

Chapter 69

2013 Season

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New Recruits Shine, But Abergavenny Narrowly Pipped at St Fagans

Abergavenny's first team made a promising start to the season away at St Fagans but will be very disappointed at missing the opportunity to win a close game.

St Fagans won the toss and elected to field first. Scoring was difficult on a good cricket wicket offering assistance for the bowlers, and Gavin Heritage fell early on for two. New player-coach Ali Bukhari looked set for a long stay when he was adjudged LBW to a good ball from Owain Hopkins. Another new recruit Tamoor Zafar joined James Schofield at the crease and the pair set about consolidating the innings, putting together a useful, if slow-paced partnership of 31 before Schofield fell, also LBW, for 15. Zafar, who made a highly assured debut with the bat, and Lewis Parfitt accelerated the innings nicely and Aber were well set for a very competitive total at 93-3 in the 33rd over. However, Parfitt (12) and Zafar (45) departed in quick succession and although there were some lusty blows from Richie Roberts and third debutant Asim Gillani (18), Abergavenny were all out for 139 in the 44th over.

Nevertheless, they made an excellent start to their fielding effort, with Bukhari trapping Lawlor LBW in the first over, and Parfitt having Sullivan caught behind by Lewis Holley - who kept very tidily - in the fourth, to leave the home side reeling at 8 for 2. Owain Hopkins and Freddie John steadied the ship and it was Gillani who struck next,

bowling Hopkins with his quicker ball. Gillani was to have further success in his eight over as he struck twice more to put Aber firmly in the box seat with St Fagans on 56-5 after 24 overs. Gillani finished with the excellent figures of 3-11 from his spell, and together with leg spinners Will Ford and Zafar, demonstrated what a strong spin bowling line up Abergavenny can field this season. Despite some excellent bowling from Parfitt, backed up by Zafar and Ford, Kristian Bell and Andrew Leering took the score to 95 before Bell was bowled by Zafar. With four an over needed, St Fagans kept chipping away and unfortunately Aber could not quite keep it tight enough or take the wickets that would have sealed an excellent win, and Leering (66 not out) guided St Fagans home with ten balls to spare.

Ultimately, although they will rue some dropped catches, it was their failure to bat out the fifty overs that really cost them. Nevertheless, there were many encouraging signs, not least the impact of the new signings on the side and they will hope to build on the positives from this performance when they travel to Pontypridd next week.

Abergavenny win at Pontypridd

ABERGAVENNY recorded their first league win of the season with an excellent win at Pontypridd.

After winning the toss, Abergavenny asked Pontypridd to bat first on what was a good wicket but which they hoped would offer some early assistance to the bowlers after the overnight rain.

Ali Bukhari struck in the third over, having Williams caught behind by Lewis Holley for just two. Thereafter, although the initial new ball spells from Bukhari and from Lewis Parfitt were testing, they could make no further headway, and let their control slip.

A couple of catches were dropped, and as the bowlers sent down too many bad balls, Collins and Jonny Hughes took the score to 72-1 in the 19th over before Tamoor Zafar eventually removed Collins for 40.

The Hughes brothers continued to run Aber ragged for a time and looked set to lead the hosts to a sizeable total. Gavin Heritage returned to the attack to have Jonny Hughes removed for 42 thanks to a superb catch by Will Ford.

A brisk fourth wicket partnership between Gareth Hughes and Waughington took the score to 154-3 in the 32nd over before Ford

removed Waughington.

From this point the innings unravelled for the home team as Ford, Zafar, Bukhari and Asim Gillani applied much greater pressure on the lower order, and instead of posting in excess of 240 which had seemed likely, they were all out for just 198, Zafar taking 3-24, in addition to two run-outs.



L-R-Gavin Heritage & James Schofield

Openers Heritage and James Schofield got the reply off to a blistering start, taking 41 off the first seven overs, and it was a big surprise to see Heritage fall, caught behind for an excellent 19 that hinted that he is in good form.

Richie Roberts began brightly but let his impatience get the better of him as he was stumped



Richie Roberts

with the score on 59. Bukhari and Schofield put together a third wicket partnership of 36 in eight overs to leave the score on 97-3 when Bukhari was caught at long on for a quickfire 27. Zafar joined forces with Schofield and again demonstrated his class as together they took the

score to 179-3 in the 36th over. With just 20 runs needed for victory, Schofield was caught behind for 73, leaving Zafar to record his maiden fifty for the club, finishing on 56 not out, as Parfitt (11 not out) ended the game in style with a boundary over the top.

In general, an excellent performance from Abergavenny, who despite the middle twenty overs of their bowling stint, did exceptionally well to restrict Pontypridd to under 200 as their batsmen showed how good the pitch was. They will travel to Chepstow in good heart as they look to gain some winning momentum ahead of the return of some key players later in the month.

