

# The 12th Man

**Andover Cricket Club**

Saturday  
June 18th 2005

League weekend No 7

## You're Not Singing At the Moment

For eight long years, English cricket has been clinging to the memory of one glorious morning - at Edgbaston in 1997. It was the first Test of the summer, England were buoyant after a clean sweep in the one-day warm-ups, and an expectant nation watched in awe as the all-conquering Australians were reduced to 54 for 8 in just 19 explosive overs. Nineteen overs? Try 20 balls. That is the benchmark now, after the most exhilarating evening of psychological point-scoring. Not in their wildest fantasies could England have envisaged the sort of debacle that unfolded in Australia's innings. Seven wickets for eight runs in 3.2 overs. It's too extraordinary for words. The Twenty20 format encourages crash-bang-wallop cricket, but nobody imagined that that would be the sound of the most formidable batting line-up in the world collapsing in an undignified heap. England were fit, focused and firing; catches went to hand, the batting went to plan, and the bowling - led now, as in 1997, by the indefatigable Darren Gough - was a revelation. Forget all the pretence that this performance will count for nothing

when the real event gets underway on July 21. England were victorious in their last Test against Australia in 2002-03; they won magnificently over 50 overs in last summer's Champions' Trophy, and now they taken a howitzer to the popgun variety of the game as well. If the secret in Test cricket is to win every session, then Australia have just put in a 34.3-over performance that would have shamed Bangladesh. This sort of crash-landing was not in their travel plans. Everything that could go right for England did go right. Jon Lewis got wickets on his international debut, Kevin Pietersen displayed once again his unabashed love of the limelight, and Steve Harmison was allowed three utterly stress-free overs in which to find his range against Australia - and find it he did, by uprooting McGrath's middle stump to bring an end to the festivities. There will be sterner tests for sure, but Australia have been warned of the depth of England's resolve in this series. This evening, 18 months of stunning success were condensed into 20 balls of bedlam.

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**Please Note there are still several numbers available in the Bonus Ball Competition. Each week the Club stands to benefit by the tune of £25 and some lucky punter gains the same amount. There was no winner last week and so the proceeds went to the Club.**

SHOPFITTING  
**Powells**



## Andover 1st XI 1975+



Right here we go, how to win friends and influence people. This is my Andover 1st XI drawn from players who have represented the club since 1975. I have selected the team to be balanced in terms of the batting order and with the variety of bowling it would offer. So here goes.

- 1) John Wallace. West Indian opening bat in the true 'Windies' tradition. Loved to hit 'over de top' and he would often try to hit his first ball for six. One apocryphal story has a bowler at the end of his run for the first ball of the game from the London Rd end turning round and throwing a ball out of the ground then declaring, 'Right that's got that over with shall we get on with it.' Now earning his corn as window cleaner to the elite around Andover.
- 2) Dave Knowles. Dave only played one year for us in 1976 but averaged 49 in league matches. He was also a more than useful off break bowler and could, in emergencies, keep wicket very efficiently.
- 3) Ian Langdown. We have all watched Ian over the years and been amazed at his ability to hit the ball very hard. More than useful bowler as well makes him an ideal team member.
- 4) Toby Radford. Toby is elegance personified and we are flattered that he now plies his trade with us here in Andover. His coaching ability and willingness to pass on his knowledge make his a tremendous club asset.
- 5) Nev Thorley. Andover's only Test Match cricketer he once played for Brazil vs Argentina. The word curmudgeon may have been created for Nev who regarded fielding as a way of letting the other side score enough runs so that he could then have some fun knocking them off. Excellent 'leggie' he once bowled Barry Richards in the nets at Southampton.
- 6) Roger Miller. 'Dodge' is single minded to a ridiculous extreme and would love to skipper this side. Batting at six would allow him a certain freedom to play shots. His bowling would also play a significant part in the proceedings.
- 7) Robert Hall. Son of our colts lady Liz Hall. Robert is an aggressive batter and exciting wicket keeper. You would find him standing up to everyone. Played for Hereford in a Minor County final at Lord's.
- 8) Pat Littlechales. For those who have just seen Pat wheeling away his left arm spin in the 4ths it will come as a surprise to know that he was once a fast left-arm bowler who had trials for Hampshire and played for Worcester 2nds. His batting could also be destructive.
- 9) Andy Hooper. 'Hoops' arrived in 1985 and took 100 wickets in his first season. He would have broken all wicket taking records at Andover if we had bothered to keep them. During his time at Blackheath he captained them to a Lord's final and there is also the small matter of playing for Kent during the late 60s.
- 10) Ray Simpson. Ray bowled the meanest line of any seam bowler I've ever seen. He also had a persistent and distinctive appeal when asking for LBW which was more often than not turned down. Topped the League averages on more than one occasion during the 70s. Then did it again during the 90s as a 3rd XI player. Regularly bowled all through an innings before the days of bowler limitations.
- 11) Keith Williams. Keith looked like a fast bowler; long curving run up, dramatic leap at the crease and classic high arm action. He could swing the ball viciously away from a right hander and would often bowl all through an innings at the other end from Ray. He was also a better bat than he was often given the chance to show.

