

Abergavenny CC: The Fifties

1950: After the 1940s which were blighted by the Second World War, cricket could settle down to a more sedate and peaceful existence in the decade commencing in 1950. The key officers of the club remained the same as in 1949 – namely, J. K. Ruther, Leslie Taylor, Hedley Roberts, Stewart Parry and F. O. Roch. Both 1st and 2nd XI captains were re-elected, Syd Stock and Harold Sadler respectively. At the AGM, held at the Greyhound Hotel in March 1950, the club president, Mr J. K. Ruther, spoke optimistically of the future: ‘The qualities of Abergavenny Cricket Club are outstanding, and I know of no other club where the spirit of esprit de corps is so personified’, going on to say that ‘it was good that all the “stalwarts” from previous seasons will again be seen in action’.

Despite the 1st XI losing the services of both vice-captain Harold Sadler for six weeks (when he was required to attend a ‘Police Instruction Course’ in Harrogate) and the captain Syd Stock (who succumbed to injury), 1950 was a successful one. Key to this was one Tommy Adams whose all round performances were considerable. Leslie Jones also did well in his first season to finish second to Adams in the averages. The Avenue Road ground also stood up well to the demands put on it during the season. With heavy rain softening it like a sponge, the ground was susceptible to unusual wear and tear and in patches mud replaced grass. Yet by changing the wicket and nursing the ground, those responsible for looking after the playing pitch managed to overcome the damage inflicted by the weather and allowed more games to be played than might have been thought possible. A benefit match was held for George Lavis of Glamorgan CCC. The closest anyone came to a century was Tommy Adams whose best was 99 against local rivals Crickhowell. The 2nd XI, led by Raif Godfrey and Charles F. R. Price, also enjoyed a good season.

1951: Leslie Taylor stood down as chairman to be replaced by Charles F. R. Price, while the other key officers remained in post. The year opened with the sad news of the passing of Alderman Max Beveridge, aged 61 years, with president J.K. Ruther referring to this at the outset of the annual general meeting and stating that: ‘He had been a good supporter of the club, including taking on the role of secretary when the club was going through very grim times and by his death the club had lost one of its staunchest supporters’. There were three centuries scored by 1st XI players – two for Lew White (105 not out and 111), and also Harold Sadler (104 not out). Lew only missed out on a 1,000 runs by 94 and with his 60

wickets had a wonderful all round season. The club welcomed the combined Glamorgan CCC and Somerset CCC for Haydn Davies's benefit match against the club side. At the annual dinner in November 1951 the toast was made by Mr N. V. H. Riches of Cardiff, who said 'it speaks volumes for your club that it has been running for so long . . . here you have installed a tradition of cricket which is not to be found in many other places today'. Abergavenny awarded Lew White a benefit game as he generously gave his services as coach free of charge following the withdrawal of the grant paid by Glamorgan CCC in past years.

1952: J. K. Ruther, Hedley Roberts and F.O.Roch continued in their key officer roles with S. H. Stock replacing C. F. R. Price as chairman. At the AGM on March 25th in the Greyhound Hotel Syd Stock announced he was standing down as 1st XI captain and was succeeded by Harold Sadler with Lew White as vice-captain. Mr Roch commented on the lack of spectators in 1951, stating: 'We had a very strong fixture list with really good sides visiting us but the crowds didn't materialise'. Jack Ruther, the president, put it down to the weather, which was poor in the 1951 season. Vin Evans and Harold Bowkett, respectively, took over the reins of the 2nd XI captaincy and vice-captaincy.

The first and only century of the season was scored by Tommy Adams against English opposition in Slough. They were one of a number of non-Welsh sides that visited Avenue Road in these years; others were Weaste CC of Lancashire, the Pat Kendle XI from Ross-on-Wye and Hereford CC. When the south Wales side, the Innswingers, arrived at Avenue Road the spectators were pleased to see they included W. E. Jones, Alan Watkins and Phil Clift, all top-class county cricketers. Nevertheless, Abergavenny managed to win the game.

Lew White was once again the outstanding all-round player, scoring the most runs, taking the most wickets and the most catches. Don Parry was awarded a blazer at the annual dinner for his batting, which saw him averaging 24 runs for the season. The most impressive of his performances was his 85 runs against Neath when Abergavenny were in real trouble.

Another blazer was awarded to Mel Pritchard who took 48 wickets at an average of 9.5. For the first time the club entered the Knock Out Competition staged at Cardiff Arms Park. In all, the 1st XI only won seven of 42 games played but they did record the highest team score since the war of 238. The 2nd XI under Viv Evans won eleven of their 23 fixtures; Cliff Cox played particularly well with bat and ball.

1953: The club were again grateful to retain the four key administrators as well as the 1st XI captain and vice-captain. The 2nd XI saw Harold Bowkett, at 36 years of age, take over the

captaincy. On June 14th, during the fixture with South Wales Hunt – which was played under grey skies in what should have been ‘flaming June’ – J. C. Clay of Glamorgan officially opened the recently-erected extension to the pavilion. The work had been supervised by C. F. R. Price but in the main it was the product of club members working as volunteers on the project. It gave Abergavenny amenities that were among the best in Wales. It cost around £800 but had paid workers been involved it would have cost at least double that amount. The 1st XI, up to this point, had won very few matches, but they certainly delivered off the field in the development of the new extension.

The fixtures in 1953 included Newport, Cardiff, Barry, Neath and Swansea, as well as games with numerous ‘Old Friends’. On June 26th W. E. Jones, who played at Avenue Road the previous season for the Innswingers, brought a combined Glamorgan CCC and Middlesex CCC team to play the club for his benefit year fund. His team included J. Pleas, S. Montgomery, W. E. Jones, H. P. Sharp, S. M. Brown, J. T. Murray, P. Clift, J. J. Warr, F. Titmus, L. Muncer, and K. Lewis. There were no centuries scored the closest anyone came to a century was 1st XI opening bat Les Jones with 93 runs against the ‘South Wales Hunt’. With the ball, Wyn Williams took seven wickets with his off spin in a match on two occasions, against Lydney and Ross.

1954: All four key Officers were re-elected as well as the 1st and 2nd XI captains. The very popular club midweek eight-a-side competition drew a number of local teams, including the Mardy, Ewyas Harold, King Henry VIII Grammar School, Hilly Billies, the General Post Office, the Golf Club, Penyfal, Coopers, the British Legion, Rugby Club, the Police, Price & Son and the Hockey Club.

Lew White scored the only century of the season, with 108 not out against Panteg 1st XI and he was once again the leading run scorer for the club. Dick Jones was top of the bowling, greatly aided by his eight wicket haul against Brecon. At one point, the 1st XI went nearly the whole of July without recording a victory. Harold Bowkett led from the front in the 2nd XI with bat and ball, taking eight wickets in one match against Cardiff Reserves.

On June 20th a benefit match was held at the ground for Len Muncer of Middlesex and Glamorgan CCC – a Glamorgan XI versus an Abergavenny 1st XI. Jim McConnon was one of the stars on show and he managed to smash a windscreen of a spectator’s car on his way to 63 not out; other names were Bill Edrich, Jim Pleas, Alan Watkins and of course Len Muncer himself.

1955: As 1954 drew to a close it was announced that Syd Stock was leaving for Velindre, Swansea, due to a change in employment. He had been chairman for the past three seasons and before that had captained the 1st XI from 1946 to 1951. Charles F. R. Price took over as chairman and served alongside J. K. Ruther (president), Hedley Roberts (secretary) and F. O. Roch (treasurer). Lew White replaced Harold Sadler as 1st XI captain.

The Glamorgan beneficiary this year was Alan Watkins and for his benefit game at Avenue Road he brought a mixed eleven to play the club. For Abergavenny, G. Alderton (68) and Lew White (73*) acquitted themselves well. Among those playing for Glamorgan were Harold Gimlett (ex-England and Somerset), Alan Watkins, Jim Pressdee, Gilbert Parkhouse and Trevor Ford.

The playing highlights during the season were Len Hodson taking eight wickets for five runs in eight overs in one 1st XI match and Bill Saunders also took eight wickets for the 1st XI against Pontypridd. The lone centurion was S. Workman with 100 not out against Brecon.

1956: Following the retirement of Hedley Roberts who had served as secretary from 1948 until 1955, Martin Reeves, a local bank manager, took over that role; the other three chief executive officers remained in post. The new 1st XI captain was police inspector Len Hodson.

A very interesting fixture programme included the return visit of Pakistan Eaglets and hosting a George Tribe benefit match, whose team included Denis Brookes, Frank 'Typhoon' Tyson and Keith Andrew. Pakistan Eaglets were a team of young Pakistan cricketers who it was felt had a future in Test cricket; indeed, Ijaz Butt, who opened the batting in the game at Abergavenny, went on to play in eight tests between 1959 and 1962. The Eaglets toured England and Wales from 1952 to 1959. During the season, the Avenue Road ground was also used by Monmouthshire Police for three fixtures against Gloucester, Worcester and Birmingham Police.

There were no centurions in 1956, nor any outstanding individual batting performances, though both Lew White and Mel Pritchard did take seven wickets against Lydney and Hereford respectively. Wyn Binding was top batsman and R. Hodson top bowler for the 1st XI, whilst Peter Jones, Bill MacPherson and Mel Pritchard led the way in the second team. The first team won 12 of the 30 matches played and the seconds 11 out of 24.

1957: The top four senior officers of the club from 1956 remained in post for the 1957 season. The new 1st XI skipper was a Clydach man, Harold Bowkett, now aged 40, who had

joined the club in 1946. He had been 2nd XI skipper for three seasons from 1953 to 1955. During the war he had been a prisoner-of-war, captured in Singapore in 1941 and interned in Formosa [now Taiwan] where he worked as a slave labourer in a copper mine.

On June 9th the club welcomed Glamorgan beneficiary Gilbert Parkhouse to Avenue Road and his team to play an Abergavenny XI included: W. Davies, R. Edrich, B. Hedges, L. Devereaux, A. Watkins, G. Parkhouse, J. Pressdee, P. Walker, R. Edwards and D. Evans. Abergavenny had a guest player in Pakistan Eaglet Nazir Ali. During 1957 the club also had a fixture against Glamorgan Colts whose side included W. G. Davies, J. C. Dauncey, A. Jones, D. L. Evans, D. J. Ward, H. W. Morgan, J. S. Pressdee and Peter Gatehouse. Around Whitsun the 2nd XI went on tour to Bristol, playing Old Colstonians, Bristol and Lydney. From a playing point of view the season was a disappointing one with both teams unable to put together any consistent performances. There was a century scored by left-hander Norman Darby (107 not out against Hereford). Some of the best bowling performances were by W. Saunders with 7 for 35 for the 1st XI against Brecon Sports Club, O. Saunders with 8 for 11 for the 2nd XI against British Nylon Spinners and D. Gulliver with 7 for 8 for the 2nd XI against Newport Fugitives. Vin Jones was the 2nd XI's leading batsman, whilst Saunders, Gulliver and Cliff Cox bowled well for the side. The first team won just six of the 38 games played while the seconds won nine of their 28.

1958: For this season there was one change among the principal officers as F. O. Roch retired as treasurer, a role he had held with distinction from 1948 to 1957. He was replaced by D. R. M. Jenkins. Lew White returned as captain of the 1st XI, having previously been skipper in 1955. The usual sprinkling of English cricket club visitors were welcomed at Avenue Road with Hythe, Cheadle, Mayflies, Weaste and Pat Kendle's XI all included on a full fixture list.

The *Abergavenny Chronicle* continued to send a reporter to home games and Don Chambers was not afraid to use extravagant language in his columns. For example, he wrote: 'Nasir Ali Khan Quizilbash is so consistent yet unorthodox, so confident yet unassuming yet not stylish, making his runs in a way no other batsman could emulate'. On another occasion, he reported: 'At this time in the Club's history John Hill, the Abergavenny keeper, was probably one of the best wicketkeepers in south Wales league cricket'. He also coined the phrase about Jeremy Price, the King Henry Grammar School pupil, 'The Prince of Swipe'.

The season's benefit match was for Northants CCC player, Dennis Brookes, who brought a county eleven to play the club on August 31st. It included R. Subba Row, Frank 'Typhoon'

Tyson, George Tribe and Keith Andrews. The Abergavenny club's individual playing highlights during 1958 saw two centurions at 2nd XI level (M. Wildblood, 104 not out, and W. Binding, 112) and there was two seven wicket hauls for Owen Saunders for the same team (against Chepstow and Brecon); he finished as leading wicket taker with 63. A young Brian Shackleton hit a purple patch over the Bank Holiday weekend after a barren spell, totalling 167 runs in the three games.

1959: To see out the decade the four main executive officers – J. K. Ruther, C. F. R. Price, Martin Reeves and D.R.M. Jenkins all remained in post – as did Lew White as 1st XI captain; there was also a return to 2nd XI captaincy for Harold Bowkett. Malcolm Cox joined the club and was an admirable replacement for Randall Bellis. Another newcomer was Geoff Richardson, who it was hoped would make up for the loss of Nasir Ali. Ossie Griffiths was another new player. The three newcomers reinforced the old brigade of Lew White, John Hill, Bob Jennings, Cecil Berrington, Peter Jones and company. Thankfully, Randall Bellis did return to the Abergavenny ranks during the season.

Something that served the club enormously well in the future was the emergence of 15 year old Malcolm Nash who scored only 14 runs on his debut but announced his potential with the style in which he played and later scored 61 not out against Panteg. 'This tousled haired batsman', recorded the *Abergavenny Chronicle* 'has extreme promise'. There were no centurions in 1959 at either 1st or 2nd team level. By his own high standards, skipper Lew White had a lean season until towards the end, but Bill MacPherson made a career best score of 83 against Ross 2nd XI, while D. Fennell took 8 wickets in the same game. Local police cadet Tony Mead also began to make an impact during the season. In a review of the season, it was felt that the club needed more 'quick' bowlers to support 'the towering ex-guardman Bob Hodson, who was the only genuine quick bowler at the club'. During 1959, he shared the attack with Bill MacPherson, a useful medium fast bowler, followed by men of similar pace in Bernard Hayward and Randall Bellis. Beyond this, Abergavenny's bowling had to rely in spin. During the winter of 1959-60 it was also hoped that young replacements could be found for wicket keepers John Hill and Eric Tovey. It was generally felt that 1959 had been a better season than 1958, even though both teams only won 17 out of 56 games played.

