

Stage C C 2020

Overall

Match Review

Date	Day	Opposition	Result	Score	Opp Score	Best Batting	Best Bowling
12-Jul	Sun	Berkhamsted	Won - 2 wkts	103-9	100 a/o	R Godfrey 15	M Gallagher 3-34

At last the season has started on what was a sunny hot day at Berkhamsted. ECB covid rules applied to the match meant that after every 6 overs there would be a break to sanitise hands and ball. All players were to socially distance. Stage skippered by Duncan Gordon-Smith won the toss and chose to field.

Prior to starting the match, players and officials from both sides stood in a socially distanced semi-circle whilst Richard Godfrey said a few words for our dear departed Mike Sadler followed by a 2 minute silence.

The opening bowlers for Stage were Ed Babar and Sam Sargent, both bowled tight opening spells. Ed's first spell was 3 overs for 1 wicket with only 1 run conceded. Sam took 1 for 21 from his 6 overs. Matt Gallagher replaced Ed and completed his 8 overs taking 3 wickets for 34 runs while Jeff Davis bowled his 8 overs taking 1 for just 8 runs. In Ed Babar's second spell of just one over he took another wicket and finished with figures of 3 overs 2 for 3. Richard Godfrey and Al Barrie took 2 wickets each which meant Berkhamsted were all out for just 100 runs (10 wickets as both sides were playing with 12 players)

Tea was taken with all players eating their own sandwiches, cakes etc. Not sure who won the prize for the best tea. Following the tea break Stage opened with Chis Fletcher and Chris Currie and got off to a reasonable start with the first wicket falling on 14. The next wicket went on 40 with Stage feeling very comfortable when it all started to fall apart. The following 3 wickets fell on 44 in the 13th, 14th and 15th over and it was looking like a typical Stage snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Richard Godfrey steadied the ship hitting a steady 15 eventually being caught when the score was 94. Jeff Davis and Al Barrie saw Stage over the line with 4 overs to spare so completing Stage's first and hopefully not last victory of the season. I am sure that Mike Sadler was watching with a smile on his face.



Photo of Barbara Archer (Mike Sadler's Wife) and son Graham taken to coincide with the 2 minute silence at 2pm

[Scorecard](#) (opens in new window)

19-Jul Taplow Drawn 154-7 208-5 C Currie 58 D Gordon-Smith 4-50

Graham Seed the new club skipper won the toss for Stage and chose to bowl in a timed match with last hour due to start at 6.15. The opening bowlers were Matt Gallagher and Anu Dissanayake making his debut for the Stage. Both bowled tightly at the start with Taplow going at 4 over for the first 10 overs. Roger Barret replaced Anu and proceeded to take the first wicket on 50 runs with Anu taking a fine catch in the deep. Wickets were hard to come by however the bowling remained tight especially from Duncan Gordon-Smith who bowled a spell of 11 overs taking 4 wickets for 50 runs. Taplow declared on 208 after 39 overs which was a very fair declaration.

The Taplow tea (one of the best on the card) was sadly missed, as we all had to bring our own teas due to ECB Covid-19 guidelines. Following the tea Stage opened with Chris Fletcher and Chris Currie, the same pair as last week at Berkhamsted. Both batted well and at the start of the last hour Stage required 148 to win which looked very unlikely however both openers accelerated the scoring with Fletcher making 40 and Currie a fine 58. The first wicket fell at 101 with 13 overs to go and with Matt Gallagher scoring a quick 18 followed by another quick 16 from Anu, the win was still on but then the Stage collapsed at 151 for 3 as suddenly became 154 for 7 with Stage eventually holding out for a well-deserved draw.



[Scorecard](#) (opens in new window)

26-Jul Sun Old Merchant Lost 135 runs 176-7 311-8 C Fletcher 73 D Gordon-Smith 2-61
Taylors

I think the least said about the Stage performance the better at our second visit to Old Merchant Taylors. It was very much like the match last season with Old Merchant Taylors scoring over 300 runs again. No real answer to this with our batting though Chris Fletcher hit a fine 73 with his opening partner Chris Currie scoring 47.

[Scorecard](#) (opens in new window)

02-Aug Sun Ashford Won 7 wkts 189-3 186-5 dec R West 75 R West 3-26

This was the first visit to Ashford CC by Stage and Stage having won the toss decided to bowl first. Matt McDonough and Sam Sargant opened the bowling, both bowling tidily with Sam taking the first wicket when Ashford were on 35. Rob West came on first change replacing Matt and bowled a very good spell of 10 overs, 4 maidens, 26 runs whilst taking 3 wickets, including 2

wicket maidens. He was backed up with tight bowling from all the other 5 bowlers used and Ashford generously declared on 186 for 5 wickets off 38 overs.

