

Chapter 58

Season 2003

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Promotion has to be club's aim this term The only way is up for new Aber coach

Exclusive

By Noel Davies

PROMOTION is the only aim for Abergavenny cricket coach Keith Newell this season. But the former Sussex and Glamorgan batsman has pleaded with fans "don't panic" if his side doesn't make an immediate impact in the league.

"The followers at the club must be patient and not expect too much too soon," insisted Newell.

After last season's disappointing relegation from the top flight of the Thomas Carol South Wales League, Abergavenny knew a big name signing was needed to guide them back into the Premiership.

And there was no bigger name than the well-respected crasse supreme Keith Newell.

"I had talked to a number of clubs, but Abergavenny was the one I was always most comfortable with.

"They led the race right from the start and I'm

delighted to be with them," said Newell.

Since arriving at the Avenue Road club back in January, Newell has spent time getting to know his players, boosted by the unexpected fine weather.

But despite making some impressive signings, including his younger brother and off spin bowler Jonathan, Newell has noticed a number of problems in his side.

"We're missing a batsman," he admitted.

"There are a lot of good players here who just did not perform last season.

"Apart from a few players like Andrew James, who averaged over 20, we had no consistent batsmen. Our average was about 12 runs per batsman, which you just can't afford.

"We're going to be missing some of our best batsmen for parts of the campaign, so we need all the players to take responsibility," he added.

Newell went on: "We have plenty of good bowlers, particularly spinners. With the likes of James Diddcott, Andrew Coles, Gavin Heritage and Carl Holmes



Abergavenny's new coach, Keith Newell, lashes one away for his former club Glamorgan

we're steeped in quality.

"The aim is to make an immediate return to the top flight, that's my target.

"It's going to take a lot of hard work, and to be honest, we haven't been helped with the rain in recent weeks. I would have liked a couple of more practice matches.

"We're in a very difficult league with plenty of teams as keen as us to win promotion.

"It's going to be a harder season than people might think. Fans shouldn't

assume just because we were a Premiership side last season we will just be given the title," warned Newell.

The 31-year-old reckons Panteg will be one of Abergavenny's main rivals this season.

"With current pro David Harrison there, they've some very good players on their books," confided Newell.



Keith Newell has big plans for Abergavenny cricket



Abergavenny C.C. 1st X1(Pictured at First Home Fixture of 2003)



Sponsorship 2003



Abergavenny Autos kindly sponsored a car for Player/Coach/Captain Keith Newell.



Stylish sponsorship for Abergavenny CC from local Renault dealer



Pictured is Gary Thomas Abergavenny Autos sales manager, and Keith Newell.

ABERGAVENNY Cricket Club's player coach Keith Newell has spent the past season travelling to games and coaching sessions in style, thanks to sponsorship from local Renault dealers Abergavenny Autos. Following an agreement between dealer principal Geoff Ingles and the club, Keith was provided with a Renault Megane Expression. It is not the first time Geoff has supported Abergavenny CC, having also supplied a vehicle to Mike Powell during his early days with Glamorgan. Geoff said, "I believe it is very important for us to support the local community. We are a family owned business who value the support and loyalty that we enjoy from our local customers."

Great Start to League Challenge

The weather could not stop the cleaning up of 'Hoovers' on Saturday. Rain prevented a prompt start but good covering of the playing surface meant that when the rain cleared up and the blorunge reappeared a 30 overs per side match could be played.

Hoovers won the toss and inserted Abergavenny who needed to score 160 to get maximum batting points. A slow but unalarming start got better as Keith Newell and John Phillips turned the screw with a combination of good shots and good running between the wicket.



The first wicket fell with the score on 97 when Keith Newell was caught on the boundary for 47. Each of the incoming batsmen 'threw the bat' and kept up the momentum and 'JP' maintained his anchor role finishing on 73 not out in a total of 159-4.

Hoovers were never really in the hunt with Newell and young Gavin Heritage bowling well, each taking an early wicket. However it was the introduction of John Newell and Kyle Holmes that quickly wrapped things up. J.Newell 2-16 and Kyle Holmes who continues to roll out the performances 5-17. Hoovers were all out for 75.

A Great Victory at Home to make it Two from Two

This game despite the weather everywhere else in Wales was never in doubt. The match started on time and followed the normal route to completion without any interruptions for the weather.

Batting first Abergavenny reached 185-6 in their 50 overs with Andrew Jones and John Phillips opening the batting on a wicket that was dry but the ball was not 'coming on' to the bat. They plugged away against some accurate bowling until John Phillips lost his concentration and lofted a drive to mid on. This brought Keith Newell to the wicket and he found it just as difficult to 'time' the ball, he succumbed fairly quickly, once again caught off a full toss. Meanwhile Andrew Jones was working the ball around and had reached 40 when he too was caught driving the ball. Mark Coles and Ben Powell were kept quiet and a decent score looked beyond Abergavenny with only 90 scored off 38 overs. Mark Mackinley changed things with a cameo including two huge sixes, this gave the latter end of the innings some momentum which Ben Powell (34) and young Ioan Lilly and Andrew Coles who both finished not out put the score up to 185 at the close. The seventh wicket partnership between Lilly and Coles was worth 38 in very quick time.



Miskin in reply could not cope with the opening spells of 16 year old Gavin Heritage a Glamorgan Academy prospect, and former Glamorgan and Sussex all-rounder Keith Newell. Gavin took 3-10 and Keith 3-11 to rip the heart out of the Miskin batting. A run out and a wicket apiece for Kyle Holmes and Andrew Coles wrapped it up for Abergavenny with Miskin Manor all out for 46.