Throughout the decade the club was greatly indebted to people like F. Didcote, V. Jones, W. G. Jones, G. V. Evans, H. V. Jenkins, P. Arnold, W. Morgan and J. Wycherley for umpiring, maintaining the ground and scoring.

Abergavenny CC: The Sixties

1960: The decade opened with the following key officers: President, J. K. Ruther; Chairman, C. F. R. Price; Secretary, M. Reeves; Treasurer, D. R. M. Jenkins; 1st XI Captain, Lewis White. At this time, the club played only friendlies on Saturdays and Sundays and had an active junior/colts team. Wyn Williams returned to play local cricket at Avenue Road. Over 40 clubs were then taking part in the club's thriving mid-week 8-a-side knock-out competition.

The 1st XI started and ended the season in similar fashion, losing matches, but in between the *Abergavenny Chronicle* reported that the club should 'feel proud' – proud that during that middle period only two matches were lost, proud that their batsmen scored sufficient runs, proud that their principal bowlers (Ossie Griffiths, Bob Jennings, Colin Nash and Jeremy Price) took plenty of wickets and, most importantly, proud of their opening batsmen, Colin Nash and Brian Shackleton.

There were no centurions during the season, the highest individual score being 92 by Colin Nash against the Mayflies touring team. For the 1st XI, the leading run scorers were: Colin Nash [730], Lew White [622], Geoff Richardson [408] and Brian Shackleton [444]. In the bowling, the leading wicket takers were Colin Nash [36], J. Price [33], O. Griffiths [45] and Bob Jennings [37].

1961: There were a few changes among the key officers with Syd H. Stock* taking over as president following the retirement of JK Ruther, his son Mike becoming secretary, Brian Shackleton club captain and Mel Pritchard 2nd XI captain. The club again played friendly/social cricket throughout the season. [* Syd Stock having now served as Captain, Chairman and President]. The 1st team had a total of 40 Saturday and Sunday fixtures – winning 11, drawing 11 and losing 18. The 2nd XI played 24 matches – the winning 9, losing 9 and drawing 6.

The 8-a-side knock-out cup was re-styled for the 1961 season with seven different bowlers bowling 2 overs each – 3 runs were awarded to the fielding side for a maiden over; for every team that fielded a player who normally plays for his club's 1st XI the opposing side would be awarded 3 runs; and any over that yielded 21 runs or more received a bonus of 3 extra

runs. Usk Cockerels – 4 times winners of the tournament met and defeated Semtex in the final.

Again this season there were no club centurions. The leading batsmen were Lew White, Geoff Richardson, Brian Shackleton, Colin Nash and Jeremy Price, while a youthful Malcolm Nash contributed promisingly with bat and ball. The leading bowlers were Bill MacPherson, Bob Jennings, Tony Paton, Jeremy Price and L. Holder. The outstanding individual bowling performance was from Bill MacPherson with figures of 10 overs, 8 maidens, 4 runs and 9 wickets.

In November 1961, Jack K. Ruther – club president since 1948 – sadly passed away. A well-known local sportsman, he was a player, patron and president of Abergavenny Thursdays Football Club and also captained the Thursdays' cricket team. He also played hockey and rugby for the town sides, as well as being a member, former captain (1948-49) and vice president of Monmouthshire (Abergavenny) Golf Club.

1962: The only change among the six key officer roles was Ron Collett taking on the 2nd XI captaincy with Mel Pritchard unavailable due to a rugby injury sustained during the winter. The club continued to support youth cricket through a Colts XI. Some of the youngsters, all under 17 at that time, were: John Powell, Mike Powell, Malcolm Powell, D. Ray, A. Horlor, D. Ormond, D. Warren, B. Hooper, and B. Powell

For the second consecutive season an Abergavenny bowler took 9 wickets in an innings; this time it was Jeremy Price against Whitchurch. Not surprisingly, Jeremy finished the season as leading wicket taker with 87; he was well supported by Bill MacPherson [71], with Ossie Griffiths and Malcolm Nash taking more than 30 each. Again this season there were no century-makers. The leading batsmen were Lew White [1019 runs], Brian Shackleton [704] and Bob Jennings, B. Lancaster, Geoff Richardson and Jeremy Price all scoring in excess of 330. Brian Shackleton recorded the highest individual score [94] against Abercarn. Club chairman Charles Price presented Lew White with an inscribed silver tankard for scoring 1,000 runs in club matches during the season. Four outfielders took 10 or more catches. Colin Hanbury [29 victims] and a young John Powell [4] were the wicketkeepers.

1963: There was no change among the key officers this year; all were-elected. Mike Farr joined the club to play Sunday fixtures only. Brian Shackleton and Ron Collett were both re-elected as skippers of the 1st and 2nd XI's respectively. Both were described in the local press

as having ‘a young, fresh approach to the game, the type of individuals that if they fail it will be with dignity and their bats held high’. Ron Collett was ‘a fast bowler of some usefulness and a hard hitting middle order batsman, while Brian Shackleton is a different type, principally a solid opener, who inspires confidence in the field’. The club were still only involved in friendly/ social cricket. The only century [101] of the season was made by Brian Lancaster against Newport Fugitives. A key milestone was reached with victory over Usk – the first victory against them for 10 years.

The leading batsman was Jeremy Price [738 runs] with Geoff Richardson [461], Brian Shackleton [404], Malcolm Nash [319], Bob Jennings [319] and Lew White [319]. In addition, Jeremy Price was leading wicket taker with 80, followed by Malcolm Nash [54] Ossie Griffiths [41] and Mike Farr [44]. Colin Hanbury [22 victims] was described by the *Abergavenny Chronicle* as ‘easily the best wicket keeper since John Hill’. Lew White, Brian Shackleton, Geoff Richardson and Jeremy Price all took 13 or more outfield catches. Ron Collett, the 2nd XI skipper, recalled the season has having been ‘unstable’, ‘ill balanced’ and ‘lacking a nucleus of experienced players’, with his team’s final record being: played 23, won 7, drawn 7, lost 9 and 5 abandoned.

1964: D. L. M. Jenkins retired as treasurer and was replaced by Bill MacPherson, which was the only change to the key officer roles from the previous season. The club again continued with friendly/ social cricket and there were no centuries scored. The highest individual score [75] was made by Malcolm Nash. There was a best of 9 wickets for 25 runs by Mike Farr against Mayflies. He [125 wickets] and Malcolm Nash [95] became the deadly duo, taking 210 wickets between them during the season. Malcolm had the added ‘string to his bow’ by scoring 944 runs, which was almost three times the next highest-scoring batsman, Geoff Richardson [387]; Mike Powell, Lew White and Brian Shackleton also all passed 300 runs. The wicket-keeping duties were shared between Colin Hanbury, John Hill and John Powell. Five 1st XI fielders took 10 or more catches.

In the 2nd XI, E. Wiggett, P. Wilkinson, Brian Saunders, Tony Paton and Roger Morris were the leading batsmen, while Owen Saunders, Mel Pritchard, Tony Paton, E. Wiggett and Ossie Griffiths were the most successful bowlers. At the end of this season Cliff Cox retired from playing. The 2nd XI used 40 players, only 10 of which played in 50% or more of the matches. The team’s record was: played 25, won 8, lost 13, drawn, 4.

1965: Sid Stock ended his tenure as President and was succeeded by Charlie Price (who had been Chairman since 1951). Lew White took over as Chairman, and the other officers remained in post. Mike Farr became available on both Saturdays as well as Sundays this season. The club was still playing just friendly/social cricket. This was definitely the year Malcolm Nash came to the forefront of Welsh cricket. He completed the 'double', scoring 1,143 runs and taking 126 wickets. His run total included two centuries – 100* against Whitchurch and 110* against Abertillery. His wickets included taking all ten against Lydney [10 for 42]. In the 1st XI level, apart from Malcolm Nash, the bowlers who excelled were Mike Farr [81 wkts], Bill MacPherson [64] and Bob Jennings [46]. In the batting G. Storey [236], Brian Shackleton [449], Geoff Richardson [253] and Ken Williams [411] all did well.

The very popular 2nd XI skipper Mel Pritchard got married during the season (timing which was generally frowned upon in those days). In the 2nd XI, Dr A. G. Pasha, a newcomer, topped both the batting and bowling averages, scoring 342 runs at 34.20 and taking 36 wickets at 9.00. Others in the 2nd XI who figured prominently were Tony Paton and Owen Saunders in the batting and Mel Pritchard, Owen Saunders and Brian Thomas in the bowling. There was in the 2nd XI an emerging talent in Robin Williams, a fifteen year old all rounder. In the mid-week competition, Usk won after a replay, the first game against Bishops ending in a tie.

1966: Bob Jennings took over the role of Secretary from Mike Stock; all the other key officers remained in post. Bill MacPherson was by now the grounds man, as well as treasurer and a playing member of the 2nd XI. This was the year Malcolm Nash made his debut for Glamorgan CCC. As well as his first-class debut, he played in 'Club and Ground' and 2nd XI fixtures but, when not required by the county, he also turned out for Abergavenny.

This season the early fixtures were cancelled due to snow. As well as Robin Williams, three other young cricketers emerged – David Griffin, Phil Grattan and Duncan Paton. Another feature at games this year was the presence of Cliff Cox as an umpire, having played for the club for over 20 years; an associate member of the Umpires' Association, he also served on both the general and the colts committees of the club.

The Powell twins were beginning to establish themselves in the side and achieved the highest 1st wicket partnership of the season, 112 against Penarth. There were no centuries in 1966. The leading run scorers were Brian Shackleton [327], Mike Powell [573], Lew White [351], Phil Grattan [313], Malcolm Nash [516] and John Powell [491]. In the bowling, Mike Farr

took 115 wickets at the amazing average of 8.77 and included a best of 9 for 14 against Pontypridd. In addition, Malcolm Nash gained 43 wkts, Alan Lloyd 30 and Bob Jennings 29. The wicket keeping duties were shared by John Hill, John Powell and Ken Williams. Abergavenny were eliminated in the first round of the Monmouthshire Knock Out and Usk won the mid-week 8 a side cricket competition for the sixth time.

1967: The only change to the key officers this year was Roger Morris taking over the captaincy of the 2nd XI from Mel Pritchard. Still playing only Friendly/Social matches but looking to continue to progress, the club invested in a 'Colin Cowdrey slip catch net', aiming to improve the close catching. A couple of significant events were Mel Pritchard returning his career best bowling of 9 for 24 against Chepstow and, away from Avenue Road, Malcolm Nash made his County Championship debut against Yorkshire at Harrogate at the age of 21. Mike Powell was selected for Monmouthshire to play against Worcester CCC 2nd XI.

This was the season that, after playing at Cwrt-y-Gollen Army Camp, Crickhowell, Malcolm Nash suggested that the two opposing teams – Glamorgan and the International Cavaliers – travel to Abergavenny CC for a few drinks. Most of the players took up the offer, as well as the television commentator Frank Bough.

There was one controversial on-field incident during the season, in the game against Hereford who had levelled the scores with one ball to come. As Brian Smith faced Alan Lloyd, the other batsman, Cedric Clinkett set off down the wicket. Smith failed to make contact with the ball and both batsmen ended up at the same end. Lloyd took the bails off to secure the run out but the umpire had called NO BALL. Did the no ball get cancelled out by the run out? No! So Hereford were the victors.

The bulk of the runs were scored by Mike Powell [826], Brain Shackleton [516], John Powell [430], Lew White [473] and Malcolm Nash [327]. The outstanding Mike Farr bettered his previous season's haul with 138 wickets, at just 7.84. This was over four times that of his nearest team mates – Malcolm Nash with 32 and Alan Lloyd with 33. Once again there were no centuries scored. John Powell, the wicket keeper, took 25 victims (15 caught and 10 stumped). Jimmy Devoy and Trevor Rodwell of Crickhowell made a couple of guest appearances for the club.

1968: There were no changes among the key officers and still no first XI centurions during the season – so only 4 hundreds had been made in eight seasons. Alan Saunders did however

reach that milestone [100 exactly] for the 2nd XI against Crickhowell. Mike Powell did score 97 in one innings – a personal best – which was one of eight scores of fifty or more he scored during the season in an aggregate of 1,145 runs. He was supported by Brian Shackleton with 619, Phil Grattan 404, Peter Jones 308, Ken Williams 295 and John Powell 346. In the bowling Mike Farr again reached a century of wickets [131], with yet another nine-wicket haul [9 for 21]. Youngsters David Griffin and Robin Williams chipped in with 11 wickets and 20 respectively. Alan Lloyd took 53 wickets, D. Ellaway 26, Malcolm Nash 28 and Bob Jennings 25.

Famously, of course, at St Helen's, Swansea, Malcolm Nash was hit for 6 sixes in an over by Gary Sobers, naturally a world record. Panteg defeated Usk in the final of the mid-week 8-a-side knock out cup, their star man being Selwyn Watkins, former Bristol City, Merthyr Tydfil and Abergavenny Thursdays soccer player and the brother of Glamorgan and England cricketer Alan Watkins.

1969: Abergavenny closed the sixties decade with the following key officers: President, Charles F.R. Price; Chairman, Lewis White; Secretary, Bob Jennings; Treasurer, Bill MacPherson; 1st XI Captain, Brian Shackleton; and 2nd XI Captain, Brian Taylor. Still only friendly/ social cricket was being played.

This season David Evans, the Glamorgan wicketkeeper, was awarded a benefit and brought a side to play Abergavenny. In the match, young Robin Williams, by now as well as an accomplished cricketer who had also won Welsh schoolboy caps at rugby union, needed a six off the very last ball of the match to make a century – unfortunately he hit only a four to finish on 99 not out, but his knock did give Abergavenny victory over the all-star benefit XI.

