

## Chapter 61

### 2006 Season

President-J.B.Shackleton

Chairman-A.Coles

Hon Sec-Mrs T.Pike, Treasurer-J.B.Shackleton

Captain 1<sup>st</sup> X1-Andrew Jones

Captain 2<sup>nd</sup> X1-Steve Brown

Captain 3<sup>rd</sup> X1-John Lamont

Captain 4<sup>th</sup> X1-Richard Bradley

Pictured below Abergavenny First X1 v St Fagans- 2006



Standing L-R M.Wallace,G.Fury,M.Devoy,J.Schofield,R.Watkins, M.J.Powell  
Seated L-R J.Phillips, A.Jones,J.Didcote,A.Coles

An inexperienced team full of youngsters, played Hoovers in a friendly captained by Gavin Heritage. Abergavenny struggled to 151-9 off 45 overs, thanks to Veteran Mike Devoy (33 not out) and John Denning (14 not out) putting on an unbeaten 42. Other encouraging knocks was Tom Viveash (21) and Rhys Hayward (19).

Hoovers started the reply slowly with Loui Kirkham and Denning very accurate. Joe Hrastelj took the wickets of the two openers and slow bowler Owain Bradley claimed one. Hoovers cruised to victory with more than seven overs remaining.

Malpas came to Avenue Road next, Abergavenny 183-8 A.Dewfield (76) R.Wallace (34)  
G.Heritage (24) Malpas 185-3

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The next day, Abergavenny won the toss and decided to bat. Gavin Heritage and Ioan Lilley made a good start both reaching double figures. Captain Mark Winstanley scored 30 as Aber were bowled out for 88. Adam Fury claimed the wickets of the openers and debutant Greg Thomas took the wicket of Ben Wright (Glamorgan Academy Player) and Cowbridge were in a spot of bother at 40-3. Owain Bradley chipped in with 1 but the game was all over as Cowbridge won by 6 wickets



**Ryan Watkins**  
**Abergavenny's Allocated Professional- 2006**

The first League action was against Croesyceiliog. Ex Abergavenny players Mike Baillon and Mike Beacham opened the batting for Croesyceiliog who were 156 all out. G. Heritage 3-24, A.Timpson 2-23 and K.Holmes 3-28. In reply Abergavenny reached 160-5 to win by 5 wickets A Fury (33) P.Fallis (60\*) C.Barnsley (19) A.Dewfird (18)

A good natured hard fought game between local rivals Usk and Abergavenny ended with the visitors claiming a winning draw by virtue of Abergavenny being 29 runs in arrears but still having 3 wickets in hand.

Winning the toss and batting Usk soon lost their first wicket when Gavin Heritage clipped Mike Kear' off bail and then after Ian Clayton had short armed him for an enormous six over square leg retaliated by having him caught by wicket keeper Greg Fury. Usk captain Kunal Khanna and overseas coach Mike Jones batted well together adding 107 to the score before Kyle Holmes deceived Jones and then bowled James Wyatt. Khanna was finally removed caught by bowler Holmes after contributing an excellent 75. A brisk unbroken partnership by Tamplin and Robinson enabled Usk to reach 231-6.

A beautiful display of controlled swing bowling by Jason Cook, 10 overs for 14 runs, kept the Beavers on the back foot and only 50 runs were scored off the first twenty overs but gradually John Phillips gained the upper hand and started to hit the boundary boards and with Patrick Fallis again proving a useful foil the opposition total started to appear gettable. 126 runs had been added when Fallis walked to a catch behind the wicket and Phillips was eventually caught on the boundary edge for 91 .

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John has just returned from the West Indies where he was best man and straight after the game had to dash away to speak at the reception for those unable to travel to the Caribbean so maybe he was influenced by their style of play or was there still some rum in the veins?

On Sunday Abergavenny travelled to the quaint Radyr ground (Pictured Below) for a first round Welsh Cup fixture. On a warm afternoon yet another stand in Abergavenny skipper Gavin Heritage won the toss and invited the opposition to bat.