Abergavenny lose to Top of the table Panteg

On a 'tropical' type day Panteg won the toss and batted on a very slow wicket which would gradually get slower and lower as the day progressed. Their two openers were coping well as Heritage and Newell probed away. Two wickets in two balls put Abergavenny in the driving seat with Panteg at 21-2. A consolidation then took place as Bowers and Bragg painstakingly put together a partnership of 85 in 29 overs. They then slumped to 128-5 before a revival during the last 12 overs to finish on an admirable 185-7 J.Newell 2-44 K.Newell 2-27

Andrew Jones and Keith Newell got away to a steady start and the first wicket fell at 44. When the score was on 61 skipper Keith Newell was out, this brought together the two Marks' Coles and Mackinley they batted really well and built what looked a winning partnership of 94 and at 155 for 2 needing only another 31 to win with 8 wickets in hand, there could be only one result.



Mark Coles was then run out and everything went down hill from there on, as Panteg bowling and fielding like demons, prevented the runs from coming. Abergavenny finishing on 183-7 tantalisingly 3 runs short of what seemed a formality in terms of their 3rd victory.

This result strengthened Panteg's position at the top of the table and dented Abergavenny's Average to below 15.

Newell puzzled how team threw game away

Cricket
By Noel Davies

ABERGAVENNY cricket coach Keith Newell is still trying to work out how his side stumbled to defeat, when they had the game in the bag against Panteg on Saturday.

"I just don't really know what happened," admitted the former Glamorgan batsman. "We were in control, but slipped badly. We need more mental toughness and a bit more cricket know-how."

Bowling first, this was a game Newell's men should have won, but some slack fielding cost them dearly.

"We fielded terribly. The very simple things we were letting them get away with. I think we conceded 15 runs

because of that which we just can't afford to do," insisted Newell.

He went on: "With ten overs left, we weren't cruising, but had one hand on victory. But we just couldn't

pierce the field. We needed a few runs, but couldn't score those vital singles."

"To be fair, Adam Harrison bowled well for Panteg. I thought they would have had to have bowled extraordinarily well to beat us."

Newell admitted he was extremely disappointed with the defeat: "This is my first as a coach, it's disheartening," but he still has plenty of positives to work on – if he can get enough players to train.

"We now have something to work on in training. I'm a bit shackled on the coaching side, though, because some of the players, with genuine reasons, can't get to training."

"I have plenty of ideas I want to implement, but can't at the moment."

And before Abergavenny's game away at Tondy this weekend Newell said he will be digesting every ball against Panteg, so the same mistakes don't happen again.

The Avenue Road side welcome back batsmen John Phillips and Ben Powell for the trip to Tondy. The game starts at 5.15pm.

Keith Newell leads out Abergavenny against Panteg

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Top of the table Tondy beaten by workmanlike performance

Tondy batted first and left hander J. Bussey rode his luck hitting a lot 'in the air' including the second ball he faced from Gavin Heritage for six over cover. They progressed with little trouble even though Keith Newell bowled really well. They lost their first wicket with the score on 62 the brothers Newell combining to dismiss Bussey caught Keith bowled Jonathon.

His opening partner quickly followed and from then on wickets fell regularly, James Didcote taking 5 wickets and Jonathon Newell 3 wickets. James had his first 'fifer' finishing with 5 for 49 from 14 overs of left arm spin. Tondy were 157 for 8 wickets after their 50 overs.

After last weeks 'blip' Abergavenny seemed a little low on confidence and Keith Newell and John Phillips found scoring difficult combined with some good ground fielding from Tondy. After 12 overs Abergavenny were 18 without loss. Having seen off the new ball John Phillips then got out, quickly followed by Mark Coles Abergavenny were then 38-2 with 20 overs completed.



Needing 120 to win off 30 overs, Keith Newell progressed to 49 and then miss timed a back foot shot to be caught, 103 for 3. Mark Mackinley and Steve Brown promoted from the 2nd X1 then put on 40 runs and were in sight of victory when Mackinley was out caught on the boundary for a great 52, his 2nd fifty in two weeks.

Steve Brown showed a great deal of fighting quality scoring 28 not out, to steer Abergavenny to victory with J. Newell not out also.

Abergavenny regained the leadership of Division 1 on Saturday against Radyr

On a scorching hot day Abergavenny won the toss and batted. Keith Newell and Lee James ensuring a good platform putting on 74 for the first wicket from 20 overs. The partnership for the 2nd wicket stood at 103 when Keith Newell 'holed out' for a magnificent maiden century for the Club. Keith played some delightful shots and his class was evident throughout his knock. John Phillips then opened up and produced an array of shots that he is capable of but sometimes appears reluctant to use. He looked sure to add a century to that of his captain but was caught by Howard Stone the former Cardiff RFC back row forward. The score was however 233 when he was out so a formidable total was on the cards with maximum batting points assured.



Abergavenny finished on 261-6 Mark Coles adding to his undefeated half century in the Macey against Tredegar Southend with an undefeated (25)

Keith Newell showed his all round ability by destroying the early order of Radyr taking the first three wickets to leave Radyr struggling on 22-3, at 48-6 a real early finish was in prospect but Radyr did rally a little until Gavin Heritage came back on and cleaned up the tail taking 3 for 40. The undoubted man of the match however was Keith Newell who added 5 for 30 to his century.