An injury robbed Mike Powell of his first ever century for the club – against the Innswingers he retired hurt on 95 not out, having suffered from a locked knee, which was an old rugby injury. During the season Abergavenny 1st XI were opposed by a couple of ex-Test players. Jeff Jones, of Glamorgan C.C.C. and England fame, played for Bridgend and ensured an Abergavenny defeat. The other former Test player to confront the club was in the match with Cheadle, when Chester Watson took 6-27 as Abergavenny were all out for 111.

The leading run maker was young David Griffin [625] with support from John Powell [559] Peter Jones, Brian Shackleton and Lew White all topped 400 runs for the season. Despite injury, Mike Powell managed 377 runs. Mike Farr failed to reach a century of wickets, taking

90 at 9.74. He was supported by David Griffin [64] and Alan Lloyd [49]. John Powell and Ken Williams shared the wicket-keeping duties. In the 2nd XI, Colin Woods and Brian Taylor led the batting, supported by Tony Mead and Roger Morris. In the bowling Mel Pritchard, Alan Grattan and Paul Butterfield were the leading wicket-takers.

David Griffin was awarded his Wales schoolboy cap. Away from the club, Malcolm Nash was awarded his county cap, having significantly helped Glamorgan to win the 1969 County Championship.

Abergavenny CC: The Seventies

1970: The decade began with the re-election of all of the principal officers of 1969: president – the Charles (Charlie) Price; chairman Lewis White; secretary – Bob Jennings; treasurer – Bill MacPherson; captain 1st XI – Brian Shackleton; 2nd XI – Brian Taylor. On the field of play, the bowlers fared better than the batsmen during the season, with Mike Farr, Allan Lloyd and David Griffin all taking over 60 wickets each. One batsman who did stand out was Mike Powell, who scored 1,000 runs – double that of the nearest to him in the averages.

Abergavenny 1st XI won 16 of the 40 games played and drawing 12 and losing 12. Mike Farr led the bowling with 84 wickets at 9.17; David Griffin took 61 wickets and Alan Lloyd 65. Below Mike Powell's 1000 runs, David Griffin scored 590, Peter Jones 493, Len Wilcock 316 and John Powell 395. The 2nd XI they won 13 of their 24 matches, and lost 4 and drew 7. Tony Paton topped the batting and Alan Grattan the bowling. The team at this time included: R.Morris, A.Saunders, C.Woods, B.Taylor, A.Mead, G.Phillips, W.Elliot, P.Williams, M.Bruton, M.Rouse, and M.Pritchard. The only century [100*] was scored by Peter Jones, his maiden hundred. Panteg won the mid-week competition.

The season was summed up thus by Brian Taylor: 'Under the captaincy of Brian Shackleton until he broke his finger, and with Mike Powell showing great skill with the bat and with his close catching, Abergavenny First XI had a successful season winning 16 of their 40 games. Without Mike Powell's skill and patience it may have been different. It was he who led the way as Abergavenny remained undefeated in the first 13 games, winning 8 of them. The high spot coming during the holiday weekend when three extremely strong fixtures were all won. On the Saturday, St Fagan's were beaten by 8 wickets after scoring 148. Briton Ferry Steel of the South Wales League suffered a similar fate on the Sunday when they too were defeated by 8 wickets, after scoring 161. Then Lydney were beaten on the Monday by 39 runs. These 3 victories were down to 3 batsmen and 1 bowler – Powell, Peter Jones and Len Wilcock with the bat and Mike Farr with the ball. Disaster was to follow in the next 8 games, five of which were lost. The loss of form was difficult to explain as the same side was fielded that had blazed a winning trail the weeks before. It was just a bad patch'. Touring was still a regular thing in the 1970s and the club used to take an annual tour to Kent

1971: Brian Shackleton stepped down as First XI skipper after the 1970 season, having fulfilled the role for 10 years. He was succeeded by Mike Powell. Charlie Price stood down as president and replaced by E. G. (Ted) Nash. The other key officers remained in post, including the 2nd XI skipper Brian Taylor. John Howells joined the club from Ebbw Vale. Mel Pritchard celebrated 25 years with the club by taking 7 for 51 for the 2nd XI against Newbridge. The First XI finished halfway in Severn Counties League and the 2nd XI in third place. A father and son played in the 2nd XI – Bill and Chris MacPherson. The 2nd team completed their season in style beating Thornbury which meant they had been unbeaten since 10 July, winning 7 and drawing 9 of the 16 matches during that period.

The Severn Counties League (for both 1st and 2nd teams) was a new venture in 1971 and comprised Abergavenny and ten other teams: Gloucester, Hereford, Winget, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Tewkesbury, Panteg, St Fagan's, Lydney and Ross.

The best batting statistics were: Mike Powell, 1034 runs at 28.72; John Howells, 733 at 25.27; Royston Tear, 399 at 22.16 and David Griffin, 665 at 21.00. In the bowling, Bob Jennings took 65 wkts at 14.20, Mike Farr 35 wkts, Paul Butterfield 45 and Mark Ozelton 35. At the end of the season, life memberships were awarded to Charlie Price [47 years with the club] Lew White [26 years] and Bill Macpherson [20 years].

A novelty match took place this season where the ladies took on the men. The former included: Jean MacPherson (capt.), Pat Spratt, Judith Taylor, Mary Wilkinson, Chris Paton, Jane Wilkinson, Drena Havard, Celia Denbury, Hazel Pritchard, Polly Mead, and Barbara Shackleton.

1972: There were two changes among the key officers with G.H. ('Doc') Lewis taking over as treasurer from Bill MacPherson and Ken Williams as 1st XI captain from Mike Powell. The club by now had a strong Colts XI with quite a number of fixtures. Among the highlights of the season were games on July 25th against the Australian Old Collegians' Cricket Association, who were on a world tour and on September 23rd a benefit match for Gary Sobers, surely the greatest all-round cricketer ever. The team included: Mike Smedley, Derek Randall, Gerry Sobers (Gary's brother), Tony Saunders (the Nottingham secretary and ex Abergavenny player), David Brown (of Warwickshire and England) and David Evans (the former Glamorgan wicketkeeper). Batting first, the Sobers XI scored 267 for 6 wickets declared. In reply, Abergavenny CC put up a good show with leading run scorer Mike Powell (making 56) and Ken Williams (34) the main contributors. It was in this match that Mike Farr

took his 1000th wicket for the club when he dismissed Warwickshire's David Brown. The only club century in 1972 was scored by Mike Powell [108] against Worcester 2nd XI; he was drafted into the Abergavenny 2nd team due to the corresponding 1st XI fixture being rained off. Leading run scorers during the season were Mike Powell [1088], David Griffin [489], Peter Jones [471] and Dick Brown [448]. Leading wicket takers were Mike Farr [62], John Baker [64], Paul Butterfield [42] and Tony Paton [32].

1973: The only change in the main officer roles was Tony Mead taking over the 2nd XI captaincy from Brian Taylor. Keith Watkins joined the club from Crickhowell CC. The club joined the Three Counties League (TCL), which had been formed the previous year, and in the first year, the 1st XI finished in 4th place, after gaining their first victory against Ross. The club continued to encourage youth and the Abergavenny Colts in 1973 included: K. Holmes, G. Garvey, N. Moore, M. James, J. Cooke, P. Barrett, A. Green, C. Hawkins, R. Rossiter and P. Bowen. As well as David Griffin and Mike Powell making 1,000 runs, Brian Shackleton, Dick Brown and 'Doc' Lewis all made over 500. David Griffin topped the batting averages and Keith Watkins, in his first full season with the club, took 98 wickets and led the bowling averages, supported by Alan Lloyd [61 wkts], Paul Butterfield [52] and Bob Jennings [37]. Traditionally, Abergavenny has always welcomed beneficiaries at the ground. 1973 was no exception as David Brown of Warwickshire and England brought a full strength Warwickshire to play the club's 1st XI, the highlight being a century from John Jameson.

1974: The officers were unchanged except for Brian Shackleton taking over the club captaincy from Ken Williams. Tony Mead continued to lead the 2nd XI. This year the squad was strengthened by the acquisition of some new players, including Mike Farr, Dennis Harries, Brian Williams and Tony Coles. Abergavenny continued to enjoy a mixture of friendlies and league cricket. The season gave a hint of things to come as Abergavenny were extremely competitive in the league. A new mid-week league run by the club was won by King Henry VIII School. Mike Powell, John Powell and David Griffin were all selected to play for Monmouthshire against Worcestershire in a county representative match at Ebbw Vale. To mark the 25th Anniversary of the Mayflies tour, Brian Shackleton, captain of Abergavenny CC presented an inscribed tankard to the visiting captain, who had played in the first year of tour. Alan Lloyd, a stalwart for many years played his final match for the club against Caerleon. The only century of the season was scored by Chris MacPherson for the 2nd XI against Winget. The two outstanding batsmen were Mike Powell [1,082] and David Griffin [923], followed by Dick Brown with [525] The Powell twins Mike and John

[wicketkeeper] took 47 catches between them. Keith Watkins led the bowling attack with 93 wickets, supported by Dennis Harries [71] and Brian Williams [52]. Brian gained notoriety when he hit ex-England player David Brown (playing for Cheltenham) on the head and then for him to fall on to his wicket.

1975: The only change among the six key officers saw Peter F. Jones taking over as chairman from Lewis White. Stuart Lennox, formerly of Worcester City, joined. This was the club's best season for more than 20 years – an overwhelming success for both teams. The 1st XI took the Three Counties League championship and was runners up in the Monmouthshire Knock-Out, beaten by Ebbw Vale in the final. The 2nd XI won the Gwent Premier League and was runners-up in the TCL.

All this was done, despite losing top batsman Mike Powell, who broke a wrist when umpiring a round of the 'Abergavenny Superstar' competition. Earlier, Mike Powell scored his maiden century [100] for the club, against Malpas – the first century by an Abergavenny player at 1st team level since Peter Jones achieved the feat against Chepstow in 1970. David James, the 2nd XI vice-captain, scored his maiden century against Newport Fugitives Gwent Under 18 caps were awarded to Kyle Holmes and Richard Rossiter, with Adam Potheary 12th man, in a side was to be captained by Eddie Butler

The leading bowlers during the season were: David Jones with 76 wickets, Keith Watkins 74, Stuart Lennox 68, and Dennis Harries 57. Stuart Lennox was also top of the batting averages with 558 runs at an average of 46.5. Top run scorer was David Jones with 904 runs at 23.79, supported by Len Wilcock [790 at 22.0], David Griffin [717 at 23.13] and Mike Powell [708 at 25.28]. John Powell, 1st XI wicketkeeper and twin brother of Mike, took 28 victims [23 caught and 5 stumped]. The quality of the fielding was also a characteristic with 5 out fielders all taking 11 or more catches. The beneficiary this year was Dennis Amiss and he brought a Warwickshire team to play against the 1st XI. The Colts were still important in developing cricketers and during this year the following figured: N. Moore, A. Laking, A. Lang, R. Rossiter, K. Holmes, N. Davies, P. Barrett, M. Samuel, P. Bowen, N. Martin, and A. Potheary.

1976: Apart from Mike Powell replacing Brian Shackleton as club captain the key officers all remained in post. The 2nd XI won the Gwent Premier League. Abergavenny were invited to take part in the Whitbread sponsored six-a-side competition in Cardiff and took the event by storm, beating Stroud, St Fagan's, Ebbw Vale and Briton Ferry on the way to the title, losing

only one wicket all afternoon. In addition, the won the batting award (Mike Powell), best fielder award (Kyle Holmes) and best bowler award (David Jones). The team was: M. Powell, K. Holmes, L. Wilcock, D. Jones, B. Williams and K. Watkins.

The only century of the season [101] was scored by Mike Powell (against Mendip Acorns), who once again passed 1,000 runs for the season [1,577]. David Jones just missed passing the same milestone with 961 and Keith Watkins took over 100 wickets. Mike Powell was clearly the club's top scorer at an average of over 40. Abergavenny did the 'double' over Worcester. The two wicketkeepers – Des Norton [41 victims] and 15 year old Gary Thomas [24] did very well. Bob Jennings took 104 wickets for the 2nd XI. Abergavenny Colts were still playing matches regularly in 1976. The team consisted of, among others, G. Thomas, M. Bloor, M. Winstanley, D. Dyer, N. Hewitt, M. Evered, I. Shackleton, A. Podder, N. Haggard, S. Horton, P. Havard, and W. Hickson. This investment in youngsters would stand Abergavenny in good stead over the next decade. Geoff Williams, aged 15, was selected to play for the Wales Under16s team against Ireland, having already gained his Monmouthshire cap.

1977: All six key officers were re-elected. Eric Jenkins formerly of Hereford joined the club. In the League Abergavenny continued to hold dual league membership – playing in the TCL and the Gwent Premier League. This applied to a number of teams and when they played each other points counted for both leagues. Mixed fortunes were enjoyed as Abergavenny 1st XI finished as Gwent Premier League champions but third bottom in the TCL. The 2nd XI finished 5th in the TCL, while the 1st XI were losing semi-finalists in the Monmouthshire Knock-Out Cup. There were two centuries at 1st team level – Mike Powell [111] against Milstead on the annual tour of Kent and David Jones [119*] against Crickhowell. In the 2nd XI, Peter Thomas completed his maiden century against Colwall.

The beneficiaries this year were Rohan Kanhai who brought a Warwickshire XI to Avenue Road, and Tony Brown and Tony Cordle who played a Glamorgan against Gloucestershire challenge match.

Bill MacPherson sadly passed away in October 1977, at the age of 52. He had been a great servant to the club as a player, administrator and groundsman and his passing was a considerable loss. Plans were made to build a new score box and name it in Bill's honour.

