Season 1919

President: Mr W.L.Thomas

Captain 1st X1- Major JR Jacob

V.Capt-

2nd X1 Captain-

Treasurer- F.R.Britton Secretary-A.Griffith/GHiley/Mr M.Jones(NP Bank) Thursday X1 Capt-

Groundsman- W.Meade

The AGM was held in the **Angel Hotel**. A roll call of members who had paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting for their country was read out and accompanied by an appropriate length of silence. The Club was successfully re-started in 1919 and W Lloyd Thomas a great sportsman and gentleman was still President, his son Hugh occasionally played for the Club. The President not only subscribed generously to the funds, but often attended matches and took the Chair at the General Meetings with charming dignity.

The Treasurer produced the statement of accounts for the period 1916-1919. The last balance sheet having been presented for the season 1915.

The Committee elected- Dr Tresawna, Messrs. RJ Harrhy, W.Llewellin, SW White, AE Tonkin and Alick Morgan.

The Club at this time had two dependable batsmen in Wyndham Lewis and Jim Jonathan both having scored centuries for the First X1. In fact Jim Jonathan had scored two centuries and a curious fact is that all three centuries were scored against Panteg. Dr Tresawna was still a force to be reckoned with and scored (107*) against Ebbw Vale and (105) against Crickhowell, whilst 'Dukie' Griffiths was the 'wiliest and curliest' of bowlers.

The opening fixture of the 1919 season was against Gilwern. Abergavenny 179-9 declared, EM Morgan (19) JR Jacob (36) RF Thurtle (29) AG Woodeson (33) and M.Jones (25*) Gilwern in reply were117-6 all six wickets falling to AG Woodeson now playing as a member rather than as professional.

Full Team- WR Lewis, EM Morgan, JR Jacob, W.Llewellin, T.Gough, Alick Morgan, RF Thurtle, AG Woodeson, A.Griffiths, M.Jones and H.Wilcox.

Thursday June 5th

A match was played on the Abergavenny ground on Thursday last week between teams representative of the married and single. The Benedicts were easily dismissed for 49, H. Jenkins taking four wickets for 13 runs and White five for 15. The bachelors quickly passed the half century, H. Jenkins in particular giving a good display, and won by 145 runs

June 7th 1919

This return match was played at Gilwem on Saturday. Gilwern fielded a good side, as they again had the assistance of Jonathan, who is already in great form, and Lt.-Col. Partridge turned out for the first time this season. Abergavenny batted first on a good wicket, but failed to get any mastery over the bowling, which was frequently changed with good judgment. Morgan batted very steadily and he and Thurtle looked like laying the foundation of a good score. Gough showed promise and Ruther was out to a magnificent running catch by Partridge, the fielder taking the ball with one hand outstretched. Jones bowled distinctly well for five or six overs and James also kept a good length. W, Jones kept wicket in very promising style, Gilwern lost their first four wickets for 15 runs, and on the slow scoring ground Abergavenny looked like winning. However, when Harris joined Jonathan the pair started stealing short runs. They were favoured with some luck in not being run out, and with Jonathan playing delightful cricket the Abergavenny total was reached before a separation was effected, Harris being bowled by Woodeson. Jonathan was out soon after for an extremely well-played 39, in which there was no semblance of a chance. The Gilwern tail wagged merrily, James playing well and Davies also finding his form. For Abergavenny Lyne commenced bowling well, but soon lost his pace, and he and Griffiths should have been changed earlier. Woodeson kept a good length, as usual, and was difficult to get away. Considering the rough outfield, the of both sides was very fair, though Abergavenny had a slack period when Jonathan and Harris were batting. Mrs. Pickering, of Auckland House, very kindly entertained players and visitors to tea on the ground, and her pleasant hospitality contributed very materially to the enjoyment of the beautiful afternoon.

June 14th Abergavenny v Panteg- Abergavenny entertained Panteg on Saturday and secured an easy victory, thanks to good bowling by Woodeson and Lyne, who respectively took six wickets for 36 and four wickets for 20, and a characteristic innings of 64 by Dr. Tresawna, making his first appearance for Abergavenny for this season. The crowd were pleased to see the doctor back once more at the wickets wielding the willow with all his accustomed vigour and gave him a hearty reception. Panteg fared badly at first and had lost most of their wickets for 24. The tail," however, wagged effectively. E. Phillips gave some I trouble before he was dismissed at 35.

