

Chapter 63

2008 Season

President-J.B.Shackleton

Chairman-A.Coles

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

Captain 1st X1-S,Brown

Captain 2nd X1-R.Wallace

Captain 3rd X1-M.Snead

Captain 4th X1-D.Holley



Abergavenny 1st X1

Pictured against Brecon

Back Row L-R G.Fury, G.Heritage, D.Windross, N.Byrne, J.Schofield,
A.Robinson, M.Powell, M.Evans

Seated L-R B.Morgan, S.Brown (Capt), A.Fury

Abergavenny 1st XI played their first South Wales League game of the season and celebrated with a 3 wicket victory over newly promoted Blackwood Town. The visitors arrived with an excellent C.V. having won all their League games last season but having lost the toss to Abergavenny acting captain Ben Morgan, had to bat first on a soft wicket. Runs were hard to come by against the swing bowling of Gavin Heritage and Jon Denning but it was first change bowler, 18 year old Nathan Byrne who claimed the first scalp.. A steady stand followed and then Ben Morgan took 3 quick wickets aided by excellent catches from

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Andrew Jones and Greg Fury. Blackwood attempted to increase the tempo but each time Abergavenny's tactic of constantly changing their bowlers resulted in another wicket for the home side. At the end of their allotted 50 overs the score was 177-9 with Richard Matthews being top scorer with 47. Six catches were taken, two each by Ben Morgan Greg Fury and Andrew Jones but overall the fielders looked rusty and need to sharpen up to keep the pressure on opponents.

Jones and Robinson set off at a brisk pace scoring at a run a ball and it was a surprise when Jones was given out l.b.w. well down the wicket for 33 and this seemed to unsettle his partner as he quickly followed him to the pavillion shortly to be joined by Greg Fury. John Phillips dropped anchor but Alistair Fury attacked scoring 26 off 20 balls and Ben Morgan also showed aggressive intent with a hard hit 20. John Phillips was eventually out for a solid 24 but Gavin Heritage took over his mantle and guided the Beavers home to a 7 wicket win aided and abetted by 17 year old Jon Denning.

The smooth transition into Round 2 of the Welsh Cup was assured by Abergavenny 1st XI on Sunday with a comfortable 219 run victory over Hay-on-Wye. Both clubs were entering the competition for the first time in a number of years and the game was played in a great spirit on a spectacular early season afternoon at Avenue Rd.

Beavers captain Steve Brown won the toss and elected to bat on a good May wicket. Abergavenny openers Andrew Robinson and Marc Evans got the team off to a blistering start - scoring at over 10 runs per over, until Robinson was dismissed in the 12th over for 84. The innings adopted a more sedate pace for the next 30 overs with Evans completing an accomplished 85, supported well by Ryland Wallace (34). All rounder Dai Windross injected some excellent late order aggression scoring 28 not out from just 8 balls with 2 fours and 2 sixes. Abergavenny closed their innings on 319-6 from 45 overs.

The new ball pairing of Jon Denning and Nathan Byrne had the Hay openers in considerable trouble with a mixture of late swing and steep bounce when the teams resumed after tea. Denning picking up 2 wickets in his 5 over spell. Dai Windross and Ben Morgan continued the accurate bowling but were unable to pick up deserved wickets. The beavers did not pick up their 3rd wicket until young leg spinner Owain Bradley was introduced in the 21st over. Bradley bowled unchanged at the Avenue Rd end and exacted considerable turn from the wicket and returned excellent figures of 3-23 from his 9 overs. Ben Morgan then returned to mop up the Hay tail and dismiss the visitors for a battling 100 all out.

The Beavers will face a very stern test in the next round when they visit Panteg

The acquisition of Gold Coast star Andrew Robinson is showing its benefit already as a destructive 90* helped Abergavenny 1st XI to a comprehensive away victory in Barry.

This victory, the second of the season, has the Beavers installed as new leaders of Division 1.

