

County Cricket
at
Glastonbury
and Street

by
Colin Crees



**COUNTY CRICKET
AT
GLASTONBURY**

SOMERSET v KENT

**Morlands Athletic Field,
GLASTONBURY**

AUGUST 26, 28 and 29

HOURS OF PLAY :

Saturday 11.30 a.m.–6.30 p.m.
Monday (Bank Holiday) 11.30 a.m.–6.30 p.m.
Tuesday 11.00 a.m.–5.30 p.m. or 6.0 p.m.

1972 Match advert from Mid Somerset Newspapers



Current view of Tor Leisure Centre Glastonbury

Foreword

County cricket ceased at Glastonbury 46 years ago, when Somerset's Phil Slocombe scrambled a single off the last ball of the Sunday League game against Leicestershire. The preceding 26 years (1952 to 1978) saw the County side play eighteen County Championship matches and six Sunday league games on the Morlands Athletic field.

During that time many famous test and overseas cricketers played at the ground:

Dennis Compton, Frank Tyson, Ted Dexter, Basil D'Oliveira, Colin Milburn, Gary Sobers, Colin Cowdrey and Geoff Boycott to name but a few.

Somerset had a good record at Morlands, losing only two of the County Championship matches and one Sunday league match. The games were well supported, the players appreciated the good facilities and Somerset benefited from the financial support of the Morlands Company. On a number of occasions, the ground broke either the County's attendance or gate receipt record, which was particularly helpful to the County who were experiencing financial difficulties at the time.

This book takes a look at the build up to the first County game against Northants and records each match in detail. There is also a section dedicated to the three games the County played at Street, two of which were switched from Glastonbury due to concerns over the pitch at the Athletic field.

Colin Crees

April 2024

Front cover: The first match 1952 Somerset v Northants. Note the old pavilion and the canvas sightscreen occupying the spot where the new pavilion would be built.

Pre 1952

Morlands Cricket Club was formed in 1920 and for their first three years they led a nomadic existence playing on a different ground each year. This all changed in early 1924, when the Company Clark Son and Morland purchased the Athletic field on Street Road. This was once a sports field but was sold for use as farm land during the First World War. All sport had ceased during the war and the costs of maintaining the ground couldn't be met, so it was sold to a farmer. This ground has been the home of the Cricket Club ever since and they have just celebrated their 100th year there (The Club was renamed Glastonbury in 1986 after the Company fell into liquidation).

The name of 'Somerset' appeared on Morlands fixture list in its first year at the ground with a 'Club and Ground' team. This was to become an annual fixture, often one of the first games of a new season and one where the professional players could gain valuable outdoor practice. These were often benefit games which not only reaped good financial rewards for the County players but also enabled Somerset to experience the facilities available and to build a close rapport with the Morlands Club. Some of the fixtures and comments were as follows:

1924 Somerset C & G: 'Charming ground with great possibilities'

1925 Somerset C & G: 'Excellent gate receipts'

1928 Somerset C & G: 1000+ crowd

1937 Wally Luckes benefit: 'Excellent ground and facilities'

1945 Somerset v West of England: Two-day match 1000+ crowds daily

1945 West of Eng. v New Zealand services: 'best wicket of season'

1946 Somerset C & G: 'Firm has been most helpful to County'

1947 Frank Lee benefit: 'raised over £100 (£3220 today) in gate receipts'

1948 Bill Andrews benefit: 'excellent ground should be considered for County game' and 'Company very generous'

1950 Wally Luckes benefit: Company donated 125 guineas (over £3600 today) in lieu of lost gate receipts when rain prevented any play.

1951 Arthur Wellard benefit: 'its success prompted County match'

CRICKET.

SOMERSET XI. AT GLASTONBURY.

GLORIOUS WEATHER FOR LUCKES' BENEFIT GAME.

WHY NOT A REGULAR COUNTY FIXTURE?

Ideal conditions prevailed on Saturday for the visit to the Athletic Ground, Glastonbury, of the Somerset County XI. Much hard work had been put into the local arrangements by members of Clark, Son & Morland's C.C., who had co-operated with Mr. W. G. Penny, of Watchet, in making this effort on behalf of the benefit which Wally Luckes, the County wicket-keeper, is taking this year. The result was a magnificent wicket, the high qualities of which were much admired by the County players, who congratulated Mr. R. Toogood on the way it played and lasted. Another result was a large and, as the collection proved, generous crowd, for whom ample seating arrangements were available. Mr. C. K. Linney, as the Club Secretary, bore the burden of the general arrangements, which left nothing to be desired, and impressed the visitors to such a degree as to bring appreciably nearer the time when a regular County fixture will be allotted to Glastonbury.

COUNTY VISITORS WELCOMED AT LUNCH.

Mr. J. Coleby Morland, President of the Club, was in the chair at the George Hotel at a lunch which included the players and officials of both sides. He was supported by the Mayor (Coun. J. Alexander), and Messrs. E. F. Longrigg and S. C. Morland, the respective Captains.

The Chairman offered a hearty welcome to the County side, and said that the Club and the town appreciated very highly the compliment that the County had paid them by sending a full side rather than a "Club and Ground" XI. They were all only too glad to assist in making a worthy benefit for Mr. Luckes and to wish him good luck with it, and they did not forget the generous publicity that had been given to the event by the county Press, and particularly the "Central Somerset Gazette." He (the Chairman) looked forward to the time when one of the regular fixtures would be staged in Glastonbury.

A telegram was read from Mr. R. A. Ingle wishing all good luck to Wally Luckes and the gate, and expressing his deep regret that he was unavoidably prevented from attending.

Mr. E. F. Longrigg, speaking as one wearing the mantle of the skipper for the time being, thanked Clark, Son & Morland's Club for the reception they had prepared for the County side and for the Chairman's welcome. They wished Wally Luckes all success.

MAYOR'S HOPES FOR COUNTY FIXTURE.

His Worship the Mayor (Coun. J. Alexander), too, added a word of welcome, and recalled a visit of a Club and Ground XI. some years ago, and the hopes then voiced that Glastonbury would some day be selected as the scene of a regular County match. He believed that that day's cricket would bring the time appreciably nearer when Glastonbury would entertain Somerset and another first-class county in the championship, and he could assure those members of the County side, whom they had the honour to entertain that day, that the town and district would give every support to such a fixture. Clark, Son & Morland's Club had done much for cricket, both in the immediate district and in support of the County Club, and he confidently hoped that their efforts would be rewarded in the way he had indicated, and that Glastonbury would be put definitely on the County cricket map.

THE PLAY.

There was a very satisfactory attendance when play commenced at 11.45. One change was made in each side from that announced. Alan Pearce failed to appear, and C. J. P. Barnwell took his place; while R. J. O. Meyer was unable to turn out for the home side, and R. W. Holmes filled the vacancy. It was interesting to see an old test match umpire in the person of W. R. Perry, formerly of Wells, and now living at Minehead. Mr. R. Toogood was the other umpire.

The home captain (S. Morland) won the toss, and Roy Wilmott and E. D. Falck opened to Wellard and Andrews. The former started at the station end, and play was, naturally, quiet, both batsmen being on the defensive. Falck did not appear too happy, and with the score at 12 he was caught by Gimblett in the slips. C. K. Linney, who has appeared for Somerset, joined Wilmott, but did not stay long, Wellard sending him back clean bowled. R. Tazewell, a new-comer to Morland's team, who is expected to play regularly this season, joined Wilmott. These two doubled the score—16 to 32—when Wilmott was caught by Wellard off Gimblett, who had relieved Andrews. Wilmott had played well for an hour, and showed excellent defence against the good length bowling. His score was 20, which proved to be the highest for his side. Hazell now took the ball and

slips. After he was run out Andrews carried on with Luckes, and an innings that showed at one point 167 for 7, realised in the end 253 runs. C. K. Linney was conspicuous for good work in the field, while his brother kept wicket well and conceded few extras. Scores:

CLARK, SON AND MORLAND, LTD.	
R. Wilmott, c Wellard, b Gimblett.....	20
E. D. Falck, c Gimblett, b Wellard	4
C. K. Linney, b Wellard	2
R. Tazewell, b Gimblett	8
R. Lukins, run out	10
R. W. Holmes, b Andrews	8
R. K. Linney, b Wellard	18
A. Dunthorn, b Hazell	5
R. A. Hird, c Luckes, b Andrews.....	6
J. Burr, b Andrews.....	0
S. C. Morland, not out	2
Extras	7
Total	90

BOWLING.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Wellard	17	7	25	3
Andrews	15	1	35	3
Gimblett.....	7	1	14	2
Hazell	6	2	9	1

SOMERSET XI.

F. Lee, c Hird, b C. K. Linney	39
H. Gimblett, lbw, b C. K. Linney	64
H. D. Burrough, st. R. Linney, b Falck ..	28
— Molyneux, b C. K. Linney.....	8
G. M. Bennett, st. R. Linney, b C. K. Linney	5
C. J. P. Barnwell, c R. Linney, b Falck ..	8
A. Wellard, c Lukins, b C. K. Linney ..	6
E. F. Longrigg, run out	24
W. Andrews, not out	38
W. Luckes, c and b Linney	20
H. Hazell, c Morland, b Burr	8
Extras	5
Total	253

BOWLING.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Holmes	9	1	46	0
Tazewell	10.1	1	41	0
Hird.....	3	0	21	0
C. K. Linney ...	14	0	71	6
Falck	9	1	38	2
Lukins	3	0	13	0
Burr.....	2.1	0	8	1
Wilmott	2	0	6	0

STREET SECOND XI. v. MARTOCK.

