

Chapter 64

Season 2009- 175th Anniversary

President- J.B.Shackleton

Chairman- Tony Coles

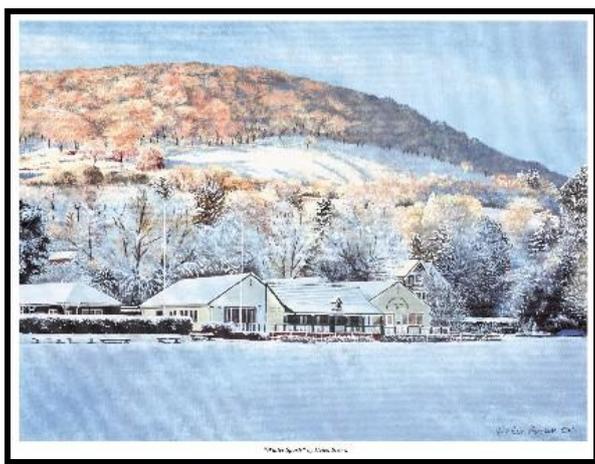
Hon Secretary- Tessa Pike, Hon Treasurer- J.B.Shackleton

Captain 1st X1- S.Brown/J.Schofield

Captain 2nd X1- M.Winstanley

Captain 3rd X1- M.Snead

Captain 4th X1- K.Schofield



Winter picture of the Avenue Road pavilion by Helen Brown

WITH Cardiff playing host to the first npower Ashes Test match between England and Australia, 2009 is an historic year for Welsh cricket.

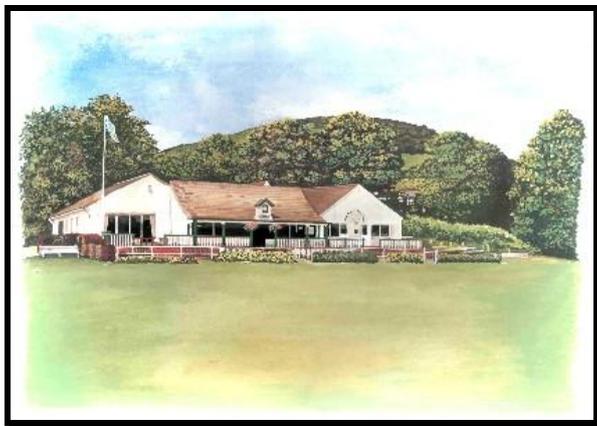
It is also a special year for Abergavenny Cricket Club which is celebrating its 175th anniversary. Formed in 1834, Abergavenny CC have a long and proud history, and during the course of the next few months the club are hosting a series of special events, including a match against Glamorgan at their picturesque ground in Avenue Road on July 26 – a game which is also in aid of Alex Wharf's Benefit Year.

Below are details of the other special events which Abergavenny CC is holding this year:

- Saturday, April 18: Launch of Celebratory Book / Players' and Members' Evening
- Saturday, June 13: Nostalgia Day – Players' and Members' Reunion
- Sunday, July 5: President's XI versus Gwent Three Counties' League Invitation XI
- Sunday, July 26: Abergavenny first XI versus Glamorgan (Alex Wharf Benefit)
- Saturday, August 29: Celebratory Dinner Dance

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Sunday, August 30: Youth Festival
Saturday, September 26: Awards Evening



ABERGAVENTNY CC's Sunday morning winter nets, which have been taking place under the guidance of former Somerset all-rounder Graham Burgess, have now ended.

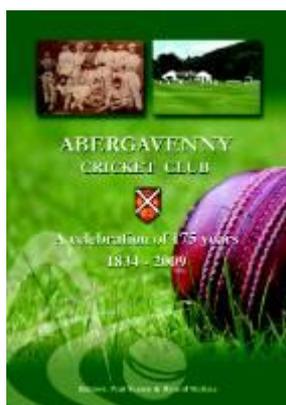
Outdoor practice, again led by Graham, starts next Tuesday evening (7 April) at 6pm. The summer's Friday youth coaching sessions begin on 17 April at 6.30 pm.

The new season is little over a week away. Friendly matches begin at Avenue Road on Sunday 12 April with a very attractive fixture with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club 'B' and, on the following Saturday and Sunday, the visitors will be Malpas and Panteg respectively.

There will also be a social evening at the clubhouse following the match on Saturday 18 April, which will see the launch of the 175th anniversary commemorative publication.

The first and second XIs open their South East Wales Premier League campaigns on Saturday 25 April and the two Herefordshire League teams do so the following week.

Abergavenny CC commence season of significance



A social evening this Saturday will mark the publication of *Abergavenny Cricket Club: A Celebration of 175 Years, 1834-2009*, edited by two former 1 XI captains, Paul Sussex and Ryland Wallace, and designed by Helen Brown. Sixty-two pages in total, it contains eighteen articles and is liberally illustrated with photographs and other images. Contributors include David Morgan (President of the International Cricket Council), former Test players Frank Tyson and Steve James, former club members Malcolm Nash, Michael Powell, Mark Wallace and Geraint Jones, and several others. Priced at £5 and available from the club, it will be reviewed in the *Abergavenny Chronicle* in the near future.

