THE SIXTH FINGER
LARGING IT
WITH THE RIPLEY
MASSIVE

SCHOOLGIRL
STORIES

THE SIXTH FINGER
THE RED ISSUE
the umpire strikes back
A SIXTH FINGER...

A sixth finger must generally be reckoned a bit out of the ordinary - at best, an unnecessary appendage, at worst a freak of nature which in the Middle Ages could get you burned as a witch. Still, the Bodleian is no stranger to the bizarre, as may be seen from its recruitment policy. Indeed, does not our Founder’s Latin motto translate loosely as:

“I embrace oddity like a fluffy toy”? (n.b. must check with Martin on this one).

Be that as it may, the sixth full season of Bodley cricket got under way in what is becoming the traditional opening - a shafting on the frozen mud of Cuddesdon by the Church Militant. As this was followed by defeats at Appleton and against Medicine, we were 3-0 down by the middle of May and contemplating a truly Rimbaudian “saison en enfer”.

The tide turned at our match against Astrophysics and with further wins against Zoology and the Six O’Clockers we had clawed our way back to parity. This still could be the season that, for the first time, we won more matches than we lost. After a predictable thrashing by the awesomely talented Pathology team, we alternately lost and won for the next seven games, so that by the end of July we were still only one down and the race was still on. However, it was not to be; three successive defeats in August meant we would have to wait another year before getting the chance to break even. Not once during the season had we been, so to speak, ahead of the game.

The abiding memories of the season, though, will be the renewal of friendships, the pints (and catches) downed, the records (and ankles) broken, the gratitude to whoever the chap from OUP was who said: “You know, we play a game just among ourselves, the old ones against the younger...”. Like all great ideas, so simple once pointed out. Why hadn’t we thought of it before?

Benny Richaud
MEET THE PLAYERS

The Finger commissioned Bodley’s two leading lights on the Oxfordshire cricket scene, Benny Richaud and Staggers, to analyse our more prominent players’ technical strengths; and the occasional weakness. Included with the players’ profiles below is a resume of the findings unearthed by their exhaustive study.

Sadiq Abbasi
Sadiq started the season as he finished it, glove-less, pad-less and, no doubt, box-less as well. His first game was at Ripon, on a day so cold that many of us were wearing pads as much for the extra layer of warmth as any type of protection and got a knock of 26, including a lovely six against lively bowling. Not only can Sadiq play a bit, he also seems to know plenty of occasional cricketers who have saved Bodley’s blushes throughout the season when we’ve been unable to raise a team ourselves.

OCA EYE
Sadiq’s bowling is characterised by a pause in the gather of his action which robs him of a yard or so of pace, but ensures that he is perfectly balanced and his head is still at the point of delivery. The resulting accuracy makes him one of Bodley’s most difficult bowlers to get away, as his figures testify. He only needs to add the edged six over the keeper’s head to his batting strokes to be the consummate all rounder.

Shahid Abbasi
Shahid’s sole Bodley appearance was that grim night at Cutteslowe against the Offices. He bowled a lively three overs which kept wicketkeeping Andy Mac on his toes, and his five with the bat was one of the better innings that day.

Best moment: A rasping off-side boundary
Worst moment: Having the misfortune to play in the worst Bodley performance of the season.

Stuart Ackland
Remember the fourth day of the Fourth Test at Trent Bridge, England v South Africa a couple of summers back? Remember that sun-kissed evening when Allan Donald tore into Mike Atherton, and a battle royale ensued? The Finger does. The Finger thought it would never see the like again. That was before the Second Test at Shipley Hall, Bodley v Cornwall CCCCC. That dank grey evening when Kevin Exley and Stuart Ackland locked horns in the middle with Bodley sensing victory and the 7Cs scenting a collapse. A rollercoaster encounter with two players desperate for glory. Mind games a-plenty. Kev stalling on his run-up – the tension getting to him. Stuart stopping Kev midway through his run-up. Then the fireworks: Kev’s knowing grin; Stuart’s outstretched arms; the sound of leather on wood. You had to be there to witness it. The ultimate high drama experience. No Football Focus this year though.

OCA EYE
Stuart is a consistent performer with the ball. He bowls a very tight and accurate medium pace, concentrating on line and length. To develop further he needs to vary his pace, and learn to do more with the ball, a slow off-spinner would be a useful ball, as would a fast straight yorker. Stuart has one excellent attacking shot, a good old hoik for six, unfortunately he has often perished playing this shot to every ball received. It has to be said that Stuart’s batting is always exciting, he provides what the public want to see, rich entertainment!!!!

Pete Allmond
“1’ve never taken a catch before”, quipped The Tickler as the Bodley XI traipsed onto the field against OUP. An attacking field was deemed necessary, as we were defending another meagre total, and in retribution for Pete’s first-baller, as well as taking his impressive fielding C.V. into account, he was posted at first slip. At the end of the game, he still hadn’t taken a catch for Bodley, but he came mightily close on at least three heroic occasions. Also our most improved batsman of last season, The Tickler boosted his runs total by a phenomenal 700% in 2000.

OCA EYE
Just as one cannot hope to anatomise a butterfly to discover the secret of the magic it has for us, so the fugitive, evanescent being that is Pete Allmond will forever lie beyond analysis.
Stephen “I’d do anything for cricket” Arnold
What a season! Blinding catches, stunning run outs, and then there was the batting. Stephen out-Martined Martin when it came to “not outs”, he struck the winning boundary against the Six O’Clockers, and what’s more, he attained his personal batting goal in Derby. Always keen “to make twenty”, Stephen pulverised his way to a top score of 33, with some savage blows to the boundary. He bowled pretty well as usual. (He also hobbled about like an old woman against Appleton at Cutteslowe to some effect). Off the field, this one-man encyclopaedia of Oxfordshire cricket proved invaluable, frequently unnerving his team mates with inside information on the strengths of individual opponents. Comments liked “played against Kent”, “scored 100 against West Witney”, or “he bowls the biggest bananas I’ve ever seen” don’t always inspire his weaker-willed colleagues.

Best moment: His emergence on Tour as the team’s leading authority on fashion, though obviously colour blind, it is probably advisable never to ask him his views on minimalism.

Worst moment: Revealing hours later in a Ripley curry house that he knew next to nothing about the twentieth century.

OCA EYE
Stephen has provided the team with useful medium pace of consistent line and length since Bodley’s first match at Cambridge. His strength has been his reliability. A captain can turn to him in a difficult situation and know that he will bowl a tight and controlled spell. He does need to watch that his action doesn’t fall away and become too round arm, thereby losing control of line. Stephen’s batting displays are always entertaining, a mixture of dogged resistance and canny inventiveness.

Stephen was the only Bodley player to appear in the Oxford Times Millennium publication of October 2000, entitled 100 Lives 2000, details of his entry included on the next page:

Dave Busby
A stunning start to the season saw Dave holding onto improbable catches, taking wickets and scoring runs. Dave’s ability to pull off outstanding catches followed on from last season with a classic effort at Ripon, memorable mainly because he must have been the only Bodley fielder not to have his hands in his pockets in a desperate attempt to keep them warm on a freezing start to the season. The rest of us must have been concentrating on a different type of balls. He nearly saved us the game with his batting, ‘tis a shame that his suicidal colleagues chucked their wickets away. His bottle of champagne on reaching fifty caps was well deserved.

OCA EYE
Dave’s characteristic shot is the short-arm jab, played with a convulsive jerk of the body that almost lifts him off the ground. The virtual absence of back-lift, though, means that this is not as attacking a shot as it might be. Strengths: gritty determination. Weaknesses: inability to hit the quick good-length ball over the square leg boundary.

Andrew Colquhoun
When Engineering failed to show for a Jack Cox match, the idling Bodley XI decided to play a six-a-side match (for some reason Alan played for both teams). Andrew made a hugely astute career move while wicketkeeping to John Tuck – John was run out by miles, but Andrew gamely suggested he didn’t have the ball in his hands when the stumps were broken. John was therefore “not out”. The Finger understands that Andrew is to be seconded to The Directorate in 2001 as Libraries’ Cricket Supremo.

OCA EYE
One may scan the index of the MCC coaching manual in vain for the ‘nurdle’, but against the quicker bowlers this is Andrew’s favoured shot. This steer-cum-(semi) deliberate edge has undoubtedly brought him many runs and only a few dismissals; against the slower bowlers, the preferred shot is the ‘up-and-under’ lofted drive, which has also been productive, if occasionally fatal. Some deep-seated inhibition in his psychological make-up seems to prevent him employing the pull, however, which shot could double his effectiveness as a batsman.
1 Arnold

Born: 1960
Profession: Cricketer
Local links: A tearaway fast bowler from Chipping Norton, Arnold first played for Oxfordshire in 1980. He has slowed down over the years — but the old warhorse is still going strong at the age of 40!

High point: His 519 Minor Counties Championship wickets make him the third highest Oxfordshire wicket-taker. He claimed 62 Championship scalps last season — easily the most in the country. A regular for the England Amateur and Minor Counties representative sides, he even captained England in 1999. His 9-19 against Herefordshire in August was the best bowling in an innings for Oxon since 1985

Down side: Temper, temper! Was suspended by Oxfordshire after aiming a punch at Shropshire wicket-keeper Billy Davies in 1998

In a nutshell: Everyone's favourite hot-headed fast bowler, Arnold is respected throughout cricket — and is liked even more

2 Ashcroft

Born: 1952
Profession: Scientist
Local links: Professor of Physiology at Oxford University
High points: Made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1999
Down side: One of only a handful of women elected
In a nutshell: Her work on the role of cell membranes in regulating insulin secretion could lead to new treatments for diabetes

3 Atkinson

Born: 1939
Profession: Former footballer and manager turned TV pundit
Local Links: Oxford United's longest-serving player of all time
High point: Wembley winner with both Manchester United and Aston Villa
Down side: Obsession with vast quantities of jewellery!
In a nutshell: One of football's most flamboyant characters

4 Atkinson

Born: 1955
Profession: Comedian
Local links: Post-graduate student at The Queen's College. Astonished contemporaries with his brilliant performances in student revue in the late seventies. Lives at Waterperry, near Wheatley

High points: Just happens to be one of the funniest men of the century. And that's not forgetting Charlie Chaplin, WC Fields, Groucho Marx and Oliver Hardy
Down side: Jeremy Clarksonesque liking for fast motor cars
In a nutshell: Rubber-faced genius

5 Ayres

Born: 1947
Profession: Poet, comedienne
Local links: Born in Stanford in the Vale, lived in Oxfordshire for most of her life

High point: Became famous overnight after appearing on Opportunity Knocks. Had her own TV series The World of Pam Ayres, wrote several books of poems and appeared in front of the Queen at a private performance in 1996

Down side: She says fame came too quickly, she would have liked it to have happened gradually, instead she found herself going straight from the Ducklington Folk Club to BBC TV before she had time to take breath

In a nutshell: A poet you either love or hate

6 Bannister

Born: 1929
Profession: Athlete
Local links: Lived in Oxford for many years after attending Oxford University


Down side: Missed out on Olympic medal when finishing fourth in final at Helsinki in 1952

In a nutshell: An athletics legend after running the first sub-four-minute mile. Then became a consultant neuro-surgeon and Master of Pembroke College, Oxford

RIGHT: Roger Bannister made athletics history by running the first sub-four-minute mile
**Tom Connor**
The rumour is unconfirmed, but *The Finger* has good reason to believe that every time Tom has played for Bodley, we’ve won the game. This season it was Astrophysics and the Six O’Clockers who were subjected to Connor’s curse.

**OCA EYE**
As one of the few cricketers that can describe themselves as young and fit, Tom’s batting is characterised by pushing the ball into gaps and then haring off down the other end for a quick single. Normally, this tactic would be expected to work well, however, Tom’s ability to score runs is hampered by the less than Olympian quality running usually on offer from his partners (Millea excepted). Cries of “I’m knackered”, “there was never a run on there”, or “where are my fags?” are often heard from the poor sod batting at the other end. In the vain hope of the Swedish team of coach and masseuse improving Bodley’s fitness and running, Tom will just have to hit more fours!!!