1978: The first TCL handbook was published. Mike Powell was the club captain. Prior to the season the tea room at the ground burned down. The 1st XI finished 3rd in the TCL, losing just one fixture all season and won the Gwent Premier League and the Monmouthshire 20 over Knock-Out Cup (beating Panteg at Usk in the final). In addition, the club won the Gwent indoor six-a-side league, the team comprising S. Lennox, D. Jones, K. Holmes, P. Sussex, A. Mills and A. Davies. The 2nd XI finished in 7th place.

In the TCL, for the 1st team, David Jones [559 runs at 37.27], Mike Powell [472 at 31.47] and David Griffin [342 at 28.50] all figured in the batting averages. In the bowling, Keith Watkins led the way [34 wkts at 16.47], followed by Stuart Lennox [30 at 16.70] and David Jones [35 at 16.89]. For the 2nd team, Mike Drake, Ken Williams, David James and Alan Davies all featured in the batting averages, whilst David Dyer with [25 wkts at 16.52] made the bowling averages. Stuart Lennox. David Jones and Len Wilcock all represented the TCL. One of the opponents, the Western League, included Marcus Trescothick.

Mike Powell scored three centuries – 103* against Enville, 116 against Whiteheads and 100* against Crickhowell. David Dyer was capped three times by Welsh Schools and was also selected a number of times to play for Glamorgan Colts. In all 1st XI fixtures, Mike Powell scored 1,354 runs, David Jones 1,144, and David Griffin 526, while in the bowling Keith Watkins took 69 wkts, David Jones 82 and Stuart Lennox 49; Gary Thomas took 19 victims behind the stumps. The beneficiary was Abergavenny's own Malcolm Nash with Glamorgan playing Warwickshire at the ground.

During the course of the season the club suffered two tragic blows with the passing of, first, Peter Jones at the age of 46 and then Dennis ('Dinky') Harries collapsed and died on the field of play in a match against Monmouth on Saturday, July 1st; he was just 35 years old.

1979: The club ended the decade with E. G. Nash as president, Brian Shackleton chairman, Peter Thomas secretary, 'Doc' Lewis treasurer, Mike Powell club captain, Tony Mead 2nd XI captain and Martin Mason 3rd XI. Barbara Shackleton was Ladies' Section chair. The 'Bill MacPherson Scorebox' was officially opened on Friday May 18th. The new extension was completed in March and officially opened on April 22nd by David Brown (of Warwickshire and England). In the TCL, the 1st XI finished 10th and the 2nd XI 6th.

The 1st XI failed to submit averages to the league. However, chief run scorers were David Griffin [760], Mike Powell [734], Kyle Holmes [422] and a number of players with more

than 300 runs – Andy Mills, Stuart Dowle, Richard Rossiter and Paul Sussex. Leading wicket takers were Keith Watkins [86], Kyle Holmes [44], Paul Sussex [40], and Stuart Lennox [33]. For the 2nd XI, Dick Brown scored a century [122*] against Usk 2nd and Brian Shackleton [269 runs], Tony Mead [161] and A. Davies [148] all finished with averages above 20.00. In the bowling, Mike Drake [22 wkts] and Steve Hughes [27] both featured in the league handbook. Abergavenny Under 19s won the Monmouthshire Association Youth Cup. The team included Geoff Williams, Neil Martin, Andrew Goldsworthy, David Dyer, Lawrence Watts, P. Barrett, K. Roberts, A. Potheary, M. Davies, S. Thomas, Mike Bloor, K. Holmes and Gary Thomas.

Abergavenny CC: The Eighties

The decade opened with only one change to the key executive officers – G. H. ('Doc') Lewis, treasurer since 1972 resigning that office but remaining as a committee member; he was replaced by Stephen Hughes. Brian Shackleton remained as chairman, E. G. (Ted) Nash as president, Peter Thomas as secretary and M. J. (Mike) Powell as club captain, Tony Mead as 2nd XI captain and Martin Mason as 3rd XI captain. David James continued as groundsman for his third year. Unfortunately, during the course of the year, Brian Shackleton was forced to resign due to business commitments; an extraordinary general meeting appointed Ken Williams as his replacement as chairman with Tony Paton as vice chairman.

1980: The club's record for the 1980 season was mixed. Abergavenny 1st XI finished 4th in the Gwent Premier League, which was the lowest they had been for many years. They continued to service both the Gwent and Three Counties Leagues [TCL] and finished in 4th place in the latter. Mike Bradley, formerly of Hereford joined the club. The club also reached the final of the Gwent indoor six-a-side tournament. David Griffin scored the club's first ever 1st XI TCL century [102] against Colwall. The other 1st XI century was scored by Mike Powell [103] against Pontnewynydd. There was a return to a feature of a number of years ago with a Ladies XI taking on the Leisure Centre Ladies. Leading run scorer was Mike Powell with 937 and leading wicket taker was Keith Watkins with [67] with a best of 9-21 against Mumbles. A scheduled testimonial game for Alan Jones of Glamorgan was lost to the weather.

1981: There were a number of changes among the officers prior to the season, with Roger Thomas taking over as treasurer, Dick Brown as club captain, Mike Bradley (in only his second season with the club) in charge of the 2nd XI and Paul Bowen and the 3rd XI. There were also changes to the officers of the ladies' section with Carole Drake becoming chair and Jennifer Sussex secretary; Polly Mead remained as treasurer.

On the field of play, the season was again mixed. The observation of the TCL chairman was: 'In 1981 the only sign of strength from Abergavenny was their ability to hold the rest of the table up'. Young Mark Rossiter from Abertillery and Phil Bowker, formerly of Usk, joined the club. The 1st XI did reach the final of the Gwent Knockout Cup but lost narrowly to Malpas at Rodney Parade. In the home TCL game against Cirencester Mike Powell carried his bat for 134 not out – the highest not out score in the league, the best opening batsman

score for Abergavenny since the war and the Abergavenny total of 232-1 was their highest ever league score; David Griffin supported Powell with 58 not out. Mike Bradley scored a century [112*] for the 2nd XI against Cirencester and in only his second season, duly set a division 2 batting record with an aggregate of 684 uns.

On 10 May 1981 a new milestone in the club's history was reached as Abergavenny hosted Glamorgan v Worcestershire in the John Player Sunday League. The game, in which Glamorgan were skippered by Malcolm Nash was broadcast live on BBC Wales television; unfortunately Worcester won. The fact the match was played at all was down to the hard work of ground staff mopping up the water with blankets.

1982: The only change in the key officer roles (including the ladies' section) was Des Norton taking over from Paul Bowen as 3rd XI captain. Kim Norkett, the former Glamorgan player, joined the club for this season, who had had stints with Chepstow and Monmouth in the past, also Terry Birt. As well as the TCL, the club now played in the newly-formed South East Wales Cricket League instead of the old Gwent Premier. Mike Drake and son Clive took over care of the ground, David James having completed four years in the role.

Under the leadership of Dick Brown the 1st XI had a very good season, competing for the TCL title. In fact, it was only decided after a vote at league management meeting on September 14th, which narrowly decided not to penalize Colwall over non-fulfilment of a fixture with Ross (meaning that they were awarded the title; had the committee not so, then Abergavenny would have been champions for the second time. The 2nd XI finished 5th in Division 2. Mark Rossiter topped the League averages with 456 runs at 41.45, Mike Powell scored 572 at 31.78 and David Griffin 465 at 27.35. Kim Norkett was second in the league bowling averages taking 22 wickets at 10.86, Kyle Holmes took 28 wickets at 13.14 and Steve Hughes 21 wickets at 15.62. The only 1st XI century [105] was scored by Stuart Dowle in his fourth season with the club, against Mendip Acorns. In division 2 Mike Bloor [312 aggregate runs] Bashir Mohamed [204] and Alan Davies [448] all figured in the League batting averages, whilst Mike Bradley made a century [106] against Ross. The inaugural TCL Six-a-Side tournament, played at Usk C.C. on June 13th 1982, was won by Abergavenny. The team was Paul Sussex [capt], Kyle Holmes, Phil Watkins, Mike Bloor, Gary Thomas and Steve Hughes.

On 5 September, the John Player League match between Glamorgan and Northants was played at Avenue Road, with the latter including Peter Willey, Wayne Larkins, Geoff Cook,

Kapil Dev and Allan Lamb. The cost to the club to host the fixture was £2000. Hythe, a touring team from Kent, visited the club on their tour for the 25th consecutive year.

1983: President E. G. Nash and treasurer Roger Thomas remained in their posts but there were changes in several offices. Tony Paton took over as chairman, Stuart Dowle as secretary and Tony Paton took on the 3rd XI captaincy. The ladies' section introduced a chair by rotation and a new secretary and treasurer in Sue Brown and Carole Drake respectively. Ryland Wallace joined the club from Crickhowell.

Having been runners up the previous year the 1st XI remained competitive. Under the leadership of Dick Brown the team only lost twice in the South East Wales Sunday League and finished in 5th place in the TCL. The 2nd XI also played well and finished 4th in division 2. Ryland Wallace was the club's leading batsman in the league scoring [285] runs at 31.66; others to feature were Phil Watkins [389] and Mike Powell [308]. In the 1st XI bowling Paul Sussex [18 wkts at 17.31] and Stuart Lennox [31 wkts at 18.50] both featured in the division 1 averages. In division 2, Bashir Mohammed with 439 runs at 36.58 and finished 3rd in the league batting averages; Mike Bloor [350] and Mike Bradley [381] also figured in the handbook. Mike Bradley completed his 3rd century [101] against Cirencester in as many seasons. Phil ('Pugsley') Jones was the 2nd XI leading bowler with 20 wickets at 10.30. Paul Sussex represented the TCL XI against the Gunn and Moore Notts Alliance at Southwell. Mark Rossiter won his Welsh Schools Cap and captained the side at Pontarddulais against Northern Ireland

Another first in the club's history saw Avenue Road enjoy its first venture into staging three day county championship cricket, featuring Glamorgan against Worcester on 22-24 June.

1984: This year was the 150th anniversary of the formation of the club. E. G. Nash continued as president, as did Tony Paton as chairman and Roger Thomas as treasurer. Chris Cotterill took on the secretary role. David Griffin was elected club captain, Phil Bowker took over the 2nd XI and the 3rd XI had a rotational captain. The ladies' section saw Barbara Shackleton resume the chair, with Sue Brown and Dinkie Beaumont as secretary and treasurer respectively. The new groundsman was Chris Mellen.

A commemorative book, entitled *Looking Back*, was published during the year, written by John W. Morris with contributions from Ryland Wallace and Paul Sussex. While never intended to be a definitive history, it is nevertheless a significant publication and record of

events over the 150 years of the club's history. A foreword was written by Malcolm Nash, one of the most illustrious cricketers produced by the club. A tour to Sri Lanka was organised as part of their celebrations.

The 1st XI finished in 3rd place in division 1 of the TCL, winning 15 of their fixtures, while the 2nd XI finished 5th, winning 14 games. Mike Powell was the club's leading batsman in the league with 591 runs at 34.76, followed by the captain David Griffin with 525 runs at 32.81. In the bowling department, Kyle Holmes with 25 wickets at 11.64 and Phil Jones with 18 wickets at 15.77 figured in the League handbook. There was no county game this year. There was remarkable 'first' when Ryland Wallace was 'timed out' in a 1st team league match at Hatherley and Reddings. In the 2nd XI, the prolific Mike Bradley scored 676 runs at 38. This aggregate gave him 1st and 2nd highest aggregates in TCL 2nd XI history. Gary Thomas with 373 runs at 28.80 also featured in the League tables; he was also among the leading wicketkeepers with 22 victims. Geoff Loder took a hat trick against Tewkesbury 2nd XI and Jamie Cooke repeated the feat against Ross. Abergavenny hosted the 3rd annual Six-a Side competition, the home team losing out at the group stage on run rate. Stuart Lennox, Kyle Holmes and Bashir Mohamed all represented the TCL. A league XI also played Abergavenny as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations. The season ended with a gala dinner at the Manor Hotel, Crickhowell, with Tony Lewis, the former Glamorgan and England batsman, as guest of honour.

1985: In one of the wettest summers for many years, Brian Shackleton returned as chairman (after two years of Tony Paton) and Bashir Mohammed took over as treasurer from Roger Thomas. David Griffin continued as club captain with John Roberts in charge of the 2nd XI. Mark Abberley joined from Hereford. David Griffin fittingly scored the first century [132*] of the season against Cirencester. The 1st XI finished in 5th place in the TCL, while the 2nd XI finished 12th. David Griffin was 2nd in the league batting averages with 598 runs at 42.71; other high run scorers were Mike Powell with 315 at 31.50 and Mike Bloor with 349 runs at 29.08. In the bowling, Paul Sussex led the way with 17 wickets at an average of 16.76; Bashir Mohamed took 15 wkts and Simon Moorcroft 16. Ryland Wallace was among the leading wicket keepers with 19 victims. In the 2nd XI, Chris Cotterill, in his second season with the club, topped the batting averages with 260 runs at 28.90 [top score 50*]. Dick Brown also featured with 367 runs at 28.20 [with a top score of 95]. Phil Bowker took 20 wickets at 16.10.

The county championship game at Avenue Road featured Glamorgan against Worcestershire in early June. While interrupted by the weather, at least it was not as bad as in 1983. The start on Saturday was delayed and there interruptions for rain and bad light throughout the three days. Abergavenny were given a chance to put its new electrical scoreboard into operation.

1986: A. K. (Tony) Mead took over the chairmanship; all the other main executive officers remained in place. Ryland Wallace replaced David Griffin as club captain, John Roberts continued as 2nd XI captain and Steve Connolly took over the 3rd XI. Alan Cook joined the club as did Chris Connolly. Abergavenny 1st XI finished a good season in 3rd place in the TCL; unfortunately the 2nd XI were bottom. Up until 1 June this season nine of the scheduled 1st XI fixtures were rained off. A team went to Colwall for the annual TCL Six-a-Side competition and lost to Chepstow in the final. The team was: R. Wallace, P. Watkins, M. Bloor, K. Holmes, M. Winstanley and S. Moorcroft. Mark Winstanley took 15 catches in league matches, including 5 in one match against Lydney. In the John Macey Gwent Shield Phil Watkins hit a century [114*] against Garndiffaith and scored a 2nd century [117*] against the tourists, Emmer Green, from Reading. Phil's 3rd century [103], against Stinchcombe, was his maiden league hundred. He and Ryland Wallace represented the TCL in the inter-league Competition. Glamorgan v Derbyshire was the county championship fixture at Avenue Road (26, 28, 29 July, 3-day match). Radio commentator and journalist, Edward Bevan, wrote: 'Saturday 26th July and its Abergavenny, a ground where there is always a homely welcome for everyone'.