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All members (playing and social), plus supporters and friends of the club, old and new, are warmly invited to attend. Food and a convivial drink will follow a short introductory outline of the book. Start – 7.30 pm, following the conclusion of the scheduled match.

ABERGAVENTNY Cricket Club's first XI kicked off their 175th year with a prestigious fixture against a Gloucestershire Academy XI which included former Zimbabwean international Anthony Ireland. Gloucestershire batted first on a good early season wicket at Avenue Road but found the Beavers opening attack of Jon Denning and Nathan Byrne in particularly good form with a combination of good pace and late swing.

Denning caused severe problems for Woodman, and he was unlucky not to have him caught in the slips early on.

Byrne was equally unlucky when Campbell was also dropped, however he was to gain revenge when he bowled him shortly afterwards with an excellent yorker.

Woodman continued to ride his luck against the new ball bowlers but was able to settle into a better rhythm when the change bowlers came on, he mixed conventional strong off side drives with improvised sweeps off the seamers to ensure the Gloucestershire total was steadily mounting.

Ben Morgan removed the Gloucestershire captain and first team wicket keeper, Steve Adshead courtesy of a superb catch by the Beavers fielding gazelle James Schofield.

Woodman and Tom Stayt (65) then stepped up into top gear in an attempt to put the game safe and managed to rattle up an 86 run partnership in 10 overs to push the run rate over a run-a-ball.

Woodman completed his hundred off 100 balls before he was finally dismissed for 111.

Ireland joined Stayt for the final few overs and between them they hit six sixes off the final four overs to leave the Beavers chasing 285 for victory.

On the whole the Beavers performance was encouraging, with good spells of bowling from Denning, Byrne and Windross.

The ground fielding was superb, however catches were dropped at crucial times, and were they taken, the Gloucestershire total would probably have been 50-60 runs fewer.

With their promotion to the Premier division of the South Wales Cricket League this season, Abergavenny cannot afford to be so generous in the field.

Beavers coaching staff will be looking to improve this facet of the game before the first league fixture on April 25 at Tondy.

Ireland and Stayt then opened the bowling for Gloucestershire in what proved to be a very imposing new ball attack and is likely to be the best bowling partnership the Beavers will face this season.

Although the Beavers lost Schofield early on to some late in swing from Ireland, Andrew Jones and Greg Fury knuckled down and played extremely sensibly in a stand of 81 runs and this ability to play such good bowling augers well for the coming league season.

Abergavenny then suffered a mid innings collapse against the excellent off spin of young Jack Taylor, before Gavin Heritage and Dai Windross saw the Beavers through to the close with a respectable 146 runs on the board.

Skipper Steve Brown and coach Graham Burgess were pleased with the Beavers first outing of the season, and will look to build on this performance in next week's games against Malpas and Panteg. The Malpas fixture next Saturday (April 18) sees the start of the 175th Anniversary celebrations for the club.

After the match the club will hold a social evening to celebrate the anniversary and all ex and current players, members and supporters are welcome to attend. The match against Malpas starts at 1pm, with the evening's entertainment beginning at 7pm.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History



AS a young newshound employed by the Abergavenny Chronicle in the 1950s and 1960s, DON CHAMBERS spent many a lazy sun-soaked day at Avenue Road, armed with his trusty notebook and pen to dutifully record for posterity the fortunes and fates of Abergavenny Cricket Club. Never one 'stumped' for a few words to add the necessary meat and bone to his recollections of halcyon days long gone when the sound of leather and willow rocked his world, the 'old hack' and regular Chronicle contributor agreed to 'run' with his own verdict on a new book to mark the 175th anniversary of Abergavenny CC.

HISTORY is old hat? Dull, boring, past its sell-by date? Seen it, heard it, don't want a rehashed version served up as the Real Deal?

Or, on the other hand, is it an opportunity to have another and more leisurely stroll through past eras and remind yourself of what you once loved or loathed?

Rather like cricket, in fact. Too slow, stops altogether when the weather breaks and why play in whites that soon get dirty and mothers get annoyed at spending so much time washing them?

Or is cricket a game for real gentlemen, honour and sportsmanship and keeping a straight bat?

"Abergavenny Cricket Club - a Celebration of 175 years 1834-2009", edited by Paul Sussex and Ryland Wallace, packs titillating facts alongside well-known names and history in just 30 pages. On a library bookshelf, it would come under Sport, Cricket, Easy Reading.

Ryland, using a scatter-gun approach in his 'From Mansions and Meadows to County Cricket Venue' chapter, concedes that 1834 was "certainly not the beginnings of cricket locally." The first known match in the Abergavenny area was in 1819 on a lawn adjoining "the hospitable mansion of Cwrt-y-Gollen".