Saturday May 11th

*Chepstow 160-8 Ali Bukari 4-25, Will Ford 2-30 Abergavenny 85-4
Gavin Heritage 33, Tamoor Zafar-24* Match Abandoned*

Saturday May 18th

*Rogerstone- 130 all out Ali Bukari 3-8, Asim Gillani 4-23, Tamoor
Zafar-2-8*

On a lovely day at the Rogerstone Welfare Grounds Abergavenny took maximum points to record their second win from three completed games after last week's fixture against Chepstow ended prematurely due to rain.

The home captain Andy Harris won the toss and elected to bat first on a dry dusty pitch. However, the dangerous Harris was bowled in the first over by Ali Bukhari by a ball that kept a fraction low. Bukhari then removed Hughes in the third over, perhaps unlucky to be trapped LBW. In the face of some excellent seam bowling from Bukhari, Lewis Parfitt and Dan Cooke, Trinder and Holdaway then fashioned a good third wicket partnership of 55. Holdaway in particular drove the ball very

nicely, but got a little tied down by the spinners and was stumped for 16 by Matt Davies off Asim Gillani. Will Ford had Zaheer caught by Tamoor Zafar in the next over as Rogerstone went to drinks at 62-4. With Trinder playing a characterful and defiant innings and Anjum playing some nice aggressive shots, the fifth wicket took the score to 96 before Anjum was caught at midwicket by Gavin Heritage off Gillani. For the second time in the innings, the next wicket fell in the very next over as Zafar bowled Luke Harris for a duck with the score on 97-6. The next three wickets fell swiftly once Gillani had ended Trinder's resistance for a well made 37, as Berry and Watson also departed leaving the home side on 114-9. Number ten batsman Jones then played some pleasing shots off the spinners before he was removed by the returning Bukhari's first ball to end the innings on 130. For Abergavenny, Gillani finished with an excellent 4-23 and Bukhari 3-8.

Heritage and James Schofield set out to get the innings off to the sort of swift start that underpinned their successful chase against Pontypridd and, aided by some uncharacteristically loose bowling from Holdaway and Berry, raced on to 26 in just three overs before Heritage, who continues to look in excellent touch following a fluent 33 against Chepstow, perished LBW for 10. An experiment to put Gillani in at three to take the initiative away from Rogerstone was short lived as he was caught behind off Berry for a duck. Schofield and Zafar joined forces for the third time this season and with Schofield continuing to take the attack to the bowlers and punishing anything short, Zafar played himself in watchfully, surviving one scare as he was dropped at first slip off Holdaway from a relatively straightforward edge. Putting that behind him, he demonstrated the form that has taken him to 159 runs in just four innings for once dismissed. Schofield and Zafar took the visitors to victory at 133-2 from 26 overs, putting together a partnership of 106, with Zafar finishing on 36 not out and Schofield looking very fluent and finishing on an unbeaten 62.

Abergavenny will be pleased with another good performance on a beautiful sunny afternoon with a good spirit between the two sets of players also in evidence after the game. They will look forward to welcoming back some key players that will strengthen the side further as they play their first home game of the season next week against Pentyrch and look to maintain the pressure on the top of the table sides.

The club are also looking forward to hosting a sporting Q&A and forum for Mark Wallace, Glamorgan captain and cricketing son of Abergavenny, in aid of his richly deserved benefit season. It all takes place at the club on Friday the 31st of May, with a buffet to supplement the feast of sport on offer, tickets priced at £10. For further details please see the club website or get in touch with the club!

Saturday May 25th

Abergavenny 246 -8 Andrew Jones 50, James Schofield 20, Lewis Parfitt 72, Tamoor Zafar-29, Ali Bukari 25 Pentyrch 205 -8 Will Ford 2-41, Dan Cooke 2-46 1 wicket each for Parfitt, Bukari, Zafar & Gillani

Abergavenny made it three wins in a row in their first home game of the season on a glorious early summer day at Avenue Road. On winning the toss, visiting captain Steve Matthews elected to bowl first, a decision vindicated by the life extracted by his opening bowlers Pete and Mike Grosset on a pitch that had some moisture under the surface after the recent rain. Both bowlers got the ball to jag around and Aber openers Andrew Jones and James Schofield found life extremely tough in the early overs with the score just 24 off 10 overs. However, having weathered a tricky early period unscathed, they were able to increase the rate gradually and set a platform for the rest of the innings. Schofield eventually fell for 20, with the score on 53 in the 19th over. Lewis Parfitt came

in at number three and, after a scare second ball when he was dropped off a difficult chance from a ball that popped on him from Peter Grosset, settled quickly. The second wicket partnership took the score to 105 before Jones surprisingly fell, caught at mid on for a hitherto chanceless 50. The in form Tamoor Zafar continued the acceleration of the run rate, making a brisk 29 before picking out deep midwicket, bringing his average down to a mere 95 after five innings this year. With the score now 159-3 from 40 overs, the situation was perfect for Ali Bukhari to add some late innings fireworks and quickly settled with two boundaries in his first four balls. He and Parfitt compiled the fourth partnership of the innings in excess of 50, until both fell in consecutive balls, with Parfitt making a superb 72 that perfectly adapted to the needs of the innings and helped guide Aber towards maximum batting points and a competitive total.