After tea Chris Currie and Rob West opened the batting and got off to a superb start, with the first wicket falling on 123 in the 16th over, when Chris was caught on 56. Rob went on to score a fine 75, leaving Matt Gallagher 21 and Ed Babar 19 to finish chasing the total down in a total of just 29 overs

[Scorecard](#) (opens in new window)

05-Aug	Wed	Ickenham	Won	6 wkts	269-4	$\frac{264-}{2}$	dec	G Jones	113*	J Davis	1-26
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On our visit to Ickenham, Stage lost the toss and were asked to bowl. On an extremely good batting track, Ickenham put on the runs with ease and declared after 39 overs on 264 for 2 wickets. Joe Mannick scored a fine 101 before being bowled by Jeff Davis. Alastair Whatley took the other Ickenham wicket in a fine spell of 10 overs.

After tea Stage set about chasing the 264 down with another big opening partnership of 143 between Gwyn Jones and Gabe Manthorp. Gabe managed to run himself out on 64 bringing in Hiten Patel who scored a quick 25 whilst Gwyn continued to pick off the Ickenham bowlers. The total was reached in the 38 over with Gwyn Jones carrying his bat with an unbeaten 113 and the first ton of the season for a Stage batsman.

[Scorecard](#) (opens in new window)

09-Aug	Sun	Merstham	Lost	113 runs	112 a/o	$\frac{225-}{5}$	dec	C Fletcher	47	B Mangham	2-21
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On an extremely hot day Stage won the toss and bowled first, I am sure much to the dismay of the Stage opening batsman. Rob West, who was our best bowler last week, pulled up in his first over with a groin strain. Despite this, Stage got off to a great start reducing Merstham to 46 for 4 in the first 10 overs. Unfortunately only one more wicket fell in the innings in the next 30 overs, with Merstham declaring on 225 for 5. Best the bowling was from Ben Mangham taking 2 for 21 along with Sam Sargant who took 2 for 41. The only other wicket was taken by Jeff Davis.

After tea which was taken in the Stage player enclosure, the opening pair were Chris Fletcher and Chris Currie. Apart from Chris Fletcher 47 and Nav Saeed 26 (playing against his own club) there was very little resistance from the Stage batting line up that including four ducks. The final 4 wickets fell on 112 and the match finished in the 36 over.

[Scorecard](#) (opens in new window)

12-Aug	Wed	Watford Town	Abandoned	112-1				G Jones	56*		
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[Scorecard](#) (opens in new window)

16-Aug	Sun	Gentlemen Of England	Cancelled								
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19-Aug	Wed	Sevenoaks & District	Cancelled								
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23-Aug	Sun	Gerrards Cross	Lost	201 runs	95 a/o	$\frac{296-}{4}$		C Currie	26	R Barrett	2-61
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This match was set to be a 40 over match and with Gerrards Cross winning the toss and deciding to bat. The opening pair were too good for the Stage bowling with the first wicket not falling until the 25th over with Gerrards Cross on 180. Stage only took a further 3 wickets and at the end of 40 overs Gerrards Cross had run up a total of just 296

During the tea interval it rained and myself and Liz took cover in our car, rather than have a soggy salad for tea. The rain stopped after the tea interval, which was a shame as Stage, in reply, made a poor 95 all out in 27.1. Apart from Chris Currie scoring 26 there was nothing worth mentioning

[Scorecard](#) (opens in new window)

26-Aug	Wed	Harrow St Mary	Drawn	164-8	206-6	dec		J Lawrence	39	R Barrett	1-22
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On what started as a very breezy day, Graham Seed handed over the captaincy for the day to Max Higginbotham. Max lost the toss and Harrow St Mary decided to bat in a timed match. At first it looked like HSM might race away with it however with some fine bowling from Sam Sargant and Chris Sherwood on his debut, HSM were pegged back to around 4 runs per over, when the first bowling change was made at 15 overs. Bowling stayed tight through the whole innings with HSM declaring after 45 overs with 206 on the board.

Stage started their innings confidently but lost their first wicket in the third over with just 10 scored. James Lawrence (39) and Phil Wideson took Stage to 94 before Phil (24) got bowled by a ball that kept low. At this point the runs slowed up despite a valiant

effort by the club captain Graham Seed (18). Sam Sargant came in at number 8 and tried to get Stage back in the hunt with a quick fire 25 however it was not enough and Stage fell short by 42 runs with the result of the match being a draw.