With travel difficult before the railways, the club played few matches in the early years. When they did, it was on rough and uneven surfaces that made cricket dangerous.

In one match, Ryland tells us, an umpire died after being struck behind the ear by the ball. Team totals were often as low as 50, but some matches "finished up with a heavy dinner," while a good deal of betting was involved.

The wicket would often be the only mown area and the outfield would be "lush, thick grass and other obstructions."

Throughout the first 60 years of their life, Abergavenny CC didn't have a permanent home, often playing in Priory Meadow, later named Bailey Park, and even Castle Meadows.

One of the highlights of this lovely, compact book is "A Tour through the Post War Archives", from 1946, through "my" years in the 1950s and 1960s, to the present time.

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The importance of Abergavenny Cricket Club to the local community is emphasised in the book by David Morgan, former chairman of Glamorgan CC, who describes the club as "the bedrock on which our great game is played."

To prove the point, I still remember the time when I was sitting in the balcony at the Coliseum cinema when someone whispered urgently to me from a row or two in front that an Abergavenny batsman had that very day scored a century at Hereford. He thought I should be informed even before the film ended.

Local businessman Charles Price once called at the office to complain about my epithet for his son Jeremy as The Prince of Swipe due to his liking for hitting sixes. I was ordered to be more restrained in future.

A few years ago on a crowded market-day Tuesday, this lanky figure with "gingerish" hair loped towards me, stared and stuck out his hand. It was Colin Nash, on whom I had not set eyes for very many years.

It is often said in journalism that names make news, and it is so with this book: Tommy Adams, Lew White, Bob Jennings, Brian Shackleton, Colin and Malcolm Nash, Bill Macpherson, Jeremy Price and umpire Cliff Cox. I even spotted in a 1934 team picture my old King Henry V111 Grammar School Latin teacher, Harold "Acker" Sharpe.

Twelve years later, the club moved to Avenue Road. The club had 265 members, of whom 65 were players.

In another picture, I spotted the name Nazir Ali. If my memory is up to the task, I recall asking captain Brian Shackleton who the new player was and he gave me that name.

The following week, I was approached by "Nazir Ali" who said he had read my report from the previous week, but was disappointed that I had spelt his name incorrectly.

I apologised, and asked him to spell it out for me. So now you all know he is Nasir Ali Khan Quizzlebash.

To maintain the momentum in 2009, Abergavenny has secured a rising talent in South African Cricket in the form of Richard Levi. Richard is 21 and currently plays for Western Province and the Cape Cobras as a batsman. He joins us as a player and coach, enabling him to pass on some of his skills to players of all ages within the club. We are also fortunate to have ex-Somerset player and first class umpire Graham Burgess, to complement the coaching staff for 2009. Will Owen, the Glamorgan bowler also joins us to help make this year more successful than ever.



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Will Owen, a Glamorgan Development player, has been allocated to Abergavenny for the 2009 season.

Will who hails from St. Asaph in Flintshire, is a right arm seam bowler and a useful right handed bat. He has represented Wales on several occasions including a match at Abergavenny last season which wetted his appetite for the club.

He made his debut for Glamorgan 1st Eleven against Gloucestershire at Sophia Gardens in 2007 and has made numerous appearances for their 2nd eleven.

Abergavenny Cricket Club look forward to welcoming Will to Avenue Road, when he returns from playing in Australia.

FOLLOWING a largely successful opening fixture against Gloucester Academy last week, Abergavenny were dealt a harsh lesson by visitors Malpas on Saturday.

The margin of defeat, a 10 wicket mauling, should act as a major wake up call to all first team squad members, and highlights the need for midweek training.

The day started well for the Beavers when skipper Steve Brown won the toss and immediately batted first on another good wicket.

Brown lost his opening partner, Greg Fury, early on but found a useful adversary in Mark Evans, before Brown was caught on the third man boundary for 26.

Evans (29) and Craig Barnsley (24) pushed the score past 50 and a useful Abergavenny total looked very much on the cards..

However, a mid innings halt was brought about by Malpas' Mike Heames, where Abergavenny only scored 23 runs in 11 overs.

Dai Windross top scored for Abergavenny with 40 including three lusty six's towards the end of the innings, however, the Abergavenny total of 167 was never going to be enough.

Malpas openers Marc Collins and Mick Martin dealt with the imposing threat of Jon Denning very well, but unfortunately for Abergavenny, the change bowlers were unable to maintain Dennings early pressure.

The exception being Gavin Heritage who made welcome return to form for the Beavers which augers well for the league campaign.

Collins was particularly fierce on anything too straight and scored a very high percentage of his runs

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through the leg side.

Ironically he brought up his hundred with a straight six off Neil Skelton, and with only a handful of runs required for victory following that, Malpas cruised to an emphatic 10 wicket win with seven overs to spare.

Abergavenny First XI travel to Tondy for their first league game next week and will be looking to banish this result to the annals of history as soon as possible.