However, with his and Bukhari's departures it was left to youngsters Dan Cooke and Richie Roberts to put together an excellent and quick stand of 37 in the final three overs, with some intelligent strokeplay and running between the wickets, to take the final score to 246-5. Aber were delighted with their efforts given the testing new ball period, and demonstrated once again this season that they can construct an innings well, batting around one or two of the top order making scores in excess of 50. However, with the sun beating down on the pitch, any mischief in the pitch had long since disappeared and the visitors were able to chase their target in perfect batting conditions. Parfitt removed Roberts early, a just reward for some excellent bowling in the previous games. Will Ford was introduced into the attack early, and after some cat and mouse with young opener Scott Matthews, eventually had him well stumped by Lewis Holley, who again kept very tidily in conceding just one bye all innings. The innings was attritional throughout as Pentyrch never quite managed to score quickly enough to give themselves anything more than an outside chance of victory, yet neither could the home side take enough wickets to feel comfortable that they were in control. Number three Connor Brown in particular looked very

assured and demonstrated excellent technique in compiling 76 runs around which Pentyrch built their reply. In response, Schofield regularly changed the bowling to keep the batters on their toes, and each bowler was rewarded with a wicket or two for their endeavours. Dan Cooke in particular bowled very well, bowling with excellent pace and rhythm in two spells that asked searching questions of the batsmen and yielded two well deserved wickets. Wardrope, Gardiner and Grosset all fell to Zafar, Will Ford and Asim Gillani before Brown eventually fell to Cooke. With the score on 179-6, and the result now a formality, Aber went in search of two more wickets that would bring an extra bowling point, and, after Cooke removed Cameron with an excellent yorker, Bukhari obliged by trapping opposition captain Matthews LBW with the last delivery of the innings, leaving Pentyrch on 205-8. An excellent game, played in good spirit and beautiful weather yielded 19 points to Abergavenny who have built some good momentum as they head into a testing game against last year's winners Sudbrook. They will hope to keep their winning run going and put pressure on current pace-setters Panteg ahead of their meeting in June. Next Friday 31st sees the club host a buffet and sports Q&A forum to support Mark Wallace's benefit year. The event takes place in the evening and tickets are priced at £10 - get in touch with the club to book your place and we hope to see lots of people out in support of one of Abergavenny's finest cricketing sons!

Saturday June 1st

Sudbrook 165-8 Ali Bukari 2-25, Lewis Parfitt 2-31, Asim Gillani 2-15, Tamoor Zafar 2-14 Abergavenny 123 all out Andrew Jones 15, James Schofield 22, Tamoor Zafar-21

Abergavenny's winning streak came to an end against Sudbrook at Deepweir on Saturday after a curious batting performance left them 46 runs short. After losing the toss Aber were asked to field first and made a good start as Ali Bukhari and Lewis Parfitt tested the opening batsmen with some skillful bowling. In the 6th over Parfitt made a key breakthrough, removing last year's

League Player of the Year Ross Lewis, caught behind by Matt Davies for seven. However, on a dry pitch, captain James Schofield quickly turned to his spin attack of Will Ford, Asim Gillani and Tamoor Zafar. Gillani was the first to make the breakthrough, bowling Lewis Morgan with a quicker ball. That brought the in form Micky Martin to the crease, who quickly settled, seizing on anything loose. Matt Kinchin was eventually caught off a long hop from Gillani, after an innings of 30 containing some strong shots. The introduction of Zafar into the attack really stangled the scoring rate, and he was rewarded for an excellent demonstration of the art of controlled leg spin with the wickets of Dave Wilson and Jon Lewis. Gillani and Zafar each finished with exemplary figures (2-15 and 2-14 respectively). However, Martin looked determined and mixed doughty defence with excellent running between the wickets, and he accelerated the scoring rate a little towards the end of the innings. He was eventually removed for 46, caught at long off by Bukhari. Jamie Coles, Martin's partner in a valuable 6th wicket alliance of 70, was bowled in the same over, leaving Sudbrook 152-7, and with Parfitt picking up a well deserved second wicket, Sudbrook finished on 165-8 from their 50 overs. Abergavenny would undoubtedly have taken a score of 165 at the start of the day, but with Sudbrook also boasting a spin orientated attack, it would be a case of which side would play spin best that would decide the outcome of the game. Initially Schofield and Andrew Jones made hay against the opening seamers, and raced to 33-0 from the first five overs. Ross Lewis wasted no time in getting his spinners on and Mike Shaw made an instant breakthrough, trapping Jones LBW for 15. Lewis Parfitt went early, trying to turn the ball round the corner, to be caught off a leading edge for one. Zafar, in at four, instantly looked in good form and he and Schofield continued to take the attack to the spinners, determined not to let them settle and just bowl ten overs as Aber had been allowed to do. However, after a brisk innings of 21, Zafar just overstretched against Dean Wallace, to be stumped by Lewis. With the game situation interestingly poised and the innings progressing at a lively rate,