1987: The only major change in the offices was the appointment of Dick Brown as 2nd XI captain. Warren Butterworth joined the club. Again under the captaincy of Ryland Wallace, the 1st XI finished in a respectable 6th place in the TCL, down 3 places from 1986. Alas, the 2nd XI again finished 14th [bottom]. Kyle Holmes scored his maiden League Century [111] against Colwall, and along with Mike Powell [290] and Ryland Wallace [304] featured in the TCL batting averages. Kyle was the only bowler to figure in the bowling averages taking [38 wkts at 13.70]. Warren Butterworth was included in the 2nd XI TCL averages, scoring 347 runs at 34.70, which included an unfortunate 99 not out. Mike James was the most successful 2nd team bowler, taking 39 wickets at 15.80. Phil 'Pugsley' Jones scored his maiden century against Whitchurch (109) in a rain affected game. Phil Watkins took his aggregate score for the season to 993. Ryland Wallace, Kyle Holmes and Phil Watkins all represented the TCL side during the season.

Schoolboy Matthew Morris won his Welsh Schools' cap at Under 15 level, making his debut against Ireland. He was already captain of Gwent under 14s. Abergavenny beat Chepstow in the Macey Final at Usk. The team was R. Wallace (capt.) M. Winstanley, P. Havard, P. Watkins, P. Jones, G. Thomas, M. Bloor, C. Connelly, P. Sussex, S. Moorcroft and M. James. Abergavenny also entertained for the 2nd time Ricks Cavaliers on their 5th tour of the UK. A guest appearance was made for Abergavenny by Mark Alleyne of Gloucestershire who scored a magnificent 100. The Brittanic Assurance County Championship match played at Avenue Road this – over the three days of 5-7 August – was Glamorgan v Leicestershire.

1988: This was the 18th season for E. G. Nash as President and alongside him all the key executive officers from 1987 were re-elected. The 2nd XI captain was now Paul Sussex and the 3rd XI Mike Bruton. Matthew Leader and Nick Francis joined the club. The First XI didn't do as well as in the two previous years and dropped to 10th. Five defeats in a row in August saw Abergavenny plummet from 3rd place, challenging for the title to mid-table. Meanwhile, the 2nd XI improved and progressed to 9th. As defending Macey Shield champions, Abergavenny disappointedly lost in the first round to Beaufort. Kyle Holmes scored a century [116] against Hatherley, and Mark Winstanley scored his maiden club century [101] against the tourists, Emmer Green from Reading.

Kyle Holmes was selected for the TCL team, Mike Bloor was selected for Gwent versus Buckinghamshire and Matthew Leader for Gwent against North Wales. Kyle Holmes [271] , Phil Watkins [500] and Ryland Wallace [485] all featured in the TCL batting averages. Kyle [33 wkts at 11.00] and Alan Cook [49 wkts at 15.10] both figured in the TCL bowling averages. Glamorgan played Worcestershire in the County Championship at Avenue Road in mid-August. The Ladies Committee, which wasn't founded in 1977, become one of the main fund raisers in the club. The women's hard work raised £4,000. Lewis White, former club professional and captain, sadly passed away on 13 January 1988, aged 74. 'Lew' had been with the club since 1946. In 1988, the club lost another stalwart when Cliff Cox passed away. Cliff played for the club for many seasons and was renowned for his 'big hitting'; he also made a significant contribution as umpire.

1989: The decade drew to an end with more sad news – the loss of the President E. G. (Ted) Nash on 28 January, aged 80. Brian Shackleton was elected president while all other main executive officers remained in place. Phil Watkins took over the club captaincy. The 1st XI finished 9th and the 2nd XI 11th. Against Colwall, Phil Watkins scored his 2nd league century

[114*], while Simon Moorcroft scored his maiden century [137] against Caerleon. R. Viji (32) and Darren Hamer (23) put on 49 for the last wicket against Hereford, which was a record for the TCL 10th wicket. Also Mike Bloor (69*) and Darren Hamer (31*) put on 102 for the 8th wicket against Stinchcombe which again was a league record. Viji scored his maiden century for the 2nd XI against Chepstow. Matthew Morris [246] and Mike Bloor [471] featured in the TCL 1st team averages and Kyle Holmes [26 wkts at 16.30] and Alan Cook [55 wkts at 18.30] both figured in the bowling averages. In the 2nd XI, Viji [456] Warren Butterworth [276] and Phil Jones [193] in the batting and Terry Hulbert [22 wkts] and Tony Charrington [42 wkts] in the bowling all figured in the league handbook.

This year Glamorgan hosted Middlesex in the County Championship game at Avenue Road, Middlesex failing to win by 6 runs. [Glamorgan, 302-7 and 311-6; Middlesex, 263-4 and 345-8] The High Court upheld an appeal by the club ensuring that there was not a public footpath through the ground at Avenue Road. This year we were informed of the death of Syd H. Stock, Syd was such a big part of the club and his contribution was immense. Towards the end of the season on 22 August 1989 the club was saddened to hear the news that a great friend and valued member Ken Davies BEM had passed away.

Abergavenny CC-The Nineties Decade

The nineties opened with the key officers that were administering the club in 1989, Brian Shackleton, Tony Mead, Chris Cotterill and Bashir Mohammed still in the four key roles. Throughout the nineties the President and Secretary were constantly re elected, the Treasurer was in post for 9 of the 10 years, the Chairmanship only changed hands 4 times, There were just two fixture and Subscription secretaries- Ken Williams, Mike Bruton, Don Griffin and Ron Collett and there were 5 different club skippers. Loyalty to the club has always been a key feature in the successful running of this, one of the oldest cricket clubs in Wales. Having finished the eighties in 9th place in the 1st X1 Division and 11th in the 2nd X1 Division. Playing wise the club remained in the Three Counties League, with Phil Watkins commencing his second season as club captain. The club were able to secure the services of Hamish Anthony from Antigua, a nineteen year old fast bowler and hard hitting lower middle order batsman. A couple of new players joined the club in S.Evans & K.Miller. Hamish made an immediate impact in the very early TCL match against Stinchcombe in April taking 6-21 and scoring 86 not out with the bat. He continued to deliver all round performance throughout the season and it was generally felt that with him in the side a title challenge was possible. Alas the title challenge faded leaving the club disappointed with some key losses, that they could not 'cash in' on the inclusion of Hamish Anthony in their side. Possibly the challenge was not helped by the resignation of Phil Watkins during the season which saw Warren Butterworth the 2nd X1 skipper take over the captaincy. Hamish ended up with good all round figures taking 65 wickets and scoring 538 runs. There were three centuries scored Kyle Holmes with two, 126 for the 1st X1 against Chepstow and 113 against Hatherley the third was Dick Brown with 107 for the 2nd X1 against Ross. Mike James was the most successful 2nd X1 bowler. The 3rd X1 leading bowler was Andrew Morris and the leading batsman was Jonty Jones. The game between Abergavenny and Lydney with Steve James scoring a hundred and Abergavenny winning a very entertaining game was some years later voted the 'Best Ever' TCL game at the Dinner held to commemorate the closure of the League. Lavenoc defeated Abergavenny under 17's in the final of the 8 a side mid week league. The club once again hosted a Britannic Assurance County Championship game over three days with Glamorgan playing Worcestershire On July 21st, 23rd & 24th on the 22nd they travelled to Neath to play Somerset in the Refuge Assurance League. The game at Avenue Road produced a series of county records in a run feast draw.

In 1991- This year saw some changes in the key officers Brian Shackleton continued as President and Chris Cotterill as Secretary but Brain Mayers succeeded Tony Mead as Chairman and Ian Bailey succeeded Bashir Mohammed as Treasurer. The three captains were Mark Winstanley [1st X1] Warren Butterworth [2nd X1] Mike Hayward [3rdX1] The Professional engaged for the season was Ajay Banerjee an Indian from the Punjab, a 22 year old all rounder. Kai Carlson a very good al rounder also joined the club this season. The club played in the TCL, the Macey Shield and the Kippax south Wales League. Sadly at the start of the season we heard of the passing of Harold Bowkett in December of 1990, a stalwart from the 1950,s and earlier.

14 year old Michael Powell scored a League century 102 against Cwm for Abergavenny 3rd X1 the only other century was scored by Matthew Morris 114 not out against Mendip Acorns. There was another run feast in the 4 day County Championship Game between Glamorgan and Gloucestershire on August 28th-31st inclusive. [From 1988-1992 there was a mixture of 3 and 4 day Championship fixtures at first class level] The First X1 fought their way to the Macey Final against Chepstow at Panteg but were well beaten. Simon Moorcroft however won the batting award in the Macey Shield for his 91 not out against Llanarth.

A couple of interesting fast bowlers were included in the Stinchcombe and Clevedon teams that played against Abergavenny 1st X1 namely, Barry Chedburn a first Class cricketer from Cape Town who played for Boland and Andrew Caddick a New Zealander taking the 4 year qualification route to playing for Somerset CCC. In pre helmet days in the TCL they were possibly too quick for league cricketers which showed in their performances and Ryland Wallace nursed a broken hand as evidence. When Swansea visited they included Glamorgan CCC player David Hemp who scored [91] in an 8 wicket victory.

As well as Kai Carlson who proved a good recruit, the club now had a crop of younger players emerging to supplement the more senior group within the club. EG Simon Moorcroft, Richard Beaumont, Owen Dawkins, Mike Powell, Steve Brown and Matthew Morris. They also had a Captain in Mark Winstanley prepared to play them regularly. Simon Moorcroft was the leading run scorer for the 1st X1 and Richard Beaumont the leading wicket taker.

1992- There was no change in any of the key Officers as all were re-elected. There were some additions to the playing strength as Dominic Newman a 'British born ' Queenslander joined the club and Damian D'Oliveira of Worcestershire CCC was engaged as the club professional, and he would also send a replacement in Adam Seymour whenever he wasn't available. Both Damian and Dominic made an impact on the season that was quite successful.. Very early on in the Macey Shield we saw some of the power of Dominic Newman who scored 139 including eleven sixes, which would win him the batting award for this season pipping Simon Moorcroft who also scored a century against Haven on the Hill in the preliminary round. Mark Winstanley's second season proved very successful, he guided the team again to the final of the Macey Shield only this time to victory against a strong St Fagan's X1 played at Malpas CC. In an exciting game St Fagans needed 18 runs from the final two overs but Kyle Holmes and Dominic Newman made sure that didn't happen.. Abergavenny 1st X1 also finished runners –up in the Three Counties League.

Thanks to some consistent batting from Ryland Wallace, Matthew Morris and Dominic Newman who all scored 400 runs plus and the good bowling of Richard Beaumont again the leading wicket taker and Dominic Newman. This season also saw the introduction of Player of the Month Awards sponsored by local companies. Alan Cook who joined the club in 1986 and had proved a very useful wicket taker, late order 'hitter' left at the end of the season. The regular visit of Glamorgan CCC to play Britannic Assurance County Championship cricket at Avenue Road continued – July 24th 25th & 27th with the visitors this year being Somerset CCC, interest increased this year due to the inclusion in the Glamorgan team of Viv Richards, Andy Caddick also returned to the ground having completed his qualification, the game ended in a draw..

1993- Once again the Club was lucky and grateful to retain all of the key officers and Mark Winstanley entered his 3rd season as 1st X1 skipper, Adil Gatrad took on the captaincy of the 2nd X1 succeeding Warren Butterworth and Mark Davies captained the 3rd X1. The club professional was Chris Tolley the ex Notts and current Worcestershire CCC bowler, however he was not available for many of this seasons fixtures. Other newcomers were Jason White from Ebbw Vale and Justin Watts from Brynmawr.

This season saw the start of 'Kwik' cricket for juniors, Adil Gatrad was the local organiser, it involved all the local schools and was sponsored by The Sports Council of Wales and The

Royal Mail Schools Sport Link Award. Another innovation was the distribution of Dickie Bird Umpire Coats for use by the clubs. It was the juniors in the shape of Abergavenny under 13 squad that proved the most successful side in the club in 1993 winning their group and only just losing out in the knock out stages to St Fagans in a high scoring quarter final. In the TCL victories for the 1st X1 and 2nd X1 were limited and both teams were near the bottom of the table for much of the time. But the 1st X1 did win through to the final in the TCL plate competition, but lost to Cirencester. Despite this setback the 1st X1 continued to defend the Macey Shield Title they won last year and battled their way to a 2nd consecutive final which was played at Usk against Panteg, defending a low total however Abergavenny won securing a run out off the last ball with Panteg needing 4 runs to win.

The youngsters from Crickhowell were now playing regularly, Mike Powell, Ben Morgan, Nick Francis, Matthew Hall, Mark Coles alongside Gary Butterworth all made significant progress as club cricketers to add to their county and international recognition.

There were four centurions this year, Gary Butterworth 103 not out against Kington 2nd X1, Adil Gatrad 104 against Ross 2nd X1, Jason White scored a century 108 against V.T.CC and Ryland Wallace 139 not out against Cirencester in the TCL Plate Final. The 1st X1 finished in 11th place in Division 1 and the 2nd X1 were bottom of Division 2. Matthew Morris and Ryland Wallace featured in the 1st X1 TCL batting averages, while Adil Gatrad figured the 2nd X1 Averages.