THE 2nd X1 Beavers defied the driving rain and travelled to Sully on the weekend, where they found the ground dry, the sun shining, and only a keen wind whipping in off the sea to hinder their progress as they put the seiders to the Abergavenny sword.

The two captains agreed to reduce the overs per side to 45, and Sully duly won the toss, but surprisingly decided to bat.

Abergavenny got off to a good start with Chris 'no nickname yet' Hartland removing one of Sully's openers.

However Sully's Clitheroe was in fine form, scoring in excess of half his team's runs, as the opening spells from Hartland and Skelton came to an end with no further wickets.

The introduction of spin twins Andy 'Shippers' Timpson and Owain 'Obiwan' Bradley paid immediate dividends with Bradley picking up a wicket with his first ball, brilliantly caught behind by Ioan "Tiger" Lilley.

This wicket quickly brought two more, another for Bradley and one for Timpson, although Clitheroe should also have gone, but he was missed stumped when on just 35.

Sully consolidated with a partnership between Clitheroe (87) and Jones (30), but when Lee 'Steptoe' Fury came on, he winkled out Clitheroe bowling him off his pads.

Then skipper Mark 'Stan' Winstanley ran out Jones with a direct hit, as Sully limped to 155 for six.

Sully then hit out in the remaining few overs to set a target of 193 for 7, which never looked enough. Bradley finished with two for 25 off his nine overs, with Timpson one for 34 and Hartland one for 37 off their respective nine overs.

In reply, Abergavenny got off to the worst possible start as Jon 'Ferret Features' Viveash was dismissed in the second over.

Ioan Lilley was joined at the crease by Chris Hartland. Lilley looked in great form as he raced to 12 including a six, but he misjudged a shortish delivery and spooned a catch to point.

This brought in Ryland 'Mouseman' Wallace who played his usual steadying role, whilst Chris Hartland smashed the Sully attack to all parts.

The Beavers raced along at more than five an over, and Hartland soon reached 50.

Hartland continued to take the attack to Sully, and despite a chance dropped on the boundary when on 56, looked set for a hundred.

Wallace himself reached 50, punishing the Sully slow bowlers by using his feet and punching boundaries.

However, with just 36 runs required for victory, Hartland misjudged a drive and was caught at extra cover for an excellent 82.

Wallace was then joined by Dan Hartland, and he continued his impressive start to the season with a quick 17 not out.

Wallace steered the Beavers home with an unbeaten 71 and eight overs to spare.

This was an excellent victory for the Beavers, and was a performance in which all aspects of the game clicked.

Next week the Beavers host local rivals Chepstow at Avenue Road and will be looking to continue their good start to the season.

ABERGAVENTNY'S first team showed their naivety of top flight cricket on Saturday and lost a game they had dominated for long periods.

Abergavenny skipper Steve Brown won the toss on a damp morning and asked Sudbrook to bat first. Will Owen making his home debut for the Beavers showed good pace and control in an opening spell of six overs which saw him take the wicket of Craig Cullinane.

Ross Lewis, fresh from his ton the week before, found things far less to his liking this time out as

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Nathan Byrne and Gavin Heritage followed Owen's lead by keeping things tight.

Lewis' patience was finally breached when he attempted a pull off Heritage and was caught behind for 31.

Beavers were still firmly in control after 40 overs when the visitors found themselves 140-3.

However, the fact that Sudbrook had kept wickets in hand was a key feature of the last 10 overs where some improvised shot making together with some lusty blows saw Sudbrook blaze a trail to an imposing 240-4.

Aussie Julian Lane made 113*, Mark O'Leary 40 and Carl Morgan 33* in the closing melee.

Beavers felt they were still firmly in the game at the mid game interval, and this was acutely evident during the first five overs of the Abergavenny innings where they found themselves 40-0. However, Chris Ashling accounted for Greg Fury for 18 when he looked set for a big score.

This did not serve to derail the Beavers innings, as South African import Richard Levi found himself acclimatizing to the Welsh weather and enjoyed a 52 run partnership with James Schofield at a run-a-ball.

Schofield (47) looked particularly fluent, with sublime on drives the pick of his repertoire. Schofield lost his wicket with the score at 94 which brought Steve Brown to the crease, unfortunately Brown pulled his hamstring attempting to complete his first run which resulted in him having to bat with a runner for the remainder of his innings.

At 120-2 off 22 overs, the Beavers were again in the box seat to complete victory, however, one over from left arm seamer John Lewis changed the course of the game.

Lewis bowled Levi (43) through the gate with a ball that nipped back, then had Tonto Evans caught behind.

With Brown (32) struggling on with the middle order the Beavers lost wickets at regular intervals and were bowled out for 193 with six overs left, Dean Wallace mopping up the tail with 5-29.

The end result did not reflect on how close the game was, and the meagre five points that Abergavenny take from the game serves as a harsh reminder that life in the top division is a far cry from the sedate pace of division one.