Sporting the superb new kit sponsored by Gardenology, Beavers skipper Steve Brown won the toss and put the hosts in to bat. Gavin Heritage rolled back the years for Aber with a superb opening spell of bowling which saw him bowl unchanged for his ten overs, returning figures of 4-23. He was well supported by Andrew Robinson who took two fine slip catches and himself took 1-20 from his 10 overs. Ally Fury (3-37) came on to clean up the tail, leaving the hosts all out for 182, with Leeke the pick of the home batsmen with 50.

Following the tea interval Beavers openers Andrew Robinson and Andrew Jones seemed intent on finishing the game as soon as possible with high winds and the threat of rain attempting to derail the Beavers onslaught. Robinson and Jones both completed 50's at better than a run a ball, with Robinson particularly fierce with anything marginally over pitched. Jones was eventually out for 61, but Robinson and James Schofield (20*) saw the Beavers home with over 25 overs in hand.

Abergavenny came down to earth with a bang and lost their first game of the season on the following Saturday and in so doing, relinquished their position at the top of the 1st Division.

Travelling Miskin captain Huw Jones won the toss and invited Abergavenny to bat on a damp, sticky track at Avenue Rd.

The Beavers were almost immediately up against it when both openers Andrew Robinson and Andrew Jones were back in the hutch with only 26 runs on the board. The Beavers middle order found it hard to penetrate the infield and became a little bogged down with

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the score only reaching 90-3 by the 35th over. With a damp outfield and further tight bowling, the Beavers only managed to hit 7 boundary 4's in their entire 50 overs and closed their innings on a slightly below par 186-6. James Schofield (56) and Marc Evans (37) were the main Abergavenny contributors.

Miskin set about the task of chasing the Abergavenny total in a sensible and circumspect manner, and were nicely poised at 40-0 after 14 overs, however, 3 quick wickets and some accurate bowling from Beavers quartet of Robinson, Mike Devoy, Gavin Heritage and Ally Fury swung the game back towards Aber. Daxesh Dave rode his luck for Miskin with a mixture of chips and lobs for a quickfire 33 which aided a Miskin recovery, however, his dismissal followed by skipper Jones, left Miskin struggling at 135-6. Unfortunately for the home support, Abergavenny were unable to take chances in the latter stages of the game and their overall fielding and catching must improve if they believe Premier league cricket is a serious goal for next season. Miskin eventually reached their target with 3 wickets and 9 balls to spare.

However Abergavenny 1st XI got back to winning ways in spectacular fashion over the next weekend with back to back victories on Friday and Saturday. Beavers were comfortable 7 wicket victors over Panteg in the John Macey shield on Friday and now progress to a home quarter final tie with Newbridge.

On Saturday Abergavenny travelled to Radyr to resume their Division One campaign. Beavers captain Steve Brown lost the toss on a warm but blustery day in the Cardiff suburbs. Radyr skipper Nick O'Neill chose to bat on a slow low pitch. Mike Devoy was his usual miserly self in opening the bowling for Abergavenny but the Beavers struggled to find a partner to bowl into the wind from the other end. Eventually Devoy found an ally in Ben Morgan who took the first two Radyr wickets including the dangerous Howard Stone. Nathan Byrne swapped ends and found a better line and length and helped swing the game Beavers way with a great spell of 3-29 from 7 overs, this left Radyr reeling at 90-6. Unfortunately with Morgan completing his 10 overs with a fine 2-23, Abergavenny were unable to find the killer instinct to finish off their rivals. Davies batted well for the home side despite pulling a hamstring and top scored with 47. The Beavers were unable to gain maximum bowling points with Radyr completing their 50 overs at 202-9.