**Garry Cooper**
Some great moments on the pitch in 2000, but The Gunslinger’s propensity to come up with a selection of classic last minute excuses to avoid playing were pretty poor this time round. Where were the “appointments” of the past? *The Finger*’s favourite moment though was Garry’s claim to be doing some “car welding” which was to prevent him turning out in the return match against the Six O’Clockers. He must have been on form with the blow torch though, because he made it to the ground, scored 11, took 1 for 11, and we won!

**OCA EYE**
Another Bodley batter with negligible back-lift, Garry’s sheer strength of forearm means that he can force the ball away at the last moment, giving the fielders no prior warning of where the shot might go. A tendency to play back to well pitched up balls is his chief technical flaw.

**Colin Elliott**
Ex-Hall Star Colin filled the breach on Tour at Shipley Hall. Short on players, Colin, who lives conveniently close to the ground did his bit for Bodley with a lively bowling display, some athletic fielding, and some rusty-looking batting. Probably the only Newcastle United supporter ever to take a wicket for Bodley.

**Best moment:** A wicket for Bodley in his third over.
**Worst moment:** Not living quite conveniently close enough to the ground to sink the requisite number of pints his performance demanded.

**Danny Ferrett**
Our man in the news, Mr Ferrett seems to be the Bodley team’s socialite - he’s never out of the papers. Last year, he went national in *The Guardian*, this year there was potential for more modesty, but his *Oxford Journal* and *Oxford Mail* features were pretty special. Of course *The Finger* wouldn’t dream of reproducing them here. That aside, the selectors will just have to be more persuasive next season.

**OCA EYE**
Danny is a top class all rounder, who reads the game well and responds to the situation at hand. His strength is to bat in the middle order and organise a run chase. He combines a useful array of strokes with a canny sense of where the gaps are in the field. He is a very useful team player in tight situations. Apart from his batting, he is a more than useful fast medium bowler and an excellent wicketkeeper.

**Alan Fisher**
Al had a good season this year, despite time-keeping so bad that John must fear for his hard earned reputation. Frequently in the runs, and managed to claim a good few wickets with his famous “Christ-I’m-gonna-smash-this-bastard-ball-bollocks-mistimed-the-bounce” delivery. Lost serious points on Tour for continually turning up late due to writing postcards to everyone he knew. Amongst the runs against the Military, amongst the wickets against Appleton, amongst the clouds when thinking of ……….. Another Bodley stalwart who picked up his fiftieth cap in the summer.

**OCA EYE**
Alan’s bowling has profited over the years from its deceptive simplicity. Alan bowls so slowly that the players on the pitch could go off and have tea before the ball would get to the other end. He combines his slow pace with a canny use of flight. Alan cleverly pitches the ball on a length that lesser batsmen don’t know whether to play forward or back to. He is vulnerable to a batsmen prepared to use his feet and play aggressively, though he has learnt to counter this by varying his pace. As a batsman, when he plays positively, he can be very effective. He is an excellent and committed fielder.
Dave Gardner
Hall Stars wicketkeeper and Bobby Robson lookalike, Dave guested for us on Tour with two masterful demonstrations behind the stumps. Not satisfied with that, he drank plenty of beer and ate two mean curries. For some reason though, he would insist on apologising for running the skipper out at Shipley Hall. Surely this should be an excuse for yet more beer?
Best moment: Taking twenty minutes to break the Bodley record for the number of stumpings in an innings.
Worst moment: Making nought at Derby, made all the worse by being caught by Colin Heathcote.

Antony Howard
Antony only played one game for us this year, against Appleton at Cutteslowe, but his contribution to the team’s tea, (thanks Mum) ensures more cricket next year if he wants it.
Best moment: Never out while playing for the Bodley.
Worst moment: Only being asked to play at the arse end of the season.

Humza Ilyas
Far too keen and competitive for Bodley, Sadiq’s nephew Humza proved an embarrassingly competent replacement for some of our regulars. What makes it worse for us all is that he’s just taken his GCSEs, which makes even the youngest Bodley Whippersnapper feel positively ancient.
Best moment: Debut half century at University College.
Worst moment: Not scoring quite so many at Yarnton.

Martin Kauffmann
Limpet-like Martin wasn’t really at it again this year, although he did post his best ever Bodley score against the impressive Medics in the Jack Cox. Lively in the field as ever, Martin’s versatility was personified by his donning the gloves in the final game of the season which has seen him now firmly established as Bodley’s sixth-choice wicketkeeper. He did, though, suffer from a dodgy run of form with the bat over the final four games. We won’t remind Martin here of his visits to the crease, other than to say “oooo – things can only get better”.

OCA EYE
In any discussion of Martin’s batting the same few key words always seem to recur again and again: studious, cultured, limpet-like, etc. One chink in his armour, though, and something that opposition captains must try to exploit, is that he can be vulnerable to the very fast swinging yorker early on in his innings.

Andy MacKinnon
Oh for a repeat of that look of delight when the ball lodged in the webbing of the team’s new wicketkeeping gloves, and Andy realised he’d taken a blinding catch against the Astrophysicists. He also kept us in the game against Military Survey. If we are being purely sporting his cricketing highlight this season may well be his innings against Yarnton, which, according to the match report, had him “pirouetting majestically around his popping crease” (though that does make him sound like a girlie), but for those of us who were there it would be hard to forget being in the scoreboard when playing on Tour as he reached into his pocket and brought out his hamburger sweets. Another player who reached his fifty caps this year. Andy’s curry selections at Ripley were an inspiration to some of his less knowledgeable team mates.

OCA EYE
Big Mac basically uses two shots. A defensive shot straight from French cricket with a flourishing follow through that is a soupcon overstated. His attacking shot is a traditional country harvest maker to cow corner (for those wondering where that is, it’s the place where Andy peppers the ball when in form). Andy is one of Bodley’s bowlers who employ the Barnes Wallis delivery, sadly soon to be outlawed as a no ball by the OCA, still, coming up with a new delivery will help him take his mind off ASR. Mac has performed with distinction behind the stumps.
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FELLA!

Big Al, the newest jurassic giant

BIG AL!
Nick Millea
Once ever reliable as Bodley’s number one wickie Nick had to step back this year when Nick Watts was declared the man in form. Hang on though, Martin performed miracles behind the stumps at the end of the season, as did Andy Mac. They say it of athletics but it’s true of any sport, no-one remembers who came fourth. Despite this setback Nick again proved handy with the bat (though hopefully, with money donated by grateful team mates, he buys a new bat sufficiently heavy to have to do away with the elegant follow-through following his defensive stroke) often featuring in healthy opening partnerships with Ditta and Andrew Milner. As always, the rest of the team are grateful for another excellent tour. It’s a shame that Nick still doesn’t realise the Veterans v Whippersnappers match was rigged to end like that.

oca eye
Nick is an excellent all round athlete and a naturally talented batsman with a good eye. His most effective role is to play in the middle order to give a run chase impetus from his excellent running between wickets and his natural aggression as a stroke player. He should play regularly at a higher level for a local league side to develop his game. If there is one weakness in technique he is vulnerable to a good straight yorker, as he plays on the back foot too much against faster bowling. He is an excellent athletic wicketkeeper, and a more than useful spin bowler, something he should work on.

Andrew Milner
When it was pointed out to Mr Modesty that he’d bagged four wickets without conceding a run, he simply replied “Yeah, I suppose so”. Andrew’s bowling caught the eye this season – comfortably the leading wicket taker, (see the Astrophysics report for his best spell) and but for a statistical quirk, he’d have topped the bowling averages. Not satisfied with that, he was also one of three Bodley bowlers on a hat-trick ball in the return match against Appleton. Andrew managed to hold the dubious honour of being Bodley’s first run out victim of the year, this time at Appleton. Shame he missed out on the Tour, especially with beer at that price.

oca eye
Andrew’s most characteristic shot is the slog-drive: foot well to the pitch of the ball, head down, eyes on the ball to the last, the bat flailing through at an angle 30-40 degrees from the perpendicular. Brilliantly effective when it comes off, it also means that he is as often out to the indifferent ball as to the jaffa. His smoother bowling run this season has given him greater rhythm and consequent control of his length.

Murray Priest
For four years Murray has been threatening to play for Bodley. On a regular basis, things have cropped up at the last minute, and he’s had to withdraw from the squad. Unfortunately for Murray, the excuses had run dry by the time the OUP match came along, and he was roped in. Suffice to say, he belted the ball around the ground to good effect, and was immediately hooked. He also proved handy with the ball, bagging a couple of wickets on his Jack Cox debut. However, his main cricketing success was organising a game in Faringdon against his brother’s side, with a barbie thrown in as well, thus bringing together the two things close to the Bodley XT’s heart (beer and food, if you need to ask). Shame it was called off at the last minute.

oca eye
A valuable new addition to the side this season and one of the few Bodley batsmen capable of belting a six back over the bowler’s head. Strengths: strength. Weaknesses: sometimes let down by poor shot selection, e.g. trying to late cut a wide leg-side full toss.
John Sharp

John’s defection to the University Offices in 1999 proved instrumental in creating a diplomatic crisis during 2000. He was ineligible to play for Bodley in the Jack Cox. In our two encounters with the Offices, John didn’t play in the Jack Cox match, and we stuffed them; he did, however play for the Offices in the Cutteslowe “Friendly”, and, well, they sort of stuffed us. Interesting. Clearly the Offices’ regular net sessions are proving beneficial for Mr Sharp, as his high score of 16 while opening with Nick on tour proves. Nick had to shout a lot though to get him to reach that score. For the record, John’s also a huge Nick Watts fan.

OCA EYE

John is a very dogged and determined batsman, who does not give his wicket away cheaply. He has developed a very effective defensive technique. His enthusiasm for the game and Corinthian spirit is legendary, as is his trusty bat!!! John has been working on his bowling over the last few seasons, on the basis that if he doesn’t know where the ball is going, what chance has the batsman got???

Patrick Tompkin

Bravely venturing from the cricket-free zone that is the Personnel section, Patrick responded to a cry for help and in the process exorcised the ghosts of a traumatic non-selection incident at school. Apparently he failed a trial for the house cricket team which involved the captain smacking the ball as high in the air as possible, with successful catchers making it onto the team. Given that this would have prematurely ended the career of many a Bodley cricketer, Patrick fitted in ideally, his talismanic qualities to the fore as he featured in the unlikely victory against the Six O’Clockers.

Best moment: One game, one win.

Worst moment: “You want me to play again??”

John Tuck

Controversy was never far away from John all season. Dismissed “obstructing the field” for West Witney at Faringdon, and rather tactlessly given the finger by rookie umpire Murray “I used to be ambitious” Priest spring to mind as “interesting” incidents. John also successfully wound up the Offices in the Jack Cox match, for which his team mates will be eternally grateful. On the Library front, John did demonstrate his lofty status by showing extreme concern at Sadiq’s propensity to bat without gloves – how might Systems survive should he fail to avoid a pacy delivery?

OCA EYE

John is one of Bodley’s most technically sound and consistent batsmen. His most productive strokes are the straight drive, and a particularly destructive cut shot. John is Bodley’s answer to Rodney Marsh, always providing useful advice on the field of play for umpires and opposition players alike!!! He is also a very canny bowler mixing up a combination of seamers and off spinners.

Nigel Walker

Spending what seemed like most of the summer in Spain deprived us of Nigel’s cricketing services for a good while, but at least he wasn’t around to give us all a thrashing at darts. Despite all that sun and sangria, Nigel’s still our most athletic fielder and intimidating bowler. Also a nifty addition to the “away” match logistics is the new-look BMW Walkermobile. Should you ever find yourself in the same side as Nigel, make sure you finger him for a lift to the ground. Those who travelled to Hermitage still talk about their deluxe voyage south – can they remember the game though? Of course not.

Nigel can also leap barbed wire fences with a single bound, mere mortals turn away, hands over their boxes.