Beavers must harden up quickly if they are to mount a challenge for a top five finish. That quest begins next week with a trip to St Fagan's.

ON Sunday Abergavenny went through to the second round of the Welsh Cup with a convincing win against Penarth.

Everyone played a part in this win with James Schofield scoring 27, Andrew Jones(53), Greg Fury(49), Marc Evans(25), Chris Hartland(29no) and Owen Dawkins(43).

A total of 245-6 always looked an impressive score and Penarth needed to bat well to chase the score down.

After the tea interval opening bowlers Jon Denning and Nathan Byrne started well.

Denning had his first wicket of the afternoon in his second over with the batsman playing on to his stumps.

Byrne, who bowled a good line and length, then followed up with a smart catch by Jones in the gully. He finished with impressive figures of 9-2-24-4 as Penarth slipped to 49-7. But some late order hitting got Penarth up to 109 all out with Dai Windross picking up a wicket and young Dan Hartland taking two wickets on his first team debut as the Beavers won by 136 runs.

Abergavenny now play the winners of Llantwit Major v Newport tie which will be played this coming Sunday.

USK CC's first and second teams returned from the fray victorious on Saturday as they vanquished their respective Abergavenny counterparts both home and away.

On a glorious Saturday afternoon at the Athletic Club Ground, first team skipper, Tom Robinson, won the toss against local rivals Abergavenny and elected to field.

This decision was vindicated almost immediately as Abergavenny lost a wicket in the first over of the match.

Abergavenny wickets continued to fall at regular intervals as the visitors limped to 41-6 in only the twelfth over.

Things were not much better after 20 overs as Abergavenny lost their seventh wicket with the score on 58.

Abergavenny at last did rally, as Heritage (64) marshalled the tail to enable his team to total 162 all

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out. For Usk, Huw Waters finished with the exemplary figures of 10-2-26-4, whilst Vinnie Kay and skipper Robinson each bagged a brace.

Requiring 163 to win, Usk were never in difficulty in pursuit of their target, as Matt Birrell (53) and Waters put on 77 for the first wicket.

Despite Coles picking up four wickets for Abergavenny, Usk were always in control and easily attained their target in only the 36th over with five wickets still in hand.

James Osbourne (23*) and Robinson guided the hosts over the finishing line, with the skipper fittingly smashing a six to end the game.

Meanwhile 12 miles up the road in Abergavenny, Usk again won the toss as captain Mike Kear decided that fielding first was also the way to go.

However, it was Abergavenny who made the better start as Kinman (29) and Astley-Jones (32) put on 60 for the first wicket in 15 overs. Both were then removed by Jack Stedman. With Viveash (28) and Wallace (40) putting in useful contributions for the middle order, Abergavenny were well placed at 147-3 in the 38th over, however the onslaught never came as Stedman bagged another two wickets in his second spell and Jake Roderick weighed in with a couple.

This entailed that Abergavenny made it up to 186-9 from their allocated 50 overs. Stedman finished with the fine figures of 10-2-31-4.

In reply Mike Kear (91) and Richie Morris (67*) ensured that there would be no wobbles as they posted an opening stand of 154 from the first 37 overs.

Despite losing Kear and two other batsmen, Usk coasted to victory with 5.4 overs and seven wickets in hand. Kear's 91 included eight fours and a six, whilst Morris struck three fours in his unbeaten knock.

This was a heavy defeat for the Beavers whose top order all got in and yet failed to capitalise, which was compounded by a middle order collapse.

The bowlers also struggled against a very offensive minded Usk. Next week the Beavers play Blackwood for the first time in the Premier Division, and with Blackwood one place above them in the league, will be looking for a much improved performance if they are to come away with a victory.

Usk face a hectic weekend this time around. On Saturday the firsts travel to league champions Sully, whilst the seconds entertain the same opponents. Both matches begin at 1pm.

On Sunday, the firsts travel to Cardiff in the fourth round of the Welsh Cup, whilst the thirds play a friendly at home to Radyr. Both matches commence at 2pm.

THE unruly elements caused problems in Abergavenny CC's two games against Blackwood.

The first XI game at Blackwood ended after 13 overs with the home side batting at 43-2.

Meanwhile in the second XI fixture at Avenue Rd, rain stopped play with Abergavenny at 53-1 chasing 231.

Crickhowell completed their home fixture game against local neighbours Glangrwyney with an emphatic seven wicket victory, but the Beavers were second best at Eastnor Ground and lost by eight wickets.

ABERGAVENTNY put in a much improved performance against Penarth on Saturday, but it still wasn't enough to prevent them from going down by 93 runs.

Skipper James Schofield won the toss and inserted Penarth, hoping to exploit some early moisture in the pitch.

Niel Skelton bowled a super 10-over spell straight through, and was extremely unfortunate to only pick up one wicket - opener Hughes caught at gully by Will Owen.

After a couple of overs to find his range, Gavin Heritage settled into a testing line and length and was eventually rewarded with the wicket of Peter Docherty, caught behind by keeper Greg Fury.