In chasing their target the Beavers openers James Schofield and Andrew Robinson immediately seized the initiative and smote any poor balls to the boundary. Schofield was in a very positive mood and had moved to 46 from 53 balls before he skied one off unorthodox leg spinner Rhys Mander. This wicket was to prove the single high point of the Radyr bowling as Robinson (pictured below) continued his onslaught and passed his century off just 83 balls with 19 boundary 4's. Alastair Fury helped Robinson surmount the Radyr total with an incredible 24 overs in hand. The Beaver's running out 9 wicket victors and gaining 19 points.



There followed a crucial 3 week spell with games against the 3 sides around them in the league. Home to Brecon followed by a visit to Rogerstone on 21st June and ending with a home game against Chepstow on June 28th

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Next up the 1st team played Barry Athletic and completed a comprehensive win. Gavin Heritage 4-23 (Pictured below) off 10 overs and Ali Fury 3-32 from 7 overs did the damage for the Beavers who bowled the hosts out for 182. Andrew Robinson(90no) and Andrew Jones(61) put on 149 for the first wicket and James Schofield(20no) completed the victory.



The 2nds played Sudbrook 2s at Avenue Road. Sudbrook were soon 29-3 off 8 overs but managed to score 271-5 off 50 overs. Andy Timpson was the most successful bowler with figures of 10-4-20-1. Openers John Viveash(48) and Ioan Lilley(83) got the Beavers off to a perfect start and Craig Barnsley(46) increased the tempo in the middle of the innings. The two not out batsman were Gary"Stiggers"Thomas(41) and Owain Bradley(9) who hit the winning runs in the last over to win by 3 wickets.

The Crickhowell team made the long trip to Kington. Joe Hrastelj, Ryan Jones and Tim Price took two wickets apiece as they restricted Kington to 232 all out. All the batsman chipped in but Nick Francis stole the show with 110 not out as Crick won by 5 wickets with more than 7 overs to go.

Abergavenny Beavers played at home to Hereford City Sports Club 2nd XI. The Beavers managed to bowl the visitors out for 132 who incedently only had 9 players. Gwyn Pritchard was the chief destroyer as he returned impressive figures of 3-3. Alex Richards(89no) batted the whole innings as the Beavers won by 5 wickets.



Following the victory over Premier League side Panteg Abergavenny now have a home game in the Quarter final of the Macey Shield against Newbridge. The match will be played on Friday June 20th starting at 6.00 p.m.

Abergavenny v Brecon



Club members and players alike were left scurrying for the record books on Saturday as Mike Powell (132*) and Marc Evans (90*) pictured above, turned the game on its head with an astonishing 200 run partnership for the 6th wicket against Brecon.

With a week of sun behind them, the Abergavenny groundstaff were able to prepare an excellent wicket at Avenue Rd, so it was a surprise to all when Brecon skipper James Davenport won the toss and invited the Beavers to bat first. The Brecon seamers were obviously pleased with the decision as they dismissed Andrew Robinson, James Schofield and Ally Fury within the first 7 overs with some disciplined swing bowling. Skipper Steve Brown joined Mike Powell at the crease and shared a 70 run partnership before a rush of blood cost Brown his wicket for 21. Greg Fury came and went via a run out mix up. This left Marc Evans to join Powell with the score at 92-5 and over half the innings left to negotiate. With a mix of classic defence and sensible accumulation the pair moved the score serenely past 200. With 10 overs left, both players then added an aggressive element to their strokeplay and moved the Beavers total to an impressive 292-5 from their 50 overs.

The Brecon reply was derailed early by an excellent spell of opening bowling by Metro star Nathan Byrne (1-29). Ben Morgan again bowled an imperious 10 overs for just 22 runs and picked up the wicket of the Brecon dangerman Glynn HARRY (36). The pace of the game slowed in the middle overs as the Brecon batsmen were unable to launch a serious assault on the Beavers total. Giles Smith passed 50 for Brecon who finished their innings on 208-7, leaving Abergavenny victors by 84 runs.