OCA EYE

Nigel’s cricket improves by leaps and bounds in every department of the game. In bowling SERIOUSLY fast and hitting AWESOMELY big sixes, however, he is somewhat held back by physical underdevelopment. A course of pies designed to build up his physique is all that is needed to make the man supreme. Our hero.
Steve Waterman
The usual criticism for Steve – he just doesn’t play enough. A lively 39 against Pathology was his main contribution with the bat, while his skilfully paced innings for The Veterans was largely responsible for seeing off The Whippersnappers. He was also party to Bodley defector John Sharp’s dismissal in that match.

Best moment: At the post-Whippersnappers match curry, suggesting a Bodleian outing to next season’s Edgbaston test match.
Worst moment: At the post-Whippersnappers match curry, offering to organise a Bodleian outing to next season’s Edgbaston test match.

OCA EYE
Steve is Bodley’s answer to Inzamam-ul-Haq. Unfortunately he not only has a full range of shots, he often does his best to emulate Inzamam’s skill in running between the wickets. He is a good solid batsman, who can be very destructive on his day. Steve bowls a lively medium pace, whose left-hand trajectory makes it hard to play.

Malcolm Watson
The only Orientalist ever to play for Bodley. Malcolm’s debut came just hours after he expressed an interest in cricket. In a borrowed pair of trainers and on a huge wave of enthusiasm he performed well at Cutteslowe, and reportedly even better in the pub at Wolvercote later on.

Best moment: That clubbed boundary against Hubdean.
Worst moment: Realising that he could have been in the Bodley squad all season if he’d volunteered his services earlier.

Nick Watts
John Sharp’s favourite cricketer only made a single Bodley appearance all season, and then he didn’t even get a bat. However, “Mr Communication” did take his regulation catch in the victory over Zoology. But, from all of those young enough to make it into the Whippersnappers team that played the old farts, can The Finger just say “Thank God for Nick”. His knock of 18 made a game of it as the rest of the youth team were out due to bad luck, a bad bounce here or there or not being wise enough (being young and innocent) to be aware of the tricks of those who needed to substitute deviousness for youth. Or getting the sun in their eyes. Nick also held on to three catches behind the stumps in this game as well. Please play for us more often.

Best moment: Star man for The Whippersnappers – most runs and most catches.
Worst moment: Disgraceful failure to beat all wicketkeeping records in his latest appearance behind the stumps.

Mike Webb
He hadn’t been feeling too well in Derby, [Darley Abbey appears on page 193 of the Derbyshire volume of Pevsner] and things became spectacularly worse in the curry house when Mike found himself sitting opposite a hideous tapestry of cats playing pool. No wonder he was back in Oxford before lunch the next day! Very little of the legendary Gromit delivery this season, yet despite bowling only three overs throughout the summer, Bodley’s king of the strike rate stats did it again with another two wickets. Also fairly nimble in the field too, hanging on to four catches.

OCA EYE
Mike is a very accomplished and stylish batsman on his day, at least his array of sun hats, and suave and sophisticated manner, lead the opposition to think so. One innings in particular against Cambridge was memorable, Mike seems to have gone into his shell since then, with only occasional glimpses of his true class. Mike’s secret delivery, the “Gromit” is to be outlawed next season by the OCA, officially a no ball from now on, a shame as an eagle eyed umpire could deprive us all of some quality entertainment.
IS THERE SOMETHING WE SHOULD KNOW?
MIKE WEBB’S CLOSE SEASON EXPLOITS

[Courtesy of The Fiver]

THE BEST FOOTBALL BAN IN THE WORLD... EVER

At this point, The Fiver was going to write about Roy Keane’s new contract (which he still hasn’t signed yet, Irish hardcase fans) and the potentially disastrous implications it could have on the domestic game. However, no matter how potent a symbol Keane may be for the increasing financial imbalance in football, the Manchester United captain has never been banned from the game for 1,112 days. But Mike Webb has.

Webb, formerly vice-chairman of Topsham Town [St Margaret’s Church appears on page 820 of the Devon volume of Pevsner] in the Westward Development Devon League, received his ban from the Devon County Football Association this morning. Webb is said to have charged onto the pitch during a league match in August and punched star striker Adam Carpenter in the face, breaking his nose in the process. Webb, who also coached Topsham, has since resigned.

Nobody is quite sure how the DCFA hit upon the lucky number of 1,112 – “It’s the year I was born!” said one DCFA official – but it means Webb will be out of Devonshire football until December 31, 2002. Speaking about the verdict, Webb said he was “dumbfounded”. “I was having a nervous breakdown. I was getting a lot of verbal abuse and I just snapped,” he said. “Nobody knows more than me that what I did was wrong and I’ve paid the penalty.” Roy Keane eat your heart out.

Mike Webb savages another cricket tea
Richard Webber

Richard was a welcome addition to the Tour this year, especially after missing out last year because he had to go singing, or something wussy like that. It was on Tour though that he came close to committing the ultimate Bodley sin when he suggested we ate in the pub with the other team instead of going for a curry. Admittedly the food did look nice, but...WHAT WERE YOU THINKING OF!!! As the Cookie Monster nearly sings on Sesame Street:

C is for curry, that’s good enough for me
C is for curry, that’s good enough for me
C is for curry, that’s good enough for me
Oh curry curry curry starts with C.

And don’t you forget it.

OCA EYE

Richard’s batsmanship betrays an English public school education. Not for him the proletarian hoiks and agricultural heaves of some of his colleagues. In driving, the bat is almost morally upright and straight. What a lesson to us all. Doesn’t stop him getting out, of course.

Ditta Yousaf

Each year The Finger hints that some day Ditta will put in a magnificent performance. Well, this year The Finger is going to break with tradition, because 2000 was an absolute sensation. Early on, Ditta was contriving to get out in as bizarre a manner as possible, but before long he was averaging over 60 with three consecutive unbeaten half centuries. So, not only was he top run scorer for the season, he also took most catches.

OCA EYE

At last Ditta seems to be making his undoubted talent count. We all knew that Ditta was a class player, last season he started to hit the consistent form that he is capable of. Ditta is an extremely good batsman, who can play an array of fine strokes. He would score many more runs, if only he would run, still, it’s entertaining watching him get them in boundaries. Ditta’s bowling has also improved. He has genuine pace, but tends to bowl too short and a little too far outside off stump. A more direct approach with more yorkers speared in at the batsmen’s feet should bring a greater haul of wickets.

Piram Yousaf

Ditta told us Piram could play a bit, and he didn’t disappoint. Some masterful bowling displays, and blossoming form with the bat. He could run around a bit more in the field though.

Best moment: The season’s top score with 77 against...you know.

Worst moment: Not taking all the wickets he deserved.
### APPEARANCES

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<td>Piram Yousaf</td>
<td>(Ditta's brother)</td>
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John Duffy, Simon Haynes, Toby Reynolds, Dan Rogers, John Rogers and Ian Rose also came out of retirement to play in the end of season Veterans v Whippersnappers encounter.
MATCH RECORDS AND REPORTS

3 May 2000
Ripon College v Bodleian Library
At Ripon College, Cuddesdon
Friendly: Timed game

Ripon College 175-5 declared
(Arnold 2-16, Walker 2-35)
Bodleian Library 112 all out
(Cooper 35, Millea 26, Abbasi 26)
Ripon College won by 63 runs

From the press box: Report by Nick Millea

A BODLEY VICTORY – DON’T BET ON IT!

Cricket is currently in turmoil. Allegations of match-rigging are rife. Hansie Cronje is languishing in disgrace. Of all Bodley’s fixtures in 1999, the one for which the eventual outcome looked most suspicious was the now-traditional season-opener against our reverential friends from Ripon College at Cuddesdon. Last season we’d somehow contrived to snatch defeat by one run from the jaws of what looked likely to be a routine victory. Surely history couldn’t repeat itself?

Another chilly windswept Cuddesdon experience awaited us on 3 May. Buoyed by Stephen’s reminder of the biggest swinger he’d ever seen equipped with an over-sized banana (allegedly this character appeared in last year’s match), we were presented with a new challenge from the aforementioned banana man – he offered us a ‘timed’ game, not the sort of thing Bodley tend to indulge in, but there was always the option of drawing a match, which came as a novelty to us limited-overs veterans. This ‘draw’ option was to assume an ever-greater significance as the afternoon wore on. New challenge accepted, Ripon chose to bat first, Bodley forming a sort of pre-match huddle, whereby the new format was explained.

Ripon eventually declared on 175 for 5, in an innings remarkably free of Stuart’s by now legendary appealing from the boundary. Some steady Bodleian bowling (two wickets apiece for Stephen, Arnold and Nigel Walker), with Nigel also finding time to vault a barbed wire fence at high speed, oblivious to the potentially disastrous consequences, and a stunning one-handed catch by Dave Busby off Andrew Milner being the highlights.

The lowlights were four dropped catches, all off the same batsman, who went on to score an unbeaten sixty.

So, Bodley’s task was to score 176 off about an hour plus twenty overs to win - a tall order, or to avoid losing all ten wickets to earn a draw. The weather didn’t get any warmer - we weren’t sure whether this was a help or a hindrance, but it neatly introduces Andy Mac’s umpiring outfit, which looked to be inspired by esquimos. Nick Millea and Martin Kaufmann launched the run chase, adding 21 for the first wicket. Nick went next for 26, missing a straight one from the banana man. With the score at a shaky 37 for 3, debnaut Sadiq Abbasi joined Garry Cooper in the middle. Impressive stuff from Sadiq, as he strode out minus batting gloves, and the pair added exactly fifty before Sadiq fell for 26 (including one mighty six). Bodley were 87 for 4, with thirteen overs remaining. A win looked unlikely, but the draw was most definitely on.

At this point, something odd happened. A strange-looking character wearing a poncho emerged from the bushes on the boundary. Who was this character? Why was he there? What did he want?

Garry and Dave battled it out for another four overs, bringing up the 100, until Garry was bowled for an excellent 35. Dave, dutifully stonewalling for the draw and Nigel saw off another four overs, taking Bodley to 103 for 5 - five overs left now. Ripon wanted to get the game over - they were freezing. All we had to do was safely negotiate thirty odd balls. Then Nigel was snapped up at slip, while Alan, who’d driven from Wales especially to play in this game, fell victim to a ball that didn’t bounce.

The field closed in. Dave was caught at short leg, 105 for 8, and four overs left. All of a sudden Ripon didn’t seem to be noticing the cold. Things began to get a little nippy. Was that the bleeze from Ladbroke’s on the boundary? Andy Mac was joined by the man in the poncho. They decided to get stuck in to the bowling, with eight balls left Andy succumbed. Last man Stephen came to the wicket (as he had last year), and safely negotiated the over. Phew.

Six balls to survive – Bodley 112 for 9. Could we hang on for the draw? A chap called Toogood was given the task of bowling the final over. He’d already dismissed Martin, Garry, Nigel and Alan - could he see off our caped crusader? The first ball was safely negotiated - relief all round. The second ball was delivered...

All we can add is that Toogood was probably too good for Bodley. Defeat cruelly snatched from the jaws of a heroic draw by a miserable 63 runs.

7 May 2000
Appleton v Bodleian Library
At Appleton
Friendly: Timed game

Appleton 79 all out
(Milner 3-9, Arnold 2-12, Fisher 2-20)
Bodleian Library 41 all out
(Tuck 13, Kauffmann 5, Milner 5, Fisher 5)
Appleton won by 38 runs

From the press box: Report by Martin Kauffmann

RECORD-BREAKING PERFORMANCE AT APPLETON

One of the important advantages of the new integrated Newsletter is the chance to extend the readership of reports of Bodleian cricket matches, which have previously circulated by oral recitation to the many colleagues in other Oxford libraries thirsting for news of the team’s exploits. Indeed, such is the fame of Bodleian cricket that requests to play us are flooding in from teams in many counties, unable to believe the reports which have reached them of the prowess of the players from the noble institution once better known as a library. For this new fixture, kindly arranged by Stephen Arnold, we travelled through the night to reach the picturesque village of Appleton (formerly in Berkshire) in time for the 2.30 pm start – though the absence of two of the team, rumoured to be searching for the local manor house (dubbed ‘an amazing survival’ by Pevsner) meant that we had to begin by fielding with two loan stars from the opposition.