Abergavenny stay top with a win at the 'G,s'

Newport Fugitives won the toss and batted on a wicket that turned out to contain vagaries of bounce.

This was not apparent after 12 overs as they stood at 70 for no wickets, with openers Gavin Heritage and Keith Newell unable to make their customary early breakthrough.



The introduction of veteran Kyle Holmes and left arm spinner James Didcot provided the inspiration and the eccentricity of the wicket was discovered. Newport Fugitives lost 3 quick wickets to slump to 77-3. Things never looked easy from then on, Kyle Holmes finished his spell of 10 overs taking 2 for 30, the addition of Jonathon Newell into the attack in tandem with Didcot was too much for the Fugitives batsmen. they were all out for 141 with Newell taking 4-27 from 12 overs and Didcot 4-22 from 10 overs.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History

In reply the Abergavenny innings mirrored that of Newport Fugitives as after 10 overs the score stood at 69 for no wicket with Keith Newell and Lee James in total control. James then played across a straight one from 62 year old Bev Price, a little later after making a splendid 44 Keith Newell was caught, then when Mark Mackinley was adjudged LBW Abergavenny were 82-3.

It was at this point the similarities in the two innings stopped as John Phillips played a commanding knock, it was a shame he did not carry his bat but he was out to a 'shooter' with the scores level, for a well made (45).

John Newell and Ian Lilly made sure of the victory the very next ball.

Abergavenny enjoy emphatic victory over Village side

Llanarth who for decades dominated the local cricket scene in the 'Days' League, were well and truly put to the sword in this first League meeting for a few years. Only Mark Baxter of the home contingent of players showed any resistance.

Batting first, Llanarth enjoyed early success racing to 44 in 9 overs with Raja and Malik playing 'millionaire' shots whilst surviving a number of LBW shouts and some played on near misses. Keith Newell made the breakthrough and once this opening was secured a steady procession ensued.

Llanarth showed very little aptitude and Abergavenny turned the screw with once again the spinners coming into their own.



Jonathon Newell who has been an excellent acquisition this season bowling a brilliant spell, finishing with a five wicket haul, 5- 16. He was well supported by James Didcot who took 2 for 33 and all the fielders who held their catches. The prodigal son Craig Barnsley returned to first X1 action following his few weeks of missionary work in West Wales and chipped in with the important scalp of Raja.

In reply Skipper Keith Newell and Andrew Jones matched each other shot for shot and entertained the home supporters with a tremendous partnership which remained unbroken at the finish which came with a flourish as Andrew Jones hit a six for the winning runs with 26 overs to spare.

ABERGAVENTNY took another massive step towards promotion on Saturday, with a comprehensive ten-wicket victory over local rivals Llanarth. The *Free Press* was there to bring you the after-match reaction from both camps – See inside for full report.



Brother, what a win
Coach full of praise for Jonny

ABERGAVENTNY coach Keith Newell was highly delighted with his sides display, though admitted: "I did expect Llanarth to be a lot tougher."

The former Glamorgan batsman went on: "Results don't get much better than that. I know Llanarth were missing some players, and I think that hit them a bit."

"They've won their last few games and snuck up into fourth, and they could have been a hiccup for us, but everyone did their job and we turned them."

Newell paid tribute to his brother Jonathan, who was the undoubted hero on Saturday taking 5-16 off 13 overs.

Jonny and James both did extremely well. Jonny switched the game and I always knew he would be able to put on the brakes and halt the runs on a wicket conducive to spin."

He added: "We picked up a very valuable 30 points, and we need to keep scoring like that to make up for any unexpected hiccups like against Ponting earlier in the season."

It was Newell and Andrew Jones that opened the batting and put on a good score to steady the ship.

The batting is a tad fragile, so we knew we needed to get around 100 for the first wicket to set the rest of the batsmen up.

"They went on to do a very good job themselves, and that obviously showed up in the result in the end."

"We've come full circle now and face Croesyceiliog at home this Saturday. It will be the first time I have faced them and I'm hoping it will be a good game."

"At home we should win, we shouldn't doubt we are the favourites. Any side that beats us this season, I imagine, will be pretty happy with themselves," said Newell.

Abergavenny take the field against Croesyceiliog at 1.30pm.

Llanarth's medium-pace bowler, Shakeel Arshad, conjures up a little something for the batsman. ABERGAVENTNY coach Keith Newell is highly delighted with his sides display, though admitted: "I did expect Llanarth to be a lot tougher."

Chairman upbeat despite a 'stuffing'

CHAIRMAN Ron Baxter didn't mince his words after Saturday's disappointing defeat against Abergavenny. "It was just like being a Christmas turkey, we got stuffed," he said.

Baxter, though, remained upbeat after their impressive Pakistan batsman Raja hit 48. We got a good start, putting on 60 odd for two, but then they put John Newell on to bowl, and the game for us then became unplayable.

"For 25 overs we were just trying to stay in the game."

"Abergavenny were worthy winners, but we can take a lot of heart from the game."

"It was about time we lost against them. In our last nine encounters we have won six, but a lot of those results came in the Macey Cup."

"We did well against Abergavenny's home-grown players, but I've always said they will win the league," said Baxter.

Llanarth might not be challenging for league honours this season, but they have plenty to look forward to in the Macey Cup, where they will play Chepstow in the semi-finals after beating Abercarn recently.

"We've got a good record in the cup, after winning it two years ago, and only losing in the final by three runs last year to Sudbrook. We'd like to do well again this season."