[Scorecard](#) (opens in new window)

30-Aug Sun Sunbury Won – 2wkts 220-8 217-8 dec E Babar 78 E Babar 3-27

On a cool day, we had to make the long walk from the pavilion down to the lower ground, as there was some pyjama cricket taking place on the main ground. Sunbury won the toss and batted first. Sunbury consisted of 11 young players and one senior player (Nobby Clarke) Nobby only last week had taken his 1000th wicket for Sunbury which is a fantastic feat. Sunbury batted well against the opening attack of Ed Babar and Matt Gallagher. The first wicket was taken by Matt in the 9 overs with 28 on the board. Ed took the 2nd wicket in the next over and it looked like Stage might run through the Sunbury batting. However, Sunbury made a strong recovery with the 3rd wicket not falling until the 27th over, with the score on 136. Sunbury declared on 217 for 8 after 40 overs, with Ed taking 3 for 27 from 9 overs and Jeff Davis taking 3 for 62 from 9.5 overs. Chris Currie took 3 catches in the innings.

After tea Chris Currie and Martin Mathews opened the batting with Chris fortunately surviving the first ball, when the ball hit one of the stumps, the bail lifted out the groove and stayed on the top of the stump. Unfortunately he was caught in the next over. Archie Gordon-Smith came in at number 3 and was looking good until he drove the ball hard into the covers and was caught on 13. Ed Babar (78) steadied the innings along with Roger Barrett (41) but at 172 for 5, things started to get close. The 8th wicket fell on 206 bringing in, the out of form Jeff Davis, having had 2 ducks in his previous matches. He faced 5 balls to get off the mark with a single, stealing the strike from skipper Graham Seed for the last over with 11 runs required. The second ball of the last over went for 5 wides which was extremely helpful in the chase. Two short balls were both hooked by Jeff to square leg for 4 bringing the 4th Stage victory of the season.

[Scorecard](#)

06-Sep Sun Surrey Ovalites Lost - 93 runs 123 a/o 216-5 C Fletcher 42 J Davis 1-11

We lost heavily in a 40 over match.

[Scorecard](#)

09-Sep Wed Wembley Drawn 187-4 247-7 dec O Oldroyd 67 R Barrett 2-29

Graham Seed yet again won the toss (has not lost the toss this season) and chose to bowl. Stage opened the bowling with Max Higginbotham and Alastair Whatley. The first wicket fell in the 12 over with the Wembley score on 62. This bought in Akil Greenidge, son of former Barbados and West Indies opening batsman Alvin Greenidge. First change was Roger Barrett who bowled very tidily taking 2 wickets for 29 from 6 overs. He was replaced by Jeff Davis, who also took 2 wickets for 49 from his 8 overs. Jeff's pride, took a bit of a bashing, when Akil was on 99 and refused a single as he was wanting to complete his hundred in glory. He followed up with a huge 6 before retiring to give other Wembley players a chance to bat. Max Higginbotham bowled a spell of 13 overs for just 55 runs. Highlight was when the ball was smashed back at Jeff Davis who only managed to palm the ball over the bar whilst shouting "Oh No" only to turn around and see Alastair Whatley taking a superb catch whilst diving towards the ball.

Stage's reply was led by Owen Oldroyd who hit a fine 67 but with some slow batting in the middle order, Stage never got close to the Wembley total ending up on 187 which was 90 runs short of the target.

[Scorecard](#)

13-Sep Sun Maidenhead & Bray Lost – 137 runs 161-5 298-5 C Fletcher 48* R Barrett 3-64

A limited overs match of 40 per innings where Stage were comprehensively beaten by a much stronger side. Roger Barret bowled well taking 3 wickets for 64 and Chris Fletcher coming in at number 4 was 48 not out.

[Scorecard](#)

16-Sep Wed Gaieties Drawn 161-8 244-6 dec S Chandarana 30 M Segal 2-75

Our annual fixture with the Gaieties is always a hard fought match with both sides wanting victory. Today was to be no different as Stage opened the bowling having won the toss. The Gaieties were relatively untroubled bt the Stage opening bowlers of Alastair Whatley and Roger Barrett and were along at around 5 an over. Stage made very little in roads with Gaieties increasing their run rate to 6 an over and eventually declaring on 244 with 6 wickets down after 40 overs.

Stage never really got going in the chase for victory, mainly due to Gaieties left arm Chinaman bowler, Laurence Perry, who bowled 13 overs taking 4 wickets for just 37 runs. Roger Barrett and skipper Graham Seed batted out 4 overs at the end of the innings with the match ending in a draw with just 2 wickets to spare.

[Scorecard](#)

20-Sep Sun Musicians XI Won – 4 wkts 219-6 216 a/o R Jakeman 89 D Gordon-Smith 6-70

On a glorious sunny September day, Stage players arrived at Stanmore CC for the second match in 5 days at the same ground. Yet again skipper Graham Seed won the toss and chose to take the field and bowl. Sam Sargant and Roger McCann opened the bowling for Stage and the Musicians XI got off to a reasonable start with the first wicket falling in the 10th over with score on 60. Sam Sargant kept charging in for 11 overs and whilst bowling really well was unable to take any wickets. Duncan Gordon-Smith replaced Roger McCann after 13 overs and the runs started to dry up for the Musicians as well as wickets starting to fall. Ed Babar (Yes of Stage CC) came in at number 5 and batted really well for a fine 66 before being dismissed. Duncan bowled a FANTASTIC spell of 14 overs taking 6 wickets for 70 runs whilst at the other end Jeff Davis bowled 9 overs for 40 runs whilst taking the other 3 wickets required. Musicians XI were bowled out for 216 of 40 overs.