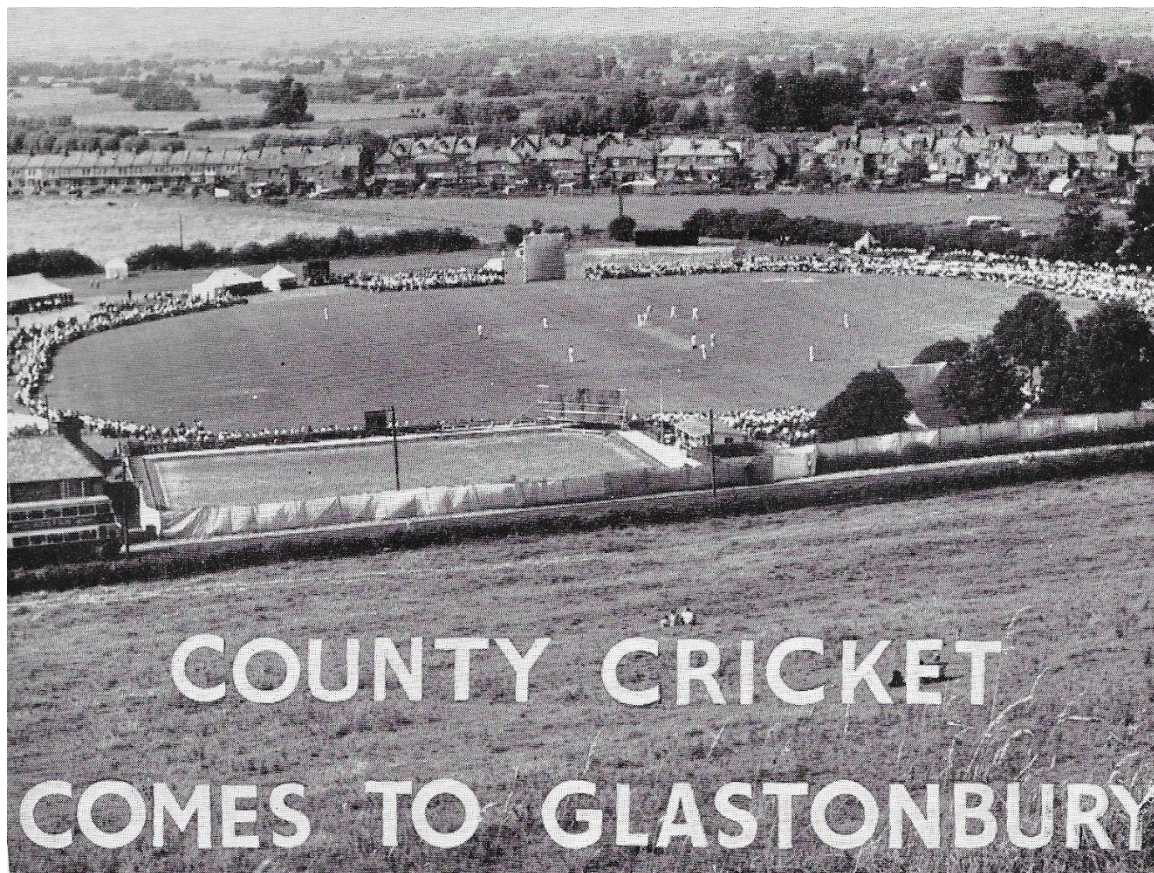
The Street Cricket Club played their opening home match of the season on Saturday last at the Victoria Field, when the Second XI. ente

1937 Central Somerset Gazette – why not a regular County fixture?

The above newspaper article in 1937 staked Morlands claims for a first-class Somerset fixture. The Club and ground received rave reviews after the benefit game and even the Town's Mayor gave the campaign his support.

Momentum was unsurprisingly lost during the second world war but once the war was over there were successful benefits for Frank Lee, Bill Andrews, Horace Hazell and Arthur Wellard. The latter in 1951 was so successful it prompted the County to allocate Morlands its first 'first class fixture' – a three-day County Championship match against Northants in July 1952. Along with Wells a Mid Somerset fixture was planned on the two grounds in alternate years. A committee was formed by the Mayor of Glastonbury (Councillor MF Scott-Stokes) which was made up of 22 personnel who would organise the arrangements for the game.

Included on the Committee was Reg Toogood. He was a founder member of Morlands Cricket Club and their first captain back in 1920. He was also a very staunch supporter of Somerset and was a member of the County Committee. It was always his ambition to see a first-class Somerset come at Glastonbury and he left no stone unturned in getting his wish. His efforts cannot be underestimated and he was a very proud man when the first ball was bowled.



1952 Somerset v Northants – view from Wearyall Hill

Why play at Glastonbury?

Without doubt the biggest advantage over other grounds was Glastonbury's central location in Somerset. Apart from those living in West Somerset the ground was an easy destination for supporters and there were there were good bus and rail links. Also, the natural surroundings had great views of both Wearyall Hill and the Tor. The large ground and open spaces had enough room not only for a number of marquees around the boundary for refreshments, but also temporary seating for 6,000 spectators and a ground capacity exceeding 7,000. The adjacent Fairfield (now Morrisons) was used as a temporary car park for 1,000 vehicles. In the later years of Sunday League cricket, the Benedict Street playing field was used as an overflow car park. Finally, there was a large number of volunteers who supported the matches by acting as gate or car park stewards and the ladies who looked after the catering.

The real turning point was the construction of the new pavilion in 1956. There were great views from the balcony, the changing rooms had



1956 Official opening new pavilion. Front row: Maurice Bush (Building Foreman), Reg Toogood, Bill Edrich, Maurice Tremlett, Dennis Compton (partly hidden) Humphrey Morland and HF Scott Stokes (Mayor).

showers and toilets and the large canteen could seat 110 people which was ideal for the catering requirements of County cricket. The pavilion was further enhanced in 1965 when a new extension was opened and included the Social Club and extra sporting facilities.

In the winter after the opening, former Somerset captain and Committee Member Edmund Longrigg was guest speaker at the Club's Annual Dinner and in his speech said:

'As a result of the successful fixtures which we have been able to stage here in recent years, I think you can rest assured that County Cricket has come to stay in Glastonbury. The County Club owes to your Club a deep debt of gratitude for allowing us to use your lovely ground. You have an excellent ground, admirable wicket and a splendid pavilion. You also have a willing band of helpers who make such a difference to the smooth running of a county match played away from headquarters. Your directors go even further, allowing us to use your ground free of charge and to use the boardroom for some Committee meetings'.

As can be seen from the words above Somerset were always very appreciative of the support received from the Morlands Company. They never charged a fee or ground rental, often covering the cost of match day expenses and provided financial support. Hospitality was also key. On the Monday evening of a championship game the Company hosted an evening dinner for both teams, wives and officials at the George and Pilgrims Hotel, followed by a dance in the Town Hall. Visiting captains were always appreciative and often commented in their after-dinner speech 'we have enjoyed it so much and would be more than happy to return next year!' When the new extension was opened the dinner function was transferred to the ground's Social Club and became a 'sherry party'.

By 1969 Somerset's finances had hit rock bottom and two years later considered selling the County ground for redevelopment. Glastonbury were one of the three options considered for relocation (the others being another site in Taunton and the Bath & West Showground). In the end this came to nothing and the County decided to stay put and save costs by concentrating all their cricket at Taunton. Following this decision cricket at the out grounds gradually disappeared from the fixture list and sadly came to an end. Morlands last game was in 1978, They were allocated a game to be held at the end of May the following year, but three weeks of rain prior to the match turned the outfield into a lake and resulted in the game

being transferred to Taunton. This was the final nail in the coffin and brought a sad end to County Cricket at Glastonbury.

After this the ground continued to host a number of games for the County 2nd eleven, the last of which was held in 1994 when Nottinghamshire 2nd were the visitors. The Athletic field also had the distinction of holding the very first match for the Somerset women's team. Playing a Surrey women's second team in 1956, Somerset were dismissed for only 30 and lost by 116 runs in a 40 over match.



The Athletic field in 2022 (now named the 'Tor Leisure Centre')

Match details

July 1952 County Championship

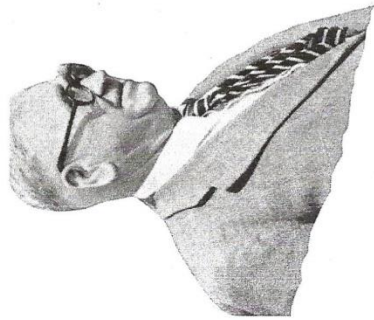
Somerset v Northamptonshire – match drawn

The first county game at Morlands was an outstanding success. Harold Gimblett chose this game as his benefit match (after 17 years of playing for the County side) and was rewarded with a three-day attendance of over 10,000 people, which produced gate receipts of £928 (£22128 today) and gross receipts of over £1600. He gained more from this game than his summer contract and was extremely appreciative of all efforts on his behalf. After the game he commented 'everything has fallen into my lap'.

The ground lived up to all expectations and the wicket was considered to be as good as any in the County. Although Northants had a first innings lead of 164, they struggled to avoid defeat on day three. Gimblett hit the 46th century of his career in the second innings and with another centurion in skipper Stuart Rogers, Northants were set 250 to win in 170 minutes. The visitors slumped to 79 for five but Somerset's quest for victory was thwarted by Frederick Brown, who followed up his bowling figures of seven for 33 in the first innings with a match saving 77. The game was drawn.



1952 Somerset openers Harold Gimblett and George Tordoff open the batting on day one.

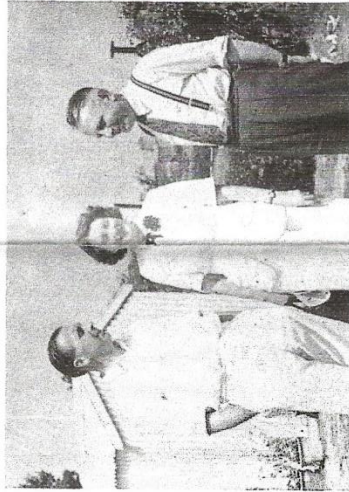


↑ Reg. Toogood, who was largely responsible for the match arrangements. He is a member of the Somerset County Cricket Club Executive Committee.

SOMERSET V NORTHANTS

"This is the best wicket in the County. It is a natural wicket with no mull, etc., and it just shows what rolling can do. Well done, Morlands, in every way."

Bristol Evening World.