<u>Thursday June 19 Dr Tresawna's XI. v. Major W. R. Lewis's XI</u>. Thursday's effort for the Hospital took the form of a *cricket* match between teams got together by Dr. W. Compiled by Paul DW Sussex-Club Archivist

S. Tresawna and Major W. R. Lewis. Mrs. Lawrence Baker kindly provided tea, which helped to swell the proceeds. For Major Lewis's XI. A. G. Woodeson took three wickets for 33 runs, E. W. Morgan two for 21, Capt. Wright two for 49, and H. Jenkins one for 14, while for Dr. Tresawna's XI. Davies had seven for 92, J. Jonathan one for one, Sharpe one for 3, and Blackwell one for 26

Abergavenny v Tredegar June 21st 1919

Abergavenny played an interesting match with Tredegar on Saturday, and the finish was rather more exciting than was anticipated at one time. Half an hour or so before stumps were drawn it was doubtful whether the result would be a win for either side or a draw. It was a batsman's wicket, and as the Abergavenny bowling was not particularly strong and the fielding was somewhat indifferent, the visitors were able to compile 140, of which total E. Jones contributed 43 by confident and excellent cricket. Several changes of bowling were tried. Askey broke up the first partnership by taking Partou's wicket with his first ball. Several chances were missed, however, and many boundaries were given away. The score steadily rose and it was not till Woodeson went on again that the wickets began to fall more rapidly. Four wickets were down for 76 and five for 107, the remaining five wickets putting on 42 runs. Woodeson's average of seven wickets for 31 was an excellent one, under the circumstances. E. W. Morgan had two for 15 and J. Askey one for 30. Abergavenny had about an hour and three quarters to get the runs, and W. R. Lewis, the captain, and J. Jonathan opened the innings. Jonathan had just got settled down and might have been looked to for his usual good score, but a ball which seemed to be going wide came in a foot from the off and took the leg stump, much to the batsman's surprise. Lewis played carefully at a difficult time and helped to pull the side together. Abergavenny's chance did not look very rosy, however, when W. H. Robinson came in and Lewis had been bowled. The Tredegar fielding was very smart and nothing was given away! The bowling too was very good and there were very few loose balls. Robinson, however, played capital cricket and he and Llewellin took the score to 127, when stumps were drawn. Abergavenny were then 22 runs behind with three wickets in hand and might have just secured the victory in another quarter of an hour. For Tredegar E. Jones took five wickets for 40, Stalder one for 21 and T. Williams one for 36.

Abergavenny v Newport

Newport had an easy victory at Abergavenny on Saturday. The Abergavenny batsmen were unable to get the better of the Uskside bowlers and were dismissed for 54, the top individual score being 13. For Newport B. Phillips took seven wickets for 30 and L. Jones three for 19. Newport quickly passed the Abergavenny total and had only five wickets down for 120 when stumps were drawn, J. V. Swallow having to retire on account of a nasty hit on the forehead with the ball. Abergavenny's most successful bowlers were E. W. Morgan who took three wickets for 26, M. Jones who took one for 18, and A. Griffiths who took one for 34

Meanwhile the Abergavenny 2nd X1 were playing against Ebbw Vale Played at Ebbw Vale on Saturday- last. Scores

ABERGAVENNY [99]. W. White. b Churchill. C. L. Williams, c Attwell, b Churchill.. 10 (t. Elliott, b Attwell. 15 J. Bishop, lbw, b Churchill. I L. Gough, b Churchill. o C. Bishop, c Jones, b Attwell. o L. J. Morgan, b Attwell. 3 H. Wilcox, b Price. 4 M. Harris, b Miles 21 F. Creene, not out. 13 A. Evans, b Churchill 2 Extras. 15 Total. 09 EBBW VALE [82]. (i. Williams, lbw, b Elliott. S D. Evans, b J. Bishop. 2 1). Fvaw b Elliott. -) J. Richards, b Elliott. 9 W. Robins, b Elliott. 0 1). Price, run out 10 D. Miles, c L. Morgan, b Elliott. 3S \.ttwell, b Elliott. o W. Churchill, b Elliott. 7 E. Richards, not out I T. Jones, run out 0 Y. Caldwell, b C. Bishop. o Extras. 7 Total 82