Aber needed someone to decide to take the pace out of the game and just settle the chase down as Martin had done for Sudbrook. As a result, Schofield was furious to be caught at slip in the very next over, gone for 22. Bukhari continued to be aggressive, with Dan Cooke joining him at the other end. The score advanced to 90-4, with Aber hoping the partnership could be extended further to put pressure on the opposition bowlers. However, Bukhari didn't execute an attempted loft over mid-off correctly, and was well caught low down for 15. After Richie Roberts (1) was trapped LBW to give Shaw a fourth wicket in a super spell, Cooke (12) was also caught at mid-off, to leave the score on 111-7. Gillani (15) fell soon afterwards, after some typically belligerent shots, and the innings was wrapped up swiftly, as Craig Whistance and Matt Davies were dismissed and the innings subsided to 123 all out. Abergavenny will rue the fact that no-one in the top order played the sort of substantial innings required to hold the innings together as they had in their previous victories, and in the end, Martin's invaluable defiance proved the difference between the sides. Aber were also guilty of not quite getting the balance between attack and defence right against Sudbrook's spinners, and despite their admirable approach that they were not going to let the spinners dictate terms, many batters gifted their wickets with aggressive strokes. They entertain Tondur at home next week and will hope to get back to winning ways in order to maintain their title hopes.

Saturday June 8th

Tamoor's Ton Takes Game Away From Tondur

Abergavenny 248-6 Tamoor Zafar 126*, Lewis Parfitt 49 Tondur 100 all out Ali Bukari 5-35, Asim Gillani 2-10 James Hrastelj 2-11

Tondur, fresh from their victory over Chepstow, won the toss and put a surprised Abergavenny into bat and quickly supported their captain's decision by removing debutant Cameron Herring and captain Gavin Heritage with only 6 runs on the board. Lewis

Parfitt who 19 hours earlier had scored a breath taking 86 in the 20/20 Macey Knock Out Cup victory at Monmouth faced an entirely different situation as he and his partner Tamoor repelled the visitors opening accurate attack and at the half way stage the score had reached 95 but shortly afterwards Parfitt was out for 49. Tamoor batting brilliantly, was assisted by some hard hitting, by Bukari, Dan Cooke and Richie Roberts, but his acceleration after reaching his century was the icing on the cake of his carefully constructed innings and his share of the Abergavenny total 248 -6 was 126 not out. Dan Cooke bowling with real pace soon dismissed opener Jamie Williamson with a rising ball which was well caught at second slip by Tamoor but it was fellow opening bowler Ali Bukari who created havoc with his left arm swing bowler removing the next five batsman. Liam Woolls offered lone resistance and finished 41 not out but his colleagues did not stay long and Gilani and James Hrastelj shared the final four wickets. The victory lifted Abergavenny into 3rd place and in fine mettle for their away game against unbeaten Panteg on Saturday.

Saturday June 15th

Panteg v Abergavenny Cancelled Rain

Saturday June 22nd

Abergavenny 196 all out Ali Bukari 61 Asim Gillani 23
Blackwood 197-5 Dan Cooke 2-40, Will Ford 2-38

A lower order rescue act was not enough to help Abergavenny to set a big enough target against Blackwood on Saturday as the visitors picked up a deserved five wicket win at Avenue Road on Saturday

After losing the toss and being asked to bat first Aber made a disastrous start, losing their first five wickets for just 33 runs inside the opening 10 overs and Dan Wilkinson and Bobby Matthews made full use of the helpful conditions, mixing their

lengths and movement intelligently as Gavin Heritage (1) and James Schofield (10) were caught behind, and Lewis Parfitt (4), Lewis Holley (4) and Richie Roberts (3) were bowled.

Dan Cooke and Ali Bukhari built the first meaningful partnership of the innings as they put on 34 runs. Unfortunately, Cooke was unsettled by a stumping claim off a dead ball and was bowled by Neil Reardon off the very next delivery. Asim Gillani joined Bukhari and the pair set about trying to take Aber to a competitive total, mixing good defence with some aggressive attacking shots, with each striking a huge straight six apiece. With the score on 124, Gillani was bowled by Wilkinson for 23, just as he seemed as though he might be able to help Bukhari take the score beyond 150. Nevertheless, Matt Davies was defiant in defence as he kept Bukhari company, and although he only made two runs, allowed Bukhari to take the score to 145 before Davies hit a full toss straight to short cover. Bukhari passed his first 50 of the season as he opened his shoulders with just two wickets left, before being caught at long on, perhaps unnecessarily, for 61. With just one wicket to go, Aber were on 163, but Matt Knight and Will Ford frustrated the visitors with a super partnership of 33 for the final wicket with some lovely shots and good running.

Aber finished on 196 all out off 40 overs, well below what they would have hoped for, but nevertheless beyond what they could have reasonably expected having been 33-5. For Blackwood, Matthews finished with five wickets, and Wilkinson three.