Thus Appleton batted first, and struggled to make runs on an extremely slow outfield. Indeed, the innings opened brightly for the fielding side, when with the very first ball of the opening over Nigel Walker demolished the stumps of Appleton’s number one batsman. Unusually, most of the Appleton wickets were to fall in the same manner, though Bodley also took their catches smartly when they came their way. Dave Busby insouciantly collaborated with Mike Webb in a way which suggested that the pair still imagined this to be the football season. Despite the Appleton team’s attempt to confuse the scorer by appearing all to share the surname Gilkes, Bodley kept up the pressure, the damage being done by Stephen Arnold and Andrew Milner, with Nigel Walker and John Tuck bowling tight and economical spells and Alan Fisher coming on to befuddle the tail. Andrew Colquhoun kept wicket effectively in the absence of our usual keeper. In the end only two of the Appleton batsmen had reached double figures, and Bodley’s many travelling supporters were feeling brahly confident of the team’s first victory of the season.

Listeners to The Archers will no doubt have been wishing that Sid Perks had paid rather more attention recently to preparing the Ambridge cricket team for the coming season than to practising his country and western singing in the vicinity of the gym. Whilst the members of the Bodleian team have no doubt been leading impeccably moral winters, it might be said that their batting practice has perhaps not been as intensive as it might have been. All started quietly but extremely slowly, with John Tuck and Martin Kauffmann staying in and surviving one or two ferocious appeals for lbw but struggling to score runs against tight bowling. After tea John began to score more freely, and the target seemed not out of range when the first wicket fell at 19. But as things turned out, John was to be the only Bodleian batsman to reach double figures in the entire innings. Mike Webb was out quickly, hampered perhaps by the high expectations of his personal supporters club. Dave Busby put up solid resistance, and looks set this season to rival Martin Kauffmann as an exponent of the glories of the forward defensive stroke. Andrew Milner and Alan Fisher were unlucky out just when they seemed to be getting into their stride - Andrew as the first Bodley run out of the season, though it has to be said that connoisseurs of this mode of dismissal did not consider it a vintage Bodleian example. And so, with the last three wickets falling for a single run, we tumbled to our lowest-ever score, undone in the main by the Appletonian bowlers Hungay and one of the numerous Gilkeses.

Nevertheless, I am pleased to be able to report that the courage and character of the team were reflected in the way that it managed to put the defeat behind it on reaching the local pub, remembering instead the trophy-laden seasons of yesteryear, and turning its attention to the stories recounted by Stephen Arnold of the famous ten-bell peal at Appleton church.

9 May 2000

*Bodleian Library* v *Medicine*

At Mansfield Road

Jack Cox Trophy: 20-over game

**Medicine** 148-5
   (Fisher 2-11, Walker 1-24, Waterman 1-30)

**Bodleian Library** 80-6
   (Milner 30, Kauffmann 16*)

*Medicine* won by 68 runs

*From the press box*: Report by Andrew Milner

**STRONG MEDICINE FLOORS BODLEY**

The Bodleian XI’s first outing in the annual inter-departmental Jack Cox Trophy found the side once again in the familiar surroundings of Mansfield Road taking on the Department of Medicine.

A gloriously sunny and warm evening seemed to bode well, infusing most of us with a sense of optimism about the fixture. After years of underperforming in this tournament perhaps now was the time to make amends? A chance to put the setbacks of cold early spring behind us and move on to the broad sunlit uplands. Well, not quite.

The medics batted first and looked from the start as thought they were determined to get on with it. “One of them’s an OCA player” Stephen Arnold whispered conspiratorially to me as we took to the field. “Is that bad?” I replied. “Yes it was bad.” He went on to make 50 not out in short order, hitting boundaries with ruthless efficiency.

The Bodley bowling and fielding was not poor, with Stephen, Sadiq, Nigel and Andrew bowling tidily, but nonetheless the doctors seemed able to score freely. Chances to take wickets were not always taken. Steve Waterman could not hold on to a sharp catch off his own bowling. Andrew Milner failed to pick the ball coming out of the sun and missed the OCA man. More encouragingly Nigel knocked back the stumps to dismiss one of their openers. Alan Fisher (bowling) and Steve (catching) combined to take another wicket. A nice display of fielding and wicketkeeping saw Sadiq and Andrew Colquhoun run out one of their middle order. Medicine finished their innings with 148 for 5 off 20 overs.

A run rate of over seven an over looked a tall order for a Bodley side that had not yet really found its batting form. And so it proved. Andrew C. and Steve started watchfully to see off the Medicine openers and survived well. But we never really got going and at the end of the allotted 20 overs finished on 80 for 6 wickets lost. Martin Kauffmann and Alan provided a late flurry of runs and remained not out at the close of play.

18 May 2000

Bodleian Library v Astrophysics
At Cutteslowe Park
Friendly: 20-over game

**Bodleian Library 126-1**
(Tuck 51*, Milner 49*)

**Astrophysics 34 all out**
(Milner 4-0, Arnold 3-4)

Bodleian Library won by 92 runs

*From the press box:* Report by Andy MacKinnon

**BODLEY BLAST INTO ORBIT**

Yes, those figures are correct, that isn’t a misprint, you are seeing straight. The team has registered its first win of the season, a mixed blessing for your reporter given that the comedy value of previous match reports seems to have risen in direct proportion to the scale of the defeat. In a cunning display of tactical calling, captain Nick Milner lost the toss but still achieved the desired result when we were put in to bat. Nick and Ditta Yousaf opened, both playing well as the ball swung, seamed and bounced irregularly before Ditta was bowled by a ball which cut back in wickedly. This brought John Tuck to the wicket and he and Nick hooked, cut, slashed and pulled their way to an excellent century stand, riding their luck as catches swirled in the breeze and went to ground with a regularity reminiscent of Bodleian bowling at its clownish best. John demonstrated the inspirational leadership qualities and courage which have taken him to the rank of Deputy Director by fearlessly fending off a full toss with his groin, accompanied by a chorus of ahhs and the reflex crossing of ten pairs of legs on the boundary. John departed in the final over having passed the compulsory retirement figure of 50, with Nick also unbeaten on an excellent 49 as the total rose to 126 for 1 from 20 overs.

The Bodley players took the field swiftly, optimistic of a win and keen not to spend longer than absolutely necessary out on the windswept pitch. The next forty minutes or so are something of a blur - in an unprecedented sequence of difficult catches taken, excellent balls bowled and dubious shots played. Astrophysics soon found themselves with only six runs on the board and seven wickets down. Highlights included Ditta taking a great catch one-handed over his head without needing to remove his other hand from his pocket, and the team’s new wicketkeeping gloves proving their worth by holding a sharp chance much to the surprise of their wearer. The Astros’ number nine batsman ensured some respectability with a plucky 21 before the opposition were finally dismissed for a paltry 34. Andrew Milner recorded the best bowling figures in Bodleian cricketing history (to add to the batting record he already holds), taking four wickets for no runs off his four overs, with Stephen Arnold, Dave Busby and Alan Fisher sharing the other scalps.

Finally, I feel obliged to record that three of the Astrophysics team were female, but only so as to applaud their progressive and gender-blind selection policy rather than to imply that this may have had any effect on the result.

6 June 2000
Bodleian Library v Zoology
At Mansfield Road
Jack Cox Trophy: 20-over game

Bodleian Library 104-6
(Tuck 51*, Waterman 20)
Zoology 83-6
(Tuck 2-7, Milner 1-1)
Bodleian Library won by 21 runs

From the press box: Report by Andrew Colquhoun

ZOLOGISTS CAGED BY BODLEY’S LIONS

“its official!” said Milner, the Chief Operations Officer at Combined Ops HQ, a dingy back office in the Map Room at the Bodleian Library.

“What is Sir?” said Ackland his No.2. “By jove we’ve got the go ahead, it’s the big push, it’s the big one, it’s the invasion, and its all planned for the sixth of June” enthused Milner.

“Gosh sir, but you know I don’t like their chances, the enemy are likely to let us have it”.

Milner looked worried, turning to his No.2 who reflected his concern, he said “I don’t like it any more than you do, but there it is, I just hope they’ll pull through, we must not fail”.

Buoyed up by the inspirational briefing from the CO, Captain Milner, a dashing young officer, the troops went in. Milner’s dashing plan was to bat first and play the enemy out of the game. For this task he had to call up the big guns. In went Brigadier Tuck, a liaison officer from the Directorate, a hush hush unit from HQ ably assisted by Yousaf, the well-known adventurer. Things were going well, rapid fire from Yousaf and Tuck as the ball was blasted to the boundary like an artillery shell. Then a setback, as Zoology counterattacked. Yousaf was caught launching another missile, and Colquhoun his replacement bowled in the same over. It was time for the Library’s finest, Captain Milner led the charge, ably assisted by Waterman the Intelligence Officer. Bodley amassed a score of 104 for 5. Tuck had to retire at 50 for being too good and Waterman is still awaiting the result of a judicial review to know whether or not he was really run out of the last ball. The umpires are pleading the fifth amendment.

Having gained their objective Bodley had to dig in and await the inevitable counterattack. They didn’t have long to wait. Milner marshalled his troops well despite the wicketkeeper’s interference. Tight bowling ground the enemy’s attack to a halt. Good pace and control from Yousaf and Milner was backed up by excellent use of the conditions by Tuck and Fisher. Bodley’s bowlers strangled the Zoology innings and never allowed them to get started. Useful contributions with the ball from Waterman, Webb, Allmond, and Watts guaranteed victory. Zoology scored 83 for 6, thus Bodley had achieved a notable victory in the Jack Cox Trophy.

As with all Bodley’s matches there was a moment of pure hilarity, and as usual this involved a run out attempt. During the Zoology innings one of their batsmen was injured requiring him to use a runner. As they did not announce this fact to the fielders this caused utter confusion. Amazed that the batsman had stayed in his crease, the Bodleian fielders celebrated what they though to be a run out, only to find that a runner standing at square leg had completed the run for him and was in his ground. Unfortunately the umpires didn’t have the benefit of Sky TV’s new camera (dubbed the U-boat by Jeff Thomson) to provide the necessary replay. Justice was done soon after when a diving throw from Yousaf hit the stumps to run him out superbly.

Man of the match goes to John Tuck for 51 not out and two wickets. Alan Fisher and David Busby received the customary bottle of bubbly for reaching fifty appearances for Bodley.

18 June 2000
Bodleian Library v Six O’Clock Club
At Herstmonceux
Friendly: 35-over game

Six O’Clock Club 200-5
(Yousaf, D. 1-3, Cooper 1-15)
Bodleian Library 201-8
(Yousaf, D. 53*, Cooper 53*)
Bodleian Library won by 2 wickets

From the press box: Report by Andy MacKinnon

UNBELIEVABLE! - BODLEY’S FINEST HOUR?

After agreeing a limit of thirty-five overs per side, with a maximum of five overs per bowler, Bodley then proceeded to lose the toss. The opposition, old friends from seasons past, decided to bat first, thus forcing us to field on one of the hottest days of the year so far. Ditta Yousaf and Stephen Arnold opened the bowling and runs were hard to come by until ten overs had gone, at which point boundaries started flowing with frightening regularity - Bodley managed to drop one bloke twice on four who then went on to smash 50 and retire very quickly indeed, including taking 24 off an over by one unfortunate Bodley bowler - ouch! Martin Kauffmann slowed the run-rate down with a tight five-over spell, but the Six O’Clockers still managed a daunting total of 200 off the thirty-five overs - ouch again!