The visit of the Abergavenny team to Crickhowell on Saturday July 27th to play their old rivals, after a lapse of many years, was looked to with keen interest. and quite a number of spectators watched a game which had an exciting finish, although Abergavenny were unfortunate not to win. Still, A. Howat must be given credit for playing for a drawn game when the position seemed hopeless. Abergavenny won the toss and Thurtle and Morgan opened the batting to the bowling of A. E. Davies and Longman. Six runs were telegraphed when the slow bowler beat Morgan. Jonathan followed and at once began to hit out. At 30 he was easily taken by the wicketkeeper off Longman, and then Robinson was nicely caught by Capt. Evans. W. R. Lewis, after playing himself in, played delightful cricket, getting the slow bowler away in pretty style to the long field. Eventually he was bowled by one of the best balls sent down by Davies in the match. He did not give a chance. Arthur Davies should have got Jenkins' caught off the next ball, Howat, a usually safe field, unaccountably missing an easy catch. Ruther and Eliot gave little trouble, but Blackwell hit out in fine style, driving Bailey into the adjoining field for six. Woodeson had a brief and merry life, the innings closing for 137.

Crickhowell started in poor style, Capt. Evans being bowled by Blackwall after making four runs. Then Christopher, by patient batting, wore down the attack and Arthur Davies got 22 runs, although he was missed before he had made half that number of runs. After he and Christopher left there was a collapse. Howat alone making a stand. Assisted by Loam, who stayed in a long time for four, and later by Long-man, he succeeded in drawing the game. The Abergavenny batting was better than that of Crickhowell.

Back at Abergavenny on July 27th There was an interesting finish to the match between Abergavenny II and Usk. With only about four wickets down Usk wanted but 14 runs to win when time was up. Abergavenny sportingly offered to play on another half hour to give them a chance of winning, but in that time the Usk batsmen only scored 12 runs, and were thus one run behind with three wickets in hand when stumps were drawn. The match was therefore a draw. Abergavenny put up the respectable score of 125, the last wicket making a good stand. The Usk

innings opened very promisingly and Rees and Lucas quickly piled up the runs and 98 had been registered when the former was caught out. one of the other batsmen, however, reached double figures and the other six of the seven wickets fell for 26 runs. For Abergavenny J. Askey took five wickets for 19 runs, A. Griffiths one for 5 and J. Bishop one for 51, while for Usk F. Hill had four for 43, Whittington four for 47, W. Rees one for 8 and R. J. Edwards one for 21.

On Monday August 4th a team got together by Dr. Tresawna played the town team, and the latter secured a comfortable victory by five wickets. Dr. Tresawna and J. Jonathan both scored half centuries for their respective sides, and for Abergavenny Woodeson took five wickets for 55 runs and Askey two for five. August 2nd ABERGAVENNY v. EBBW VALE.- BRILLIANT CENTURY BY DR. TRESAWNA. Abergavenny entertained Ebbw Vale on Saturday, the match being set apart for the benefit of Woodeson, the former pro., who was deprived of his benefit in 1914 owing to the war. The chief feature of the match was a sparkling display by Dr. Tresawna, who scored 107 not out by brilliant cricket without giving a chance. The spectators were naturally delighted to find the doctor in such good form and they thoroughly enjoyed his batsmanship and his vigorous hitting. He played rather carefully until he had scored his half century, and then he let out and was responsible for adding 50 for the last wicket, Griffiths assisting by keeping his end up. and giving the doctor every opportunity. In his score of 107 Dr. Tresawna hit 16 four's and one six. Abergavenny declared at 199 for nine wickets and looked like securing an easy victory over their opponents, who had six wickets down for 36. Gibson and Watkins played carefully, and as a result Ebbw Vale had two wickets intact when stumps were drawn, though if a couple of catches had not been dropped the result might have been different. For Abergavenny Woodeson took six wickets for 33 and Morgan two for 22, "and the best analyses for Ebbw Vale were those of D. Davies and J. E. Lord, who both took three wickets for 41 runs.