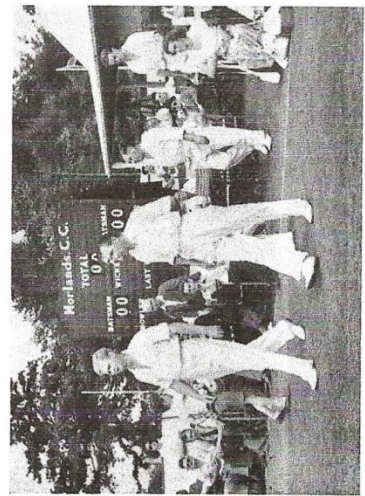
"The pleasant ground (Morlands) lies close under the Tor, where, over 400 years ago, Abbot Whiting finally paid for his resistance to Henry VIII."

The Observer.

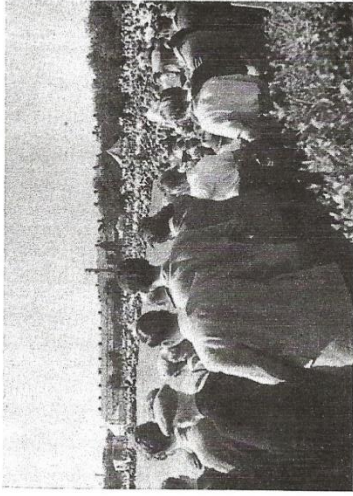
Stuart Rogers (Somerset Captain) and Harold Gimblett leading Somerset on to the field at the start of the first innings of Northants. Morlands new scoreboard is in the background.

"Harold Gimblett has had a long time to wait for his benefit—over 17 years, including the war—but it has been worth it. The good folk at Glastonbury, and of Morlands in particular, have rallied round splendidly."

Bristol Evening World.



A view of the game, taken from the bowling green.



"Glastonbury, staging County cricket for the first time on Saturday, was granted a flawless day to match its green and perfect setting on the occasion of Gimblett's benefit."

The Times.

Tom Clark, who did so much to organise the successful raffle and dance which raised over £300, chatting to Mr. and Mrs. Gimblett.

←

"Glastonbury's full store of history and legend received its contribution from cricket to-day. The first first-class match ever played here is for the benefit of Harold Gimblett, and this afternoon he joined the select list of those who have marked the occasion with a century."

The Daily Telegraph.

"His innings (Gimblett's) yesterday . . . was immensely popular with the crowd watching its first County match, on the picturesque Morlands ground."

Daily Mail.

July 1954 County Championship

Somerset v Hampshire – Match drawn



We are expecting you

The County Cricket match between Somerset and Hampshire starts on Saturday, July 24th, on the Morlands sports ground at Glastonbury. The ground is very easy to reach by car, bus or rail. So give yourself (and the family) a treat—come and see some good, sporting cricket in delightful surroundings. We are expecting you!

HOURS OF PLAY
Saturday July 24 . . . 11.30—6.30
Monday July 26 . . . 11.30—6.30
Tuesday July 27 . . . 11.30—6.0

FULL FACILITIES FOR PARKING CARS
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE GROUND

Morlands
OF GLASTONBURY

1954 Match advert from Somerset Central Gazette

Morlands' second County match was marred by poor weather. Rain interrupted play on the first day and more heavy rain during Sunday's rest day, delayed the start on day two. This severely affected the attendance figures. Somerset, batting first, were dismissed for 185, but Hampshire took a 36 run first innings lead thanks to their opener Neville Rogers who carried his bat and scored an undefeated 125. Day three provided some entertaining cricket as the visitors chased a victory target of 170 in two hours. They lost their first four wickets for only six runs and struggled to avoid defeat. At 44 for 8 with 35 minutes remaining, Somerset were eyeing up a deserved victory but the ninth wicket pair of Dare and Cannings managed to hold out and earn Hampshire a draw.

July 1956 County Championship Somerset v Middlesex – Match drawn



1956 Captain Maurice Tremlett leads Somerset onto the field in front of the new pavilion.

Beneficiary and Somerset captain Maurice Tremlett officially opened the new pavilion before the start of play. Good weather and attractive opposition produced good crowds and match gate receipts of £1162 (£23960 today). England players Denis Compton (just returning from a knee operation) and Bill Edrich scored 110 and 89 respectively, but it wasn't enough to gain a first innings lead as Morlands' own Bryan Lobb batting at number 11 scrambled a leg bye to gain Somerset the four bonus points. Lobb had a great game on his home ground taking four wickets in both innings.

Somerset were set 208 to win in 155 minutes and made a valiant attempt to win the game. Requiring nine runs from the last over they fell five runs short and the third successive game at Glastonbury ended in a draw. The wicket played well and the fact that over 400 runs were scored on the last day speaks for itself.

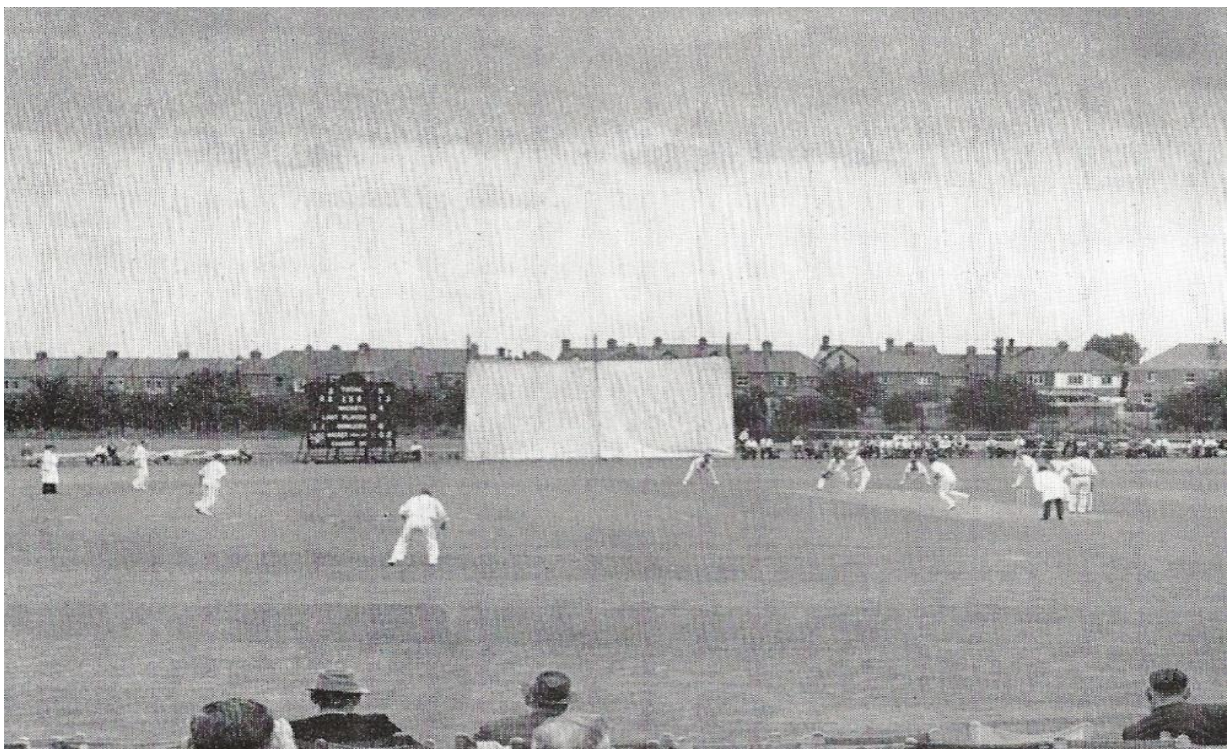
July 1958 County Championship

Somerset v Northamptonshire – Somerset lost by 4 wickets

Torrential rain before the start of play prevented any play until after lunch on the first day and unsettled weather on the other days had a significant effect on gate receipts. Takings were only a third of the previous game verses Middlesex. However, it was a great game for Morlands Bryan Lobb who took six first innings wickets and three in the second to record match figures of nine for 76.

Northants had a first innings lead of 101, after veteran England pace bowler Frank Tyson recorded his best bowling figures of the summer with five wickets to help dismiss Somerset for only 116. Despite Bill Alley's fighting 89 in the home side second innings the visitors' target to win was only 122. Rain and bad light threatened an early end to the game, but play continued and a great finish resulted. Captain Ramon Subba Row led by example and scored 68 to take his team to a four wicket win with only ten minutes of extra time remaining.

Despite the poor weather the County announced after the game 'that an annual county game at Glastonbury has now been assured' – a fine testament to the facilities and organisation skills of all those involved.



1958 Unsettled weather reduced the attendance v Northants

July 1959 County Championship

Somerset v Sussex – Somerset won by 6 wickets

Although England star Ted Dexter scored 54 and 117 in this match (his fifth century of the summer which included 13 fours and two sixes) he was unable to prevent Somerset from gaining their first victory at Glastonbury. Somerset first innings gave them a lead of 111, which was also the number of runs scored by Colin McCool. He scored the bulk of the early runs being dismissed with the score at 144. Brian Langford took nine wickets in the match as Somerset were set a target of 145 to win, in three hours 40 minutes. Graham Atkinson (56no) and Bill Alley (45no) put on 68 runs to complete a six-wicket win.

Morlands' Alan Whitehead played in this game but only took one wicket, while Langford completed a fine all round performance by hitting 48 – a personal best Championship score in the first innings.



1959 View towards Benedict Street

July 1960 County Championship

Somerset v Middlesex – Match drawn

This was another game that was affected by the weather but the rain probably saved Somerset from defeat on the last day. It was dry on Saturday and a crowd of nearly 3800 (2200 paying admissions and an estimated 1600 members) witnessed what was described in the press as 'a brilliant century from Fred Titmus'. His 105 surpassed his previous highest score by one run. Declaring at 375, Somerset struggled to avoid the follow on but thanks to 65 from captain Harold Stephenson they managed to do so. A second Middlesex declaration set Somerset a target of 297 to win. Two stoppages for rain, the second of which took 65 minutes out of the game made the pitch lifeless and the game petered out in a draw.