A slightly ramshackle tea ensued with emergency plastic cups and no plates, and then Bodley started on the considerable task (given current form) of scoring 201 runs and securing only our third win of the season so far. Ditta opened in fine style, retiring after smashing an aggressive 50, which brought Garry Cooper to the crease. Another impressive batting performance had Garry retiring too after reaching his half-century and Bodley’s task started to look that bit easier, especially after Alan Fisher, Andy MacKinnon and Andrew Colquhoun also scored well. A small batting collapse (there had to be one) left Bodley needing four runs with just two balls left, the sort of nerve-jangling situation we usually handle so badly. Usually Bodley would have lost it at this stage, if not before, but this time the cricketing gods were smiling on us as Stephen hit a four to square-leg, bringing up the victory total of 201, with one ball to spare - storybook stuff, and the first time we’ve ever scored that many to win a game - hurrah! There was a little muttering from their captain about our umpires being stricter on the wides, but still, an unlikely and bizarrely heroic win given the hot weather.

The conquering Bodley XI were: Yousaf, Fisher, Cooper, MacKinnon, Connor, Colquhoun, Busby, Kauffmann, Tompkin, Allmond, Arnold.
20 June 2000  
**Bodleian Library v Pathology**  
At Mansfield Road  
Jack Cox Trophy: 20-over game  

**Bodleian Library** 103-6  
(Waterman 39, Yousaf, D. 15, Tuck 15)  
**Pathology** 105-2  
(abbreviated 1-12, Cooper 1-15)  
Pathology won by 8 wickets  

*From the press box: Report by Richard Webber*

**BODLEY’S PATHOLOGICAL DISAPPOINTMENT**  

This should be subtitled “The Match that Nearly Wasn’t”, for at approximately 4.45pm a man popped his head round the door of the changing room and said, “Excuse me, do you know if the match is on?” “Yes, as far as I know,” I replied. “Oh,” he said, “when I saw at 3.30 that the stumps weren’t up I told everyone it was off...” It turned out to be the opposing captain (obviously a Pathological liar, ho ho). By 5.20pm the punctual Men of Bodley were all assembled; but where were the opposition? Were we about to claim a forfeit victory? At 5.25pm four Pathologists had turned up, assuring us that more were on the way “in just a moment”; by 5.30pm they had a team. Given the scheduling of a certain important Euro 2000 match later that evening, amusement at this was in short supply.  

Once play was underway, Bodley made a bright start despite the overcast conditions. Openers John Tuck and Ditta Yousaf (15 each) batting solidly and running up the singles, against bowling which was tight, quick, and moved around. The introduction of a spinner provided a good opportunity to attack the astonishingly short leg-side boundary. Ditta departed after a niftily-taken stumping despite surviving the lbw appeal which preceded it. This brought Steve Waterman to the wicket, and he proceeded to knock the ball about to the tune of 39, hitting some fine boundaries. The spinner was replaced by a paceman whose main speciality seemed to be beamers, off whose bowling Nick Millea was unlucky to be cut off in his prime by a magnificent diving catch. However Andrew Colquhoun (12) kept the crowd happy with some superlative hitting and running between the wickets to take Bodley on to an eventual total of 103.  

It was generally felt that this was a reasonable total; however we were facing last year’s champions. Pathology’s openers then proceeded to give a magnificent demonstration of how to bat in a one-day game, building slowly whilst keeping up with the run-rate, and then accelerating with some well-struck boundaries as soon as they’d played themselves in. This despite good Bodleian bowling, from Nigel Walker, Andrew Milner, and then Ditta and John. Bodleian fielding was as tight as the near boundary allowed, and generally made light (ta ha) of the gloomy conditions and some rather pedantic umpiring. After one Pathologue had retired on 50, the wicket finally came, as Garry Cooper whipped one through to the stumps; but by this stage the Pathologists were within sight of victory - when the second wicket fell (to Sadiq Abbasi’s admirable line-and-length pace) they had to score just three to win.  

Like England’s footballers later in the evening, at half-time the Bodleians felt they’d done enough to get a result; like England’s rugby players earlier in the week, they put in a gutsy performance which deserved a better outcome; but alas, like both of these ill-fated teams, and indeed England’s cricketers on almost any occasion, they still lost. As Pathology are apparently the reigning champions, this result was no disgrace: it represents a good effort against a more knowing side.  

Bodley XI: Yousaf, Tuck, Waterman, Milner, Cooper, Millea, Colquhoun, Abbasi, Walker, Webber, Kauffmann.
ANDY MAC'S TOUR DIARY....

Another year, another tour. This year, instead of venturing either to Northumberland or Cornwall to play our regular tour opponents, it was decided to meet on neutral ground in Derby to try and avoid the 500-gruelling-hours-in-a-minibus syndrome which had afflicted previous tourists.

Thus three cars rammed to the gunnels with cricketing enthusiasm set off mid-morning on Saturday 8 July, a curious mixture of crusty tour veterans and nervy tour virgins, with instructions to meet in the car park next to the pitch in Derby. Pausing only to misread the map in time-honoured fashion and undertake an impromptu tour of local underpasses, our car trailed in last, though we were reunited with the rest of the team through a hastily-scrawled note directing us to the nearest pub.

Several resolve-strengthening pints later, talk had already turned to high and low culture and the utter inability of the majority of the team to distinguish one from the other. The merits of Beethoven dominated the floor, though with stiff competition from the raging debate as to the likelihood of scampi and chips for £2.95 being even halfway edible. A gentle stroll back to the pitch and we were pleased to see our opponents beginning to arrive. The venue for the game was an enormous municipal sports field, with at least eight full-size cricket pitches. After some confusion we found or way to ours, which was curiously bereft of boundary markers. Improvising (in true Fast Show spirit) with luggage for boundary posts, the game eventually got under way with Bodley electing to bat first in the windy conditions.

8 July 2000
Bodleian Library v Cornwall CCCCCC
At Darley Fields, Derby
Tour match: 30-over game

Bodleian Library 108-7
(Arnold 33, Millea 26*)

Cornwall CCCCCC 111-2
(Fisher 1-34, MacKinnon 1-39)

Cornwall CCCCCC won by 8 wickets


Things started well with emergency opener Stephen Arnold putting on stands with Messrs Ackland, Fisher and Webber to propel the score to 65 for 3 when he was dismissed for a personal record score of 33 (more than double his previous best of 16). Swashbuckling exploits nearer the top of the order are expected from Mr A next season! With a familiar but nevertheless depressing predictability, a couple more wickets went in quick succession, leaving the innings looking shaky at 69 for 6. Over-modest skipper Nick Millea came in at number nine and pushed things towards respectability with an excellent unbeaten 26 as Bodley played out their 30 overs to inch towards an inadequate-looking 108 for 7.

The 7Cs' reply started ominously with Oxford and Nicholson putting on 52 for the first wicket until an excellent piece of wicketkeeping by Northumbrian ringer Dave Gardner saw Oxford stumped off an embarrassingly wide ball by your diarist. Another wicket fell shortly after to give fresh hope to Bodley, and brought Dave's fellow-Northumbrian Kevin Exley to the wicket. Dave confidently told all within earshot that Kevin only came off once a season, so we had nothing to fear. A quickfire 42 not out achieved with a hail of boundaries which saw my three overs whacked for a shameful 39 runs brought the game to a premature conclusion, as the 7Cs thumped their way to an eight wicket victory with twelve of their thirty overs to spare.
Pride duly dented, we headed off to find our accommodation, this year in the glamorous surroundings of a police training college in the town of Ripley. A reviving shower and a change of clothes later and it was off into the town itself for the now traditional après-cricket activities. The Cornwall advance party had already identified the local Wetherspoons pub as the social hub of the village, and launched immediately into the tantalising pub grub menu. The Bodley team was united in its resolve to go for the well-nigh compulsory late night curry option, although slavering dissenters were noted in the ranks as enormous steaks were carried past to the Cornishmen. The frightening social phenomenon of the Saturday night social whirl in a small Midlands market town was soon in evidence, a particular cataloguer in the party startled by the sheer volume of women combining cropped tops with the build and shoulders of rugby league professionals. One positive aspect of this culture shock was the price of the beer - rounds seemed to cost as much as individual pints back in Oxford, and the more our appreciation of this sank in, the comelier the local wenches seemed to become.

A brief foray into the outside world in search of a different hostelry saw the team beaten back out of the target pub by sheer stereo volume. Curry-lust took over at this point as the team spilled into the first Indian restaurant in sight, an unprepossessing building from the front, and possibly even worse inside, the main wall dominated by a lifesize picture of cats in smoking jackets, dungarees and other sartorially-unlikely costumes, apparently enjoying an evening of male bonding and mousing anecdotes. Everyone on the side of the table facing the ‘mural’ seemed constantly drawn to its inspiring awfulness - the detail of the stitching, the depth of the colour, the way in which the cats could almost be breathing if you’d had enough to drink. As to the food, one item in particular stood out on the menu - the non-vegetable thali. Seemingly designed expressly for the red-blooded cricketering male in its self-defining exclusion of the vegetable, this dish won four orders at one end of the table, and was duly pronounced meal of the tour by those fortunate enough to try it. Several drinks later and it was all back to the training college. There was a general rush for the TV room, yours truly in his accustomed role as remote controlführer, but sadly there was nothing on to match the awesome open fire channel which had so entranced 1999’s tourists.

Stuart and I, both new fathers, comforted ourselves with the prospect of our first lie-in for months. Almost inevitably, we met on the way to the showers at 6.45am the following morning - evil body clocks had proved our undoing. Still, it meant we were up in plenty of time for breakfast - this involved trekking over the road to the Sainsbury’s restaurant opposite, where both staff and Sunday morning regulars were astonished to see queues forming before opening. Anyway, food very good, muzak appallingly bad. Lack of a piano frustrated Stephen Arnold’s entirely fictional attempts to get us to name that Beethoven or Mozart tune.

And so to the second game - the weather looked distinctly unpromising, with constant drizzle as we bumped along a muddy track through a wood in search of the venue. The ground itself ranked high amongst the many picturesque places we’ve played at - set on the edge of the trees, with a pavilion and bar and proper scoreboard to boot. The game was very much in doubt, but an accommodating groundsman and the odd break in the clouds enabled us to play.

9 July 2000

**Bodleian Library v Cornwall CCCCC**

At Shipley Hall

Tour match: 30-over game

**Cornwall CCCCC 123-8**

(Ackland 3-9, Fisher 2-27)

**Bodleian Library 124-8**

(Millea 42, Busby 23)

_Bodleian Library won by 2 wickets_

Conditions were difficult for both batting and fielding teams, with fielders squelching after the ball and the bounce on the pitch almost impossible to predict. Surreal distraction was provided by the sight of apparently willing victims being drawn up around 100 feet in the air and then released on a giant swing to the accompaniment of bloodcurdling screams. Further investigation revealed we were virtually nextdoor to the American Adventure theme park (darkest Derbyshire being, as we all know, wildly evocative of the States) where this curious torturetainment was being carried out. Returning with some reluctance to the cricket, Stuart Ackland bowled excellently to return figures of 3 for 9 from his six overs, ably backed by the reliable Stephen Arnold and the bamboozling spin of Alan Fisher. Kevin Exley again scored well for the opposition as they made a challenging 123 for 8 from their thirty over allowance.

Things started well for Bodley with Nick Millea and John Sharp putting on an excellent 37 for the first wicket, John’s 16 being another Bodley personal best, this time almost trebling his previous best effort. Nick put on another 32 for the second wicket with Dave Gardner before falling prey, like Sharpie before him, to the Bodleian run-out curse with the score standing at 69 for 2. A couple of quick wickets followed as the run-chase wobbled, but an excellent display of free-hitting in difficult conditions by Dave Busby, in a vital partnership of 32 for the fifth wicket with yours truly, brought Bodley to within sight of victory. Overs were running out as we neared the target, and the tension mounted inexorably as the spectre of all those missed victory opportunities in the past began to loom menacingly in the memory. Nerves weren’t helped when Dave perished for a hard-fought 23 with the scores level. Stuart Ackland carelessly spurned the opportunity to snatch the glory by missing a straight ball with only one run required for victory, leaving it to Alan Fisher to play the vital stroke, bringing Bodley home with only five balls to spare. Elation was widespread as honour was vindicated, the victory deserved in difficult conditions and the opposition clearly a little miffed about losing – hurrah!