Although Abergavenny were perhaps unlucky to pick up more wickets in the opening covers, Penarth were going well at just over four runs an over.

First team debutant Dan Hartland was introduced into the attack, getting some appreciable turn and picking up the wicket of Sidford, who was probably unfortunate to be given out LBW for 14.

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That brought Penarth skipper Morgan to the crease to join Penarth number three Adam Shantry who was well set and building his innings nicely after the early tests posted by Skelton and Heritage. The pair put on 131 for the fourth wicket at an excellent rate. Barnsley, Windross and Schofield worked hard but with the field spread, singles were easy to come by, and there were a few too many boundary balls.

Nevertheless, Abergavenny created more chances than the previous week, and bowlers were unfortunate to see a few catches of varying difficulty go to the ground.

They also prevented Penarth from exploiting the last 10 overs as fully as they could have done and Schofield and Owen Dawkins bowled a good line and length in the final overs.

Dawkins eventually removed Morgan for 65 to a catch by Schofield, who made amends for dropping the same batsman off the previous ball.

Schofield himself then picked up the wickets of James Docherty and Skone, before Abergavenny old boy JJ Davies joined Shantry, who battled excellently to reach a score of 127 not out, accumulating singles well, and picking off the bad balls.

The pair saw Penarth through a final total of 292-6 off their 50 overs.

If Abergavenny were to have a chance of chasing down this total, they needed a good start.

Unfortunately, they got the exact opposite as Fury went in the second over for four, slicing a drive to cover.

Dan Hartland, Will Owen and Marc Taylor followed to the experienced Mark Frost who, as ever, bowled an extremely testing spell, in picking up three wickets in his opening covers.

This left Abergavenny 24 for four in the ninth over as Schofield joined Marc Evans at the wicket. With the previous week's batting collapse still fresh in the mind, the pair first set about settling themselves at the crease and stabilising the innings.

Easier said than done with the introduction of left-arm spinner Mark Thomas who gained good turn from an excellent line and length, and began with three maidens in a row.

Slowly but surely, Schofield, and in particular, Evans put together a good partnership of 66 before Schofield went, caught behind off Thomas for 20.

Barnsley followed soon after, as Evans continued through to an excellent 61, before he fell with the score on 111 for seven.

Dawkins joined Heritage at the wicket with the innings wobbling a little. However, the pair batted extremely well in putting on 84, accelerating in the later part of the innings to take Abergavenny to 195 for 8, before Dawkins holed out to long for an excellent 55.

With three balls left, Abergavenny just failed to make it to 200 for their fourth batting point, finishing on 199-8, with Heritage unbeaten with a well-made 32 not out.

Although the result went against them, Abergavenny put in a decent performance, creating more chances in field, and crafting a good reply with the bat, especially given the poor start to their innings.

TRAVELLING to Bridgend on the back of an excellent victory at Cardiff, Abergavenny seconds were asked to bowl, and it soon became apparent that the whole team were suffering from a major hangover.

Firstly, Alex 'Denzil' Denning struggled to master the slope, bowling a series of wides, and this was compounded by a missed catch by John 'Foxy' Viveash.

This soon spread to the rest of the side, as Abergavenny's ground fielding enabled Bridgend to build a healthy score. Chris 'Spunky' Hartland and Ryan 'Midgey' Jones bowled tidily, with Jones picking up a wicket.

Bridgend continued to accumulate runs, but when Andy 'Dumbledore' Timpson came on to cast his usual score restricting spell, the scoring rate soon started to fall.

At the halfway point, despite only taking one wicket, Bridgend were only on 89, and with youngster Clayton struggling to adapt, the pressure started to build.

Timpson finished his spell with excellent figures of 10 overs for just 29 runs, but was unfortunate not to get any wickets.

Ben 'Pikey' Pike and Owain 'Local Hero' Bradley kept up the pressure, but it was the re-introduction of Hartland that gave Abergavenny the next breakthrough with a couple of quick wickets, both LBWs.

Bradley then tempted the increasingly frustrated batsmen to attempt to hit out, and he duly picked up four wickets, with catches by Hartland, Viveash and Jones, and another LBW. Bridgend moved over 200 with some lusty hitting by Smith, and the crowd could soon clap the first 50 of the day, as the extras piled up.

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At the close, Bridgend had reached only 221 off their 50 overs, which will have been disappointing after the start they had.

Bradley was the pick of the bowlers with four for 34 off his 10 overs, although this innings would be remembered for 46 wides!

In reply, Abergavenny got off to the worst possible start losing both loan 'Tiger' Lilley and Viveash cheaply.

Hartland and Ryland 'Should have gone to Specsavers' Wallace started about the repair work, and were soon dominating the Bridgend attack, and building a healthy reply.

Harland was again in excellent form, blasting the bad ball away to reach 50, and was ably supported by Wallace who took time to find some fluency.