Morlands' Alan Whitehead once again played on his home ground bowling 32 overs in the first innings for 2 wickets.

Morlands Ground, Glastonbury		Price Fourpence	
SOMERSET		MIDDLESEX	
SATURDAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY, JULY 2nd, 4th and 5th, 1960			
Middlesex won the toss * Result : <i>DRAW</i>			
SOMERSET		MIDDLESEX	
1 G. Atkinson	c Titmus b Moss 5	1 W. E. Russell	c Stephenson b McCool 73
2 R. Virgin	c & b Hooker 47	2 S. E. Russell	lbw b Biddulph 67
3 P. B. Wight	b Bennett 53	3 R. A. White	lbw b Biddulph 0
4 C. L. McCool	c Murray b Titmus 1	4 R. W. Hooker	not out 0
5 C. Greenham	c Murray b Titmus 0	5 P. H. Parfitt	st Stephenson b Whitehead 84
6 M. Kitchen	run out 2	6 F. J. Titmus	b Langford 105
7 B. A. Langford	c Murray b Bennett 33	7 D. Bennett	b Langford b Whitehead 8
8 H. W. Stephenson	c Hooker b Warr 65	8 J. T. Murray	c Virgin b Langford 3
9 F. Herting	run out 9	9 E. A. Clark	lbw b McCool 24
10 A. Whitehead	c Hooker b Bennett 6	10 J. J. Warr	not out 22
11 K. Biddulph	not out 0	11 A. E. Moss	not out 0
Average runs per over 2.64		Average runs per over 3.21	
Total 226		Total 375	
Fall of the wickets:		Fall of the wickets:	
1-8 2-24 3-94 4-95 5-95 6-114 7-115 8-190 9-226 10-226		1-117 2-117 3-167 4-170 5-341 6-366 7-375 8-375 9- 10-	
1-31 2-45 3-76 4-82 5- 6- 7- 8- 9- 10-		1-13 2-93 3-145 4- 5- 6- 7- 8- 9- 10-	
Bowling analysis		Bowling analysis	
Moss	24.2 9 39 1	Biddulph	23 6 64 2
Warr	19 7 40 1	Herting	14 4 48 1
Bennett	19 4 81 3	Whitehead	32 6 93 2
Titmus	14 5 38 2	Langford	17.3 1 73 2
Hooker	9 2 23 1	McCool	17 4 39 2
		Greenham	13 3 47 1
Scores— T. Tout & A. Aildis		Umpires— A. E. Rhodes & A. Jepson	
Hours of play—1st day—11.30-6.30 2nd day—11.30-6.30 3rd day—11.00-5. or 5.30		Lunch Interval—1st day—1.30-2.10 2nd day—1.30-2.10 3rd day—1.30-2.10	
Tea Interval—Subject to state of the game		* Captain † Wicket Keeper P.T.O.	
x Innings declared closed			

July 1962 County Championship

Somerset v Lancashire – Somerset won by nine wickets

Somerset moved up to fifth place in the Championship table with a convincing nine wicket victory over Lancashire – their ninth win of the summer. The attendance was one of the best of the season with paying admissions of £712 (£12,700 today). Rain again affected the game with an hour lost on Saturday and just under two hours on Monday. Brian Langford again bowled well on the ground taking five for 45 in Lancashire first innings of 211. In reply Somerset declared at tea on day two at 325 for six. Chris Greetham hit a rapid 54 to take him to 1000 runs for the season while Bill Alley hit his third 100 of the summer scoring 131no. The press described it as a 'masterly and flawless century'. By dismissing Lancs second time around for 209 (with the wickets being equally shared) Somerset only needed 96 to win. West Indian Peter Wight hit ten boundaries in an aggressive innings as Somerset romped home in under an hour.



1962 Peter Wight (59no) and Graham Atkinson (40no) win the game

July 1963 County Championship

Somerset v Glamorgan – match drawn

In the week prior to this game Somerset shot out Glamorgan for scores of 52 and 102 at Neath. The scores were so much different in the return match. Glamorgan left-handed opener Alan Jones pushed for a place in the final test match of the summer by scoring 292 runs without being dismissed. He recorded his highest personal score with 187 in the first innings and followed this with 105 in the second.

Wickets were hard to take and run scoring dominated on a good batting strip and a fast outfield. Glamorgan declared their second innings when Jones had completed his second century of the match and Somerset were set a massive 347 to win in 285 minutes. They never looked likely to win, while Glamorgan tried to force a victory by employing three short legs and two slips. Chris Greetham hit a six off the last ball of the match as Somerset finished 96 runs in arrears to draw the match with five wickets remaining.

The game was played in fine weather with a 4000 crowd in attendance on Saturday. Gross takings were £760 (£13,212 today).



1963 Alan Jones of Glamorgan leaving the field of play

July 1964 County Championship

Somerset v Sussex – Somerset won by 8 wickets

Call ups for the fourth test deprived Sussex of Ted Dexter and Jim Parks while Somerset lost Fred Rumsey. There were again very good attendances which were boosted by members who had joined after a membership campaign during the year. The gate takings were lower than the previous year at £673 (£11,344 today).

Former Morlands player Terry Barwell scored his first half century for the County (53) and followed this with an undefeated 35 in the second innings.

Somerset declared after passing Sussex's total and then spin bowlers Brian Langford and Roy Kerlake (five for 43) tore through the batting as Sussex slumped to 110 all out.

Somerset got to within four runs of victory when much to the amusement of the crowd, the last three balls of the match were bowled underarm by Ken Suttle. These were described in the Bristol Evening Post as 'fast grubbers'! Barwell hit the winning runs as Somerset raced to an eight wicket win with 90 minutes to spare. This was Somerset's fourth win in six games and third win at Glastonbury.



1964 Captain Bill Alley leads his Somerset team in for tea.

August 1965 County Championship

Somerset v Derbyshire – Abandoned as a draw

John Arlott covered this match for BBC radio, but play was severely affected by the weather which reduced gate receipts to just over £400. Heavy storms of rain restricted play on the opening day, and what little play was possible proved tedious, as Derby took 37 overs to score 58. Dismissing the visitors for 204, Somerset built a first innings lead of 69 before declaring. Morlands' Terry Barwell again did well scoring 60 and featured in a third wicket partnership of 109 with Mike Groves (86). Groves passed 1000 runs for the season with his highest Championship score.

The third day saw a delayed start due to rain which returned during the lunch interval and the match was then abandoned with Derby still 17 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

The Club extension and Social Club had been finished in time for this game, but the Monday night dinner was still held at the George and Pilgrims Hotel (for the last time). Derby Captain Derek Morgan commented in his dinner speech 'Playing at Glastonbury has been a great pleasure for us'.



1965 Showing the new extension to the left of the pavilion

July 1966 County Championship

Somerset v Northamptonshire – Somerset won by 9 wickets

Northants returned to Glastonbury for the third time and included Colin Milburn in their team. He returned to the side after making his mark in the summers test series against the West Indies. However, he failed in both innings with scores of 8 and 16. Pakistani international Mushtaq Mohammed (who played in 57 tests) also had a game to forget. He didn't trouble the scorers in both innings therefore bagging 'a pair'.

It was once again an excellent match for Brian Langford. Northants were asked to follow on after a first innings deficit of 158 (Mervyn Kitchen top scoring for Somerset with 87). Langford took nine of the last 11 visitor's wickets to finish with match figures of 11 for 91. This set Somerset up for their sixth victory of the season only requiring 47 to win which they did for the loss of only one wicket.

BBC's Alan Gibson was the radio broadcaster for the match and all of the press reporters present once again were very complimentary about the ground, facilities and organisation for the match.



(Top) : H.M. talking with Colin Milburn, Keith Andrew, the Mayor of Glastonbury (Coun. Frank Wilney), Fred Rumsey and Brian Langford before the dinner.

1966 Monday Evening Dinner at Morlands Sports & Social Club

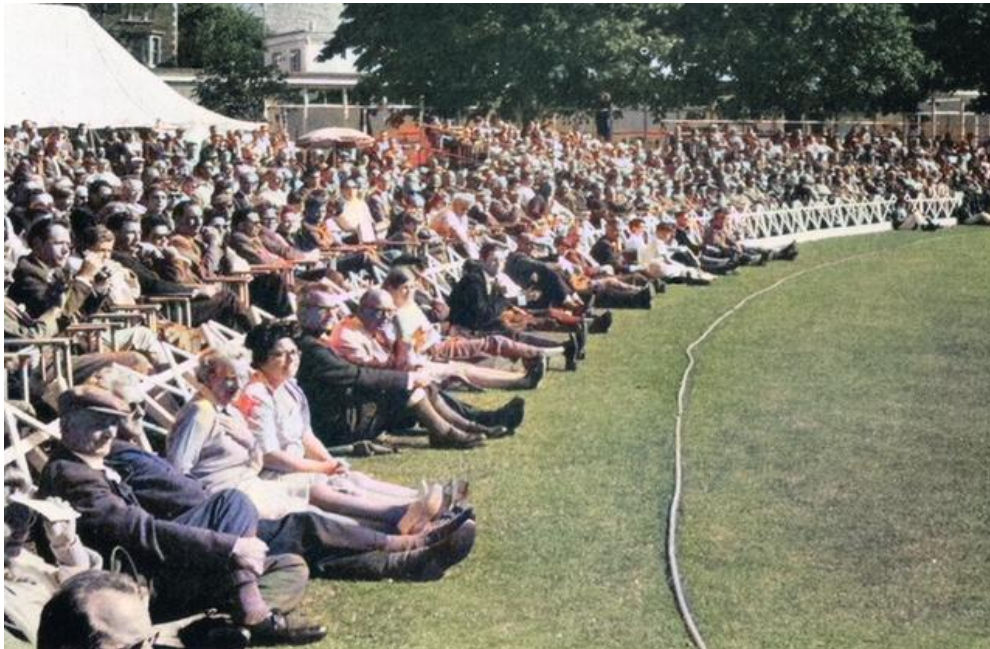
1967 County Championship

Somerset v Worcestershire – Match drawn

Receipts for the three days of £1211 (£18,367 today) were the best for any match in the county this summer. Sunday cricket was played for the first time at Glastonbury and long queues formed at the gates which gave a Sunday attendance figure of 6000. There was no spare seating after 30 minutes' play and spectators sat on the grass bank on the factory side of the ground.