The Abergavenny opening attack of Heritage (2 for 14) and young John Denning (2 for 10) proved too much for the Radyr top order, rendering the home side 20-3 off 10 overs at one point. This collapse was aided by a spectacular catch at first slip by Huw Tamlyn which will be remembered by all and sundry long after the result fades. The emergence of Ex-rugby star Howard Stone at number 5 completely changed the impetus of the Radyr innings as he smote the ball to all parts of the ground in a well paced innings of 82. The Radyr lower-middle order played innings around Stone to leave the home side on an imposing 224 from their allotted 45 overs. Monty Bradley the pick of the Abergavenny spinners with 3-44. The Abergavenny reply was led by new recruit Pat Fallis who scored a faultless maiden century for the club and shared in a brilliant opening partnership of 119 with loan Lilley (53). Skipper Heritage continued the good work with a solid 31 leaving the Abergavenny side needing 25 from 5 overs for victory. The win was ensured from the penultimate ball of the game when young Geraint Cutlan hit a four through mid wicket to leave the visitors victorious by 6 wickets and awaiting Cefn Fforest in the next round.

Despite the absence of stand in captain Kyle Holmes Abergavenny travelled to Newport in an optimistic mood as not only were three of their University students available but Glamorgan all rounder Ryan Watkins was making his debut for the club.

Newport won the toss and batted on what looked to be a good batting track and Carwyn James, the Newport opener, after a shaky start grew in confidence and scored a delightful century at the rate of a run a ball. This was the third ton he has taken off the Abergavenny attack and he is only eighteen. Mike Clayden with 58 n.o. helped the home side achieve 272 -5 off their 50 overs despite some good fielding by the Beavers.

Abergavenny thought the target was obtainable if they could get off to a good start but just as Watkins was raising the tempo he mishit to mid wicket and was out for 22. Gavin Heritage and Patrick Fallis had added 78 for the next wicket when Heritage who had just completed his 50 was well caught by the opposing captain. Wickets were lost in trying to

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increase the run rate and the visitors were well short at the end having only reached 192-7.

Cefn Forest put Abergavenny out of the Cup scoring 229-8 R.Hayward 3-41 Abergavenny in reply were 174-9 A.Fury (67) R.Hayward (29)

June 3<sup>rd</sup> St Fagans won by 8 wickets. Abergavenny 183 all out. St Fagans 189-2. Glamorgans response to loosing the County game at Swansea in 2 days was to insist that the players play for their League Clubs on the following Saturday to get additional practice,so Abergavenny had their two home grown players.Mike Powell & Mark Wallace and their allocated player Ryan Watkins whilst St. Fagans had their allocated player Dean Cosker and controversally Australian International Mark Cosgrove.



Abergavenny opened with the left handed pair Watkins & Wallace but the latter was soon bowled by Cosgrove for 15 and Powell soon joined him in the pavilion after being dismissed for 10.Captain Alan Jones didn't last long but John Phillips steadied the ship and it was a surprise when he mishit Glamorgan spinner Dean Cosker to midoff.Greg Fury immediately suffered the same fate and James Schofield joined the dogged Watkins and the best partnership of the innings ensued but once that was broken the tail were just brushed aside and Abergavenny were all out for 183.

Mark Cosgrove, who two months ago won the man of the Match award for Australia against Bangladesh.deposited Mike Devoy's second ball into the sight screen and was looking very dangerous when he edged a short ball from Watkins and was grate fully taken by wicketkeeper Greg Fury. Abergavenny were without four of their normal seam bowlers through work commitments and injuries and the replacements found it difficult to contain the visitors batsman.Tom Maynard, son of former Glamorgan captain and a current England coach Matthew Maynard played a delightful innings and fully deserved his unbeaten century and helped win his side an eight wicket victory.

A Couple of friendlies against the Wales Ladies X1 took place at the Ground. Abergavenny winning both games.

Cardiff inflicted a massive defeat against Abergavenny Cardiff 31-4 Abergavenny n189 all out.

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Again in the Cup losing the toss Abergavenny were in the field first for the second consecutive day with temperatures in the 'low' eighties. Jon Denning raised the away sides spirits when he removed the first three batsmen with only 15 on the board but Robinson and captain Kanal Khanna took the score to 78 before Robinson was L.b.w. to Heritage. Overseas player coach Mike Jones dealt harshly with the change bowlers and aided by Ian Clayton and James Osbourne the score mounted quickly and the brakes were only applied when James Hrastelj, in his second spell of bowling seam up, took the last four wickets.