Sudbrook v Abergavenny Friday July 11th

A disappointed Abergavenny side returned home on Friday night having failed by 17 runs to match the Sudbrook score in the Macey Shield. They were well up with the run rate but the lack of a cool head amongst the middle and later batsman negated the excellent start provided by Andrew Jones 30 and Andrew Robinsons 56. In the Sudbrook innings Gavin Heritage restricted the opposition to a mere 12 runs off his four allotted overs and he was well supported by his fellow bowlers until the final over which was dispatched for 20 runs. A creditable performance considering Sudbrook are third in the premiership but a total the players know was well within their capabilities to achieve.

Sudbrook 166-4 -20overs Abergavenny 149 18.5 overs

Byrne scorches Fugitives

A fascinating match at Avenue Road ended with an incredible last wicket stand of 31 by Jon Denning and Andrew Robinson in which the number eleven batsman only had to face one delivery, such was the skill of Robbos batting in farming the strike. The Abergavenny coach had come into bat at number six because of a back strain obtained fielding the previous evening at Sudbrook and it appeared a case of deja-vu as the middle order evaporated but helped by the tail enders and ten fours, Abergavenny passed The Fugitives total to win by 1 wicket with Robinson unbeaten on 79.

Earlier Abergavenny had inserted the opposition and with the ball jaggling about and swinging, batting was difficult and only Chris Bridges with 46 managed to keep the home bowlers at bay. Eighteen year old Nathan Byrne ripped the heart out of the Fugitives batting with a devastating spell of 7 overs 5-14 and only five of the runs came off the bat and his co teenager Jon Denning, who had earlier bowled 6 overs for 9 runs, returned and captured the final 3 wickets with his in swingers.

A match which seemed over at tea was turned on its head by the Newport Fugitive seamers and Abergavenny were staring in the face of disaster until that final stand which enabled them to remain in the leagues pole position.

Abergavenny v Chepstow 28.06.2008

Abergavenny were at NO 1 At Halfway Stage of the season

Abergavenny now top the table after winning the battle between the two leading teams A strong batting performance by the home team was the bedrock of victory by 50 runs over previous leaders Chepstow and was launched with an opening partnership of 136 to begin with. James Schofield and Andrew Robinson found it hard work with the ball swinging and moving off the seam but gradually asserted themselves, particularly when the change bowlers were introduced and Robinson regularly either found or cleared the boundary rope. Michael Powell joined Robinson after Schofield's dismissal and 87 runs had been added when Robinson was caught for an excellent 144. Captain Steve Brown hit a quick fire 22 and Powell was unbeaten on 52 at the end of the allocated 50 overs with the score at 290-4.

Gavin Heritage took an early wicket and was helped by 3 wickets from Dave Windross and two from Ben Morgan and a brilliant run out by Robinson who stopped the ball right handed, swivelled and with a left handed throw had a direct hit on the single wicket in view, this reduced Chepstow to 114-8 but two dropped catches, disappointing bowling and concentration lapses enabled the last two wickets to add 126 runs.

However a victory over nearest rivals by 50 runs was an excellent result and will stand the club in good stead for the rest of the season.

Abergavenny v Barry

Abergavenny 1st XI continued their assault on the Division One title with a resounding 168 run victory over Barry at the weekend. Bathed in glorious sunshine and with a superb batting track, the Avenue Rd ground looked its resplendent best. Returning Beavers skipper Steve Brown won the toss and had no hesitation in batting first. Openers Andrew Robinson and Andrew Jones found runs difficult to come by in the first 10 overs as only 25 runs were scored due to some good length seam bowling from Jones and Phillips. Robinson began to up the tempo when the change bowlers came on, with the distinct exception of Hellyar who bowled his 9 overs for just 26 runs. Unfortunately, Hellyar's colleagues were unable to match his nagging length with the unfortunate Razaq conceding 100 runs in his 10 overs. Robinson and Jones had put on 207 by the 39th over before Jones (51) was the single victim for the Barry attack. At this stage Robinson had much to do to reach the magical double

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hundred. However, as the Barry bowlers toiled in the afternoon sun, Robinson and James Schofield (47*) produced a partnership of 131 in the last 11 overs. Robinson carried his bat throughout the entire Abergavenny innings for a staggering 239 not out off 166 balls with 34 fours and 3 sixes. This is comfortably the highest league score by an Abergavenny batsman and will live long in the memory for all those lucky enough to witness it.