Fine weather throughout produced good cricket. Somerset's 405 for eight declared was their highest total of the summer. The major contributor was Bill Alley with 136. He followed this up by taking five Worcester wickets and the visitors were asked to follow on 282 runs in arrears. With the wicket being as good on day three as it was on day one, Worcester had no problem playing out for a draw. The highlight being an attractive unbeaten 147 from Basil D'Oliveira.

Former Morlands player (and factory employee) Graham Burgess made 37 for Somerset, in what was his first full year in County Cricket.



1967 Record breaking Sunday crowd at Glastonbury

June 1968 County Championship

Somerset v Worcestershire – Match drawn

There was no play on Saturday – the first time that this has occurred at Glastonbury. The weather was atrocious with heavy rain and strong winds. The canvas sightscreen and the mobile score board were both blown over and the ground took a battering from the elements. This severely affected the attendance and gate receipts were a paltry £170 (£2,500 today) for the match.

Just under an hours' play was also lost on Sunday, but the two captains did their best to force a result. There were three declarations and Worcester were set 172 to win in 137 minutes. Spinners Robinson and Langford even bowled 23 overs in the last hour, but an eighth wicket partnership between Booth and Holder managed to hold out for a draw. Basil D'Oliveira couldn't reproduce his heroics from the previous summer and was caught for only six. Worcester finished on 124 for 7.

Graham Burgess was once again in the Somerset team and opened the bowling with Fred Rumsey taking two for 44 in 18 overs.



1968 Graham Burgess cover drives a ball from Norman Gifford.

June 1969 County Championship

Somerset v Glamorgan – Match drawn

Morlands were again represented in this game with two of their players in the Somerset team. Bryan Lobb, now aged 39 and having left the County staff nine years ago, returned alongside debutant Peter Denning, a former Millfield pupil. The game clashed with the Town's Pilgrimage weekend which caused local traffic problems, due to the good crowds present at both events. Gate receipts totalled £535 (£7,400 today).

Despite Glamorgan surrounding Denning with six close fielders he hit a competent 30 and put on 50 for the seventh wicket with Roy Palmer. Lobb showed he had lost none of his prowess with four second innings wickets. Wicket keeper Eifion Jones scored a century (one of only three first class centuries in his career) and Somerset were set a still target of 271 to win in 222 minutes. Roy Virgin gave the home side hope with 92, but there was no other significant support. In the end the team hung on for a draw thanks to Palmer's Ono, which occupied all of the final hour.

The game also set a few records for the season. First 100 partnership (119 for 1st wicket Clarkson & Virgin), first batting points of season and highest team score to date.



Morlands' Peter Denning made his first class debut at Glastonbury in 1969

July 1969 Sunday League (40 overs)

Somerset v Nottinghamshire – Somerset won by one wicket

This was the first Sunday League game played at Glastonbury and today it is hard to believe the low scores in a 40 over game. It was a sweltering day with another big crowd. Notts were asked to bat first and were dismissed for 101. There was no score of note and the wickets evenly shared.

Notts employed two slips, a gully and two short legs to the bowling of Barry Stead, which was soon justified as Somerset slumped to 27 for four. Two 19 year olds saved the day – Brian Rose and Peter Denning. This pair ran singles well. Denning followed up his three catches with 25 to help recover the innings, while Rose, after initially being barracked for slow scoring, hit a match winning 35no. He hit the third ball of the last over to the boundary to secure a one wicket win with only three balls remaining. Somerset, who were bottom of the table, recorded their first victory in seven games.



1969 Match poster (with incorrect spelling of Morlands!)

July 1970 County Championship

Somerset v Glamorgan – Somerset lost by five wickets

County Champions Glamorgan returned to Glastonbury for the second year running. Although they couldn't win a year ago, they went one better this time with a convincing five wicket victory. The game however belonged to Roy Virgin. The 30 year old Somerset opener hit his fourth century of the season and went on to a career best score of 178. He scored 39 of the first 40 runs and hit 31 boundaries. He also featured in a fifth wicket partnership of 101 with Morlands former player Graham Burgess. It was described as 'a competent and professional display' by the regional press. Somerset declaring with a score of 323 for nine.

In reply, Tom Cartwright had the champions in trouble (five for 57), but their last wicket pair managed to avoid the follow on with a Don Shepherd boundary. Set 332 to win, Glamorgan batted a lot better in their second innings and won with 29 balls to spare. West Indian Brian Davis scored 91, Pakistan's Majid Khan scored 68, while Peter Walker won the game in style with two big sixes.



"Well played, Roy!" Roy Virgin (left) being congratulated by Mr. R. W. Bracher on his career-best innings of 178. With them is Mrs. Virgin.

July 1970 Sunday League (40 overs)

Somerset v Glamorgan – Somerset lost by 36 runs

Sandwiched in the middle of the County Championship game the two teams engaged in a John Player game on the Sunday. It was not one of Somerset's better performances and the regional press were not complimentary. 'Play as dull as the weather' and 'indifferent batting and untidy fielding' were two of the comments.

A crowd of 3000 and gate receipts of £503 (£6,600 today) saw Glamorgan score 186 for 5 in their 40 overs. West Indian Brian Davis top scored with 74, but he had a lucky reprieve on 26 when he was dropped off what should have been a dolly catch. Alan Jones was the unfortunate fieldsman. Somerset's innings lacked a major score, but there was still hope as Tom Cartwright (35) and Brian Langford (24) added 63 in only eight overs for the seventh wicket. The latter then spooned a simple catch to extra cover and the end was not long coming. Glamorgan won by 36 runs to end a run of four successive defeats, while this was Somerset's third defeat in a row. One talking point for the spectators was a six hit by Roy Virgin, which landed on top of the ice cream van.



Brian Langford (Somerset's captain), Graham Burgess, Tony Lewis (Glamorgan's captain) and R.W.B. at the sherry party given by the directors.

1970 Monday evening sherry party

July 1971 County Championship

Somerset v Warwickshire – Somerset won by an innings and 94 runs

In the previous fifteen County Championship games at Morlands there had never been any doubts about the wicket which always played well. However, with difficult weather conditions before this match, this was the one exception. There were broken patches on a dry surface which resulted in high lift and lateral movement for the bowlers. At lunchtime on the first day the Umpires Jakeman and Wight reported the pitch to the authorities at Lords. Many thought they were too hasty, but by the end of the match it was obvious they made the correct decision.

Somerset, batting first, posted a challenging 258 total, Australian Kerry O’Keeffe top scored with 58. The match turned on day two as the visitors went from 52 for no wicket at 11.30 in the morning, to 95 all out by lunch. Second time around they were shot out for 69 and Somerset won with a day to spare. Bowlers Hallam Moseley and Tom Cartwright both took eight wickets and made full advantage of the bowling conditions. Brian Close took five catches at short leg. Diminutive West Indian test batsman Rohan Kanhai suffered more than most being hit on the hands, arms and chest several times. Luckily no one was seriously injured.

After the game the Warwicks captain Alan Smith said ‘the pitch does not conform to that required for County cricket’, while the Somerset captain Brain Langford was more diplomatic ‘the pitch was very very awkward’.

Bert Lock, the MCC pitch inspector, was at the ground on Monday. He came up with a number of recommendations which the Club implemented in full. The square was dug up and ten tonnes of loam from Surrey was brought in to prepare a new wicket. The following spring Lock returned to the ground and was pleased to see the results. The Somerset Secretary also issued a statement which read ‘Morlands have done a magnificent job on the wicket and there was no reason why the County would not play in Glastonbury in 1972.’

July 1971 Sunday League (40 overs)

Somerset v Hampshire – Somerset won by 67 runs

On the Sunday between the two days of the Warwickshire County Championship match, Somerset played Hampshire in a 40 over league fixture. Spectators started to arrive at the ground before 11 am, for a 2 pm start, many with packed lunches. The Fairfield car park was filled and the Benedict Street playing field was used as an overflow. At the start of play there was an estimated crowd of 8000. Receipts of £1700 (£20,500 today) exceeded Somerset's previous Sunday best (Surrey at Torquay) by £500. The game was a resounding success. The weather was ideal and the match was televised live on BBC2 with commentary by John Arlott and Jim Laker. Frank Bough was the host and carried out the pre and post match interviews.

Somerset won by 67 runs to maintain their one point lead at the top of the table over Worcester. Morlands' Graham Burgess was top scorer in a Somerset total of 164 for 7. Despite 52 from Hampshire opener Richard Lewis the innings crumbled and victory came with seven overs to spare. There were three wickets each for Moseley and Cartwright.



Part of the huge crowd streaming across the ground to applaud the Somerset team after their victory over Hampshire.

August 1972 County Championship

Somerset v Kent – Match drawn

Any concerns over the pitch problems of the previous year were dispelled in a high scoring game with four centuries, two of which were personal bests. Somerset bowlers Moseley and Cartwright, having taken 16 wickets in the Warwicks debacle, would only take 3 in this match. Brian Langford was made captain for his final game as a full time professional while bowler Bob Clapp made his first class debut.

A cold and dull day resulted in a sparse crowd on Saturday, but those that did attend saw England opener Brian Luckhurst score a chanceless century (142). He also featured in a 120 run third wicket partnership with his captain Mike Denness. In reply to Kent's 351, Somerset declared six runs behind after Brian Rose (125) hit his maiden century in first class cricket.

There were two more Kent centurians during the second innings in Colin Cowdrey (101no) and Alan Ealham (105 and a personal best). They featured in a 192 run stand as Somerset were set 240 for victory. Despite 47 from Burgess, Somerset never looked likely to win and the match ended in a draw with a final score of 154 for the loss of 7 wickets.