Speaking on this week-end's game, Baxter added: "We've got Tondur next. It's another tough game."

"We've won as many times as we've lost against them, but it's a ground not many clubs like going to." The first ball is at 1.30pm.

Raja Hayat was singled out for praise, by Llanarth chairman Ron Baxter.



Abergavenny batsman Keith Newell gets one away in his 65 not-out against Llanarth, while their keeper Gary Thomas can only look on. ABERGAVENTNY



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Aberavenny batsman Keith Newell gets one away in his 65 not-out against Llanarth, while their keeper Gary Thomas can only look on. ABERGAVENTNY

Abergavenny commence 2nd Half of Season with another victory

The dream of bouncing straight back into the premiership is still on as a 7 wicket defeat of Croesyceiliog leaves Abergavenny still at the top of Division 1

An amazing pattern is emerging over the last few games which speaks volumes for the Concentration of the Abergavenny side, Teams are putting themselves in good positions but failing to capitalise due to the pressure put on them by the Abergavenny skippers tactics.

Croesyceiliog, who included Mike Baillon in their side, who had a number of really successful seasons with the Abergavenny Club, got off to a bad start losing a wicket with 9 on the board, this was due in no small part to the excellent opening spell of Gavin Heritage. They then however worked themselves into a position of being 114 for 2 with 18 overs to go.



Keith Newells instinct to attack rather than defend at this point has paid great dividends throughout the season and it did so again as they slumped to 168 for 8 at the close only managing 54 runs from those last 18 overs. The spinners were the main wicket takers yet again with James Didcot taking 4 for 59 and Jonny Newell 3 for 50.

There was a shock in store for the home side as the prolific Andrew Jones was dismissed for 9 runs with the score on 14, John Phillips who also has been in the runs this season was next to go with the score on 42. All this time Lee James was steadily building an innings. He was joined by his captain, batting a little lower in the order than of late and between them they steered the side to victory with a partnership of 108. Lee was out for a magnificent 78 with 19 needed to win. Keith Newell finished on 56 not out.

Team win again, but coach is seething Newell rages at sloppy fielders

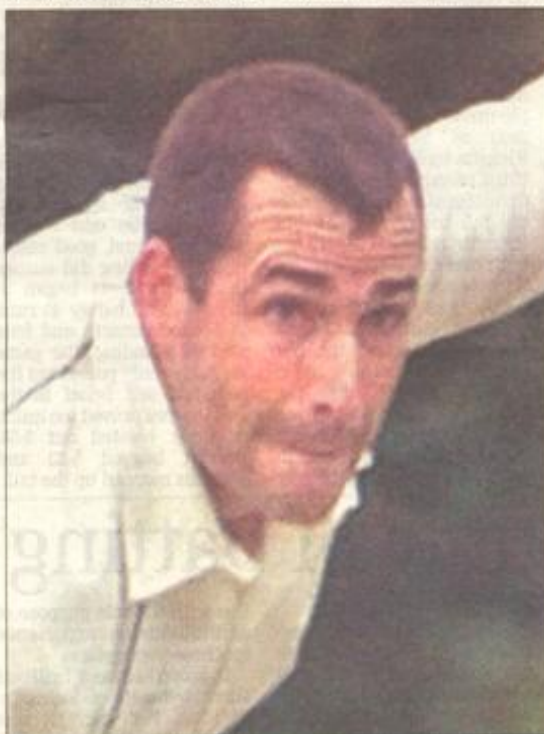
ABERGAVENTNY cricket coach Keith Newell has blasted his side, labelling their fielding against Hoovers on Saturday as "embarrassing."

Newell's team had Hoovers on the ropes at 45-

Cricket

By Noel Davies

5, but conspired to let them off the hook, allowing them to run up a more than useful final total of 233 for 7,



thanks to some ragged outfielding.

He continued: "The fielding was a sheer embarrassment. I have played for club sides in Sussex, Cardiff and Usk and that was the worst fielding display I have ever seen at club level.

"I was fuming. The fact is, a lot of the players aren't training and are relying on their ability to bat and bowl.

"That's working - just about - at the moment, but they have no discipline and think they don't have to train.

"Some do work away, but there is probably five or six of them who really have no excuses for not being there. I honestly think they can not be bothered.

"I am gradually building a list of what needs to change before next season, and training and the way it is done is one of them. Numbers simply have to improve."

The former Glamorgan batsman's brutal assessment didn't stop there. He Left, Abergavenny coach Keith Newell is looking for a big improvement in commitment to training, as he fears for the future if his high-flying team get the promotion they are closing in on

reckons his side has been outfielded by eight or nine teams this season so far, relying on the batsmen to carve out the wins.

"That's disappointing because we are one of the favourites to go up, but we are being outfielded by other teams," said Newell.

He added: "If we go up this season, playing in the same way, we will go straight back down.

"They have to learn, because Saturday was a shambles."

Speaking on Saturday's upcoming home league game against Ebbw Vale, Newell insisted he was still looking forward to the challenge.

"I've got a job to do at Abergavenny and it's one I relish. All things aside, we are still winning and are still top of the table.

"If we win this game we will have a cushion before the two tough matches against Panteg and Tondur. If we can win those ones, I think the title's near enough ours."

Abergavenny take the field at 1.30pm this Saturday at home to Ebbw Vale.

See page 51 for match report.

Abergavenny are always in control but the result went down to the wire

It was as if the 'gods of cricket' needed to remind the Abergavenny players that you have to work hard to succeed in all areas of life, as this match embarked on a roller coaster ride. A mixture of the sublime and the ridiculous was on display.