The team’s scorers, more usually seated at a rickety rusted table with only a blunt pencil and pigeons for company, revelled in the luxury of the multi-storey scoreboard. Comfy chairs and all manner of pull-chains to update the scoreboard were much in evidence, and once a regular supply of refreshments from the bar had been organised the only thing missing was a chamber pot to avoid the dangerous trip down the slippery staircase to the toilets. A post-match buffet and some sepia-tinged photographs on the pavilion walls revealed Stephen Arnold’s frighteningly comprehensive knowledge of late 19th and early 20th century cricketers - most had been in the year above him at school apparently.

Back again to the police college. Stuart emerged from the TV room in a state of heightened emotion after the fully-uniformed policeman who was also in there had been reduced to tears by a particularly wrenching episode of Peak Practice. One might indeed ponder on what life on the mean streets of Ripley does to a man to make him so vulnerable and deficient in taste. This episode may have had some impact on Stuart’s choice of shirt for the evening, which provoked heated debate on the trip into town, not only on the very thin dividing line between pink and red, but also on the implications of said colours for a man’s sexual orientation. The night that followed was something of a blur, the same curry house was invaded again, and the non-vegetable thali once more made its presence felt. Safe to say, I think, that much drinking was done, much nonsense talked, and the spirit of Bodley tourism made itself felt in another previously-unspoiled part of the country. Here’s to next year!
The fourth annual Bodley cricket tour took place over the weekend with the team travelling to Derby to take on a combined Cornwall and Northumberland side. Despite the best efforts of the weather the team played twice, losing badly on the first day and gaining a narrow victory on Sunday. Sunday’s game was played in bizarre circumstances, a beautiful ground with an old-style pavilion and scoreboard, and surrounded partly by woodland, partly by picturesque views of rolling Derbyshire countryside and partly by the ‘American Adventure’ theme park. Action on the pitch was occasionally upstaged by roller-coaster rides, ridiculously high swings and the screams of people beginning to regret eating that big Sunday roast. The team’s nerves were thankfully calmed by the opening of the pavilion bar. Team base was in Ripley, at the Derbyshire Police headquarters, and regular readers will be pleased to hear that the players did justice to the astonishingly cheap beer to be had almost everywhere (people were going to the bar for a round and coming back with crazed looks on their faces clutching change and wondering on the chances of Bodley opening a new dependent library in the town), and the excellent curry house right next door to the cheapest pub in the Universe. Outside cricket, beer, curry and breakfast at Sainsbury’s (lovely black pudding, terrible piped music) the team did some sightseeing in a highly recommended and, for most of us, unfamiliar, part of the country. Some played about on the cable-cars at Matlock Bath while a few others decided to visit a famous stone circle nearby. Any thoughts of getting at one with the ancestors were dashed, though, as a group of ramblers had got there before us and were using the stones as a giant picnic table. It’s hard to pick up vibes with so many fleeces, thin slices of bread and thermos flasks in the way.

More information on the games can be found at the website (http://users.ox.ac.uk/ajmac/) when the webmaster can bother to write it all up, but special mention to Messrs Arnold, Busby and Sharp, who all batted well and to Nick for organising another wonderful weekend. The tour party was: Richard Webber, Andrew MacKinnon, Nick Millea, Alan Fisher, Mike Webb, Stephen “I’d do anything for cricket” Arnold, Dave Busby, John Sharp and Stuart Ackland, who wore a lovely red shirt.

Stuart Ackland
16 July 2000
Oxford University Press v Bodleian Library
At Jordan Hill, Oxford
Friendly: 40-over game

Bodleian Library 90 all out
(Millea 21, Cooper 21)
Oxford University Press 91-6
(Milner 3-18, Arnold 1-17, Allmond 1-18)
Oxford University Press won by 4 wickets

From the press box: Report by Stephen Arnold

COLLAPSO KINGS BACK IN BUSINESS

Given the long and close association of the Bodleian Library with the Oxford University Press, it is perhaps surprising that last Sunday's cricket match should have been only the second sporting contest on record between the two. Last year's game proved an easy victory for Clarendon over Bodley; this year, with the Press' best player absent (allegedly called away to play against Kent!!), could the Library put up a more respectable show against a side still boasting several league players?

Followers of Bodley cricket will probably have already guessed the answer, although we made an excellent start, with Nick and Ditta rattling up a record opening stand for the season of 39. When Ditta was out, unluckily lbw to a ball that kept low, Garry kept Bodleian hopes alive with a fine knock, eventually being top equal scorer. After Nick's dismissal, however, the traditional Bodley batting collapse was spectacular in its suddenness and pathetic in its abjectness. Despite some good blows by Murray Priest, the last six batsmen managed less than a dozen runs between them. Our total of 90 was always going to be difficult to defend, but the opposition gallantly reversed their batting order to make a match of it. Early successes for Bodley raised all our hopes, as one umpire, who had taken six wickets as a bowler, seemed to want to make it up to the round dozen by awarding lbw decisions for any ball hitting the pads. Once the 'non-batsmen' had departed, however, it became an utterly different game; plainly something exceptional was needed to dislodge experienced batters, and Garry provided just this as he neatly side-footed a drive from his own bowling on to the stumps, running out the backing-up non-striker. This, though, merely brought together the Press' best two batsmen who proceeded to give a display of controlled hitting and went past the required total with a dozen overs to spare. The game, which was played in the most genial and friendly spirit, was followed by fraternisation at a local pub. 'With bearded buddies drinking at the inn', as I believe Keats has it in his celebrated Ode to a Nightingale.

Studying strengthens bonds of marriage

SAME degree
SAME subject
SAME university
SAME couple

AN OXFORD married couple may rank as Britain's most compatible in the country after successfully achieving a qualification in the same subject with the same mark.

Karen Ferrett, 39, and husband Danny Ferrett, 28, met and married while studying in Oxford and now they are both about to graduate from Oxford Brookes University with a first class degree in the same subject, Politics and History.

As mature students, they both took part-time jobs within the university, but saved money by sharing the same set of books; Karen said: "We studied together and we were each other's biggest critics. We worked really hard and were absolutely over the moon when we found out we had both got a first. We were on a high for days."

"In fact, it is just as well we got the same mark, we are so competitive life would have been unbearable if he had beaten me. He finds the work easier than me, though."

The pair tied the knot at Oxford Register Office on May 1, General Election day. In 1997 after meeting at Ruskin College. Both were sponsored by unions to study for a Certificate in Higher Education in Labour Studies at Ruskin. Danny had previously worked as a coppersmith at Portsmouth naval base, and Karen as a civil servant for the Department of Transport in Manchester, before they went to Oxford Brookes.

Karen said: "I think studying together has strengthened our marriage."

"If we can survive a degree together, we can survive anything."

In fact, both of them loved studying at Brookes so much they have immediately signed up for even more courses.

Danny plans to start a PhD in Politics at Brookes this autumn while Karen has a place on the MA course in Politics of Democracy.
20 July 2000

Bodleian Library v University Offices
At Mansfield Road
Jack Cox Trophy: 20-over game

Bodleian Library 148-5
(Yousaf, D. 51*, Ferrett 33)

University Offices 78 all out
(Tuck 3-16, Priest 2-2, Walker 2-7)

Bodleian Library won by 70 runs

From the press box: Report by Dave Busby

WELLINGTON SQUARE BLITZED BY BODLEY

Following the frolics of The Tour and a tonking by the OUP it was 'back to work' for the Bodleian XI in the Jack Cox Trophy last Thursday. Skipper Andrew Milner won the toss and feeling positive put Bodley into bat. Runs came aplenty, Ditta Yousaf swatting another 50 before the obligatory retirement while Danny Ferrett scored a 33 full of rapid runs and a towering six off the superstructure of the bat. This provided a base for a sound 148 as skip Milner added a solid 25 and Mike Webb a violent 24 including another gravity defying six.

The Sharpless University Offices reply was undermined by tight bowling and fielding before being fatally wounded in a dramatic eleventh over in which four wickets fell (Nigel Walker’s direct hit run out being particularly memorable). John Tuck gained a trio of wickets, ably assisted by Walker with two, Sadiq Abbasi’s one and a run out by Murray Priest. C.L.R James met Rodney Marsh behind the stumps as Danny Ferrett took two blinding catches and then Murray performed the last rites to round off an efficient Bodleian performance. Where does it leave us in the Jack Cox? Er, ask Stephen Arnold.

A LETTER TO THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY CRICKET TEAM'S C IN C

Dear Field Marshall Carr,

I know all your tiresome trips to America have prevented you mucking in with the chaps this year so I thought a short, succinct report would bring you up to scratch with what's going on down here at the front line.

Our latest skirmish was a small foray over the border into Royal Berkshire to see off that lot from the Royal Military Survey; a bunch of desk bound pen pushers and no mistake. I'm sure you're familiar with the procedure. A small number of men travelling light equipped only with side arms (bats, balls, pads etc., not a bowling machine in sight) making their way over the border under cover of rush hour to hit the enemy, quickly and clinically, where he least expects it. Some may say that is was foolhardy to choose a military base as our target. I, however, who will concede that our plan was bold, do not believe this to have been our cardinal error.

Due to the initiative of Pvt. Walker our approach to the base was in the form of a classic pincer movement, a la Field Marshall Manstein, completely surrounding the enemy before moving in for the kill. Upon arriving at the rendezvous point only four of the enemy were ready for action. We then made our fatal mistake, instead of playing the game immediately when we had nearly three to one odds we waited for the enemy to arrive, thereby committing us to an evenly matched slugging affair we were ill equipped to conduct. However, I must commend the fighting qualities of the men you know so well, having been handed a difficult situation they made the very best of it they could.

We decided to bat first in the blazing heat. Pvt. Yousaf scored an adventurous 51 not out, laying down good covering fire to enable our innings to get off to a quick start. Taking advantage of the enemy's heads being down everybody else managed to chip in with a few runs, with Pvt. Fisher and Pvt. Walker, who included a splendid six over long leg amongst his shots, standing out from the crowd with good twenties. Our innings total was 124, leaving the opposition to score 125 to win the match.

In order to have a chance of beating them we needed to bowl tightly from the beginning and stifle their chances of counter attack. This is exactly what PVTs Yousaf and Walker did, they bowled quickly and accurately and in a series of small hit and run attacks managed to take a few wickets to put the opposition on the back foot. This gave Bodley brief hopes of living to fight another day.

The opposition was, unfortunately, made of sterner stuff and proceeded to bat their way towards victory. Fate, however, was kind to Bodley. With only a handful of overs left and a few runs required a wicket and a retirement seemed to stop the opposition dead in their tracks. Capt. Ackland, feeling his small force so close to victory that they could reach out and touch it, brought the field in and tried to stifle the batsmen. Despite good bowling from Allmond and the Capt. Himself, and good fielding from Pvt. MacKinnon in particular - who received his long service award at the beginning of the operation - the opposition clubbed the winning runs off the penultimate over.

Our honourable enemy took no prisoners following the defeat and only forced a few of our number to accompany them to a local hostelry.


Yours respectfully,

Major Miles Monopoly
30 July 2000

Six O’Clock Club v Bodleian Library
At University College
Friendly: 35-over game

**Bodleian Library 210-5**
(Yousaf, D. 54*, Ilyas 50*, Milner 47)

**Six O’Clock Club 70 all out**
(Yousaf, D. 3-10, Allmond 2-5, Ilyas 2-6)

**Bodleian Library won by 140 runs**

*From the press box: Report by John Sharp*

**THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN’**

Before I start I am going to introduce you to a cricketer from the 1840s who will become relevant later on in the article. His name is Nicholas Felix and he is notable for keeping a record of his score on his starched shirt-front, he played for Kent. Now that I’ve got Felix out of the way I can start the article proper.

