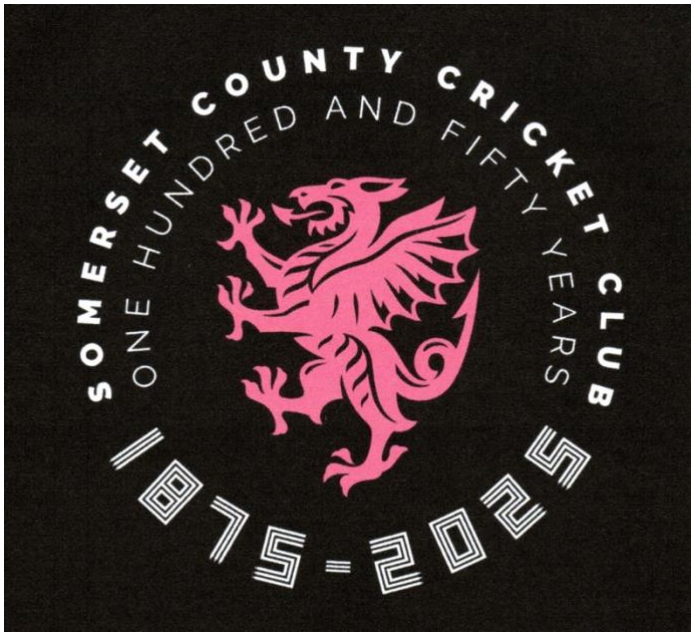
Somerset County Cricket Club
2025 Season Review



County Championship

Rothesay County Championship
Division 1 2025
Prizemoney*

	County	£* (2024)	Won	Total Points
Winners	Nottinghamshire	521,210	7	224
2nd	Surrey	260,600	5	208
3rd	Somerset	130,300	4	181
4th	Sussex	104,240	4	172
5th	Warwickshire	78,180	3	172
6th	Essex	65,150	3	172
7th	Yorkshire	58,640	4	168
8th	Hampshire	52,120	2	145

*2024 Prize Money as ECB refused to release 2025 values, but likely to be more (10%?) than in 2024

Division 1 Stats

Bonus Point Breakdown 2025

	Batting	County		Bowling	County		Total	County
1	32	Nottinghamshire	1	40	Sussex	1	74	Nottinghamshire
2=	30	Surrey	2	39	Worcestershire	3	73	Surrey
2=	30	Durham	**3=**	**37**	**Somerset**	3	71	Durham
4	**29**	**Somerset**	3=	37	Hampshire	4	69	Essex
5	27	Essex	5	36	Yorkshire	**5**	**66**	**Somerset**
6	21	Warwickshire	6=	34	Nottinghamshire	6	60	Sussex
7	21	Yorkshire	6=	34	Surrey	7	57	Yorkshire
8	20	Sussex	6=	34	Durham	8	52	Warwickshire
9	12	Hampshire	9	33	Essex	9	51	Worcestershire
10	12	Worcestershire	10	31	Warwickshire	10	49	Hampshire

Players, Overseas, Scores Over 50/Bowlers with 30 Wickets & 5/10W								
County	**Players Used**	**Overseas**	**100**	**50**	**Total Over 50**	**30W**	**5W**	**10W**
Division 1								
Surrey	28	5	10	41	51	3	6	0
Durham	26	5	16	20	36	1	5	0
Yorkshire	26	5	9	36	45	2	6	0
Hampshire	23	2	7	22	29	2	8	0
Worcestershire	23	3	9	21	30	3	6	0
Warwickshire	23	4	9	34	43	1	4	0
Sussex	21	3	14	23	37	1	7	0
Somerset	**20**	**2**	**13**	**29**	**42**	**2**	**8**	**0**
Nottinghamshire	19	3	15	36	51	3	11	0
Essex	18	4	20	20	40	2	4	0
Division 2								
Kent	27	2	11	30	41	1	3	0
Northamptonshire	24	2	15	33	48	2	5	0
Lancashire	23	2	16	29	45	3	7	0
Middlesex	22	4	12	37	49	3	5	0
Leicestershire	20	3	14	31	45	3	6	0
Gloucestershire	20	3	15	35	50	1	5	0
Glamorgan	19	4	13	34	47	1	7	0
Derbyshire	19	3	10	40	50	2	6	0