Blackwood made a solid start in reply with Gareth Berry and Simon Davies adding 28 for the first wicket before Berry played on to Parfitt. Andrew Clark followed soon after, LBW to Cooke. After a partnership of 33 took Blackwood to 64, Callum Herring was trapped LBW to Ford for 12.

The game was intriguingly poised and if Aber could continue to pick up wickets they could put Blackwood under pressure. Unfortunately, Davies was dropped at long off with the score in the eighties, and dropped catches would be a recurring theme in the second part of the innings, as they put down seven offerings. With Wilkinson looking assured on his way to 43, the fourth wicket swung the match heavily in Blackwood's favour as the score advanced to 150 from 39 overs before Wilkinson was well caught by Knight off Ford. With Cooke bowling Joe Roberts in the next over, Aber rekindled their hopes of victory. However, despite slashing one just past point from his first ball, Rhod Evans made a very brisk 31 not out to help Davies (62 not out) take Blackwood to a comfortable victory with four overs to spare.

Abergavenny will rue such a poor start to their innings and their profligacy in the field as they suffered their third defeat of the season. After some soul searching in the dressing room after the game, the players will be desperate to get back to winning ways as soon as possible and will be even more determined to bounce back next week as they travel to local rivals Usk

Saturday June 29th

Abergavenny 207-8 Cameron Herring 33, Lewis Parfitt 76, Alex Astley-Jones 39 Usk 208-2 A wicket each for Will Ford & Lewis Parfitt

Abergavenny suffered an eight wicket defeat to local rivals Usk on Saturday. After winning the toss and electing to bat first, Aber shrugged off the early loss of James Schofield as Cameron Herring and Lewis Parfitt took the score 40-1 off 10 overs. With both looking in good touch, the second wicket partnership added 48 before Herring surprisingly surrendered his wicket, caught low down at backward point off Lorne Burns. This brought Alex Astley-Jones to the wicket, fresh from his match-winning innings in the

Macey Cup. He immediately picked up where he left off, playing several sweet shots in partnership with the assured Parfitt who passed an excellent fifty. Astley-Jones was fortunate not to be given LBW and was dropped at mid-on on 20, but displayed impressive level-headedness, continuing to rotate the strike well in between some impressive attacking shots. When he fell for 39, Aber were well placed at 159-3 from 38 overs, and in a position to set a sizeable target. However, they lost their way in the last 12 overs, failing to pick up singles and losing wickets regularly. Huw Wilcox was the chief beneficiary, finishing with 3-39 as Aber subsided to 207-8 from their 50 overs.

On such a good track it was imperative that the bowlers made a good start. Ali Bukhari bowled a testing opening spell from one end, but unfortunately Aber could not apply the same pressure at the other end as Dan Cooke proved expensive. The introduction of Parfitt brought a wicket immediately as he trapped Lorne Burns LBW with his first ball. Parfitt's first spell was tight and yielded just 11 runs from five overs. Again, however, Aber continued to leak runs at the other end, as the normally reliable Asim Gillani also leaked runs. In general Abergavenny failed to exert enough control, bowling both sides of the wickets, giving away 28 wides and generally bowling too many loose balls. Schofield bowled with a measure of control, bowling nine overs for 34 runs, but it was not until Will Ford was reintroduced for a second spell that Aber took their second wicket, as Mark Tamplin was bowled for 60. However, Usk now needed a mere 34 runs for victory and Olly James helped Henry Lewis, who made an excellent 76 not out, finish the game with a flourish, as Usk reached their target with eight overs to spare.

Abergavenny travel to in-form Penarth next week and will hope to get back to winning ways before they welcome back some key players for the second half of the season

Saturday July 6th

Abergavenny Defeated By High Flying Penarth

Abergavenny 216 -9 Cameron Herring 118, Lewis Parfitt 34, Alex Astley-Jones 22

Abergavenny Defeated By High Flying Penarth

1st XI

| | | | R | B | 4s | 6s |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------|-----|----|----|
| Cameron Herring + | ct Rhys Morgan | b matt jones | 118 | 136 | 14 | 0 |
| James Schofield * | ct Nick Morgan | b Mark Thomas | 14 | 59 | 2 | 0 |
| Lewis Parfitt | ct Andrew Sims | b Richard Skone | 34 | 51 | 2 | 0 |
| Alex Astley Jones | ct Adam Shantry | b Michael Provis | 22 | 28 | 1 | 0 |
| Ali Bukhari | ct Sam Docherty | b matt jones | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Lewis Holley | st Sam Docherty | b Michael Provis | 5 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Dan Cooke | | b Adam Shantry | 4 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Richie Roberts | ro Adam Shantry | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Asim Gillani | Not Out | | 11 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Tom Griffiths | ro Nick Morgan | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Pratten | Not Out | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extras | | (1lb 5w 2nb) | 8 | | | |
| Total | | (9 wickets , 50 overs) | 216 | | | |