Abergavenny needed a good start but quickly lost two wickets, to a catch and a silly run out. Greg Fury batted merrily for 26 and John Phillips held the innings together with an excellent 65 but had little help from his team mates and Aber were all out for 155, losing by 99 runs.

In the Macey Cup Abergavenny surprisingly beat Newport Abergavenny 125-7  
J. Phillips (28) A. Fury (20) I. Lilley (22) N. Skelton (27\*) Newport 110 all out C. Barnsley 4-37  
A. Coles 3-12

Panteg were next with a team of all stars, Ian Thomas, Will Bragg, Jon Hughes, Aam Harrison to name a few. They scored a massive 330-5 L. Kirkham 2-60. In reply Abergavenny reached 238-5 J. Schofield (86\*) A. Fury (21) J. Phillips (29) C. Barnsley (58\*)

Penarth away inflicted another defeat Penarth 261-7 3 wickets each for Gavin Heritage and Lee Fury. Abergavenny were 108 all out with ex Glamorgan Mark Frost 7-30  
J. Schofield (34) played with credit.

Tondu were next with the same result. Abergavenny 191 all out A. Fury (35) J. Phillips (37) I. Lilley (23) J. Hrastelj (23) L. Fury (29\*)

Tondu 194-7 G. Heritage 2-44, J. Hrastelj 1-41 and Lee Fury 4-35.

A creditable draw followed against Usk. Usk 237-8 Ryan Wakins 1-51, A. Fury 3-53, and a wicket each for L. Fury, A. Coles and J. Didcot. Abergavenny 208-8 Ryan Watkins (32) J. Schofield (60) A. Fury (46)

A win came at last against fellow strugglers Hoovers. Hoovers 83 all out James Schofield 6-28 Rhys Hayward 3-14. Abergavenny reaching their target without losing a wicket.  
G. Fury (64\*) G. Cutlan (10\*)

In the Macey Cup Usk visited Avenue Rd and went away victorious. Usk 161-5 A. Coles 3-28 Abergavenny 141 all out A. Fury (45) J. Phillips (32)

Both sides were eager to bat first and Newport, having made the correct call, made full use of winning the toss on a pitch that deteriorated after the first hour. James and Clayton had accumulated 66 runs when the evergreen Kyle Holmes removed James and then, bowling in tandem with Andrew Coles, restricted Newport to 24 runs off the next 20 overs during which another 4 wickets were captured. Coles finished his spell with the remarkable analysis of 10 overs 7 maidens 6 runs 2 wickets. The vastly experienced Mike Knight, aided by Ryan Harper, added a priceless 38 for the 6th wicket before Alistair Fury claimed the first of his 3 wickets dismissing Harper. Gavin Heritage cleared up the tail and Knight was left 31 not out.

Although the score of 153 was not a large total Abergavenny knew it was a tough target and that much rested on the returning captain Andrew Jones to provide a solid backbone to the innings. Alas! To the second ball of the innings he shouldered arms and much to his and the sides chagrin his off stump was knocked back. Alistair Fury made a positive effort to attack the seamers whilst the ball was still hard and was averaging a run a ball when he was L.B.W to Aingworth for 31. Steve Brown and Gavin Heritage both grafted but the stranglehold of the spinners took their toll and Abergavenny were all out for 111.

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At Last. After three games when Abergavenny had the scent of a win in their nostrils but lost their way.,they finally got their nose in front of the opposition,and achieved a satisfying victory away at Chepstow.

Andrew Jones won the toss for the first time this season and he and James Schofield put on 52 for the first wicket before Jones was caught at mid wicket and his partner soon followed as he was caught in two minds and lobbed it tamely to mid off. John Phillips and James Hrastelj took the total to 99 when the latter miscued and this brought Greg Fury to the wicket. An entertaining partnership prospered to the extent of 120 runs being added, which left the fielders even more hot and bothered as the ball regularly crossed the boundary in the air and on the ground . Phillips perished for 84 ,Fury for 51 and two more wickets fell whilst only 12 runs were added. Gavin Heritage and Lee Fury took control ,batted calmly and marshalled Abergavenny to a final score of 268-7.