Includes players on "loan"

County Championship

Matt Henry signed for Round 2 to 7 plus the first 8 t20 matches until New Zealand's single Test Match v Zimbabwe and Migael Pretorius signed for the whole season and all formats.
Van der Merwe returned to South Africa to spend more time with his family but this was only decided or communicated on 3rd March.
Green sent out on loan to Leicestershire, Bashir to Glamorgan for 3 matches, Ball to Durham for 2 matches (took 6 wickets in one innings to win the match for them – was this a wise move? Suspect the whole of the membership questioned this when Durham are in the same Division). Ogborne sent out to Kent, then didn't play at all!

16 points for a win, 8 for a draw

Division 1 - Match by Match

1 – Worcestershire – Taunton F-M 4-7 April 2025 – Drawn 16 pts, Worcestershire 9pts. 3rd in table.

Pre-match: Henry not available. Bashir sent on loan to Glamorgan for 3 matches, Green sent to Leicestershire until t20 starts, but all the bowlers fit. Smeed has a foot injury.
Teams: **Somerset**: Dickson, Vaughan, Lammonby, Abell, Banton, Rew†, Gregory*, Aldridge, Overton, Davey, Leach. (Ogborne, Pretorius & Ball left out of 14).
Worcestershire: Roderick†, Libby, Kashif Ali, Brooks, Hose, D'Oliveira, Waite, Taylor, Allison, Hinley, Finch.
Toss: Somerset - field
Umpires: Paul Pollard & Martin Saggers.
Match Ref: Dean Cosker.
Scores: Worcestershire 154 (45.3 overs) Roderick 58 & 485-9 (200 overs), D'Oliveira 121 (14x4, 340 balls, 407 mins), Hose 82 (12x4, 1x6, 151 balls, 194 mins), Waite 87* (9x4, 319 balls, 343 mins). Somerset 670-7 in (149.4 overs) Banton 371 (56x4, 2x6, 403 balls, 521 mins) Rew 152 (14x4, 2x6, 275 balls, 327 mins) Abell 52 (7x4, 74 balls, 104 mins).
Points: Somerset 16 (5/3), Worcestershire 9 (1/0)
Day 1 – A surprise insertion under leaden skies did not produce wickets with the new ball as it failed to swing or seam. Leach was brought on at11:44 in the 12th over with the score at 54-0. Worcestershire openers Roderick and Libby progressed easily to 70-0 before Libby was well caught by Gregory at slip in Leach's 3rd over for a well-made 30 – 70-1. Aldridge was finally introduced into the attack in the 23rd over