Fall Of Wickets

75-1 James Schofield (Cameron Herring -54*); 150-2 Lewis Parfitt (Cameron Herring -94*); 190-3 Cameron Herring (Alex Astley Jones -16*); 195-4 Ali Bukhari (Alex Astley Jones -21*); 197-5 Alex Astley Jones (Lewis Holley -1*); 202-6 Dan Cooke (Dan Cooke -2*); 202-7 Richie Roberts (Dan Cooke -0*); 205-8 Lewis Holley (Asim Gillani -0*); 208-9 Tom Griffiths (Asim Gillani -3*);

* = notout batsman,

Bowling

| | O | M | R | W | Nb | Wd |
|----------------|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| Adam Shantry | 8 | 0 | 33 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| matt jones | 10 | 1 | 44 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Mark Thomas | 10 | 0 | 39 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Sims | 3 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Richard Skone | 10 | 0 | 38 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Michael Provis | 9 | 0 | 39 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

Penarth CC - 1st XI

| | | | R | B | 4s | 6s |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|----|----|
| Rhys Morgan | ct Cameron Herring | b Dan Cooke | 112 | 138 | 13 | 2 |
| Michael Provis | ro James Schofield | | 5 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Adam Shantry | | b Lewis Parfitt | 21 | 39 | 4 | 0 |
| Nick Morgan * | LBW | b James Schofield | 29 | 52 | 1 | 0 |
| Jonathan Davies | ct Lewis Parfitt | b James Schofield | 8 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Richard Skone | Not Out | | 22 | 24 | 3 | 0 |
| Rob Jones | Not Out | | 6 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| Sam Docherty + | Did Not Bat | | | | | |
| Andrew Sims | Did Not Bat | | | | | |
| Mark Thomas | Did Not Bat | | | | | |

matt jones

Did Not Bat

Extras

(6lb 11w)

17

Total

(5 wickets , 48.1 overs)

220

Fall Of Wickets

13-1 Michael Provis (Rhys Morgan -5*); 67-2 Adam Shantry (Rhys Morgan -34*);
143-3 Nick Morgan (Rhys Morgan -77*); 176-4 Jonathan Davies (Rhys Morgan -98*);
198-5 Rhys Morgan (Richard Skone -6*);

* = notout batsman,

Bowling

| | O | M | R | W | Nb | Wd |
|-----------------|-----|---|----|---|----|----|
| Ali Bukhari | 9.1 | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dan Cooke | 10 | 1 | 35 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Asim Gillani | 9 | 1 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lewis Parfitt | 10 | 0 | 48 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| James Schofield | 10 | 0 | 51 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

Saturday July 13th

*St Fagans 231 -9 Will Ford 2 -49, Cameron Herring 3 -28
Abergavenny 235 -5 Andrew Jones 100, James Schofield 60, Lewis
Parfitt 35*

On a baking hot day at Avenue Road, Abergavenny began their second half of the season in some style as they beat St Fagans by five wickets, and in some style.

St Fagans won the toss and chose to bat first on a slightly spongy wicket with a little grass on top, that made for an excellent cricket pitch throughout the game. Abergavenny's seamers bowled with great control in the opening 10 overs in sapping conditions but the curse of dropped catches plagued them again as both openers were dropped, and began to open their shoulders and accelerate the run-rate. Lewis Parfitt finally made the breakthrough, having Lawlor caught behind for 27. Parfitt was very unlucky not to pick up the wicket of Thorne as several miscued shots just evaded the grasp of the fielders. Will Ford was introduced into the attack and got some purchase from the surface, producing several lovely deliveries before trapping Tariq LBW for six, unable to pick the googly. Aber's perseverance was

admirable in the conditions, and every time St Fagans threatened to accelerate, they managed to rein them back in, thanks chiefly to "wicket-keeper" Cameron Herring's off-spinners. Herring bowled 10 overs and picked up 3-28, picking up the wickets of the dangerous John, Leering and Aji. Herring's irrepressible energy levels were also evident in the team's fielding display, as, dropped catches aside, Aber were generally sharp on the ground. Having been 156-2, St Fagans were restricted to 187-8 as Asim Gillani finally removed Thorne for 83, and James Schofield had Williams well caught by Dan Cooke. St Fagans managed to fashion a flurry of late runs through Hopkins and they eventually finished on 231-8, a score that Abergavenny were rightly very pleased with in the conditions.

Their reply suffered an early setback as Herring was bowled by Davies for one with the first ball of the second over. Schofield joined Andrew Jones and the pair compiled an excellent second wicket partnership of 120 in just 24 overs as they took advantage of some inconsistent bowling by the visitors and running well between the wickets. Schofield passed 50 first before Jones followed suit a few overs later. Almost immediately afterwards, Schofield was trapped LBW by Hopkins for 60, losing concentration and discipline for a moment, playing across the line to a straight one. With the score on 126-2 in the 26th over, the in-form Parfitt strode to the crease. The third wicket maintained the momentum, as Jones continued his inexorable accumulation of runs, while Parfitt scored at his usual brisk rate, with several good boundaries struck by both batsmen. The third wicket added 78 to take the score to 204 before Parfitt just failed to get underneath an on drive enough and was caught at mid-on for 35. Alex Astley-Jones partnered Jones for a few overs, maintaining his confident form from previous games. Jones reached a magnificent hundred, especially in the conditions, showing superb concentration and stamina in the sapping heat, reaching 101 before being well caught and bowled by Hopkins. Hopkins then

had Gavin Heritage caught at slip two balls later, and was comfortably the best of the bowlers, bowling a nagging line and length, finishing with 4-41. With Jones dismissed in sight of victory, it was left to Cooke and Astley-Jones to strike a sumptuous boundary apiece to take Aber to an excellent victory with 3.5 overs to spare.