1972 View towards the town during the Somerset v Kent game

August 1972 Sunday League (40 overs)

Somerset v Glamorgan – Somerset won by 120 runs

This was another run fest for Somerset as they amassed their highest score in Sunday League cricket to date. 'The stylish left handed youngsters led the way', was the comment in the Bristol Evening Post. The youngsters in question were Brian Rose (61no) and Morlands' Peter Denning (54). Together they put on 90 for the fourth wicket. They capitalised on a good start as Somerset raced to 100 in 17 overs and at the end of the innings posted a score of 234 for five.

Glamorgan, who were missing a couple of players due to injury, were routed by a best bowling performance in List 'A' cricket by Graham Burgess. His 6 for 25 helped dismiss the visitors for 114 and give Somerset a big winning margin of 120 runs. It was their seventh win of the season and their first win over Glamorgan in one day matches. Gate takings of £1272 (£14,400) were a welcome boost to Somerset's finances. Former Morlands player Alan Whitehead returned to umpire this match.



1972 Monday evening sherry party with Kent

July 1973 Somerset v Nottinghamshire

County Championship – Match abandoned as a draw

Sunday League – No play match abandoned (rain)

When the players left the field at the end of day two, little did anyone know that this was the last first class County cricket to be played at Glastonbury. Although they were allocated the Middlesex home match the following summer the game was transferred to Taunton and no more Championship cricket would be hosted at Morlands.

Rain severely affected the four days of cricket. There was no play before lunch on Saturday and after only seven overs another downpour held up play. Tom Cartwright made good use of helpful conditions as Notts were bowled out for 147. West Indian captain Gary Sobers top scored with 51. Somerset managed a first innings lead of 47 thanks to Jim Parks 69no, and at the end of day two had Notts reeling at 29 for five. They still needed 18 to avoid an innings defeat, but rain on the final day meant no play was possible before lunch and the Umpires then abandoned the match.

The Sunday League fixture fared no better. After heavy storms and a lot of mopping up, a 14 over game was scheduled late in the afternoon. As the players were about to leave the pavilion the heavens opened and the game was then abandoned without a ball being bowled. The only consolation for Somerset was a £1000 insurance payout for lost cricket.



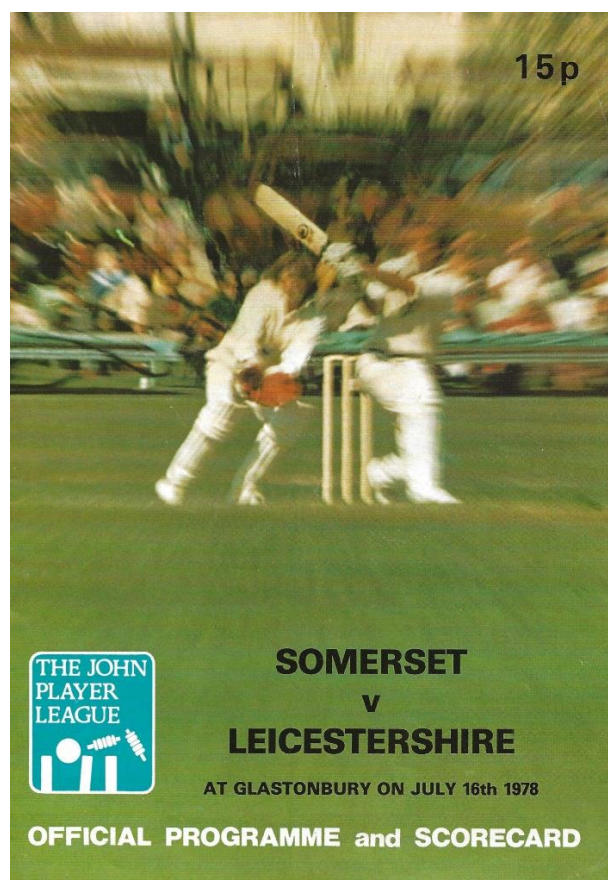
Despite the very poor weather during the recent county cricket Match at the Morlands ground in Glastonbury, there was sufficient time for a happy group photograph. Left to right: Jimmy James, the Secretary of Somerset, Tom Cartwright, acting captain of Somerset, Gary Sobers, test cricketer and captain of Nottinghamshire, Mr. Colin Atkinson, chairman of the Somerset County Cricket Club.

July 1976 Sunday League

Somerset v Yorkshire – Somerset won by six wickets

Somerset returned to Glastonbury after a three year gap and were rewarded with a crowd of over 6000 and receipts of £3677 (£23,600 today). This was the best Sunday gate of the season and Somerset's second highest on record. England players Geoff Boycott and Chris Old were star attractions, both scoring 82no in different ways. Boycott unsurprisingly was slow and methodical, while Old was the complete opposite. Yorkshire got off to a slow start scoring 69 in 23 overs, but Old changed that by hitting three sixes and five fours in the last 17 overs. Their partnership was worth 141 runs.

Chasing 206 to win Brian Close (40) and Peter Denning (53) added 70 in nine overs, but towards the end of the innings the light became poor and rain threatened. It was left to Mervyn Kitchen (45no) and Graham Burgess to score the remaining 57 from the last nine overs and they did this with two overs to spare. Ian Botham played in this game but had a quiet match scoring 18 runs and not taking a wicket from his eight overs bowled. It was Somerset sixth win of the season.



1978 Match day programme/scorecard

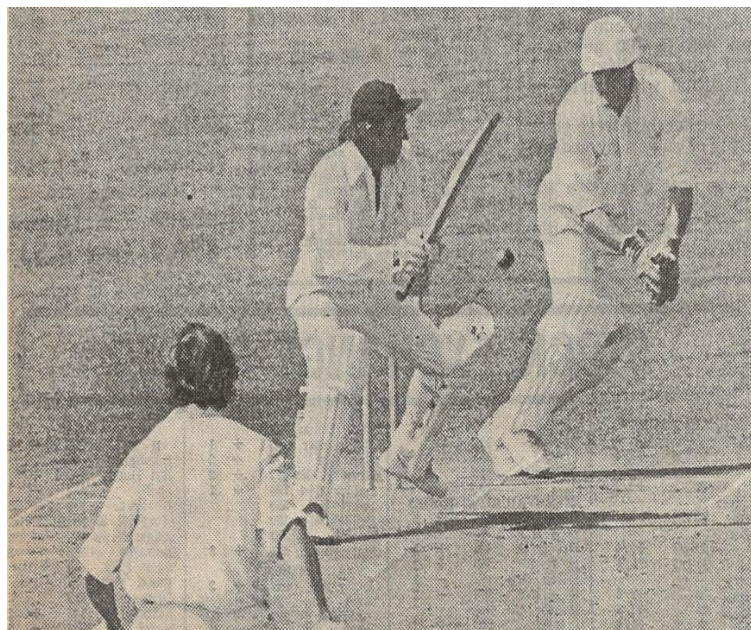
July 1978 Sunday League

Somerset v Leicestershire – Somerset won by four wickets

Somerset's final game at Glastonbury drew their biggest crowd (over 8000) and the County's highest ever Sunday gate receipts of £4470 (£23,300 today). It was an exciting finale with the result being decided off the last ball of the game. The Western Daily Press reported 'Somerset win epic last ball thriller'.

Former Morlands players Peter Denning and Graham Burgess made the highest scores of 35 and 21 respectively as Somerset chased 171 for victory. It was left to wicket keeper Derek Taylor and Phil Slocombe to score six runs off the final over bowled by Les Taylor. This was whittled down to one from the final ball. Slocombe was facing and hit the final delivery straight to Brian Davidson at short extra cover. His throw narrowly missed the stumps and with no one backing up, the winning run was completed. It was Somerset's first Sunday league win over Leicester in eight attempts and they went top of the table on equal points with Hampshire and Worcester.

After the match captain Brian Rose said 'It was a tremendous team effort. The turning point came when Hallam Moseley bowled Brian Davidson when he was well set'. Davidson top scored for Leicester with 51.



A close one for Leicestershire's Roger Tolchard as he fails to make contact with a delivery against Somerset at Glastonbury. Derek Taylor is the wicket-keeper.

1978 Photo: Western Daily Press

Links with Street

Glastonbury was Somerset's first choice to stage County Cricket in Mid Somerset. However, there were two occasions when Millfield School and the Victoria Club in Street were used when the Morlands ground was deemed to be unfit. The first occasion was after the winter of 1960/61. Levelling work on the west side of the ground resulted in the top soil and turf being removed and 9000 tonnes of soil infilled. Disastrous winter weather meant the replacing of the top soil and turf couldn't be completed until late spring and there was no way the ground was fit to stage County Cricket. Somerset took the decision to move the scheduled County Championship match against Warwickshire to Millfield School. This was the only first class match played at the School. It has hosted a number of County second eleven games since and last summer hosted a Womens List 'A' game when Western Storm played the Southern Vipers.

Following the 1971 pitch problems against Warwickshire, Somerset were very careful in ensuring there was no repeat. Games scheduled for 1974 against Middlesex were moved to Taunton after concerns over how the wicket would play and the same applied in 1977 when the Sunday League match against Hampshire was moved to the Victoria Club at Street. This ground never hosted first class cricket – only two List 'A' games and some second eleven matches, the last of which was in 1986.



Pavilion view at Millfield School towards Glastonbury Tor

July 1961 County Championship at Millfield School, Street Somerset v Warwickshire – Somerset lost by 9 wickets

With less than three weeks' notice there was a lot to do in a short space of time when this game was moved from Glastonbury. Temporary seating for 5000, a special bus service from Crispin Hall to the ground and a temporary car park in the field opposite (made available by Norman Tucker of Marshalls Elm Farm) were all set up. One problem was the need to rope off open spaces to prevent spectators from getting in without paying!

With a 60 yard boundary all round a high scoring game was anticipated. Batting first Somerset only managed to score 195 thanks to a 43 run partnership for the last wicket. In reply, Warwicks Jim Stewart made the most of the conditions. He scored the only century of the game in his first innings and followed this up with 55no in the second, taking his side to a comfortable nine wicket win after being set a target of 129 in 175 minutes. Warwicks' 23 year old off spinner Basil Bridge became the first slow bowler to take 100 wickets in the summer with the wicket of Bill Alley.