The game then took a turn against Abergavenny as both batsmen fell within a couple of overs, leaving Abergavenny at 120 for 4 off 28 overs.

Jones then took up the challenge, and despite losing Jo 'Rusty' Hrastelj, Denning and Mark 'Stan' Winstanley, was helped along by Pike.

This partnership with some clever shot selection by Jones soon brought the target realistically within reach.

Jones soon reached 50, but then his luck ran out as he misjudged another sortie from the crease and was caught for 52.

It was then Pike's turn to pick up the baton, with 30 runs required at about a run-a-ball. Pike brought Abergavenny to within 17 runs before Bradley was bowled, leaving just Timpson to help Pike pull off a remarkable victory.

Timpson called a few short singles and survived, and with just one over remaining a further seven runs were required.

Pike duly hit the first ball of the last over for four, making Bridgend bring in the field, and he then hit a square drive for another four to win the match.

Pike finished with 33 not out, as Abergavenny scraped home with one wicket to spare.

Next week, a long awaited home match against local rivals Usk.

A SPIRITED display by the youngsters in the team propelled Abergavenny to victory in the John Macey 20/20 knockout Quarter final at Chepstow.

The homeside who beat Usk in the previous round, never recovered from losing three early wicket to the swing bowling of Jon Denning and Dai Windross, and though the father and son partnership of Paul and Dave Bennett brought some stability, they were both dismissed by 16-year-old Dan Hartland. Tight bowling by Chris Hartland, Midge Jones and Ben Morgan coupled with some sound fielding restricted Chepstow, and the final wicket was captured in the last over with the score on 101.

In reply Abergavenny quickly lost 20-year-old captain Greg Fury for 12 and Dan Hartland for 16, but 18-year-old Marc Taylor (32 n.o) and Ben Morgan (35 n.o) saw Abergavenny home in the 15th over. The semi-final will be played at Avenue Rd on a date still to be agreed.



Abergavenny Cricket Club History

Nathan Byrne



Greg Fury

ABERGAVENTNY'S First XI suffered a cruel blow this week when their South African coach Richard Levi was controversially banned by the league for being an alleged professional. Despite sterling work by Club Chairman Tony Coles, the original hearing and subsequent appeal found in favour of Tondy, the club who had filed the official complaint.

This now means Abergavenny and cricket watchers throughout South East Wales will be deprived of one the best players ever to grace the League.

Despite this setback, Beavers players will now unite even stronger as a team and look to put this ostracizing decision behind them.

This was evident immediately in the opening exchanges of the home league match against Pentyrch on Saturday.

Abergavenny skipper Steve Brown lost the toss and opposing captain Kristian Bell had no hesitation in batting first.

Abergavenny's opening duo of Nathan 'spitting Cobra' Byrne and John 'military medium' Denning had the visitors in a good deal of bother and both were dropped early in the piece before Brad Wadlan was run out by Gavlar Heritage for 25.

However, this was about as good as it got for the home attack as both Mike Barber and Alex Senn played some excellent cricket in the blazing sun as Pentyrch rattled up 289-2.

In reply, Greg Fury played a much more circumspect innings and was unlucky to be given out for 15. James Schofield and Andrew Jones (28) moved the score along to 59 before Jones missed a straight one.

Skipper Brown (33) and Schofield then exercised the game plan of big shots mixed with good running and the Beavers hopes were raised as they brought up the 130 in the 30th over, this left a tough, but reachable target of 160 in the last 20.

However, the chase stopped almost as it started as first Brown, then Schofield went in consecutive overs to leave the Beavers reeling at 137-4.

Some good mid innings batting from Tonto Evans (32) and Craig Barnsley (33) saw the Beavers over the maximum batting point target of 225, however the innings closed on 231-8 leaving Pentyrch with a winning draw.

Abergavenny take seven points from the game and will look to cement their unity next week with an away trip to Newport.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History



Under 13 Team

Abergavenny Cricket Club History



ABERGAVENTNY won their first league game of the season on Saturday in the most emphatic of fashions.

In an astonishing match dominated by big shots, Abergavenny beat Croesyceiliog by nine wickets with a small matter of 192 balls to spare.

This was due in no small part to South African import Richard Levi who announced his arrival in the Premier League in no uncertain terms with a magnificent 120 not out off just 70 balls with nine towering sixes.

It could have been a much steeper target for the Beavers to chase when Will Bragg, Akhtar Baloch and Mike Beacham were making hay in the May sunshine against the Abergavenny bowlers, however, some good catching mixed with some poor shot selections saw Croesyceiliog slump from 122-2 in the 21st over to 239 all out in just 39.3 overs.

This meant that Abergavenny had a massive 60 overs to chase down their target.

Glamorgan batsman Will Bragg looked in no particular trouble on an excellent surface at Croesy, but was undone by some late swing by Jon Denning (2-46) and was neatly caught in the slips by Levi.

Akhtar Baloch was playing his usual array of strokes and picked up a number of boundaries in the first 10 overs with the Croesy outfield extremely quick.