After tea, Stage opened the batting with Chris Fletcher and Chris Currie and when the first wicket fell (Chris Currie 11) during the 11th over with Stage were on 31. The 2nd wicket fell (Chris Fletcher 13) 3 balls later, in the same over, with the score on 32 and it looked like a collapse might be on the cards. Rory Jakeman batted with determination, started to take the game away from the Musicians, scoring a fine 89 before getting caught and bowled by Ed Babar with a very sharp catch. Before this wicket fell Martin Mathews had scored a quick 27 before being given out LBW by yours truly. Martin, trust me, you were plumb! After Rory was dismissed, Hamilton Lee and Al Barrie had a brief partnership before Hamilton was bowled for 10 runs. Another quick wicket and skipper Graham Seed was beginning to have his doubts as to whether we could win this hard fought match. Jeff Davis was due in however was not padded up when the wicket fell so Duncan strode to the wicket like a man on a mission. He had said at tea that he wanted to hit the winning runs with a 6. At this point in the match Stage required a run a ball and Al Barrie was facing and managed to bat out a maiden over, much to the dismay of the skipper. Oh yea of little faith ☺. The following over whilst Al was facing again, the keeper said to the bowler, in earshot of Al, that Al could not cut. So the bowler, Phil Braithwaite, bowled 3 short balls all outside the off stump, only to see each ball race to the boundary for 4. Duncan meanwhile when he was facing was going along nicely with a few singles and twos. The total of 216 was getting nearer, at more than a run a ball and in the 18th over of the last 20, with the score on 213, Duncan hit a massive 6 to win the match.

A great day was had by both teams and we all look forward to another rematch in 2021.

[Scorecard](#)

24-Sep Thu Montenotte Lost – 1 wkts 196-8 dec 200-9 A Whatley 32 M Higginbotham 8-87

The summer has gone and there was a distinct feel of autumn/winter in the air as skipper Graham Seed lost his first toss of the season and Stage were asked to bat on a very wet bowlers pitch. The opening batsmen were Chris Fletcher and Owen Oldroyd who both found it difficult against the opening bowlers Ted Hopkinson and Stephen Blyghton. Chris Fletcher was the first to be dismissed when the score was on 20 in the 9th over. This bought Gwyn Jones to the wicket and all hopes of a big score were pinned on Gwyn and Owen. Unfortunately this was not to be, as Owen fell for 19 with 35 runs on the board quickly followed by Gwyn whilst the score remained on 35. Martin Mathews and Ollie Gibbs started to move the score on but in the 25th over Martin (15) was adjudged to be LBW on what was a loud appeal by Montenotte to their umpire. The score at this time was 75. Ollie Gibbs (28) went next in the 30th over with Stage on 94 and setting a low target was looking likely. Jamie Buller, the man in the grey jumper, was not going to go down quietly and hit a fine 25 whilst being supported by Nav Saeed (12). When Nav was out Alastair Whatley strode to the crease and topped scored with a fine 32 before being run out. Stage declared on 169 for 9 off just 49 overs (much to the disgust of Andy Newton and Ted Hopkinson of Montenotte) with Jeff Davis on 24 and Max Higginbotham on 4. Stephen Blyghton bowled an unbroken spell of 25 overs taking 4 wickets for just 58 runs.

After the tea break, Montenotte got off to a quick start, with the first wicket falling in the 7th over with the score on 42 and it was looking like Montenotte were going to reach the target in pretty quick time. Max Higginbotham was determined not to let this happen and proceeded to take wickets consistently throughout Montenotte's innings. Stage bowled 13 overs before the last 20 overs started with the score on 85, so Montenotte required a further 112 at under 6 an over to win with 7 wickets in hand. Max bowled throughout the innings with an unbroken spell of 16.3 overs taking 8 of the 9 Montenotte wickets. The other being a run out from the man in the grey jumper. Unfortunately Montenotte hit the winning runs in the last over with 3 balls to spare. Apart from Max's fantastic spell of bowling, the highlight of the innings was when Ted marched to crease at number 10, still moaning about the declaration only to be bowled on his first ball with a superb Yorker. On the day cricket was the winner.

[Scorecard](#)

27-Sep Sun Barnes Common Lost – 193 runs 54-9 a/o 247-7 C Currie 11 D Gordon-Smith 2-34

[Scorecard](#)