Gavin Heritage claimed an early L.B.W.decision and then a devastating throw by Lee Fury ran out last weeks century maker Dan Price and Chepstow were forced to rebuild ,which they did through Lloyd and Bennett .The latter was making batting look easy but his younger partner was being frustrated and was smartly stumped by Ioan Lilley off the bowling of Coles, who richly deserved the wicket as he has made a major impact in the last month with his off spinners. Kyle Holmes joined the attack, removed Bennett and two other batsman before a calf strain removed him from the attack.The home side recovered but the loss of 5 quick wickets destroyed their game plan and they ended up at 218-9.

This victory lifted Abergavenny two places in the table and good availability is essential if the recent improvement is to be maintained

Losing the toss again ,away to current league leaders and last year's champions St.Fagans was not the ideal start for Abergavenny and they didn't capture the first wicket until 117 runs were on the board.James Hrastelj bowling his second spell had Maynard well caught by Barnsley at Mid on and followed this by clean bowling captain Alun Evans for 4 and opener Hopkins for 36.Captain Andrew Jones continued his policy of rotating the bowlers and Craig Barnsley .Lee Fury and Gavin Heritage all claimed wickets but were unable to stop Nick Sweetman scoring a run a ball undefeated 87.

Andrew Jones still not discovering his true form was L.B.W to the swift Swetman for 8 but Steve Brown and James Schofield steadily rebuilt the innings until Brown hit a short delivery straight to cover point.Schofield remained as anchor man but his partners continued to depart and he was eventually out for 60 and Abergavenny held on for a draw.

The dog fight to avoid relegation between Croesyceiliog Penarth and Abergavenny continues with Croesy. moving out of the bottom two and Penarth gaining on Abergavenny by virtue of their game against second in the table ,Cardiff being abandoned.This follows the previous week when their game against St. Fagans was abandoned with St.Fagans303-2.

Cardiff 234-7 Abergavenny 238-5

Batsman took full advantage of a wicket and square that had been well protected from the recent heavy storms and also managed to evade the showers that were scattered around the county.

Three centuries were completed,2 by Panteg and 1 by Abergavenny as .the batsman made the most of a sound batting wicket and a fast outfield.

Abergavenny were delighted when they captured the wicket of prolific Ian Thomas for 9 but his left handed partner William Bragg was undisturbed by this, and also when an under par Mike Martin was dismissed for 15 ,and had scored 66 at the rate of a run a ball when he played back to a ball from Alistair Fury and hit his own wicket. Fury drew Adam Harrison forward and he was smartly stumped by Ioan Lilly for a duck. This was Abergavenny's last success as the new batsman ,captain Ian Bird and Jonathan Hughes pulverised an attack, which was handicapped by a pulled side muscle to opening bowler Gavin Heritage,to the extent of 182 off 20 overs with Hughes not out 109 and Bird

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completing a whirlwind 101 off 64 deliveries with the final ball of the innings. Three catches were dropped in this period which would have stemmed the flow of runs and possibly altered the course of the game.

A daunting total of 320 faced openers Andrew Jones and James Schofield but they weathered the opening burst and Panteg were soon removing fielders deeper to restrict the runs. Jones, who has had few knocks this year due to school commitments, began to pick up the pace as his form returned and with Schofield untroubled by the bowlers the best opening partnership of the season developed. The score reached 171 before Schofield was caught for 67 but A. Fury was soon deceived by the same bowler. Jones imperious innings ended when he had amassed 126 off 97 balls and his efforts will have raised moral as the final games of the season approach. John Phillips was undefeated on 31 and Greg Fury contributed a sparkling 20 as Abergavenny reached 268-4.

Penarth 200-6 Abergavenny 173 all out Ryan Watkns (87) Mark Wallace (18)

Abergavenny 141 all out A. Jones (48) A. Fury (17) M. Wallace (17) J. Phillips (18) G. Fury (17) Pentyrch 142-4 A. Fury 2-32

Tondu 254-4 A. Timpson 2-29 Abergavenny 164 all out A. Jones 30, A. Fury (18) G. Fury (22) I. Lilley (45)



2nd X1 at Usk-2006

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Abergavenny 4<sup>th</sup> XI - 2006



**2<sup>nd</sup> X1 Captain and his Wife Sept 2006**