Somerset v Warwicks

Cricket Dinner

Despite the fact that our own ground was unfit for play, we were very pleased to see the Somerset XI in Glastonbury

this summer. As usual, the Directors of Morlands held a dinner for the two teams at the George & Pilgrim during the match, and our photograph shows the two Captains with H.M. and Mr. Stephen Morland, their wives and members of the teams during the dinner.

1961 Somerset captain Bill Alley and Warwicks captain Mike Smith

May 1975 Benson & Hedges Cup at Victoria Club, Street

Somerset v Gloucestershire – Somerset won by nine wickets

This was the first of two list 'A' matches played by Somerset at the Victoria Club, Street. It was a 55 over West Group game in the Benson & Hedges Cup competition against local rivals Gloucestershire. Somerset were captained by Brian Close. He won the toss and put the visitors into bat, which brought early rewards as Gloucester slumped to 35 for 5 inside 14 overs. Hallam Moseley and Allan Jones doing the damage. Former Millfield pupil, bespectacled wicket keeper Jim Foat led a recovery along with David Graveney, adding 61 for the sixth wicket. Foat's 73no was a personal best score and included ten boundaries.

Somerset were set 170 to win and there was never much doubt as to the result once openers Brian Rose (68) and wicket keeper Derek Taylor (83no) put on 125 for the first wicket. Both batsman passing their previous best scores in limited over cricket. The Bristol Evening Post said 'They batted effortlessly towards a modest target'. Victory was achieved in the 49th over. Somerset fielded a side which included both Viv Richards and Ian Botham – but neither one of them were required to bat.



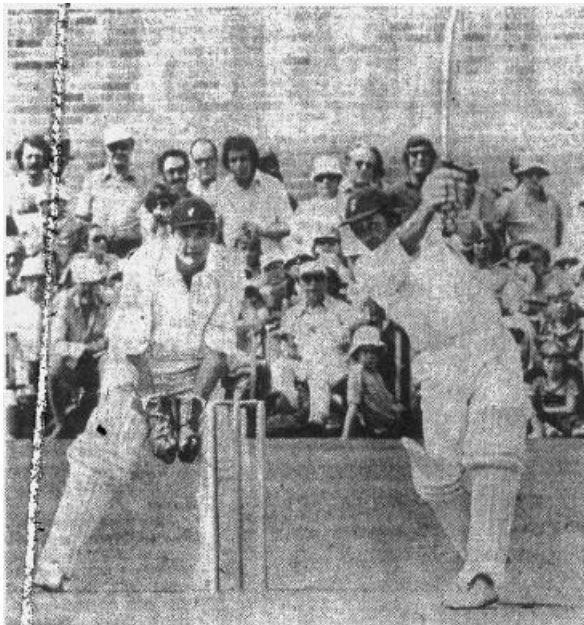
Cricket at Victoria Club, Street

**July 1977 Sunday League at Victoria Club, Street
Somerset v Hampshire – Somerset lost by one run**

Transferred from Glastonbury, this game was more successful off the pitch than on. Brilliant sunshine, a 6700 crowd and revenue of £4400 (£24,600) were great for Somerset. After the match stand in captain Derek Taylor said 'lack of professionalism at the end cost us the game'. The Western Daily Press said 'tactical errors cost Somerset'.

Requiring seven from the last over, Colin Dredge was run out going for a suicidal second run, leaving two to win off the final two balls. Hallam Moseley swung and missed at both, being stumped off the final delivery to give the visitors a narrow winning margin of only one run.

The large crowd were treated to Ian Botham's highest list 'A' score to date, hitting two sixes and seven fours as he raced to 69 and was then caught on the boundary. Brian Rose and Viv Richards (44) put on 70 for the first wicket. Hampshire had posted a challenging score of 237 in their 40 overs, David Turner top scored with 85, John Rice 54no and West Indian Test opener Gordon Greenidge scored 44.



1977 Hampshire batsman Nigel Cowley (Western Daily Press)

Championship County Cricket at Glastonbury

Year	Opponents	Result	Highlights
1952	Northants	Draw	H Gimblett 104, J Lawrence 5-70, F Brown 7-33
1954	Hampshire	Draw	N Rogers 125no
1956	Middlesex	Draw	D Compton 110
1958	Northants	Lost 4 wickets	F Tyson 5-32, W Alley 89
1959	Sussex	Won 6 wickets	M McCool 111, E R Dexter 117
1960	Middlesex	Draw	F Titmus 105
1961	Warwicks		Moved to Millfield (levelling work)
1962	Lancashire	Won 9 wickets	W Alley 131, B Langford 5-45
1963	Glamorgan	Draw	A Jones 197no and 105no
1964	Sussex	Won 8 wickets	R Kerslake 5-43
1965	Derbyshire	Draw - abandoned	M Groves 86
1966	Northants	Won 9 wickets	B Langford 7-63
1967	Worcester	Draw	W Alley 136 & 5-41, B D'Oliveira 147no
1968	Worcester	Draw	Rain affected
1969	Glamorgan	Draw	E Jones 102no (w/k)
1970	Glamorgan	Lost 5 wickets	R Virgin 178, T Cartwright 5-57
1971	Warwicks	Won Inns +94 runs	T Cartwright 5-23 (Won in two days)
1972	Kent	Draw	B Rose 125, B Luckhurst 142, MC Cowdrey 101no, A Ealham 105
1973	Notts	Draw - rain	T Cartwright 5-44, G Sobers 51 (Captain of Notts)
1974	Middlesex		Moved to Taunton – wicket concerns

Sunday League – 40 overs

1969	Notts	Won 1 wicket	101ao v 104-9
1970	Glamorgan	Lost 36 runs	186-5 v 150ao
1971	Hampshire	Won 67 runs	164-7 v 97ao
1972	Glamorgan	Won 120 runs	234-5 v 114ao (G Burgess 6-25)
1973	Notts	Abandoned	No play - rain
1974	Middlesex		Moved to Taunton – wicket concerns
1976	Yorkshire	Won 6 wickets	205-2 v 207-4 (G Boycott 82no, C Old 82no)
1977	Hampshire		Moved to Street – wicket concerns
1978	Leicester	Won 4 wickets	170-9 v 171-6 (R Illingworth captained Leics)
1979	Hampshire		Switched to Taunton due to heavy rain and flooded outfield

Championship Centuries at Glastonbury

Score	Name	Match	Year
187 no	A Jones	Glamorgan v Somerset	1963
178	RT Virgin	Somerset v Glamorgan	1970
147 no	BL D'Oliveira	Worcester v Somerset	1967
142	BW Luckhurst	Kent v Somerset	1972
136	WE Alley	Somerset v Worcester	1967
131 no	WE Alley	Somerset v Lancashire	1962
125 no	NH Rogers	Hampshire v Somerset	1954
125	BC Rose	Somerset v Kent	1972
117	ER Dexter	Sussex v Somerset	1959
111	CL McCool	Somerset v Sussex	1959
110	DCS Compton	Middlesex v Somerset	1956
105 no	A Jones	Glamorgan v Somerset	1963
105	AGE Ealham	Kent v Somerset	1972
105	FJ Titmus	Middlesex v Somerset	1960
104	H Gimblett	Somerset v Northants	1952
102 no	SS Rogers	Somerset v Northants	1952
102 no	EW Jones	Glamorgan v Somerset	1969
101 no	MC Cowdrey	Kent v Somerset	1972

Best Championship bowling figures at Glastonbury

7 - 33	FR Brown	Northants v Somerset	1952
7 - 63	BA Langford	Somerset v Northants	1966
6 - 53	B Lobb	Somerset v Northants	1958
5 - 23	TW Cartwright	Somerset v Warwicks	1971
5 - 32	FH Tyson	Northants v Somerset	1958
5 - 41	WE Alley	Somerset v Worcester	1967
5 - 43	RC Kerslake	Somerset v Sussex	1964
5 - 44	TW Cartwright	Somerset v Notts	1973
5 - 45	BA Langford	Somerset v Lancashire	1962
5 - 57	TW Cartwright	Somerset v Glamorgan	1970
5 - 64	AJ Durose	Northants v Somerset	1966
5 - 70	J Lawrence	Somerset v Northants	1952
5 - 96	BA Langford	Somerset v Sussex	1959

Additional photographs and articles

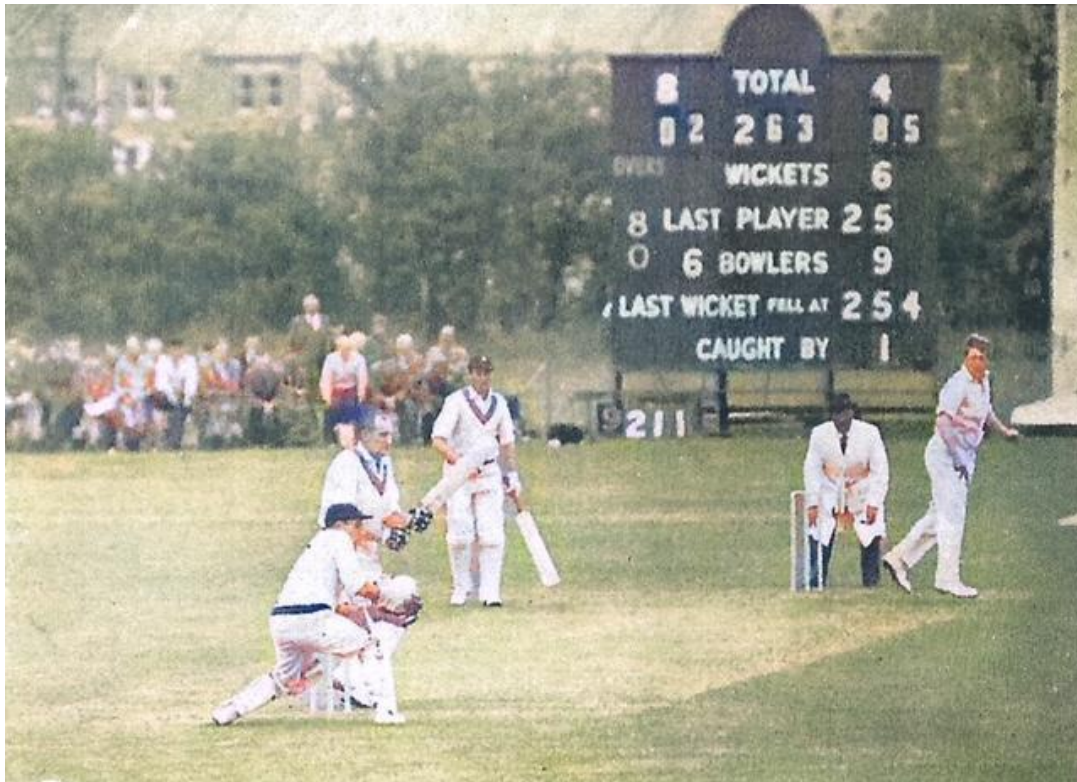


1952 The old pavilion pictured during the first County Championship game against Northants

Johnnie Lawrence, who is having his benefit this year, leading out the Somerset team at the start of Hampshire's first innings.