In reply Barry were intent on gaining as many batting points as possible in order to aid their fight against relegation. Their innings started well with the opening pair adding 50 runs for the first wicket against the backdrop of extremely attacking field placement resembling a test match arena. This resilience was short lived as the Barry innings was turned on its head by a treble wicket maiden by off spinner Ally Fury, which caused the Barry total to deflate to 57-4. The Barry middle order were unable to cope with the accuracy of Windross and Denning in particular and the innings came to an end with nearly 10 overs to go when Steve Jones was dismissed for 43.

The final scores read Abergavenny 348-1, Barry 180 all out

Abergavenny 1st XI signed off their season in excellent fashion with a hard fought victory at promotion chasing Chepstow. This victory was the Beavers 9th win in 10 completed league games with the only reverse coming at the hands of Miskin. The win confirmed that Abergavenny are promoted as champions of Division One.

Abergavenny skipper Steve Brown won the toss on a sticky wicket but chose to bat first in an attempt to put pressure on the opposition. Beavers openers Andrew Robinson and Andrew Jones (33) battled gamely against the new ball and saw off a tricky opening spell by Luke Sellars in particular. Beavers were still finding scoring difficult with a combination of a tough wicket, good bowling and long outfield grass and it is testament to the concentration of both batsmen that this period was negotiated. The scoring rate was further slowed by the introduction of spinner Tom Jackson who finally accounted for Robinson for 60 in his final innings for Abergavenny before he returns to sunnier climes on the Queensland Gold Coast. This wicket saw a crazy collapse in the usually sound Beavers middle order in which they lost all 10 of their wickets for 61 runs in 23 overs including a spell where they lost 5 wickets for 3 runs in 6 overs. The final Beavers total of 159 looked about 20 runs shy of a par score, but confidence was high in the dressing room during the break that the Beavers could still prevail.

This new found Beavers confidence was immediately evident as Glamorgan Academy bowler Jon Denning took the opening 3 wickets within his first 3 overs to leave Chepstow reeling at 15-3. Malith Madurasinge and Jason Dobbie battled back for the home side and had progressed the score to a match winning 73 when the game was completely turned on its head by Willow Coles. In only his 2nd game of the season Coles returned astonishing figures of 10 overs 8 maidens 5 wickets for just 8 runs which included a mere 3 scoring shots in his 60 ball spell. Chepstow had collapsed to 87-9 in this time and only a 17 run last wicket partnership allowed the home side to pass the 3 figure mark. Beavers therefore ran out 55 run victors and condemned Chepstow to another year in Division One with it.

Next season the Beavers will face much sterner tests and will have to improve their late innings bowling in order to maintain their place in the top flight.

Skipper Steve Brown would like to thank all his players, the ground committee and tea ladies for a wonderful season, and hopes to enjoy similar successes next season



Sadly the Club said farewell to Stuart Lennox who passed away. Stuart made his debut for Abergavenny in 1975, when he joined the club from Worcester. He was a great right arm seam and swing bowler and right hand beligerant batsman. That year which coincided with the Club winning the Three Counties League Title Stuart took 63 wickets and scored 558 runs. He would continue to perform to a high level capable of bowling sides out and scoring centuries with the bat, his highest score being 104 and his best bowling 8-61.

He represented the Three Counties League X1, Gwent and Buckinghamshire in the Minor Counties Championship as well as Worcester Cricket Association. He topped the bowling averages in 1977, the batting in both 1975 and 1981 and took the most catches for an out fielder in 1977, 1981 and 1983.