

1st Team - **Andrew Jones**

2nd Team - **Steve Brown**

3rd Team - **Corey Thomas**

4th Team - **Nathan Byrne**

Young Player - **Gavin Heritage**

Most Improved Player - **Joe Hrastelj**

**The Chairman's Cup** was presented to **Chris Pritchard & Graham Pike**

In addition, **Andrew Jones** was voted **League Player of the Year** for his fantastic season with the bat, and **Gavin Heritage** picked up the monthly award for August.



Abergavenny Cricket Club History



Pictured above Andrew Jones and Steve Brown receiving their awards from Geraint Jones



Pictured above left Corey Thomas receiving his award from Geraint Jones and Right Chairman Tony Coles accepts an England shirt from Geraint.

Ian Bailey has decided after 17 years of being the Club Treasurer to handover the keys to the safe. Ian who has served the club superbly over

that time will not be completely lost to the club as he has been elected to be Chairman of the Finance Committee.



Pictured above Graham Pike and Chris Pritchard Joint Chairmans Award Winners





## Abergavenny Cricket Club History



Lee James, Ross Lupton and Paul Havard.



Pictured above Geraint receiving his England Cap from Michael Vaughan.