The County Championship fixture at Avenue Road this year was Glamorgan CC v Gloucestershire played in late August 26th-30th On the Sunday August 29th both teams travelled up the heads of the valley to play a Axa Equity & Law fixture at Ebbw Vale which Glamorgan won, they then also completed the Championship win back at Abergavenny on the Monday.

1994- The 160th anniversary of the club-The President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were all once again elected for the 4th year running. A new club captain was elected, veteran Paul Sussex taking over from Mark Winstanley in his 18th season with the club. and Anthony Coles in his 20th year took over the 2nd X1 captaincy, Mark Davies continued as 3rd X1 Captain

1994 saw some new faces at the Club, Gareth Meredith, Andy Timpson, Jason White, Gurghit Singh and Craig Luddick a 19 year old overseas player from Durban in South Africa.

Bas Zuiderent a Dutchman made a couple of appearances for the club he would go on to play for his country Holland in the World Cup and claim a regular place in the Sussex County Team. It proved a mediocre Season with the first X1 finishing 13th in Division 1 despite having two bowlers in the top ten of the League bowling averages, Kyle Holmes who was top with 48 wickets at 9.18 and Paul Sussex 8th with 32 wickets at 16.90. Kyle won the prestigious TCL Player of the Year Award. This was Kai Carlson final season with the club. Ryland Wallace was a League centurion [129] against Ross and two youngsters M.Morris (119*) and Mike Powell (100*) scored centuries against Worcester Pearmen. Matthew Morris also made his maiden League century with [101*] against Tewkesbury. Having lost early in the Macey Shield, the 1st X1 won their way to the Plate Final losing to Cefn Forest. The 1st X1 were also runners-up in the TCL Plate. In the batting Ryland Wallace with 583 runs at 36.43 and Matthew Morris with 417 runs at 29.78 were the only batsmen to make an impression. Interestingly 4 of the top ten in the batting averages were either overseas players or Professionals. Mark Douglas who has played One Day Internationals for New Zealand, Andrew Roseberry of Leicestershire and Glamorgan, A Daly and P Russell both Australian Grade 1 players. The 2nd X1 had a much better season finishing 4th in Division 2. G.Singh finished 2nd in Division2 batting averages with Mark Coles, S.Eccles and O.Dawkins all figuring in the league batting averages. Justin Watts was the only 2nd X1 bowler to figure in the bowling averages.

The Crickhowell influence should not be underestimated this year with a high number of youngsters from there making an impact at Abergavenny. Two of those youngsters Mike Powell and Ben Morgan were playing for Glamorgan Colts. Owen Dawkins aged 15 received the trophy as The Lords Taverners under 15 Cricketer of the Year, the first Welsh Player to win this award. He has represented Wales at Under 14 level and played for Glamorgan Colts; he is currently a member of the MCC School of merit course and receives coaching at the MCC indoor winter school.

The Club were honoured with the presence of HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales Patron of Glamorgan CCC at the County Championship game between Glamorgan and Kent-July 21st 22nd 23rd & 25th his attendance also saw the Secretary of State for Wales, John Redwood, Glamorgan President Wilf Wooler and Glamorgan Chairman David Morgan putting in an appearance.

1995- For the 5th year running there was no change in the top four club Officers, with B.Shackleton, B.Mayers, C.Cotterill and I.Bailey all re-elected, Sussex and Coles continued as 1st and 2nd X1 captains and Mike Bruton took over the 3rd X1 captaincy from Mark Davies. At the start of the season the club were informed of the death of Bob Jennings who passed away on Boxing Day of 1994. Bob had made a tremendous contribution to the Cricket Club for many years, as a player and an Administrator. He was a very successful spin bowler who liked to hit the ball hard when he had a chance to bat. His many years as Club Secretary were instrumental in ensuring that the Club was in a strong position off the field. His work was recognised with Life Membership

This season became the best year since 1975 in terms of trophies won and individual performances. A major coup for the club was the signing of Aashish Kapoor from India, a current test player, albeit as an off spinner, another newcomer was Mike Baillon a batting all-rounder who bowled spin. Aashish was certainly the catalyst of the success. The club 1st and 2nd X1 finished 3rd in the Leagues. The 1st X1 won both the John Macey Shield and the TCL League Cup. They also won the Welsh Cricket Championship and the Breconshire Mid-Week league. Abergavenny Under 11's won the Gwent Championship. Individually Kapoor broke all records, he scored 5 centuries, his 179 against Stinchcombe was the highest ever individual score in the league, his aggregate of 1416 was the most runs in a season ever, his 70 wickets paced him 4th in the all time list, the teams 389-3 against Dumbleton was the highest club total ever. Aashish hit national headlines when he scored a triple century against Swansea in a 45 over Welsh Cricket Championship game at Avenue Road. Mike Powell had a top score of 94 not out and he along with Owen Dawkins figured in the TCL batting averages. Paul Sussex finished top of the TCL bowling averages with 31 wickets at 12.83, Kyle Holmes also featured in the averages. There were centuries 109 not out for Matthew Morris against Ross and a maiden TCL century 100 for Gareth Meredith against Bredon. In the 2nd X1 Mark Coles hit a league century 104 not out and finished 5th in the Division 2 batting averages, Gareth Bowers, Gurghit Singh, Gary Butterworth and Dick Brown all featured in the batting averages. Phil Christie took 54 wickets in the 2nd X1 and along with Andy Coles and Andy Timpson figured in the Division 2 bowling averages. Ben Morgan and Mike Powell were selected for Wales under 19 v Scotland at Avenue Road (Mike as skipper) The Abergavenny under 11's won the Gwent Championship.

Glamorgan CC entertained Gloucestershire CC and in this County Championship game more 'World' records were recorded two to be precise Andrew Symonds score 16 sixes in his innings of 254 not out the most sixes in an individual innings, he added four more in his second innings to hold the record for a match of 20 sixes. For Glamorgan David Hemp recorded a career best of 157 runs. The icing on the cake was the success of Crickhowell under 19's who won the final of the Welsh Under 19 championship, the team included eight lads who played at Abergavenny CC.

Sadly after all the excitement of a successful season the club had the sad news of the death of Dot Bloor. Dot had been a stalwart of the Ladies Committee, a tireless worker for many years. She helped raise thousands of pounds for the Cricketers and was a very valued member of the Club. Her son Mike played for many years with distinction and her daughter was also very active with the Cricket teas.

1996- There was one change in the key officers with Ken Williams taking over the Chairman role from Brian Mayers, Stuart Eccles and Terry Mead became 2nd and 3rd X1 Captains respectively. This year saw a slight departure in that the club hired a player coach from Brisbane, Brad 'Spud' Murphy which again proved an inspired choice. A wicket keeper batsman, he started his career with South Brisbane Clubs and went on to play first grade with, Sandgate- Redcliffe, University and Western Suburbs, played 4 years with Queensland Country in National Championships and against Sri Lanka in 1990. John Phillips also joined the club having played for Ebbw Vale for a number of years.

Alongside the captain Paul Sussex Brad steered the club to another successful season, as the First X1 finished runners-up in the TCL and Winners of the TCL Plate. The 2nd X1 won the 2nd Division Plate and finished 4th in Division 2. Mike Powell topped the Batting averages with 1269 runs at 79.94, he scored 5 centuries became second in the all time aggregate table behind Aashish Kapoor and won the TCL Player of the Year award and was joined in the League batting averages by Owen Dawkins and Ryland Wallace. Richard Beaumont and Mike Baillon featured in the league bowling averages. Brad Murphy was the joint leading wicket Keeper with 29 victims. In the 2nd X1 Phil Christie topped the League Bowling averages joined for the 2nd season running by A.Coles and A.Timpson.

Brad Murphy made his maiden century [137] against Sudbrook and a 2nd Century [135] against Ynysygerwen. Matthew Hall scored a century [148*] against Alton. Owen Dawkins scored two centuries [109] against Cirencester and [100*] against Hereford. The 3rd X1

finished 3rd in their League. Mark Wallace already a Wales under 14 capped player played in the Under 16 Welsh Team. In 1996 Mike Powell, Ben Morgan, Leighton James and Gareth Bowers all played for Wales under 19's. Quite a feat as they all attended school in Crickhowell. Owen Dawkins finished 3rd in the Under 17 Glamorgan Averages. With Mike Powell 3rd in the Colts/Under19 Averages. He also played in 7 matches for Glamorgan CC 2nd X1. A vital achievement attributed to Brad Murphy was his ability to inspire great enthusiasm in players highlighted by the attendance on Friday evenings of 100-120 youngsters at junior coaching sessions. Brad also encouraged Mike Powell to spend the winter with him in Western Suburbs Grade Cricket Team. It was with great sadness that the Club lost Don Griffin who passed away in July. Don joined the Club in 1957 and served in a great deal of capacities as an administrator, his work was recognised when he was awarded an Honorary vice Presidency, quickly followed by Life Membership. His contribution was all the more appreciated because he never played cricket for the Club, but hardly ever missed a game home or away and acted like a kind of 12th man always urging the team on. Another great gift he bestowed on the Club was his son David who played for many years with distinction.

1997- JB Shackleton [President], Ken Williams [Chair] Chris Cotterill [Sec] & Ian Bailey [Treasurer] Paul Sussex [Club Captain] and Brad Murphy [Player Coach] were all re elected as was S.Eccles and T.Mead. The TCL was split into two divisions at 1st and 2nd Team level. The three main competitions were again the TCL, The Macey Shield and the Welsh Cricket League. With the 3rd X1 in the Glamorgan & Gwent Conference. The 3rd X1 fielded sides with 5 players with an average age of 15 years. Another successful season saw the 1st X1 finish Runners-up in the TCL Cup, the 2nd X1 winning the Division 2 TCL Cup. Abergavenny under 15's winning the Gwent League, coached by Terry Mead, Adil Gatrad and Brad Murphy and the 3rd X1 winning the Glamorgan & Gwent Alliance Division 2 Championship. Ian 'Slider' Harris joined the club as a medium pace bowler. Owen Dawkins scored centuries against Abertillery [117] and [106] against Hereford Young Mark Wallace hit the headlines next with a century [103*] for the 2nd X1 against Brockhampton he later scored a second century [112] for the 2nd X1 against Llanarth and followed this with his maiden 1st X1 century [106] against Sudbrook. Mark went on to play 2nd X1 Cricket for Glamorgan CCC. John Phillips scored his maiden century [110*] in the TCL in the Cup quarter final against Pershore. In 1997 Mike Powell figured in a number of Games for Glamorgan 2nd X1 scoring five centuries and amassing 1,201 runs a 2nd X1 record, on his first

class debut he scored [200*] against Oxford University only the 3rd cricketer during the century to make a double hundred on debut. This Season's first class match saw Glamorgan v Northants Avenue Road on August 20th-23rd This was to be the last time Glamorgan would play a Championship match at Avenue Road as they concentrated more on playing at Sophia Gardens. Ironically they won the match with Mike Powell hitting the winning runs.

1998-Tony Coles took over the Chairmanship from Ken Williams, Andy Timpson took over the 2nd X1 captaincy from S.Eccles and Gareth Meredith became Club Captain with Paul Sussex retiring after 4 seasons in that role. The other key officers remained. The Club had another successful season - 1st X1 Runners-up TCL and Winners of the Welsh Cricket Championship, the 2nd X1 TCL Div 2 Winners and League Cup, the 3rd X1 Runners-up in the Gwent Alliance. The Under 19 Winners Inaugural Macey Youth Cup and the Under 15 Winners of the Gwent League. Under Gareth Meredith with the aid of our club professional Ross Lupton, who had been recommended by Brad Murphy and the recruitment of Jonathon Hughes the first X1 did really well. Ross Lupton scored centuries [132*] against Cirencester, [136*] against Kington, [128] against Bridgend and [181] against Chepstow in what was Abergavenny's final game in the TCL. Other centuries were scored by Alistair Fury [127] in the 2nd X1 League Cup Final, John Phillips [102*] against Gowerton and Owen Dawkins [108] against Bridgend. One of the clubs finest players and long serving administrator Ryland Wallace kindly pulled together a list of Individual Honours in 1998- Abergavenny's Ross Lupton topped the batting averages and was 2nd in the bowling averages for Glamorgan 2nd X1. Owen Dawkins; Glamorgan 2nd X1, Somerset 2nd X1, Three Counties League X1, MCC Young Cricketer. Ross Lupton; Glamorgan 2nd X1, Three Counties League X1. Mark Wallace; England under 19, and 17's, Glamorgan 2nd X1, Under 19s and Under 17s, Wales under 16s. Jonathon Hughes; Glamorgan 2nd X1, Under 19s and Under 17s, MCC Young Cricketers. Alistair Fury and Jamie Rowles Glamorgan under 17s. Alex Heslop, Wales Under 16s. Kunal Khanna Wales Under 15s. Greg Fury: Wales under 11s. John Phillips and Gareth Meredith Three Counties League X1. Gwent Young Cricketers- K.Khanna, Gareth Williams, Gwyn Pritchard, Alun Charrington, Gavin White, Ben Pike, Peter Hull, Ieuan Fury, Greg Fury, Huw Pritchard, Douglas Spencer, William Morris, James Schofield. Powys Young Cricketers- Sam Timpson, Alex Heslop, Mark Wallace, Jonathon Nash, Jonathon Davies, Ioan Lilly, Richard Pulman, Ross Williams, Nathan Jeffries, Richard Brooks, John Gregory, Ian Wallace, Tom Millington, Jonathon Jeffries, William Hitch. Administration- Brian

Shackleton Glamorgan CCC Committee. Paul Sussex, Three Counties League Executive and Joint Manager of the League X1

1999- President-J.B.Shackleton, Chairman-Tony Coles, Hon Sec-C.Cotterill, Treasurer-I.Bailey Captain 1stX1-Gareth Meredith, Captain 2nd X1-Andy Timpson Captain3rdX1-Adil Gatrad Captain 4th X1-Tony Coles. Ross Lupton remained as the club professional and Geraint Jones joined the club from Clevedon. After many years in the Three Counties League Abergavenny were forced to leave and become a founder Club in the South East Wales Cricket League which was meant to be the forerunner of the South Wales Premier League, much heralded by The E & W C B. For the first time in the Club's history we were able to run a 4th X1- in 1999. It proved to be yet another successful season to end the 20th Century. The First X1 won the inaugural East Wales Cricket League Division1 only losing a single fixture. Whilst the 2nd X1 finished 3rd in the Second Division losing just 3 fixtures. Abergavenny under 13's won the MifA shield beating Blackwood in the final at Malpas and finished runners up in the league. The Under 15's managed by Graham Pike finished runners up in the league but lost to Sudbrook in both Cup competitions. The Under 19's reached the Macey semi final. The 1st X1 also won the Welsh Cricket Championship Final beating St Fagans, with a century [122*] for Ross Lupton – other centuries came from John Phillips [131] against Llanwern and Mark Wallace [103*] against Panteg, Lee James [157*] against St Fagans , Steve Brown [156*] against Chepstow & Gavin White [108*] against Panteg. Ross Lupton wasn't as prolific as in 1998 but still averaged 50.29 batting and 14.68 bowling. Mark Wallace averaged 46.63. Lee James topped the 2nd Division Averages with 382 runs at 63.67, Mark Winstanley was 3rd with 405 runs at 45.00 and Gavin White was 7th with 320 runs at 35.56. Ian 'Slider' Harris topped the 2nd X1 Division bowling with 30 wickets at 13.93, with a league best of 8-22. The 1999 1st X1 was one of the strongest ever fielded with Geraint Jones, Mark Wallace, Jonathon Hughes all of whom would become first class cricketers and one of them an international for England , alongside Ross Lupton who if English would have played first Class cricket. Added to this were a couple of veterans with a number of talented youngsters a powerful combination.