Now its over to you. Let me have your selections either by hand or email them to [info@andovercricketclub.co.uk](mailto:info@andovercricketclub.co.uk). There may be prizes.



## From The Archive



**50 Years Ago, 18th June 1955 :** Hungerford were the visitors today fifty years ago. They batted first and made 137 all out, six wickets for G. Cruikshank. In reply Andover won by six wickets. Bernie Harrison top scoring with 50. As was the custom in such games the Andover innings continued until the end of the day to allow more people to be involved in the game and at the close Andover were 153-4.

**25 Years Ago, 21st June 1980:** There was a comfortable win today for the 1st XI against Old Simmarians. The bowling attack was without their usual stalwarts of Keith Williams and Ray Simpson; in their place Steve Northin took four wickets and Steve Clark three as Old Simms were bowled out for 102. In reply Nev Thorley made 34 not out to steer Andover home by six wickets. John Wallace 20 and Colin Payne 21 were the other run scorers. The seconds continued on their merry way at the top of their league. Ansell Porter took five wickets as Porton camp were dismissed for 82. JB made 37 as they raced to 58-1 but then lost five more wickets in reaching their target.

**20 Years Ago, 22nd June 1985:** There was no play for the 1st XI either on Saturday or Sunday. Only the 2nds managed to get a game against Bagshot on the Sunday. Andover made 198-6. Roger Fittall and Stuart Shephard both making 67. Then no less than nine players had a bowl as Bagshot were dismissed for 86 and the game ended in drizzle. Earlier in the week there had been a game against a touring side, palace gate. The visitors made 163 all out. Andy Hooper taking five wickets and Robin Spiegel taking five wickets each. The Andover reply was got under way by with Ray Simpson opening the batting only for him to be dismissed for first ball. Tim Keighley made 16 but it was an unbroken stand of 111 between Andy Page who ended 100 not out and Al cave (37) that clinched the game.



## Andover Cricket Club



### TEAMS

1st XI vs Sth Wilts (h): M. Miller\*, R. Miller, T. Radford, T. Saye, C. Vandermere+, R. Taylor, K. Stewart, M. Hooper, P. Haasbroeck, C. Hadfield. Sc: L. Morgan.

2nd XI vs New Milton (a): I. Gardner, O. Williams, M. Copleston, N. Dancer, C. Jackson, A. Hooper, L. Graham, J. Walsh, S. Williams, P. Funnell. Sc: T. Adams.

3rd XI vs Sth Wilts III (h): A. McMahon\*, A. Sale, M. Mundy+, M. Adams, J. Gallon, J. Hadfield, T. Brown, S. Robertson, M. Roberts, C. Breeze, T. Cole. Ump: B. Funnell. Sc: C. James.

4th XI vs Sutton Scotney (a): J. Baxter\*, J. Copleston, P. Collins, L. Andrews, R. Knight, M. Ishaq, F. Andrews, C. Hooper+, T. Lucker, D. Wootton, M. Fiddes. Ump: R. Adams, Sc: R. Moger.

5th XI vs Farley II (a): P. Knight\*, K. Brown+, J. Blackburn, A. Elwood, D. Hewitt, P. Roberts, R. Denby, J. Hacker, M. Neale, N. Alam, J. Andrews

Yep, that's it for the seventh Saturday. Seven down ten to go. Let's hope for a good return today. All comments would be gratefully received either in writing, verbally or e-mail to [info@andovercricketclub.co.uk](mailto:info@andovercricketclub.co.uk)

If you've been missed off or offended you probably deserved it.

12th Man has been edited by: John Baxter. Deadline for any comments articles is the Wednesday prior to publication. For up to date news of Andover Cricket Club visit

[www.andovercricketclub.co.uk](http://www.andovercricketclub.co.uk)

Cheers