There used to be a number of things in life upon which one could depend, things that removed some of the uncertainty from this one-way trip. The Bodleian Library having a Librarian it could call its own. The West Indian cricket eleven always beating England’s. The adverts appearing on the front page of Old Thunderer and the Bodleian Staff Newsletter. The Bodleian cricket team not doing very well. The times, however, are changing: England beats the West Indies; the adverts disappear into the interior of one’s favourite read; the Bodleian Cricket team wins a game by one hundred runs. The world is in turmoil and we cannot help but wonder whether there is anything left which is constant. Well, we still have a Librarian.

The Bodleian’s matches against the Six O’Clock Club have been close over the years and the game on Sunday, 30th July was expected to be no different. Bodley, batting first on a hot day, fielded a side of stalwart regulars reinforced by a few mercenaries, the latter a product of the Captain’s strict party whip. The innings began with the first instance for Bodley of brothers, Ditta and Piram Yousaf, opening the batting. Piram succumbed first, with the score on 37, when he was caught by Napper who had already dropped Piram on two previous occasions.

The innings proceeded in the normal way with runs coming at a respectable rate and wickets falling a little too regularly for comfort. We needn’t have worried. When Ditta, after a fine knock, retired on 54, the score was 97 for 3. The next wicket fell with the score on 202 for 4. Humza Ilyas (50 not out exactly) and Andrew Milner (47) scored 115 runs off fifteen overs to allow Bodley to set the challenging total of 210 for 5.

We can now return to Felix. During the Bodleian innings your correspondent noticed that the scoreboard wasn’t being updated as frequently as the teams would have liked. Indeed, Humza did not know he had scored a fifty until he was told. It was obvious to me that assisted scoring was not working. After conducting a survey of the players during the tea break I ascertained that one hundred percent of those asked thought the scoring had either been ‘appallingly slow’ or ‘so slow as to not be worth the effort’. This was obviously a mandate for self-service scoring. In future all Bodleian players will be provided with a starched shirt-front and a pencil to allow them to keep track of their own scores. Extras may cause some trouble, but we can retain an element of assisted scoring for those ‘runs’ with which the batsmen cannot be expected to cope. At the end of the innings the shirt-fronts will be added up and the innings total will be arrived at. There may be some teething trouble when the side batting second wants to know how many more runs they need to win but we can cross that bridge when we come to it. A proactive response to customer demands, I’m sure you’ll agree. Back to the cricket.....

The Six O’Clock Club’s innings was the antithesis of the Bodleian innings. Against excellent bowling from the Yousafs, Stephen Arnold, Pete Allmond and Humza the opposition were completely at sea. Only one batsman managed to get into double figures and extras, which mustered 16, was the top scorer. Piram Yousaf, bowling leg-spin at medium pace only conceded two runs in his five over stint, was the pick of the bowlers even though he only took one wicket. Ditta took three wickets and Humza and Pete two apiece. Mike Webb delivered the coup de gras, with a ball that bounced only once; to seal a Bodleian victory by 140 runs. To deliver, instead of receive, a defeat of this magnitude was pleasing although it has to be said that closer games make better sport.

BODLEY LOSE UNIMPORTANT FRIENDLY

Bodley lost this game to University Offices by 30 runs in Cutteslowe Park on Monday 7 August. It hardly seems worth recording a game that the Bodleian Library made no real attempt to compete in, so unimportant was it, but your correspondent has been repeatedly pestered with requests for a report from the avid cricket report readership among the staff of the University libraries. So to keep our fans happy and avoid another tedious mailbag about the shortness and lack of detail in our cricket reports, I will supply as full a report as befits the occasion.

Firstly, in perfect batting conditions, the Offices raced to 55-2. Then there was drizzle. After that, a combination of superb bowling, particularly from Sadiq Abbasi (four wickets for three runs) and Alan Fisher (3-11), some brilliant catching all round the field, a stumping by stand-in wicketkeeper Andy MacKinnon, and some erratic scoring by Bodley’s former accountant (now in rebel colours with the Offices), the Offices were bowled out for (approximately) 89.

Unfortunately, the collapse continued when Bodley came out to bat on a now lethal wicket and increasing gloom. Only Stuart Ackland with a pugnacious 12 reached double figures, the rest of the team allowing the unimportance of the occasion to affect their batting technique. The Offices took immense pleasure in their victory, indulging in ever louder appeals for lbw and increasingly tribal war dances at the fall of each wicket. For the Offices, this was sweet revenge for their huge defeat in the very important Jack Cox Trophy match earlier in the season.

20 August 2000

Yarnton v Bodleian Library
At Yarnton
Friendly: 40-over game

**Bodleian Library** 81 all out
(Yousaf, D. 15, Yousaf, P. 13)
**Yarnton** 85-8
(Yousaf, P. 3-19, Yousaf, D. 2-17)
Yarnton won by 2 wickets

*From the press box*: Report by Murray Priest

**GRAPES OF WRATH**

Writing about a Bodley cricket match one has just played in is a bit like shooting oneself in the foot and then asking what happened. However in the interests of truth and sports journalism I shall persevere.

Bodley, in a variety of transport, travelled to a sun-kissed Yarnton, and that, I’m afraid, was our only success in an incident-packed afternoon in which cricket featured intermittently.

Batting first, Bodley managed to stagger through 20 overs out of an allotted 40, thus continuing a fine tradition of collapses parallel to the national side. The Yousaf brothers managed some powerful blows with Andy MacKinnon contributing third highest score whilst pirouetting majestically around his popping crease. A powerful square drive by Andrew Milner gave hope to those prematurely back in the pavilion but, alas, batting for the Bodley is a painful experience; so much hope, so little chance. However, Stephen Arnold continues his sequence of 'not outs', so a glimmer of hope is there. In addition, Ditta’s relaxed posture at square-leg umpire, reminiscent of the French Riviera minus sunbed and Campari shade, lent an air of calm in a welter of blind panic.

Yarnton went in, and as we walked out to field one jaundiced player noted the number of discarded bird feathers in the outfield and compared it to the number of Bodley ducks. An original selection, Pete Allmond, declared himself unfit to play due to ill-health, another casualty of the grape I fear; not an uncommon occurrence amongst Bodley cricketers. Play commenced with the Yousafs and Andrew Milner all bowling well and slowly getting Bodley back into the game, with able support from Sadiq Abbasi’s nephew, Humza Ilyas. Acrobatic keeping by skipper Nick Millea lent moral support to an increasingly optimistic field.

With yours truly fielding like a punctured balloon it was left to others to entertain the crowd (?!). Having caught a difficult catch over his head Andy Mac decided to prove the supposed similarities between cricket and football by stopping a ball, travelling with all the speed of a Bodley batting collapse, with his ankle. Limping from the field, he presumably had time to reflect on the wisdom of his mid-air decision and we wish him and his osteopath a successful course of treatment. Stephen Arnold, with a marvellous throw, rattled both stumps and players alike with an accuracy not usually associated with people wearing glasses. Pete Allmond came into field for the injured Andy and immediately glided over the turf like a landing swan to prevent a certain four, after which he patrolled the boundary, we assume to contemplate an alcohol-free future. His fielding was matched by Richard Webber’s backhanded effort and slowly our hopes began to rise – but it was not to be.

Once the inevitable defeat was rubber-stamped, tea was taken and futile optimism set in the shape of talks of a beer match. But the gods of sport had had enough and thunderclaps and rain intervened to prevent further catastrophic farce.

23 August 2000

Bodleian Library v Hubdean
At Cotteslowe Park
Friendly: 20-over game

Bodleian Library 97-7
(Millea 35*, Milner 25)
Hubdean 100-2
(Milner 1-26)
Hubdean won by 8 wickets

From the press box: Report by Martin Kauffmann

"GAME ON" AT CUTTESLOWE SHOCK!

The excitement of playing at Cotteslowe Park usually has more to do with the uncertainties of the ground than with the game itself. Should we be playing on the upper pitch or the lower? Will the changing rooms be unlocked, or shall we risk prosecution for indecent exposure in a public park by changing in full view of the crowd? Will the Council authorities have remembered our booking? At what stage in the proceedings will the official in the blue T-shirt appear, talking earnestly into his walkie-talkie? The usual answers are as follows: a) it doesn't matter, because even if we start playing on the upper pitch, the official will probably interrupt the game to move us down into the outer darkness of the lower; b) the changing rooms will be locked, but there is no crowd to be alarmed; c) of course not; d) this cannot be predicted - but come he will, to collect the fee, quite unabashed about having forgotten all about us in the first place.

But strange things were to happen on the afternoon of Wednesday 23 August. On arrival we stood around nervously, unwilling to commit ourselves to the humiliation of beginning on the wrong pitch. The upper pitch was roped off. No, the man in the straw hat ambling slowly to the middle was not the groundsman, he was merely walking the dog. But, lo! shortly before 5.30pm a blue-shirt arrived, removed the ropes, and opened the changing room, all as if this were the most normal thing in the world. Phasers were set on stun as we boldly entered this hitherto unexplored world. The natives, obviously dangerous, had fled; and it must have been the foresight of the Federation that had selected as our opponents on this occasion a company which specialises in the manufacture of chemicals for the removal of graffiti.

With hindsight it is clear that it was the very smoothness of this operation, the absence of interruption, uncertainty, recrimination, and crackling walkie-talkies, that unnerved the Bodleian team; whilst our opponents, unaware of the extraordinary circumstances, and taking things like a pitch booking and an open changing room for granted, quickly got into their stride. The Bodleian innings was notable for a magnificent partnership between Nick Millea and Andrew Milner, who not only played their strokes but also ran athletically between the wickets (where are the run outs of yesteryear?); for some hefty blows from Nigel Walker; and for the elegant debut innings of Malcolm Watson, the latest recruit to the team, plucked at short notice from the obscurity of an RSLP project to the limelight of Cutteslowe.

Light, however, there was little of, as the Hubdean batsmen made their way with relative ease to their target and the gathering gloom reminded us that the season is drawing to a close. Only Nigel Walker, refreshed no doubt by his recent visit to one of those sunny countries as yet untouched by cricket, could contain the removers of graffiti. A disappointing defeat as we approach the end of our most successful season to date; but there was the excitement of the Bodleian Veterans v. Whippersnappers match still to come.

A COUPLE who met and married in Oxford have won first-class degrees in politics and history at Oxford Brookes University.

Karen and Danny Ferrett, 28, married in 1997 after meeting at Ruskin College, Walton Street, where they studied for a Certificate in Higher Education in Labour Studies, before winning places at Brookes. Danny, 28, and Karen, 39, live in Barnet Street, east Oxford. Karen said: "We studied together and criticised each other's essays before handing them in."

Both plan to continue their studies at Brookes in the autumn. Danny hopes to start a PhD in Politics and Karen has a place on the MA course in the Politics of Democracy, but is also applying for jobs within the university's administration.
John hits the ball.

The tourists, Shipley Hall, 9th July.
MATCH OF THE SEASON

25 August 2000
Bodleian Veterans v Bodleian Whippersnappers
At Mansfield Road
20-over game

The teams:

Whippersnappers – Sadiq Abbasi, Stuart Ackland, Simon Haynes (Dave’s flatmate), Humza Ilyas (Sadiq’s nephew), Andrew Milner (over-age ‘guest’), Toby Reynolds, Dan Rogers (Helen and John’s son), Ian Rose (Tessa’s husband), John Sharp, Patrick Tompkin, Nick Watts and Ditta Yousaf.

Jack Flavell umpired the game and supplied the match ball, and the injured Andy MacKinnon (see Yarnton report) acted as scorer.

WHIPPERSNAPPERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
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<th>Wicket</th>
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<tr>
<td>D. Yousaf</td>
<td>b Arnold</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Abbasi</td>
<td>c Priest</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>D. Rogers</td>
<td>c Waterman</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>c Walker</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilyas</td>
<td>c Millea</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watts</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>c &amp; b Kauffmann</td>
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<td>Sharp</td>
<td>st Millea</td>
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<td>2</td>
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Fall of wickets:
1-5 2-9 3-9 4-21 5-27 6-38 7-38 8-38 9-48 10-68

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<td>J. Rogers</td>
<td>2-4-0-9-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Busby</td>
<td>1-0-11-0</td>
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</table>
**VETERANS**

| J. Rogers | c Yousaf | b Ackland | 3 |
| Arnold   | c Ilyas  | b Yousaf  | 16|
| Walker   | c Watts  | b Yousaf  | 10|
| Priest   | c Watts  | b Ackland | 10|
| Waterman | c Watts  | b Yousaf  | 17|
| Fisher   | run out |           | 1 |
| Duffy    | not out |           | 5 |
| Millea   | not out |           | 5 |
| Webb     |         |           |   |
| Extras   |         |           |   |
| TOTAL    | (for 7 wickets) | 72 |

Did not bat: Kauffmann, Busby

**Fall of wickets:**

1-9 2-26 3-31 4-50 5-54 6-64 7-66

- D. Rogers 3-0-10-0
- Ackland 4-0-17-3
- Yousaf 4-1-13-3
- Ilyas 3-3-1-11-0
- Abbasi 4-1-10-0
- Reynolds 1-0-9-0

**Bodleian Library Veterans won by 3 wickets**

*From the press box:* Report by Sheila Alcock

What a sense of sadness and gloom that phrase evokes! Bodley’s cricketers, however, decided to make it a celebration of the fact that they can raise enough people for two teams (with a little help from friends and relatives). The match was between the Veterans and the Whippersnappers, i.e. teams were based on age, though there was a fine line to be drawn between the young and inexperienced and the old and devious.

At 5pm the sun was shining brightly, there was a gentle breeze and the match began in high summer. The Whippersnappers batted first and made 68 for 11. (Cricket buffs should note that this unusual score was because there were twelve in the team.) The highest score, 18 not out, was made by Nick Watts, not a regular in the side, but a natural ball player whose abilities were the envy of some of his own team watching him. To my mind, as a fairly regular observer of the Bodley cricket scene, more catches than usual were held - the fine catch in deep held by Nigel Walker to dismiss Ian Rose being outstanding. In all, eight bowlers were used, with Stephen Arnold’s 4 for 12 being the best analysis.

The Veterans and the crowd expected the target of 69 runs to be reached easily. However, the finely honed Bodleian skills of seizing defeat from the jaws of victory applied equally to both sides and the result was a real nail-biter. Steve Waterman was the top scorer with 17, and Nick Watts had three catches behind the stumps. Only six bowlers were used, the best analysis going to Ditta Yousaf with 3 for 13, closely followed by Stuart Ackland with 3 for 17. The asking total was not reached until the final over, and was beautifully choreographed so that Nick Millea, the inspiration behind the resurgence of the Bodleian cricket team, hit the winning run.

By this time, the sun had disappeared and there was a real autumnal feel to the cold wind which had replaced the balmy summer breeze, and shortly after the match ended the rain started, not to stop until twenty-four hours later. It seemed like a symbol for the turning year, but players and spectators alike (and doubtless readers of this report) are already looking forward to the next season in hopes of masterly performances and distinguished writers to record their exploits for posterity (or at least the website!).
27 August 2000
Bodleian Library v Appleton
At Cutteslowe Park
Friendly: 35-over game

Appleton 150 all out
(Ackland 3-23, Milner 3-28)

Bodleian Library 151-7
(Yousaf, P. 77, Yousaf, D. 53)

Bodleian Library won by 3 wickets

From the press box: Report by Stuart Ackland

DEFEAT SNATCHED FROM THE JAWS OF VICTORY – WELL, ALMOST

We won... I think.

Bad omens preceded this match, maybe we should have taken more notice. A beautiful morning was fast turning into a cloudy afternoon, a 2pm start was made a mockery of by poor Bodley timekeeping plus the fact that we had been well beaten against this team earlier in the season, though the overpowering smell from the sewage farm next-door to the pitch might have affected our performance then.

Appleton batted first and, thanks to a marvellous bowling display which at different stages throughout their innings saw three Bodley bowlers all on hat-trick balls, managed to get 150 exactly before Andrew Milner knocked out the stumps of the last batsman. Special mention to Ditta Yousaf, who bowled and fielded superbly (with one catch in particular proving the game’s highlight), Andrew Milner and Alan Fisher, who both bowled well and who both deserved to get that elusive first Bodley hat-trick, and to Stephen Arnold who fielded with a bad back, often stooping like a man twice his age to pick the ball from the ground, and still managed to take a diving catch from a ball falling well in front of him... which was all very well, but his back was even worse after that.

After a good tea Ditta and his brother Piram open the Bodley response and soon we’re racing away. Both score freely with Piram hitting four sixes before being bowled out for 77. Ditta soon follows him but we have such a good start that things surely can’t go wrong.

Whoops, shouldn’t have said that! Bodley go from 134 for 0 to 148 for 7; as spectacular a collapse as you’ll get from the team, which manages to be both worrying and hilarious at the same time. Stephen saves the day with another delicate shot and then that’s it; slightly wet after the continual showers throughout the day and full of lovely cake we make our way home happy in the knowledge that we have won, relieved that we don’t feel as annoyed as the opposition.

Many thanks to Angela Arnold, Jacquie Dean, Jackie Raw (you can play again, Antony), Mrs Tesco’s, Sainsbury’s and M&S for providing a lovely tea.

### Individual runs total

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Nick Millea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Milner</td>
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Batting averages  
(Qualification: 3 innings)

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Also batted

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Sixes hit

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<tr>
<td>Mike Webb</td>
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Highest partnerships

134  Ditta Yousaf & Piram Yousaf (1st) v Appleton (H)
112  Ditta Yousaf / Humza Ilyas & Andrew Milner (4th) v 6 O’Clockers (A)
110* Nick Millea & John Tuck / Tom Connor (2nd) v Astrophysics
81   Ditta Yousaf / Nigel Walker & Alan Fisher (3rd) v MRLG
62   Ditta Yousaf & Danny Ferrett (2nd) v Offices (Mansfield Road)
53   John Tuck / Steve Waterman & Andrew Milner (3rd) v Zoology
50   Garry Cooper & Sadiq Abbasi (4th) v Ripon College
50   Nick Millea / Stephen Arnold & Andrew Milner (3rd) v Hubdean
46   Andrew Milner & Mike Webb (5th) v Offices (Mansfield Road)
39   Ditta Yousaf & Nick Millea (1st) v OUP

Highest partnership by wicket

1st  134  Ditta Yousaf & Piram Yousaf v Appleton (H)
2nd  110* Nick Millea & John Tuck / Tom Connor v Astrophysics
3rd  81   Ditta Yousaf / Nigel Walker & Alan Fisher v MRLG
4th  112  Ditta Yousaf / Humza Ilyas & Andrew Milner v 6 O’Clockers (A)
5th  46   Andrew Milner & Mike Webb v Offices (Mansfield Road)
6th  22   Piram Yousaf & Andy MacKinnon v Yarnton
7th  27   Mike Webb / Nick Millea & Dave Busby v Cornwall CCCCCC (Derby)
8th  12*  Nick Millea & John Sharp v Cornwall CCCCCC (Derby)
9th  7    Andy MacKinnon & Stuart Ackland v Ripon College
10th 7    Stephen Arnold & Richard Webber v Yarnton
Bowling

Best bowling

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Wickets total

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<td>Steve Waterman</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Webber</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Bowling averages
(Qualification: 10 overs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bowler</th>
<th>Overs</th>
<th>Mds</th>
<th>Runs</th>
<th>Wkts</th>
<th>Best</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humza Ilyas</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>8.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Milner</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4-0</td>
<td>9.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sadiq Abbasi</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4-3</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piram Yousaf</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3-19</td>
<td>11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Arnold</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>13.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Fisher</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3-12</td>
<td>13.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Tuck</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3-16</td>
<td>16.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nigel Walker</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2-7</td>
<td>16.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ditta Yousaf</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3-10</td>
<td>16.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pete Allmond</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>16.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart Ackland</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3-9</td>
<td>17.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garry Cooper</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1-11</td>
<td>21.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Webber</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-35</td>
<td>130.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Strike rates (balls bowled per wickets taken)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bowler</th>
<th>Strike rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sadiq Abbasi</td>
<td>17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart Ackland</td>
<td>28.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pete Allmond</td>
<td>20.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Arnold</td>
<td>22.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garry Cooper</td>
<td>42.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Fisher</td>
<td>18.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humza Ilyas</td>
<td>11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Milner</td>
<td>18.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Tuck</td>
<td>22.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigel Walker</td>
<td>29.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Webber</td>
<td>126.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditta Yousaf</td>
<td>32.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piram Yousaf</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Also bowled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bowler</th>
<th>Overs</th>
<th>Strike rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shahid Abbasi</td>
<td>3-0-17-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Busby</td>
<td>6-0-59-2</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colin Elliott</td>
<td>6-0-26-1</td>
<td>36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antony Howard</td>
<td>1-0-18-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Kauffmann</td>
<td>7.2-0-42-1</td>
<td>44.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy MacKinnnon</td>
<td>5-0-49-1</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Millea</td>
<td>1-0-6-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray Priest</td>
<td>1.2-0-2-2</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Tompkin</td>
<td>1-0-11-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Waterman</td>
<td>6-0-53-1</td>
<td>36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Watts</td>
<td>1-0-7-0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Webb</td>
<td>3-0-26-2</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fielding

Catches

Ditta Yousaf 6
Danny Ferrett 5
Mike Webb 4
Stuart Ackland 3
Dave Busby 3
Alan Fisher 3
Martin Kauffmann 3
Andy MacKinnon 3
Nick Millea 2
Andrew Milner 2
Sadiq Abbasi 1
Stephen Arnold 1
John Tuck 1
Steve Waterman 1
Nick Watts 1

Stumpings

Dave Gardner 2
Andy MacKinnon 1
BODLEY BANTER

Just to show what a fun-loving bunch of chaps we all are, *The Finger* would like to share this topical electronic exchange with its readers.

It is 20 October 2000. A group of squad members are trying to identify a suitable venue for an after work gathering to discuss the 2001 season. A decision has been reached, with the Lamb and Flag proving victorious. What follows is the aftermath. Can you identify the players in question?

11.43
*Player 1*

bit of a walk though, isn’t it? signed the lazy bastard

12.10
*Player 2*

you could always wear a gaily-coloured shirt to make the time pass more swiftly :)

12.11
*Player 1*

red is not “gaily-coloured”

12.14
*Player 2*

speaking of things which red isn’t, your shirt on tour springs to mind

12.17
*Player 3*

more of a sort of combination of carmine and puce, really

12.19
*Player 1*

don’t you start, you’re the colour-blind tosser that started all this

12.41
*Player 2*

this whole team spirit co-operative organisation thing is shaping up really well innit? :)

Any ideas?

*Player 1*?

*Player 2*?

*Player 3*?
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*The Finger* wishes to place on record its thanks to the following:

- To the Cornwall County Council Chief Clerk’s Cricket Club and the Hall Stars from Northumberland County Council for joining us on such a convivial Tour;

- To our opponents for daring to take us on (in many cases for the umpteenth time), and proving to be such accommodating hosts;

- To Bill Baker, the Mansfield Road groundsman, for the preparation of the pitch, and use of the club’s cricket kit bag;

- To Stuart for providing the photographs;

- To Jack Flavell for his supply of cricket balls;

- To our season’s scorers for being so delightfully approximate in their endeavours;

- To Jacquie Dean and Angie Arnold for dishing up some fine teas;

- To our long-suffering supporters, hugely welcome at every game;

- And finally to Stuart Ackland, Stephen “I’d do anything for cricket” Arnold, Andrew Colquhoun, Rosemary McCarthy, Andy MacKinnon, Nick Millea and Robert Thomson, without whom *The Finger* would not have been possible.