Baloch found a good adversary in Croesy skipper Mike Beacham and between them added 47 for the 2nd wicket before Beacham was LBW to Willow Coles for 29.

This was the first of three wickets for the pint-sized tweaker who returned slightly odd figures of 3-74 from his ten overs.

Baloch had taken 18 runs from one particular Coles over, but he was undone shortly afterwards by Levi and was caught on the point boundary by Andrew Jones for 81.

The Croesy lower-middle order offered little resistance to the Beavers bowling with only Devlar (24) topping double figures.

It was left to Gavin Heritage to mop up the Croesy tail when he dismissed Price for eight with the second ball of the 40th over.

This capitulation by the Croesy side meant that the Beavers gained their 10 unused overs, giving a revised target of 239 in 60 overs.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History

Despite the extended duration of the Beavers innings, Greg Fury seemed intent on finishing as quickly as possible as he climbed into anything short, particularly from Brian Armstrong, as he smashed 35 from just 18 balls with two big sixes.

This brought Levi to the crease, and following a circumspect start, he began to move through the gears. Never was this more evident than when he gained his first boundary with a huge straight six out of the ground off Marsh.

Levi maintained this tempo for the rest of his innings, striking a further eight sixes in a magnificent display of controlled hitting.

Andrew Jones (55*) was the perfect foil for Levi and they enjoyed an unbroken stand of 184.

It was fitting that Levi struck the winning boundary off the last ball of the 28th over, leaving the Beavers victorious by nine wickets and 32 overs in hand.

This maximum point victory will move Abergavenny up towards mid table as they look to build on this win with another good performance at home to Pentyrch next week.

ABERGAVENNY'S second eleven cruised to a comfortable nine wicket victory over local rivals Chepstow last Saturday at Avenue Road.

Ryland Wallace, deputising for Mark Winstanley, had little hesitation in asking Chepstow to bat on a surface that promised some early movement off the seam.

The Beavers did not have long to wait before Chris Hartland struck, bowling Jones off an inside edge. Further success followed two balls later when the dangerous Bennett was removed LBW, offering no shot to Hartland.

At the other end Dai Windross kept things tight as Chepstow laboured to make any headway against the Beavers opening pair.

'Midge' Jones and the veteran Timpson entered the attack and continued to exert pressure on Chepstow.

Jones was rewarded with an excellent spell of two for 16 off his ten overs, including a fine leg side stumping by Wallace.

At the 30 over mark Chepstow were still struggling at 74 for three before Hartland Minor entered the fray and removed the stubborn Hepworth for 44.

Despite skipper Wallace displaying certain totalitarian tendencies from his eyrie behind the stumps, Abergavenny continued to press home their advantage as Hartland Major and Windross returned for the final overs.

Aggressive bowling from Hartland, aided by some solid ground fielding and an excellent one handed catch by Wallace diving low to his right, turned the remainder of the Chepstow innings into something of a procession as they were finally dismissed for 141 in the penultimate over.

Hartland finished with the outstanding figures of six for 31 from his ten overs.

Abergavenny began their reply with Dan Hartland Minor and Marc Taylor opening the batting for the Beavers.

Both batsmen proved adept at punishing the bad ball and the innings gathered pace with Taylor driving forcefully down the ground and Hartland seizing on anything short from the Chepstow attack. After 20 overs the score stood at 87 without loss and Chepstow looked a beaten side. However, in the 22nd over Taylor miscued a short delivery and was dismissed for a fine 44. This brought Harland Major to the wicket and, some interesting mid wicket conversations notwithstanding, the brothers saw the Beavers home in the 31st over to win by an emphatic nine wicket margin.

Dan finished off an excellent day for the Hartland boys with 68 not out and Chris 21 not out.

This was the Beavers third successive victory and augurs well for the club with some younger players of real talent beginning to emerge.

Stern tests lie ahead with games against Newport and Cardiff just around the corner.

Yet the most pressing question on the minds of the players at the end of the game was whether or not the 'gentle giant' Winstanley would be able to recapture the leadership of the side from the ruthless Wallace for next weeks encounter with Pentyrch.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History



UNDER 11 Team Joint League Champions



Abergavenny 2nd X1

AWARD WINNERS 2009

CHAIRMANS AWARD

Claire Wright

THE COLIN WOODS MEMORIAL TROPHY

Huw Wright

1ST TEAM PLAYER OF THE YEAR LEWIS WHITE MEMORIAL CUP

Gavin Heritage

2ND TEAM PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Andy Timpson

3RD TEAM (CRICKHOWELL) PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Mark Coles

4TH TEAM (ABERGAVENNY BEAVERS) PLAYER OF THE YEAR ROBERT PRICE CUP

Jamie Cooke

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR MALCOLM NASH CUP

Dan Hartland

MOST PROMISING YOUNG PLAYER ABERGAVENNY FIRE STATION CUP

Alex Astley-Jones