Abergavenny will hope to field the same side that took the field on Saturday for the best part of the rest of the season as key players have returned to strengthen the team. If they can do so, they will approach their next run of games confident that if they continue to put together team performances such as this one, they can look forward to a successful second half of the season

Saturday July 20th

Pontypridd 271-7 James Schofield 2-38, Will Ford 2-60
Abergavenny 178 all out Gavin Heritage 26, Richie Roberts 60,
Asim Gillani 57

Saturday July 27th

Abergavenny 184-8 Andrew Jones 50, Lewis Parfitt 68, Alex Astley
Jones 21 Chepstow Did Not Bat

Richie's Romp in Vain

Panteg eased home in the Semi Final of the John Macey Cup passing the Abergavenny total of 131 at the end of the 16th over with all their wickets intact.

On a beautiful warm summers evening Abergavenny won the toss and batted but only Will Ford 22 and Nick Francis 20 of the first five batsman scored more than two and when they were both out with the score on 58 the away side were struggling. After a tentative start, they increased the tempo which included 17 off one over from the Leagues leading wicket taker. At the end of the 20 overs, the pair had added 60 runs with Heritage 22 not out and Roberts 42 not out with a knock which had included 7 fours and one six.

Despite various bowling changes Panteg moved serenly onto the required total with Smith 65 and Baloch 46 carrying their bats Panteg will play Usk in the final at Chepstow on Sunday July 28th.

Saturday August 3rd

*Abergavenny 356 -9 Andrew Jones 90, Asim Gillani 74, Will Ford 73
Rogerstone 178 all out Ali Bukari 2 -47, Asim Gillani 2 -24 James
Hrastelj 2 -22 Will Ford 3 -27*

Best Number Eleven in The League?!

The heavy thunder storms that hit South Wales overnight mostly bypassed Abergavenny and the home match against Rogerstone started at the regulation time. Alec Astley Jones, opening in place of the holidaying skipper, and Andrew Jones moved the score along at a run a ball, reaching 43 before first change bowler, Hayden Berry, removed Astley Jones. Andrew Jones batted serenely on whilst his partners promised much but failed to build on their solid starts and it was a surprise when he was caught behind trying to run the ball down to third man, and departed with 90 to his name. Will Ford joined Asim Gallani and the spectators were treated to an entertaining partnership as the pair added 128 runs in the following 11 overs. Asim departed in the 48th over for 74 and Will followed in the next over but not before he had added another 20 runs to his score and reached 73 off 42 balls. His normal number eleven position could now be in jeopardy!! Abergavenny totalled 356 -9 at the end of their allotted overs. The experienced Rogerstone captain Andy Harris opened the batting and was particularly severe on anything short or over pitched. He earned a respite when on 30 when the umpires were in doubt whether an edge had carried to the wicket keeper but on 50 the finger went up for LBW. The new bowler James Hrastelj, followed this up by removing Dan Jones and was aided by the mean bowling of Gillani who bowled 7 overs for 9 runs. Ford's leg breaks sent 2 more back to the pavillion and then the retuning opening bowlers Bukari and Cook proved too quick for 2 middle order batsman. Sohail Anjum compiled a neat 33 but the

innings ended with Ford taking a clever over the shoulder catch to provide Gillani with the second of his 2 deserved wickets.

Saturday August 10th

*Pentyrch 224-8 James Schofield 3-38 Abergavenny 187 all out
Lewis Parfitt 52, Asim Gillani 41, Ali Bukhari- 39*

After a crushing win against Rogerstone, Abergavenny came unstuck against Pentyrch on Saturday.

James Schofield won the toss and elected to field first, and opening bowlers Dan Cooke and Ali Bukhari made a steady start but without making any breakthroughs. Schofield turned to spin early, through himself, and the leg spin of Will Ford. Mike Grossett was starting to get into his stride, passing 50 out the opening partnership of 69, which ended when his partner Scott Matthews was bowled by Ford. Number three Dominic Grossett threw caution to the wind and changed the pace of the game, making a rapid, if streaky 29, before being bowled by Bukhari. There followed an excellent third wicket partnership of 80 between Mike Grossett and Connor Brown, before Grossett was dismissed five runs short of what would have been a well deserved hundred, caught behind by Lewis Parfitt off Schofield. The skipper picked up another wicket off the very next ball, trapping Wilcox LBW. Aber squeezed very well in the last ten overs, as Pentyrch made only 44 runs for the loss of six wickets. The innings ended on 224-8.