Winning the toss and batting, Hoovers were in a parlous state at 45-5 against the top side in the league, "early finish" was the cry from the away supporters, the Hoovers captain Simon Davies and Tyrone James had other ideas as they added 142 for the 6th wicket.

Abergavenny Cricket Club History

The Abergavenny out cricket became very ragged especially in the final 12 overs as the sun and the dogged determination of the Hoovers captain seemed to invade their psyche.

Hoovers finished on 233 for 7 with Gavin Heritage returning figures of 3-41 which was a 'curates egg' performance. Simon Davies (124*)

Keith Newell, ever the professional and Lee James quietly determined tackled the 'malaise' with a first wicket stand of 166 which tore the heart out of Hoovers, who never the less remained competitive to the end. Abergavenny stuttered for a while losing Lee James for (81) John Phillips (2) and Mark Coles (16) in fairly quick succession, Keith Newell kept imperiously on to his inevitable 2nd century and with Craig Barnsley saw the side home with 7 wickets and 5 balls to spare.

Next week Abergavenny entertain Ebbw Vale and an improved fielding display can be expected.



Abergavenny prove too strong for Ebbw Vale

Batting first Abergavenny got off to a solid start through Andrew Jones and Lee James, Lee was the first to go with the score at 85, Mark Wallace the Glamorgan and Young England star batted at number three and completed a half century, with little trouble.

The wicket had been 'damp' following some heavy rain which made the task of batting a little more difficult. Andrew Jones went on to score 65 and captain Keith Newell continued his fine form with 49. The total at the finish was a very healthy 257 for 7.

Ebbw Vale were totally outclassed as they stumbled to 57 all out with no answer to the bowling of Jonny Newell who took 5-19 and Kyle Holmes the wily old veteran with 4-9.

Next week Abergavenny face Miskin Manor away, before two crunch home games that could decide the fate of the championship against Panteg and Tondy, Panteg are the only league side to have beaten Abergavenny this season. Both these sides are along with Abergavenny favourites to fight out the promotion places.





The Umpires set out for the middle at the start of the top of the table clash between leaders Abergavenny and 2nd placed Panteg

Top of the table clash Abergavenny v Panteg ends in anti-climax as Panteg crumble to the Abergavenny bandwagon.

A young Panteg side that has been performing well this year were completely outclassed on Saturday at Avenue Road.

Winning the toss and batting they lost Ian Bird in the 3rd over clean bowled by Gavin Heritage, they then scored quickly and took the total to 48 in the 11th over before Heritage struck again, bowling skipper Barnaby Worrall. Later at 73 for 2 Panteg looked in good shape, but in 13 overs they had only added 25 runs thanks to the accuracy of Jonny Newell and Kyle Holmes, bowling in tandem from the 13th over they completely 'cleaned up' Panteg. Who slumped from 73-2 to 108 all out in just 12 overs. Kyle Holmes finished with another 5 wicket haul (5 for 28) and Jon Newell with 2 wickets for 28. Allied to Gavin Heritage taking out the openers and finishing with 2 -24 and a direct hit run out at the end. In reply Abergavenny faced 9 overs before tea and had progressed to 37 for 1 losing Lee James for (11). After tea it was slow going for a while against some accurate bowling. Andrew Jones then miss timed a cover drive 46 for 2, in came skipper Keith Newell to join John Phillips and they, not for the first time put on a match winning partnership to take the score to 104. John Phillips was then out for (22) Mark Coles with Keith Newell who finished on (47 not out) saw the side home, with 7 wickets to spare and 33 overs left. Abergavenny 18 points Panteg 1 point This result certainly took Abergavenny a step closer to promotion back to the Premiership.

Right- The Captains Toss up Below 'The Beavers'





Pictured Left and Below Kyle Holmes who destroyed Panteg with some excellent seam bowling finishing with 5-28 his 2nd 5 wicket haul of the season



Abergavenny inflict defeat on close rivals for the Title

Abergavenny entertained Tondur on Saturday 9th August, They had leapfrogged over Panteg last week into 2nd place. So once again it was top versus second top in the table.

Abergavenny were boosted by the inclusion of Mike Powell and Mark Wallace of Glamorgan. Consequently hopes were high for a master class of batting.

Winning the toss in such tropical conditions it was no surprise that Keith Newell batted first, however a mix up between Andrew Jones and Lee James saw the latter run out very early in the piece. The advantage for Abergavenny was that this brought the classy Mike Powell to the crease, he did not let the home supporters down in demonstrating that class. Some of his straight driving was superb and he quickly accumulated an almost inevitable half century.

He demonstrated he was human when given out stumped for (61) the respite was shortlived as Mark Wallace strode to the wicket with a purpose. All this time Andrew Jones (41) himself a very classy batsman continued to play well at the other end. Mark Wallace,

all dash and energy contrived to run him out however, and then when Wallace was out driving a 'wide one' what had looked like a huge score turned into just a good score as Abergavenny, with Keith Newell chipping in with a useful innings finished on 238-9

The 'spring' in the step of the Tondy supporters was very evident at tea but this was soon reduced to a very noticeable slouch as Gavin Heritage removed two of the front three batsmen, both clean bowled. A mini revival ensued but this was a false dawn as Jonny Newell with 3 wickets for 34 and Gavin Heritage returning to the attack to claim two more, finishing with 4 wickets for 40 runs, Tondy were all out for 167. This once again pushed Abergavenny closer to that illusive title and promotion. Next week they travel to Radyr.