Abergavenny *Cricket* Club have arranged two very attractive *cricket* matches for Saturday and next week. On Saturday a visit will be paid by the 2nd Gloucester Regt. team, and wickets will be pitched at 2.30. A county mid-week match will be played on Wednesday and Thurs- day next between Carmarthen Gentlemen sand Monmouthshire Gentlemen, and a very interesting game is assured. Wickets will be pitched on Wednesday at 11.30 and on Thursday at 11. The admission each day will be One shilling. (including tax)

<u>August 9th</u>- Abergavenny on Saturday played a match with a team, representing the depot of the Gloucester Regt., and the game attracted a good crowd. Abergavenny-186 Depot Gloucester Regt-91

August 13th and 14th Two Day match at Abergavenny Monmouthshire Gentlemen v Carmarthenshire Gentlemen.

Monmouthshire Team AM Maltby, EW Morgan, P.Sharpe, WH Robinson, J.Jonathan, HA Waldock, Dr Tresawna, WR Lewis, GD Nicholl, J.Gibson, Capt.Lyne, J.Ruther. Carmarthen Gentlemen.

DTM Jones, HE John, Dr Gwyne Thomas, Percy Rees, TC Jones, CS Trubshaw, JM Bevan, AR Trubshaw, PG Davies, TL Price, LD Roy, WG Jones.

Teams of 12 aside representative of Monmouthshire Gentlemen and Carmarthenshire Gentlemen played an interesting two days' match at Abergavenny on Wednesday and Thursday. The Monmouthshire team, which was largely composed of local players, took first innings, and, apart from Dr. Tresawna and A. M. Maltby, made a poor display with the bat, and were all dismissed for 134, of which the two players mentioned contributed 74. A. R Trubshaw and C. S. Trubshaw bowled un- changed, the former taking eight wickets for 43 and the latter three for 7S. Dr. Tresawna hit eight boundaries, including a six, the ball going into the grounds of Lyndhurst. Carmarthenshire scored 183 for the first three wickets, Dr. Gwynne Thomas hitting merrily in all directions, and scoring no less than six 6s and six 4's, while C. S. Trubshaw hit well, in his 46 not out. Carmarthen were leading by 100 with four wickets in hand when stumps were drawn on Wednesday. On Thursday the Carmarthen Gentlemen carried their score to 342, putting on over 100 runs for the last four wickets. The Monmouthshire team did better in their second innings, but though they made 190 they failed to stave off an innings defeat. The visitors changed the bowling more and put in no less than six bowlers, the most successful being T. L. Price and A. R. Trubshaw, who took three each for 24 and 20 respectively. Considering the Carmarthenshire score, P. Sharpe did remarkably well in taking six wickets for 74 runs.

August 23rd 1919 saw a 12 aside fixture-Abergavenny v Mr A Griffiths X11, Abergavenny totalled 148 with WH Robinson 76 not out. Dr Tresawna 2-20, L.Frasewr 5-48. At stumps Mr Griffiths X11 were 136-7 Dr Tresawna[43]JR Jacob [34*] WH Waller [29] Bowling for Abergavenny AG Woodeson 1-19, G.Blackwell 2-27, L.Gough 1-18.

Saturday September 6th Abergavenny v Blaina at Avenue Road- Blains 82 Abergavenny 103- Blaina took first innings and were all dismissed for the moderate score of 82, the only double-figure contributors being E. J. Watkins (26) and Mr. Extras (20). Robinson had a fine record with the ball, taking six wickets for 20, while Blackwell took the other two for 11. Abergavenny opened their innings promisingly and at 65, or only 17 runs behind, had only three wickets down. Chaffey altered the complexion of affairs very quickly however, and three more wickets fell for the addition of 10 runs, and another went just after the winning run had been hit.