Aber's reply got off to a bad start as Andrew Jones was forced to retire hurt with a sore groin. Schofield and Parfitt were shackled by slow bowlers ideally suited to the slow pitch. With no pace to work with, the pair progressed slowly to 67 in the 25th over before Schofield's tortured innings came to an end as he was stumped off Steve Matthews. Alex Astley-Jones followed shortly after, before Parfitt went to another 50 in his impressive season. After he was dismissed, Aber tried to inject some urgency into the innings and

turned to the lower order heroes from last week, Gillani and Ford. Both looked in good touch, but sadly Ford was unable to match his previous effort as he was caught at long-off for nine. Gillani smote some big sixes and made his way to 41 before being caught at deep midwicket. Bukhari continued to keep Aber just about in the hunt, but lost regular wickets at the other end. Eventually, with 38 needed from six overs, Bukhari perished for 39 and Aber finished on 187.

A somewhat disappointing end result, but Aber would have to admit that Pentyrch's bowlers made the better use of the conditions. They will hope to return to winning ways next weekend as they entertain high flying Sudbrook in what is likely to prove a tough encounter

Saturday August 17th

Abergavenny 231-9 Gavin Heritage 91* Asim Gillani 49 Sudbrook 174-6 James Hrastelj 2-38 Sudbrook won on the DL method

Saturday August 24th

Tondu 212-9 Dan Cooke 3-39, Will Ford 2-27 Abergavenny 210-7 Ali Bukari 74 Asim Gillani 34*, Will Ford 24*

Monday August 26th

Usk 148 all out Asim Gillani 4-41, Will Ford 4-47, Ali Bukari 2-15 Abergavenny 149-4 Gavin Heritage 50, Ali Bukari 53*

Saturday August 31st

Abergavenny entertained Panteg who are proving to be runaway League Champions this season- Abergavenny however have been inconsistent all season and unpredictable.

Panteg struggled early on and Baloch was out fairly quickly bowled by Bukhari there was then a huge stand between Lloyd Smith with yet another half century and Carwyn James (91) Some late lusty blows by Ian Bird saw Panteg close on 254-8 with wickets for Bukhari (3) and Cooke (2)

Abergavenny put up a great show in chasing down this score and with good knocks from Andrew Jones (76) A Gillani (49 no) & M A Bukari (31) and they finished on 231-7.



*Abergavenny 231-7 Andrew Jones 76, Asim Gillani 49 Ali Bukari 31
Panteg 254-8 Ali Bukari 3-38 Dan Cooke 2-42 Abergavenny
lost by 23 runs*



Interested Spectators included Malcolm Nash (Far Right) returning to his home town club for the first time in over 26 years- In conversation with Graham Burgess, Terry Cobner and Stuart Harrison



Saturday September 7th

*Blackwood Town CC 326-8 Ali Bukari 5-47 Will Ford 2-85,
Abergavenny 307 all out- Gavin Heritage 78 Ali Bukari 99 Richie
Roberts 32*

Banquet of Runs at Blackwood

High on the hill, the tight cricket ground at Blackwood, was host to a thoroughly entertaining and high scoring game between the

hosts and Abergavenny. The away side won the toss, fielded and the opening bowlers Dan Cooke and Ali Bukari worked up a good pace with Ali claiming two wickets in the eleventh over with the score on 35. However that was the last success for 100 minutes as Neil Reardon and Dan Wilkinson put together a partnership of 197 with the former dealing mainly in singles but allowing his partner the strike who responded with the heavy artillery. Wilkinson, dropped on 37, compiled 132 runs which included 13 fours and 6 sixes before missing a full toss from Ford who had previously removed Reardon for 68. Bukari returned and claimed another 3 wickets returning the excellent figures of 10 overs 5-47. Blackwood ended the 50th over with their score, the colossal 326-7. Abergavenny took a positive approach with Ford clearing the boundary with the first ball he received but he was soon back in the pavillion, swiftly joined by Nick Kinman who received a brute of a ball. Lewis Holley, who had kept well, also looked in good form, hitting his first 6 in first team cricket but slightly over balancing he was bowled. Ali Bukari joined acting captain Gavin Heritage and together showed that Abergavenny could also hit cleanly and amass a decent partnership with shots all round and out of the ground. Unfortunately Ali was adjudged LBW 1 run short of his century when the partnership had reached 178 and Heritage followed in the next over caught behind for 78. Asim with 26 and 16 year old Richie Roberts 32 continued the attempt to get Abergavenny over the line but the side were all out for 307, twenty runs short of victory and with 8 overs in hand. A magnificent effort and as the Blackwood

Chairman remarked " a tie would have been a fair result".

*Saturday September 14th v Penarth
Abergavenny 139 allout Penarth 140-3*



Abergavenny Beavers Pictured at Crickhowell during their final League fixture of the 2013 Season