Gavin Heritage 4 wickets for 40 hero

Abergavenny were taken to the wire against a very spirited Radyr eleven.

Radyr won the toss and batted first, Keith Newell and Craig Barnsley bowled extremely well with the new ball and in the first 6 overs, the only runs scored by Radyr were extras. The batsmen did well to survive. Craig Barnsley did trap Stancombe LBW but this brought Howard Stone (96) to the wicket and he developed a partnership with P.Sullivan which was characterised by well taken singles and some fairly unorthodox hitting that sprinkled the partnership with boundaries.

The danger with 9 wickets in hand was plain to see. The spinners Didcote and Newell did not work their magic, probably for the first time this season. Kyle Holmes run in manfully but could not affect the situation. This said however it was Jon Newell, who must be very close to 'player of the season' who did begin to pick up wickets. Once P.Sullivan was bowled with a 'long hop' the rest of the batsmen were sprinkled with largesse and more wickets fell throughout the last 10 overs with Jonothan Newell picking up 6 for 64. This was a good haul but ironically he would not have been happy with the way he bowled, with skipper Keith commenting "too many 'half trackers' "

The final score of 209 for 8 would prove a challenge.

Andrew Jones and Lee James set about the challenge and after 10 overs with few alarms Abergavenny were 36-0 this partnership continued to flourish until Lee James was bowled on (49) with the score on 97 Fortunately the run rate was around 4 an over at this point which was the asking rate. Andrew Jones (46) followed a little later and this put two new batsmen at the crease just as the push for victory was due to start.

Keith Newell (41) played as if there would be no problem, punishing the short pitched ball, John Phillips found scoring a little more difficult, this said Abergavenny only required 45 from the last 9 overs when Newell was out, with 7 wickets in hand. Mark Coles and John Phillips(41) kept the 'pot boiling' until John played one too many 'one handed drives' and was caught in the cover. Craig Barnsley was next up which offered some hope. 15 needed from the last two overs. This was brought down to 6 needed from the last over,

Abergavenny Cricket Club History

Mark Coles (17) was run out attempting a second run leaving Steve Brown and Craig Barnsley to fashion the victory, this they did with three balls remaining of the final over. A haul of 19 points was very welcome and improved the average. Depending on the result of the match between Tondur and Panteg the champagne is on ice. Next week Abergavenny are home to Newport Fugitives



The tension could be felt in the crowd as the final over commence

Abergavenny back in top flight after just one season in Division One

Abergavenny secured their place in the premiership in style on Saturday against Newport Fugitives who for the second time this season make life difficult for the Champions.

Batting first Openers Andrew Jones and Lee James set about their task, Lee James failed for the first time for a while as he offered a simple catch to the bowler with the Team score on 20. Skipper Keith Newell joined Jones and they steadied things taking the score to 96 before 65 year old legend Bev Price claimed the wicket of the former Sussex and Glamorgan batsman for (31)

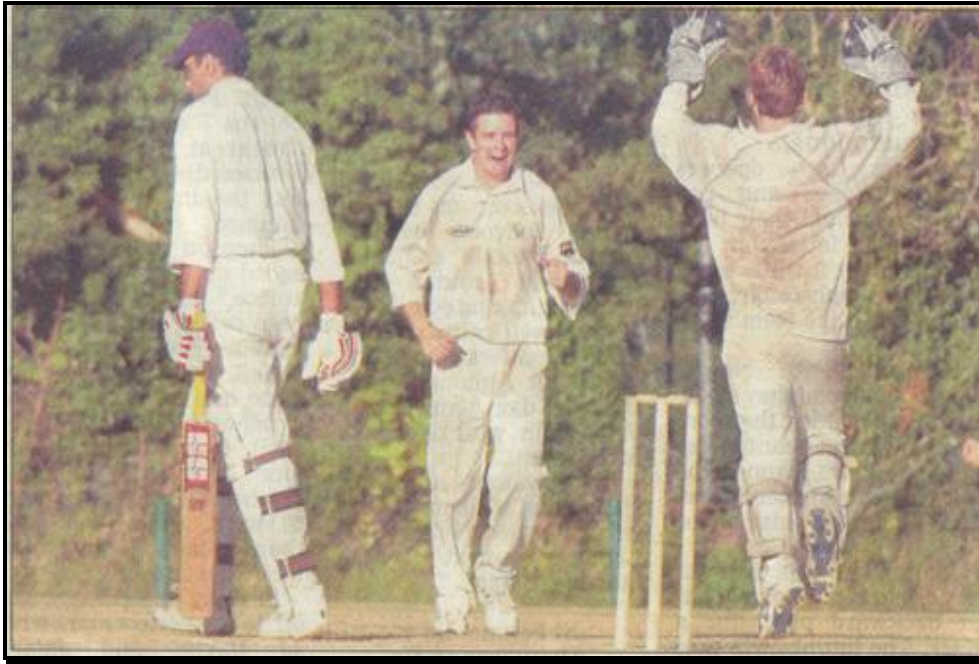
Mark Coles was then out almost straight away caught at backward point for a duck. The innings was now built around the assured Andrew Jones who despite losing partners kept going, however when he was out for (80) with the score on 152-6 with only 5 over to go Abergavenny were not looking healthy.

Ioan Lilly(22) came to the rescue with young Gavin Heritage (16*) and between them they ensured total that would stretch Newport Fugitives, by contriving to score 41 runs in the last 5 overs. Abergavenny finishing on 193-8 with 3 valuable batting points.