The First Two Decades of the 21st Century

As it said goodbye to the 20th century and hello to the 21st, Abergavenny Cricket Club could reflect on around 140 years of mostly friendly fixtures before the advent of league cricket in the early 1970s. The year 1998 saw a dramatic restructuring of existing leagues throughout the country and the dawn of 'the brave new world' of Lord MacLaurin and pyramid leagues based around first-class counties. This meant that the Abergavenny club, having enjoyed much of its recent past in fixtures across the border, in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, would now be entirely rooted in south Wales.

Abergavenny CC, always being progressive in nature, embraced this brave new world and started the 21st century with Geraint Jones as club captain, a player who some 5 years later would be written into cricket folklore as a key member of the 2005 Ashes-winning England team.

The club was also thoroughly committed to the development of youth teams and to encouraging more young boys and girls to take up the game employed an overseas coach in Darren Holder, a member of the Queensland state coaching team.

The playing staff consisted of a mixture of youth and senior players and, as well as Geraint Jones, included two future Glamorgan CCC first-class cricketers, Mark Wallace and Jonathan Hughes.

If the playing members fluctuated over the 'noughties' the key four officers were pretty consistent as J.B. Shackleton was president throughout the decade and also treasurer for 5 of the years, with Ian Bailey in that post for the other 5 years. Mrs Tessa Pike was secretary for 9 of the 10 years, taking over from Chris Cotterill. The chairmanship was shared by Anthony Coles (6 years) and Paul Sussex (4 Years), ensuring administration was in competent hands.

Fortunately, local businesses bought into this philosophy and sponsorship greatly assisted the club in its goals, and this support was to continue to a greater or lesser degree throughout the "noughties."

2000 saw the 1st X1 finish 3rd and the 2nd X1 5th in their respective divisions. Geraint Jones figured in the league averages with 520 runs at 40.00 with a best of 97. Craig Barnsley [20 wkts] and Gareth Corfield [37 wkts] featured in the handbook

Ryland Wallace recorded the highest aggregate in the 2nd Division in 2000 scoring [600] runs taking him to second in the averages with an average of 50.00 and a best of 97 Not Out. Gavin White was mentioned also with 261 runs at 43.50 with a best of 73 not out. Andy Timpson recorded the highest number of wickets with 37 and was second in the bowling averages with 11.48.

The wicket at Avenue Road had for many years been considered a good one, in no small part to the hard work of employed groundsmen supported by volunteers, known as ‘The Last of the Summer Wine Gang’. Sadly, in 2000, the club lost its employed incumbent with the sudden passing of Ken McKenzie.

The club’s tradition of hosting ‘big’ games continued in 2000 with an ECB X1 playing against Sri Lanka Under 19 X1

Success is nice but never guaranteed and new young skipper Ben Powell (appointed in 2001) didn’t enjoy the best of fortune in his two-year tenure. A dogged middle-order batsman and a brilliant fielder in any position, he was leading the side at a time when overseas players were not permitted and found the going tough in the Thomas Carroll South Wales Premier League. He was supported by further coaches from Australia in Brad Murphy and Alan Free. The team finished 6th of 10 in 2001 but unfortunately were relegated from the top flight in 2002. In 2001 the 2nd X1 finished in 6th in their division. For the 1st X1 Mark Wallace topped the batting averages in the league, with 463 runs at 66.14 with a best of 145 against Cardiff. Greg Paulson who had joined from Ebbw Vale was 3rd with 542 runs at 54.20 with a best of 111 against Panteg. Andy Timpson [22 Wkts] and Craig Barnsley[24 Wkts] featured in the bowling. Andy also recorded the best figures in the 2nd X1 division with 7-50 against Pentyrch.

The 1st X1 did reach the Final of the Macey Shield against Llanwern at Panteg CC sadly they lost quite easily. Avenue Road hosted the Final of the British Universities tournament, as well as a Glamorgan 2nd X1 game against Worcestershire 2nd X1 and Wales Minor Counties v Herefordshire- Ben did however welcome Andrew Jones into Abergavenny’s ranks he joined from Llanarth, a signing which would prove to be an inspirational acquisition. It was not all gloom however, as the club reported a successful season for the youth section which continued to flourish. As did the 2nd and 3rd X1’s.

The 1st X1 finished second bottom and were relegated along with Miskin, the 2nd X1 finished 5th in Division 2 Andrew Jones did top the batting in the league with 563 runs at 80.43, with a best of 121 against Usk. Greg Paulson also figured with 356 runs at 44.50. There was also a century [113*] against St Fagans, Andrew Jones scored his second century [107*] in the same fixture. In the bowling James Didcot featured with 20 wkts at 21.35. In the 2nd X1 Mark Winstanley figures in the handbook with [216] runs at 30.85. In Division 2 Andy Timpson was second in the league bowling averages with 27 wkts at 12.00

The difficult decision to change leadership resulted in the engagement of recently-retired, first-class cricketer, Keith Newell, formerly of Sussex and Glamorgan, as coach and playing captain. This proved an astute move and the team bounced back immediately to the Premier League after winning the Division One Championship.

In 2004 the club managed to consolidate its premier status after winning promotion, due in no small part to the form of Andrew Jones who rounded off the season with his seventh league century, bringing his aggregate runs to 983 at an average of 98.3 This incredible record is the best ever in the 172 year history of the club and this was despite the fact that he sacrificed his wicket on at least two occasions for the benefit of the team. His ability and technique and his virtue of patiently playing each ball on its merits has been an object lesson to the younger players, who all benefited from his presence and advice. Lee James [100] against Newport 2nds as well as Ioan Fury and Ross Lupton who also scored centuries and Paul Havard had a Hat Trick all clean bowled

Another first for the club in 2004 was on July 21st when the Welsh Ladies Cricket Team played at Avenue Road against Middlesex Ladies. This was the first time a ladies match of this importance had been played at Abergavenny and is a far cry from the 1920's when the Suffragettes attempted to set fire to the stables at the bottom end of the ground where the grounds man's horse was kept!

Ian Bailey decided after 17 years of being the Club Treasurer to hand over the keys to the safe. Ian who had served the club superbly over that time would not be completely lost to the club as he was elected to be Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Club were pleased that Geraint Jones and The Mayor of Abergavenny Chris Woodhouse both agreed to be the Guests of Honour at the Annual Presentation Dinner in October at The Manor Hotel Crickhowell

The 2005 season had barely begun when, in a shock move, Keith Newell stood down as captain-coach. Keith had joined the club in 2003 following their relegation from top flight regional cricket the previous year. His impact was immediate as Abergavenny took all before them and won the first division in dominating fashion, losing only one game all season. He was also instrumental in bringing his brother Jon to the club, who had an outstanding year, winning the Player of the Year accolade. This success was followed up in the Premiership in 2004 as Abergavenny proved that they were the outstanding club in Gwent. Interestingly they defeated all of the top three teams, with the victory over the seemingly invincible Sully the highlight of the season. Abergavenny Thirds and Fourths both finished the season top of their respective leagues and both therefore were promoted.

Keith's first-class career stretched from 1995 to 2001, during which period he scored just under 3,000 runs and took 24 wickets. In the one-day format he scored 2,500 plus runs and took 42 wickets, winning the gold award in 2000 in the Glamorgan versus Kent match in the Nat West competition.

During the 2005 season first-class cricket returned to Abergavenny, from the 26th-28th July, when Glamorgan played Bangladesh 'A'. The latter included several players who played against England and Australia, so a keen contest was anticipated. Fittingly, Mark Wallace (51 runs) and Michael Powell (111), both products of the club's junior system, made major contributions to the drawn game.

Despite the setback of the resignation of Keith Newell as captain, the club retained its premiership status in 2005 with Andrew Jones taking over the helm. A relegation dogfight followed in 2006, despite Glamorgan allocating Ryan Watkins to the club as professional. Alas, Abergavenny were relegated from the Premier and once again found themselves in division 1.

John Phillips, a quality batsman who had played most of his cricket at Ebbw Vale (and thought by Graham Burgess to be one of the best 15 year old on-sided player he had seen) took over the captaincy in 2007 when Abergavenny finished 6th of ten teams in Division One, whilst the 2nd XI finished runners-up in the Premier Division for 2nd XI's. This season Abergavenny also took a unique decision to make an official merge with Crickhowell Cricket

Club. For many years they had enjoyed rivalry on the field, but friendship off the field, with many of Abergavenny's best players making the 6 mile journey down the A40 to play at Avenue Road. This year to mutual benefit Crickhowell in effect became another Abergavenny team, with players from both clubs eligible for all 4 teams.

Abergavenny's Avenue Road ground annually hosted county cricket from 1981 when Glamorgan visited the ground for their Sunday League match against Worcestershire. It ended with the development of Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, into an international stadium. But, in 2007, County Championship cricket was scheduled to return to Abergavenny, after a decade's absence, for the Glamorgan versus Leicestershire fixture from Wednesday 25th July to Saturday 28th July. The last County Championship game to be played in Abergavenny had been in 1997 when a Glamorgan team, led by Matthew Maynard, beat Northamptonshire by 6 wickets, on its way to winning the title. Unfortunately, due to the persistent rain no play was possible on any of the 4 days in July 2007.

Sadly, in that same year, the club lost one of its longest serving and most loved members with the passing of Mel Pritchard. Mel had been connected with the club since the 1947 season and remained a stalwart for the next 60 years. A splendid bowler, Mel took many wickets over the years for both the first and second XIs. The *Abergavenny Chronicle* regularly featured Mel as the leading wicket taker and the club presented him with a blazer in his prime for his consistent success. After he finished playing he became a hard working member of the ground committee and was his commitment and sense of fun made him a hugely popular figure. In his memory Ray Hamer constructed several seats along the redbrick wall at the bottom of the ground, which he affectionately named 'the Mel Pritchard Stand'.

2008 saw yet another new club captain as Dr Steve Brown took over and by the end of June Abergavenny were at the top of the table, a position they managed to retain and were ultimately promoted as Division One Champions, in no small part due to Australian import Andrew Robinson who scored 908 runs at a the remarkable average of 129.71.

Again, on a sad note, the club said farewell to Stuart Lennox who passed away during the course of that season. Stuart made his debut for Abergavenny in 1975, when he joined from Worcester. He was a marvellous right arm seam and swing bowler and right hand belligerent batsman. His first season coincided with the club winning the Thee Counties League title, during which he took 63 wickets and scored 558 runs. Over the years he would continue to

perform to a high level and was always capable of bowling sides out and scoring heavily with the bat, his highest score being 104 and his best bowling 8-61. Stuart represented the Three Counties League XI, Gwent and Buckinghamshire in the Minor Counties Championship, as well as Worcester Cricket Association. He topped the club's bowling averages in 1977, the batting in 1975 and 1981 and took the most catches for an outfielder in 1977, 1981 and 1983.

2009 was a very significant year in the history of the club as it celebrated 175 years of existence. Publicity for this anniversary season ran thus:

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

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

Saturday, April 18: Launch of Celebratory Book / Players' and Members' Evening

Saturday, June 13: Nostalgia Day – Players' and Members' Reunion

Sunday, July 5: President's XI versus Gwent Three Counties' League Invitation XI

Sunday, July 26: Abergavenny first XI versus Glamorgan (Alex Wharf Benefit)

Saturday, August 29: Celebratory Dinner Dance

Sunday, August 30: Youth Festival

Saturday, September 26: Awards Evening'

On the field and back in the Premier League, Abergavenny were allocated Will Owen by Glamorgan and brought in a young South African as their overseas player and coach, one Richard Levi. As well as this, the Club now boasted its largest and strongest-ever coaching team with no less than 20 qualified coaches focusing on youth development. There seemed plenty of grounds for optimism. However, after the season had only been going a short while, the First XI suffered a cruel blow when Levi was controversially banned by the league for being an alleged professional. Despite sterling work by Club Chairman Tony Coles, the original hearing and subsequent appeal found in favour of Tondur, the club who had filed the official complaint. This now meant Abergavenny and cricket watchers throughout south-east Wales would be deprived of one the best players ever to grace the League. Offering some consolation, there was success for the club's under 11 side who became joint league champions

The 'Twenty Tens' decade got off to a sad start with the passing of Peter Thomas, who played for the club at many levels from 1973, including some first team cricket in the great 1975 league winning side. His finest hour was his maiden century (101*) for the club against Colwall in 1977. He was also honorary secretary from 1978 – 1982 and until the AGM of 2009 was a very popular and highly regarded '200 club' organiser, having served in that office for 25 years since 1985. Making his final draw in that role in 2009 was his final contribution to a club he had served for 37 years.