Abergavenny thus won with three wickets in hand, but as there were a few minutes to go play was continued and the whole side were out at 103, or 21 runs more than the Blaina total. For the visitors Chaffey took seven wickets for 46, and Jones three for 32

In the Chronicle of July 4th 1919- The death of Lt Colonel JHG Harris was announced Over the years he rendered practical assistance to the *Cricket* Club, for which he has played many games

In the Chronicle of August 22nd 1919

SEVENTY YEARS AGO. CRICKET AT ABERGAVENNY. SOME INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

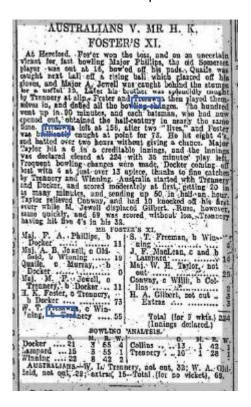
In 1899 an interesting book was published, entitled "Fifty Years of *Cricket* at Abergavenny. It was written by Mr. Frank A. Badham, who was hon. secretary of the local club in that year, and contains an introduction by the Rev. H. A. James DD; for many years headmaster of Rugby School, and formerly of Abergavenny. As it is 20 years since the book was published, it will be seen that the record goes back for 70 years. - Crude *Cricket* Over 100 Years Ago.

We read that Cricket in a crude state was first played in Abergavenny more than So years ago. Possibly it bore little resemblance to the highly systematised and scientific game of the present day It is certain that the bowling, if such it may be called, consisted only in gentle lobs or balls impelled with unreliable aim and force by the machines in use then, when the game of cricket, as can be seen from old prints, had not evolved from its chrysalis state of bat and ball.' The play was confined almost entirely to the juveniles, and in this unwelded, though obviously interesting, condition, it continued down to 1849, or 1850, when a cricket .club was formed. Then, as always, the great difficulty with which they were confronted was a suitable ground. This obstacle was, however, soon surmounted by an informally appointed committee. After a fruitless inspection of some outlying fields, a most suitable ground was found where the present Cattle Market stands. The surface, of course, was particularly rough, but with that energy which betokens an indefatigable cricketer, this impediment was brushed aside. To accomplish the proper levelling and turfing, a subscription of 10s. was levied on all members. The turf was brought from the Little Skirrid, which together with the labour involved, cost this infant club (22, But now the Herculean task was done, and an 4 excellent pitch was provided. Bowling with a Catapult. I It is interesting to note that a kind of catapult was used at first to launch the ball at the batsman. This was a development of the old ball trap of the bat and ball days, and I am told that it was most unsatisfactory. It must be borne in mind that no bowling beyond the underhand was allowed when cricket, as a game, first saw the light in Abergavenny. I say allowed, but doubtless I should be more correct in stating that the idea of the wrist action horizontally; or above the shoulder, had not, in those days, dawned on the minds of the players.. Practising

assiduously, and making themselves more perfect, the Abergaveiiny Cricket Club received, with other clubs, a great impetus in ?55. by the commencement of intercounty matches. Matches during the fifties were, of course, less numerous than even in the next decade, but fixtures were arranged with Brecon, Newport, Monmouth and Hereford, and with I smaller and neighbouring cluts. Top Hats for Players. I There was no formally appointed captain, but the player who kept wicket always had to undertake the direction of the field and the general superintendence of the XI. Seldom. I understand, did the players turn out in flannels, but the proper cricketing top-hats were by no means absent from the games. About 1856 or '57 round arm' bowling had been admissible, but the rule that the hand must not come above the shoulder was rigorously enforced. The names of a few of the players in the first days of the club have been furnished me, and we find amongst some 15 or 20 members the following Capt. Sanders, Glaslyn Messrs. William- son (an articled clerk to Lawyer Batt), William and Dudley Watkins, nr, S. H. Steel, and Rev. Allan Steel Dr. Hansby and his assistant, Mr. Hill Mr. R. Baker Gabb, Mr. Charles Davies (son of the parish clerk), and the sons of Mr. Humfrey, of Tredegar. From 1850 until 1857 the Club had enjoyed a period of most encouraging success, but, as frequently happens to associations of this nature, when in the hey-day of their glory some untoward event or other intervenes, and turns prosperity to dismay, so at this time the course of Abergavenny cricket received a temporary check. In I SSS there was no club, and it was not revived until 1860.) Guttersnipes and the Gods." One who, as a boy, watched the proceedings and the players in the Fifties gives the follow- ing account of the matches of that time The Abergavenny urchins were in the habit of spend-ing the whole of the match days on the bare nutriment of a captain's biscuit, never for an hour leaving the ground, and while the local gods were at lunch, viewing the wicket with profound awe. Those were the days of all-day matches, commencing at 10.30 to n o'clock, when four good innings would be completed, finishing up with a heavy dinner at night to which friends were invited. There were no Saturday afternoon matches then a match once in two or three weeks, grimly fought out, being cricket in those days.' Cricket was exceedingly popular for the first few years on the beautiful ground which the club had, at so much labour and expense, prepared for the budding players. All the gutter-snipes in the place were allowed to play. Stones were wickets india-rubber balls were used, and-a bat made from anything. The principal tradesmen attended the matches, and the refreshment tent was an important item in the day's business.' Unfortunately, no printed record remains of those matches 50 years ago, though quite recently the report of a match in 1852, in which Abergavenny was engaged, was extant, but now its whereabouts is unknown. However, we are told that scores of over a hundred were frequently compiled, and Messrs. Williamson, William Watkins, Davies, and R. Baker Gabb) were generally double-figure contributors. To encourage hitting a novel device was employed. On all match days a tent was erected for the players, and in front of the