1954 Somerset take to the field against Hampshire



1962 v Lancashire - Bill Alley and Colin Atkinson batting



1962 Brian Roe and Graham Atkinson open the batting verses Lancashire



1964 The Somerset team that played against Sussex at Glastonbury

Back: Roy Kerlake, Terry Barwell, Richard Paul, Chris Greetham, John Martin (12th man), Mervyn Kitchen, Roy Virgin, Peter Eele (wkt)

Front: Graham Atkinson, Bill Alley (Captain), Brian Langford, Ken Palmer



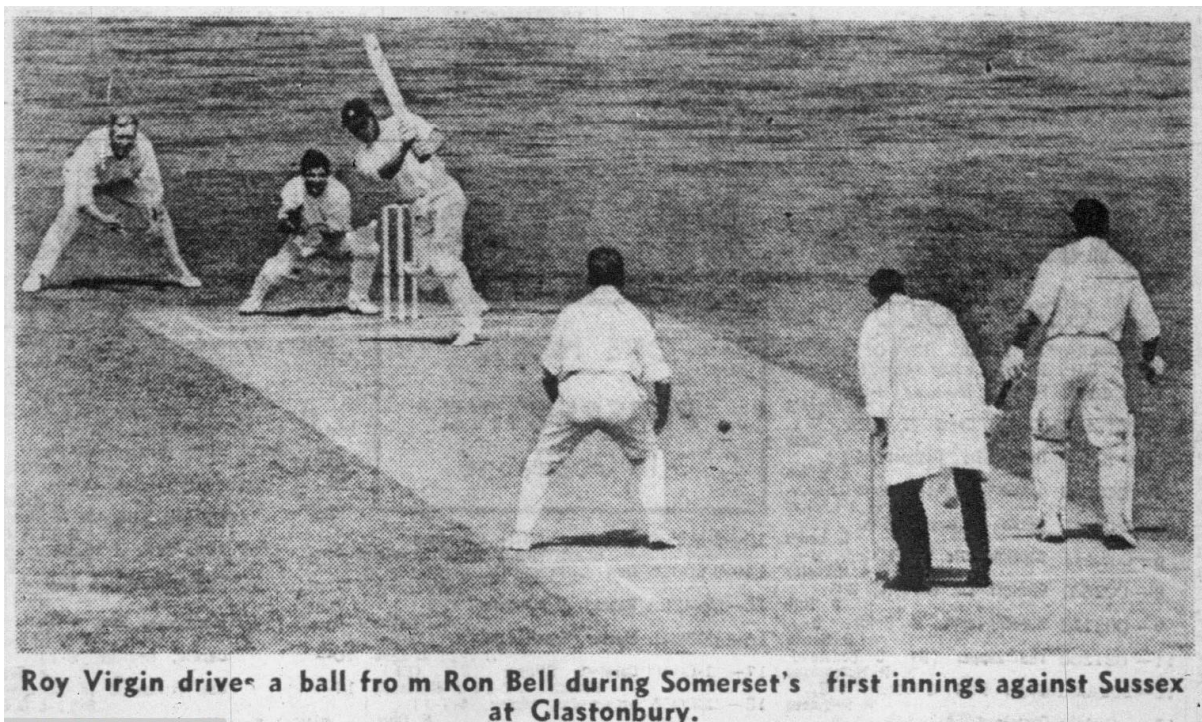
Five of the Morlands Club players who played County Cricket on their home pitch in Glastonbury

Left to right: Bryan Lobb, Graham Burgess, Peter Denning and Alan Whitehead.

The fifth was Terry Barwell (back row 2nd from left) in the Somerset team photo above.



1964 v Sussex Lunchtime wicket inspection. Left Somerset groundsman Cecil Buttle, former Somerset player Harold Gimblett and Morlands groundsman Fred Baker



Roy Virgin drives a ball from Ron Bell during Somerset's first innings against Sussex at Glastonbury.

1964 Bristol Evening Post



1965 Skipper Colin Atkinson leads out Somerset (note the BBC radio commentary box on the pavilion balcony – John Arlott was the commentator).



1965 Morlands groundsman Fred Baker rolling the wicket during the Derbyshire match

THE DISASTER WICKET

Leaders crash twice in Glastonbury farce

By MIRROR CRICKET REPORTER

COUNTY championship leaders Warwickshire went crashing out twice in under four hours yesterday on a vicious pitch at Glastonbury.

And after leading his side to a sensational innings and 84-run success, Somerset skipper Brian Langford admitted: "The wicket was very, very awkward."

In fact the track was almost completely unplayable as Warwickshire slid from their 52 for nought Saturday score to 95 all out in the first innings and 69 all out in the second.

Badly Worn

It was dry, badly worn, gave movement throughout and made the ball lift violently and frequently.

set destroyers, Hallam Moseley and Tom Cartwright.

Former Warwickshire medium-pacer Cartwright, 35, destroyed his former mates with eight for 37, while twenty-three-year-old Barbadian Moseley grabbed eight for 68.

Warwickshire skipper and England selector Alan Smith, who must have squirmed through his side's day of agony, was very restrained in his remarks afterwards.

"I shall be making my report to Lord's," he said, "and prefer not to make a public statement."

"Very clearly, however, this does not conform to the sort of pitch that should be prepared for first-class cricket."

Umpires Fred Jakeman and Peter Wight made up their minds about the



TOM CARTWRIGHT

1971 DAILY MIRROR REPORT

Sensational finish earns celebrations

THE streets of Glastonbury were awash with scrumpy last night. There might well have been a few bodies floating down the High Street in it, too, after the kind of celebrations that made VE Day look like the office party.

Small wonder. Somerset had just won an epic last ball thriller to give them their first-ever John Player League win over Leicestershire and only their second-ever limited over victory against them. The other was a Gillette Cup match in 1967.

Leicestershire really had only themselves to blame. Put in to bat on a slowish pitch they were set for a total well in excess of 200 when the innings came apart at the seams. After the launching pad had been built they dramatically lost six wickets in eight overs for 22 runs.

by Martin Johnson

SCOREBOARD

LEICESTERSHIRE innings

Briers c Dredge b Marks	22
Birkenshaw c Jennings b Burgess	16
Tolchard c Richards b Moseley	28
Davison b Moseley	51
Balderstone c Marks b Jennings	5
Clift b Jennings	2
Steele not out	22
Illingworth b Dredge	1
Booth run out	0
Taylor b Jennings	9
Higgs not out	2

Extras 12

Total (9 wkts., 40 overs) 170

Bowling: Moseley 8-1-23-2, Dredge 8-0-17-1, Marks 5-0-20-1, Burgess 8-0-44-1, Richards 3-0-17-0, Jennings 8-0-37-3.

SOMERSET innings

Rose c Illingworth b Birkenshaw	24
Denning run out	35
Richards lbw b Illingworth	10
Roebuck c Steele b Clift	20
Marks c Tolchard b Clift	16
Burgess b Taylor	21
Slocombe not out	24
Taylor not out	11

Extras 10

Total (6 wkts., 40 overs) 171

Bowling: Higgs 7-0-20-0, Taylor 6-0-34-1, Clift 8-0-23-2, Booth 2-0-7-0, Illingworth 7-1-26-1, Steele 6-0-29-0.

1978 Report from the 'Leicester Daily Mercury' after the final County match at Morlands Athletic Field, Glastonbury.

Sources of information

The majority of pictures and information have been scoured from the Morlands Works magazine, which was produced on a quarterly basis for many years. It gave good coverage of the cricket and the hospitality aspects with both the Companies suppliers and customers.

'Cricket archive' was used to access the scores and match statistics while the 'British Newspaper Archive' provided information from the local and regional press. The primary sources were the Central Somerset Gazette, Bristol Evening Post and Western Daily Press.

There are also a number of photographs and scorecards which were sourced from my personal collection of memorabilia, as a result of attending some of those games in the 1960's and 1970's.

The monetary figures quoted have been converted to today's values by using the Bank of England inflation calculator.



1954 View from Wearyall Hill - Somerset v Hampshire

Somerset Cricket Museum

The Somerset Cricket Museum is a registered charity managed by a Board of Trustees. It owns the buildings and land on which they stand, situated within the confines of the County cricket ground at Taunton. They were originally purchased by The Somerset County Cricket Supporters Club in the 1970's when the County Club had no money to purchase it themselves. The museum which opened in 1985 has since been completely renovated and brought up to modern safety and efficiency standards. This is where the main cricket collections are displayed. Not only do they display archives for Somerset County cricket but also covers cricket in general. Further improvements in 2023 saw the introduction of interactive display screens and new features added to the Museum's website, thus reaching out to a wider audience (www.somersetcricketmuseum.co.uk).

The museum is run by volunteers and is self funding, relying on memberships, donations and fund raising. All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the Museum. The book will also be added to the Museum's archive as a legacy of the 26 years of County cricket played at Glastonbury and Street.



Current views of the Museum externally and internally

Photos: Somerset Cricket Museum