Just as they did in the fixture at Newport earlier in the season, the Fugitives got away to a good start, they lost their first wicket with the score on 71 in the 22nd over, a second wicket fell with the score on 96. At 104 for 2 in the 29th over an unlikely victory was on the cards.

James Didcote had other ideas, whilst bowling well all season he has been slightly overshadowed by his spin partner Jonny Newell up to this match. This was to be his day and bowling from the 'brook' end he completely routed the Fugitives taking 6-32 in 14.4 overs as well as two catches.

They slumped from 104-2 to 168 all out, although it was Didcotes day Jonny Newell still chipped in with 3-56 from his 15 overs.



A great season is drawing to a close ,Champions with one fixture left against local village side Llanarth next week Starting at 1.00 pm.



Jubilant Abergavenny leaving the field having secured the Championship

Glamorgan 2nd X1 played at Avenue Road in 2003

19/20/21 AUGUST v WORCESTERSHIRE (ABERGAVENNY) – MATCH DRAWN		
GLAMORGAN		
		J Hughes, D D Cherry, R E Watkins, M J Clayden, A D Shaw*+, S D Thomas, A N French, A P Davies, D J Nolan, O T Parkin, R P Willey
Glam	335 all out	(R E Watkins 80, M J Clayden 74, D D Cherry 52, A D Shaw 40, S D Thomas 31; D H Wigley 4-59, J C Farrow 2-56, S Khalid 2-62)
	260-5 dec	(A D Shaw 104*, D D Cherry 49, S D Thomas 31*, A N French 24, M J Clayden 20; J C Farrow 2-41)
Worcs	273 all out	(D Mitchell 143*, S C Moore 45, D J Pipe 23; A N French 4-71, S D Thomas 2-29, D J Nolan 2-61)
	196-8	(Kadeer Ali 56, S C Moore 29, S Khalid 24; A P Davies 2-21, S D Thomas 2-30, A N French 2-41)

Abergavenny take the title
Premiership
here we come

Cricket
By Noel Davies

ABERGAVENNY Cricket Club are the new Thomas, Carroll South Wales Cricket League Division One champions.

The Avenue Road side have bugged the crown and with it promotion back into the top flight after just a season's absence from the Premiership, and they made it with one game to spare.

And according to coach Keith Newell his squad has the making of a 'good Premiership side,' after guiding them through a dominant campaign this season.

This means a lot to me, Newell told the *Free Press*.

There was quite a lot of pressure on me because this was the first time I have done something like this before.

I'd never put myself under the pressure of being a club coach before. I've always just played cricket.

This time around I've been the coach and captain, and every one has been looking to me. It was a major thing, but I've enjoyed it.

The pressure of knowing I have to see it through to the end, rather than just playing my shots, has been an enjoyable challenge," he added.

Abergavenny rested the title with another win, this time at home to the Newport Fugitives, and for Newell it's mission completed, and already he's looking at the close season to develop the squad more.

The aim was simple - to do the job and win promotion, to instill discipline and direction into the side, and to get them thinking about how to win. "We have done that now, but in the Premiership we will need to make sure we have learned all the lessons."

The last two games have been pretty tough, we've been run quite close at the end. It's good, though, to know that we are winning games and are now in that victory habit to take into the Premiership.

"We need to strengthen the squad, and I know the areas in question. That's what I'll be working on in the winter months. This is an attractive club, with county class facilities and great surroundings."

"That's why I travel up from Cardiff every week to coach here. I see myself here next season and I imagine I'll be talking to the chairman Paul Sussex about the future very soon," revealed Newell.

The former Glamorgan strokemaker admitted the Premiership posed a whole new challenge.

"It will be a step up, but one with the right attitude we can cope with. I think in Division One most teams have one or two good players, and once you get them out of the equation the side crumbles."

"In the Premiership, teams have more good players to fall back on, so where as you might get one or two of them out, they still have more in pipeline," was Newell's assessment.

Speaking on Abergavenny's Division One campaign, he said: "To use an old cliché, it's been a season of two halves. We really pulled things together in the second phase of the season and proved what we can do."

"I've got a good squad of players here. The worry for me was with the shape of the team, and how well it would work. After four of five games we found that shape, and when Andrew Jones and Lee James started playing regularly as opening batsmen, the ingredients were all there. It just took a bit of time for us to all find our feet."

"Every player has done well and been integral to our success. No one player has stood out, though our spinners James Didcot and Jonathan Newell have played excellently as have Andrew Jones and Lee James as opening batsmen."

With another trophy ready and waiting to grace the Avenue Road clubhouse, it's surely time to crack open the Champagne isn't it?

"We have one game left now at Llanarth, which we can relax and enjoy. I think they'll be a few celebration drinks afterwards," laughed Newell.

The *Free Press* would like to congratulate everyone at Abergavenny Cricket Club on their recent achievement. Well done.

Abergavenny play their final game of the season away at old friends Llanarth this Saturday, 1pm.

Abergavenny prove too good for Village side and finish on a 'sweet' note.

The Champagne flowed in the visitors dressing room on the picturesque village ground at Llanarth. Despite the sun not even being anywhere near the yard arm, as the match was all over at 4.00 pm.

Abergavenny were ruthless as they dismissed home grown and imported players alike. After winning the toss and batting, Llanarth 'skipper' ex Abergavenny wicket keeper Gary Thomas elected to bat first on what looked like a green and damp wicket. As has been the pattern all season they like most other teams slumped from 38-2 to 80 all out in just 30 overs.