opening, and in full view of the Abergavenny team, w; s hung a bottle of wine. This was the Olympian reward to the batsman who succeeded in hitting the Lall out of the field during the match. 'It almost invariably went to a youngster,' said my informant, half-regretfully. Big Hits I While on the subject of big hits, there is one recorded around which Time has placed a mystic halo. The feat does not belong to this period quite, but was accomplished about 1860 by a player to whom I shall have to refer later, 'r i ie legend goes that viz., Mr. George Peake. The legend goes that a half-volley 'vas dispatched by this Bonnor of the XI. over the houses facing the present Market. The ball fell in a yard, where it found an unimpeded course to the Kibby brook, and was borne away on the bosom of the stream like a lost soul in Charon's barque. Now, extra- ordinary as this hit was, we must not forget that a similar performance took place on the Crick- howell ground by a member of the Abergavenny team during a match. The tale is always told now when we meet our respected opponents there. Mr. Jeffrey Jones was the hero in this case, and tells the story how he hit a ball over the hedge bordering the road that search was made for the missing leather in hedge and ditch and along the highway, but without success and how the driver of Batty's cart, who for some minutes was watching the scene with interest, produced the ball, which had actually dropped t. in the conveyance and stopped there as the cart passed along the road. This little episode took place sometime in the seventies, I think. I To go back to the period 18?0-1800, there j was one feature of the evening gatherings on the Cattle Market ground which brought the elder people together, and that was the game of quoits. Mr. Peake says that while the practices were in progress in one part of the field, quoits) were indulged in at the other extremity. Dr. S. II, Steel, at this period of cricket, took a great interest in the club, and it was due to his en-couragement and help that the XI. was so strong. He informs me that most of the matches were won by Abergavenny during the first 10 years of its existence as a club. It was indeed encouraging to those who had to take charge of the game that so great an interest had been infused into this and other brandies of sport by such sincere votaries as Dr. Steel, Mr. Lawrence Baker and others. The Nurse Came For Him. Mr. R. Baker Gabb also took part in Abergavenny cricket half-a-century back. As a small boy he played in a grown-up match, and managed to reach double figures not out.' After the contest the elevens dined together, as usual, and this young player was carried off to feast with them for having done so well in the match. Mrs. Gabb, however, had become uneasy at the prolonged absence of her son, and during the dinner it was announced in the hearing of the assembled players that Master Gabb's nurse had come for him Doubtless he was reminded of this little incident for some time afterwards. The Rev. Booth Corfield was at Cheltenham College with Mr. Baker Gabh, and was a member of the school eleven. The chief feature of his play was his vigorous leg hitting. Another member of the College team at this time was A. G. Raper, of Llanwenarth House, who subsequently became captain of Cheltenham College Eleven. The years

1800-1870 are writ large in the score hooks and reports of those' days. There were giants in the land in those days. and first and foremost, like the *Cricket* Colossus he was, stands Mr. George Peake. Abergavenny owes much to his untiring devotion to the game, and not the least cause for gratitude to him is the foresight that prompted him to retain the printed records of those old deeds of the club."



Thursday July 1919