Further regional cricket restructuring took place in 2010, when the South Wales Premier Cricket League was established. The top five clubs in east Wales in the 2009 season, together with the top five clubs in the west, formed a new premier division. The original leagues then became feeders to it but was renamed initially as the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Cricket League and later (in 2016) the South East Wales Cricket League.

Abergavenny had finished 2009 outside the top five teams in the east and therefore started 2010 in Division One of the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Cricket League. James Schofield took over the Club Captaincy and Ryan Watkins, recently-retired Glamorgan all-rounder, joined the club as a player-coach for the 2010 season. After a very successful season, Abergavenny went into their final game of the season still entertaining hopes of a Bridgend slip up which would give them a chance of stealing the title. However, Bridgend's demolition of Chepstow ended their dreams and left them just behind in second. Greg Fury was voted the 'League Player of the Year'. Tessa Pike retired and Kevin Schofield took over as Hon Sec.

2011 was more of the same with a strong challenge all season for the title, only to fall just short for the second year running, James Schofield again led the side well and Jon Denning, who had an outstanding season, ensured an Abergavenny player won the League Player of the Year title for the second consecutive season

2012 again under the captaincy of James Schofield turned out to be a struggle in fact after 14 of the 22 fixtures in the League Abergavenny were embroiled in a relegation battle, before eventually surviving.

A new player-coach, Ali Bukhari, joined in 2013 and a new batsman Tamoor Zafar provided James Schofield (captain for the 4th consecutive season) with more ammunition to launch a title challenge. He also had Cameron Herring at his disposal and both he and Tamoor scored maiden centuries for the club.

In 2014 (still in the Division One of the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Cricket League) James Schofield handed the captaincy to another youngster Gavin Heritage who had worked his way through the junior ranks. Ali Bukhari was retained as player-coach and he signed a number of his Asian compatriots, including Akhtar Baloch, an experienced campaigner and opening batsman, Muhammad Salman, a quick bowler and all-rounder Asim Gillani. Tamoor Zafar was available for this season. It proved another relegation battle for the 1st X1 and survival was not guaranteed until the final 2 games of the campaign.

2015 marked the 40th anniversary of Abergavenny 1st X1 winning the Three Counties League in 1975. The club hosted an anniversary reunion evening of that successful season during which it was also runners up in the Monmouthshire Knockout, and the Second X1 won the Gwent Premier League. This was club's best season for more than 20 years and was an overwhelming success for both teams. The season also saw the return of Tamoor Zafar and a newcomer Andy Clarke. Gavin Heritage started the season as captain but Geraint Leach took over during the summer. In May, sadly we heard of the passing of Barbara Shackleton. Later on October 1st we heard of the passing of Derek Havard a club stalwart.

2016 saw the inaugural season of the South East Wales Cricket League (SEWCL), Wales' newest and largest cricket league. Its formation was the result of the merger of the two senior cricket leagues in south-east Wales: the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Cricket League, and the Welsh Club Cricket Conference. Nick Kinman replaced Richard Bradley as Treasurer.

The two leagues decided they would be stronger working as a united organisation, providing a more consistent approach in terms of improving playing standards, club progression, child welfare, grounds and facilities, discipline, and more -all of which was geared towards improving the experience for the player and the spectator on a Saturday afternoon at their local cricket club.

Geraint Leach retained the captaincy but sadly Abergavenny didn't perform well enough to continue in the new [SEWCL] Division One and found themselves second bottom and thus relegated to Division Two.

Geraint, an ECB Performance Coach, Abergavenny CC Head Coach, Community Cricket Coach for Cricket Wales & Gwent U12 &U13 Regional Coach. Geraint was on occasions grateful for the input of Glamorgan Legend Michael Powell who has attended and offered advice and coaching to the players, which has been of tremendous value.

There was sad news of the passing of Ken Williams. Ken came to Abergavenny Cricket Club as a player in 1968, He captained the First X1 in 1972 and 1973, skippering the Abergavenny First X1 in both Garfield Sobers and David Brown Benefit matches. He served on the Committee for years and was Chairman in 1996 and 1997. For many years he was Chairman of the Ground Committee. His services to the Club were honoured with a Life membership.

2017 saw Adam Harrison engaged as Club player/coach. There was also some input in pre season from Will Bragg. Brian Mayers took over from Kevin Schofield as Hon Sec.

Whilst Abergavenny Cricket Club are preparing for the 2017 Season, one of its greatest luminaries Mark Wallace announced his immediate retirement from First Class Cricket. Very few precocious Sportsmen in any Field go on to fulfil that early promise as they grow older. Mark is an exception to that rule. Ever since he captained Powys Under 12 County Side he has continued to progress, very often playing in Older age groups. He has been synonymous with 'firsts' ever since he became the first player ever to score a century in the Final of the Welsh National Schools Under 13 Cricket Tournament. Glamorgan CCC recognised his ability early on and invited him for two winters running to specialist Nets with them In 1997 Mark was playing 2nd X1 County Championship Cricket whilst still eligible for Under 17 Competition Cricket for Glamorgan, which incidentally they won. International Honours at England Under 19 level soon followed even though he was only 17 years old and he remained involved with England from 1998-2001.

Yet another 'first' Mark became the county's youngest ever wicketkeeper in championship cricket when he made his first class debut in 1999 at the age of 17, against Somerset at Taunton in 1999, at the tender age of 17 years and 287 days.

He also topped the Glamorgan 2nd X1 averages with a highest score of 101* and an average of 55.8

He also won the NBC Dennis Compton Award for the Most Promising Young Glamorgan Player in that same year.

In 2001 he was called into the First team whilst playing for the 2nd X1 at Abergavenny, because Adrian Shaw was taken ill. It ended up a good game for Mark falling just one catch

short of the Colin Metson record with 8 catches. He also score 80* which in his 7th first class match was his highest score.

He was chosen in the 'first' ever ECB National Academy intake 2001/02 spending the winter in Australia. Named Young Glamorgan Cricketer of the Year 2002. He was then invited back for a second stint at the ECB academy in 2002/03.

His Maiden First Class Century came in 2002 to be followed by 16 More Centuries in all forms of Cricket.

His career has flourished ever since establishing himself in the First X1, he was honoured with the Captaincy for 3 Seasons and awarded a Benefit Year for services to the County in 2013.

He has broken virtually every record in the book from the wicket-keeper batsman perspective, some of which may never be equalled let alone surpassed. He has been Chairman of the PCA which is a great honour and conducted himself in that role with the same level of professionalism and selflessness that he has shown for the past two decades.

Off the field Abergavenny invested in upgrading and improving the Bill Macpherson Score Box. On the field Abergavenny 1st X1 had a really successful season and secured promotion back to Division One as League two Champions. The 2nd X1 were relegated and the 3rd X1 finished 3rd in their League. The club were well represented in the Junior ranks as Tom Norton (U10/11) Anton Lodder, Ben Morris, Alex Holmes, Eoin Shackleton and Tom Pipe (all U13) played for the Gwent County Junior sides. The first year of the All Stars initiative providing cricket for 5-8 year olds was successful if hard work at times but gave some assurance of a 'conveyor belt' of talent. Young Morgan Bevans who represented Wales at two age levels as well as winning his Wales Minor Counties cap, also was selected for the SW Bunbury X1.

Once again there were a number of outside organisations opting to use Avenue Road throughout 2017 –An Australian touring team Melbourne Cavaliers played against the Club a game in which Will Glenn scored a magnificent century. Gwent under 11s versus Cardiff & Vale Gwent under 13s versus Devon. Wales Minor Counties team faced Berkshire in a three day match Gwent under 13s played Wiltshire. Glamorgan County Cricket Club's second eleven played at Abergavenny a three day match against Worcestershire County Cricket

Club's second eleven. The Wales Over 60s team were scheduled to play the Australia Over 60s but that was spoilt by the weather. Finally the club hosted Wales Under 17s against Northants and Gwent Under 15s played Devon .

2018 Steve Denning decided to step down as Chairman after completing 4 years in the role, one of his key legacies was the success of the junior section in no small part due to good work of Colin Knight and Dawn Kinman in providing a safe haven for children and young people. A new chairman was required and Andy Timpson who had joined the club in 1994 stepped up to the plate. One of his first challenges was the resignation of the Chair of Cricket, 3rd X1 Captain and Fixture Secretary on a point of principle. They later returned to the fold. Having secured promotion last year the 1st X1 competed in Division one in which they finished comfortably in Mid Table. Whilst the 2nd X1 enjoyed a much better season losing only twice and finishing runners-up in Division Two. The 3rd X1 won their Division comfortably. Tom Norton gained a place in the Glamorgan Junior Academy. David Clarke went to Australia to play grade cricket in Port Lincoln, South Australia.

2019- On September 30th 2018 just after the Season drew to an end we lost our superb President Brian Shackleton who died on his 82nd Birthday. We also heard of the passing of two other ex Abergavenny CC players in Mike Farr and Robin Williams. The three key officers of the Club continued in post and a new President was elected in Dick Brown who has been associated with the Club since 1972 and has held several key roles during the 47 years he has been with the Club. Later in the Season on July 30th we heard of the death of Malcolm Nash probably the all time greatest product of Abergavenny Cricket Club. On the field the club boasted a number of promising youngsters under the captaincy of Will Glenn who himself led by example when opening the batting especially productive when Andrew Jones in his 18th season with the club, opened with him. Andrew completed his 23rd century for the Club when he scored 130 against Monmouth. The first X1 were challenging for promotion for most of the season, whilst the 2nd X1 and 3rd X1 managed to win enough fixtures to remain competitive in their respective Leagues. Three 1st X1 players passed 500 League runs with four players at 1st team level scoring centuries. One 2nd X1 player Luke Bowen completed two centuries one of which was 175 Not Out, there was also a century for Matthew Knight in the 3rd X1. Again a number of our youngsters gained representative. The club sadly lost Mike Bruton a Life Member and Tony Paton Honorary Vice President, both had been tremendous servants to the Club.

honours at County and National level. Right at the backend of the season we heard of the honours at County and National level. Right at the backend of the season we heard of the passing of one of our Honorary Vice Presidents Neil Potheary, who some years ago regularly supported Ken Williams when he was Chairman of the Ground Committee, Neil's funeral was on Friday September 13th.

Hopefully 2020 and the 3rd Decade of the 21st Century will bring more success and promotion back to the top tier of Welsh Cricket

Coronavirus –Covid 19 put a temporary end to club cricket and the 2020 season was not started on time and there were doubts as to whether it would start at all. Skyld Berry however writing in the Daily Telegraph reminded everyone about the merits of Avenue Road- “No, it has to be Abergavenny. There I would like to see my first game of county cricket after our medical Armageddon. It is no longer on Glamorgan's fixture list - whereas the out-grounds of Swansea, Colwyn Bay and Newport are - but it was a regular venue in the 1990s.

Abergavenny lies in Gwent, and Gwent combines the best of England and Wales: it does not have England's density of population, and pollution, or Wales's grim terraces and collieries where men were made to be moles. A Roman settlement, for its iron, it remains a market town, and if we are taking the train from Cardiff - which trundles on to Hereford, Leominster and Ludlow - it is not too long a walk from Abergavenny station to the prosaically named ground at Avenue Road.

Anything but prosaic are the surrounding sylvan hills: the Sugar Loaf, Great and Little Skirrid, and the Bloreng, all pushing 2000 feet, with the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons beckoning beyond. If I am not covering the game, only watching, I shall walk up the Sugar Loaf at lunchtime. If the connectivity is any good, I will play the *Lark Ascending* by Vaughan Williams on the way up, or if the sky is azure and the euphoria extreme - as it surely will be in these circumstances - then his *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*.

Is it the clarity of the unpolluted light, or the greenness of the trees after so much winter rain, or the fact that man has not exploited nature ruthlessly here? In the valley below, on their bucolic and oddly shaped ground, the cricketers in white do not detract from this landscape and sense of well-being; they add to it, being the community at play.

Its odd shape spelt the ground's end as a Glamorgan venue, when six-hitting became too easy, and dangerous. At one point, the boundary intrudes until you are standing almost at backward point. Why didn't MCC act 30 years earlier to curb the thickness of bats? Professional cricket would fit into more out-grounds if their cricket committee had done their duty a generation ago.

In 1995 Andrew Symonds - the body-building blaster who went on to play for Australia - hit 254 off 205 balls for Gloucestershire at Abergavenny with 16 sixes, which set a world record. Again six-hitting was too easy when Graeme Hick hit 252, before Glamorgan reached 493 for six in their second innings, which was insufficient to win.

Back in town, at the Priory Church of St Mary, we should find a moment for the finest piece of art that survives from Celtic Christianity in England and Wales - the wooden carving of the Jesse Tree and its astonishing face. Abergavenny was too remote, at the head of a valley, for this to be destroyed in the Reformation"

Talking about Dannie Apse referring to a six by 'Sloger Smart; Skyld concluded- The ball soars over the River Taff that flows alongside Sophia Gardens, upstream towards the Caerphilly Mountains. Perhaps it came to rest in Abergavenny, near the Sugar Loaf, except those green hills are now locked down, so nobody could fetch the ball back.

Obituaries

Max Beveridge- 1951

Jack K Ruther-1961

Bill MacPherson- 1977

Peter F. Jones, Denis Harries- 1978

Cliff Cox, Lewis White-1988

Ken Davies BEM, EG Nash, Syd H.Stock-1989

Harold Bowkett-1990

Bob Jennings, Dorothy Bloor-1995

Don Griffin-1996

Ken McKenzie-2000

Barbara Shackleton, Derek Havard-2015

Ken Williams-2016

Brian Shackleton-2018

Malcolm Nash, Mike Farr, Robin Williams, Neil Potheary- 2019