The Abergavenny bowlers were in complete control, skipper Keith Newell taking 3 for 21, His brother had the magnificent figures of 9.4 overs 5 maidens 4 for 8, Kyle Holmes chipped in with 2-30. If it wasn't for one of their tail enders Alan Dewfield who scored a quick fire 25 the score would have been very embarrassing.

Abergavenny lost Andrew Jones early on to a good catch with the score on 26, but Lee James (46) and John Phillips put on 47 for the 2nd wicket, Steve Brown gave his wicket away looking for a big shot to secure victory so it was a 7 wicket victory to go with 10 wicket victory earlier in the season.


The Players then donned their pantomime outfits for the Fancy Dress Party to celebrate John Phillips and Neil Skeltons' 30th Birthday.



Keith Newell pops the cork on a bottle of champers



Rival Captains Gary Thomas and Keith Newell Toss the coin.



WALES MINOR COUNTIES versus DENMARK

at ABERGAVENNY CC. GROUND on Thursday 28th August 2003

WALES MC.

1. A. Jones _____
2. A. Evans _____
3. G. P. Rees _____
4. K. Newell _____
5. S. Morris _____
6. O. C. Dawkins _____
7. A. Smith _____
8. A. D. Towse _____
9. C. P. Metson Capt. W/K. _____
10. M. Mason _____
11. I. Capon _____
12. O. C. Hopkins _____
- Total _____

DENMARK

1. S. Vestergaard _____
2. A. Lambert _____
3. F. Klokke _____
4. Baljit Singh _____
5. B. Chawla _____
6. M. Lund _____
7. J. Hansen _____
8. T. Hansen _____
9. C. Pedersen _____
10. A. Ahmed _____
11. O. Farooq _____
12. H. S. Hansen _____
13. B. Edmundson _____
- Total _____

Extras (B LB W NB)

Total for _____

Wickets from _____

Overs _____

Extras (B LB W NB)

Total for _____

Wickets from _____

Overs _____

Scorers: J. Jones Esq. and C. Rawson Umpires: Bill Smith and Michael Moran

Man of the Match Award: _____ Toss Won by: _____

Adjudicator Andrew Tiffin of C & G. Asst. Manager Abergavenny

First Innings (Total run scored at end of each over)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	

Second Innings

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Keith Newell Talks to Owen Parkin

For those of us who were present at Chelmsford on 10th June 2001, the natural ability and entertainment value of Keith Newell with the bat in his hand will long live in the memory. Chasing an improbable target, off a reduced number of overs, Keith smashed 97 off just over 50 balls sending Mark Brett for 26 off 5 deliveries! "I think he has since retired as well hasn't he?" said Keith, with a slight smirk on his face when I brought up the subject.

That remarkable victory at Chelmsford in the early part of 2001 gave the side a real mindset of 'we can win from anywhere' and subsequently we landed two National Leagues titles in consecutive seasons. "My favourite memory still has to be the final at Lords even though we lost - the support was incredible; I found that the biggest difference coming to Glamorgan - it is more than just a county; it is a country! That is why I am a strong believer in the continuation of the Colwyn Bay fixture, taking Glamorgan fixtures all around Wales." I concur totally with Keith but must add that it is easier for a batter to say it than a bowler!

Unfortunately, we will not see Keith walking out to bat in the Glamorgan colours this year as he has now turned his hand to fitness instructing. "I was quite disappointed at the prospect of finishing my career in cricket after 10 enjoyable seasons but this new opportunity at David Lloyd Fitness Club is proving challenging and I am pleased that I can continue working in sport."

David Lloyd has been an omnipresent supporter of Glamorgan since a partnership was forged when they first opened in Cardiff. "I already knew how good the facilities were as I was a regular user over the seasons through the partnership with Glamorgan but I did not know how professional the set-up is and how much training is involved in becoming a member of their staff." When asked what he hoped to be doing in ten years he replied with a customary grin, "Some sort of management position would be great."

We are all pleased that Keith has settled in to a new career and wish him all the very best of luck along his new chosen path.



In 2003 Gavin Heritage represented Glamorgan at both Under 17 and Under 21 levels as well as playing in the odd Glamorgan 2nd X1

Mathew Maynard presents the Championship Shield to Paul Sussex Chairman



Cricket club's support for bone marrow trust

ABERGAVENNY Cricket Club chairman Paul Sussex, bowled over local fundraiser Louise Thomas recently when he presented her with a cheque for £165 in aid of The Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

The club held its second annual Charity Golf Day recently at Monmouthshire Golf Club, with all proceeds raised going towards a number of good causes.

One of those causes selected was the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust, a charity close to the heart of student nurse Louise.

Louise, from Abergavenny, has been raising much needed funds for the Trust for months after reading about Jack Witchard, the baby boy whose illness has touched the

hearts of many people.

Baby Jack, who lives in Rogerstone, has a rare immune deficiency known as Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) and after hearing of his plight, Louise was desperate to help.

She joined the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust and, among other events, organised a fundraising celebrity cricket six-a-side tournament in baby Jack's name at Abergavenny Cricket Club back in May, raising well £1,000.

Since then, that total has grown-to around £3,000.

Mr Sussex said, "It is great that the cricket club has regard for other good causes and supports them in as many ways as possible".



Pictured presenting a cheque for £165 in aid of the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust is Abergavenny Cricket Club chairman Paul Sussex, and local fundraiser Louise Thomas.