and was inspired bowling Ali and Hose for 6 and 4 and having Brooks caught at slip in Overton's buckets for 0 – lunch 110-4.
The afternoon session continued as only Waite made double figures (32*) as Aldridge and Overton claimed 5 of the remaining wickets and Gregory picked up the final wicket to bundle Worcestershire out for 154 in 45.3 overs, Aldridge claiming 5-36 who bowled very well – he has pace and bounce when he gets it right.
Somerset started circumspectly as Taylor and Allison bowled a tight line and length. Vaughan was the first to depart, caught behind by Roderick off Taylor for 12. Lammonby was next to depart for 8 from 16 – he still needs to look to rotate the strike but guided the ball to 2nd slip – a poor shot and then Dickson who had flashed at a couple of balls fell to Finch dragging on for 11 from 39 deliveries – 39-3 again. But Banton continued his excellent form from 2024 and with Abell put on 101 in 22.1 overs. Abell reached an excellent 50, but 2 balls later a complete lapse in concentration saw him serve up a dolly to Taylor at short midwicket – a shame as he was going well. Rew joined Banton and the pair advanced the score adding 40 in 12.2 overs to end the day on 187-4. Banton was excellent advancing to 84* and a large hundred hopefully looks on the card as the pitch has already flattened out – Saturday looks to be a perfect batting day.
Day 2 – What a day! And this was **Banton's day** and one that he and everyone at Taunton will never forget. He batted all day to progress his overnight 84 to beat Justin Langer's highest First Class score of 342 to **344*** on the penultimate ball of the day. It was a day of records and many of them. Banton joined only 6 Somerset cricketers who have made a triple century – Justin Langer (315 & 342), Viv Richards (322), Jimmy Cook (313*), Graeme Smith (311), Harold Gimblett (310), and James Hildreth (303*) and now tops the pile. He batted in all for 497 minutes, faced 381 balls at a strike rate of 90.28/100 balls, hit 53x4 and only 1 six – that's amazing for a player of his ability and his expansiveness in white ball cricket. Other stats are that he faced 215 dots, scored 101 singles, 9x2, 1x3 and he scored 151 from the Marcus Trescothick End and 193 from the River End. He played and missed on 16 occasions and 69% of his runs came off the front foot.
Banton shared a record-breaking First-Class 5th wicket partnership of 371 in 86.3 overs at 4.28/over. The previous record of 320 was held by John Francis (123) and Ian Blackwell (191) v Durham University in 2005 at Taunton, so good to improve on that spurious record. Rew played his part in this partnership and batted beautifully despite being badly dropped on the boundary by Hinley on 35. Rew struck 14x4 and 2x6 and usually an innings of 152 would be the highlight of the day but it was Banton's day for sure. At lunch, the score stood at 318-4 with Banton on 154, with Rew 77 and at tea the score was 482-4, Banton 257 and Rew 136.
When Rew was finally out, hitting a return catch to Brooks in the 123rd over the pair had registered a remarkable partnership and it was a shame that they didn't bat all day together – two ex-King's Taunton lads in prime form.
Aldridge made 13 from 34 before Gregory joined Banton to smite 30 from 31 and pass 4000 runs in First Class cricket as he reached 30.
Day 3 – After the euphoria of day 2 and all that came with it, day 3 was always going to be allbeit of a turgid day, and so it panned out. Somerset batted on, in an effort presumably to see if Banton could reach that magical 400. It seemed that he was more expansive in an effort to gather quicker runs and added an additional 27 runs in 24 balls to reach 371 and thereby completing the 5th highest score in the County Championship moving past, Murray Goodwin (344 in 2009), Kevin Peitersen (355 in 2015), Bobby Abel (357 in 1899) and Neil Fairbrother (366 in 1990) to register the 5th highest ever score in the Championship behind Graeme Hick (405 in 1988), Sam Northeast (410* in 2022), Archie MacLaren (424 in 1895), and Brian Lara (501*) in 1994. Banton's score was the 3rd highest at Taunton as Hick and MacLaren both made their scores at Taunton. As soon as Banton was caught behind, Somerset declared on 670-7, a lead of 516. In all he faced 403 balls, batted for 521 minutes, hit 56x4 and 2x6 and faced 225 dot balls.
Worcestershire stuck to their task admirably especially all the bowlers, but a deficit of 516 is daunting, so Somerset and Overton were delighted when Roderick was trapped LBW for 6 and Leach claimed Libby in the same way for 16. But thereafter, wickets were hard to come by. Kashif Ali batted well for 51 from 91 before hitting Leach straight to Overton at mid-off. Brookes made a composed 35 before Leach had his caught at long leg by Dickson but the partnership of the day between Hose and D'Oliveria realised a splendid 158 in 47 overs before Aldridge produced an excellent yorker to dismiss Hose for 82 from 151 balls. D'Oliveira remained unbeaten on 71 from 154 balls as Worcestershire reached 280-5 from 88 overs, still 236 behind. Another hard day in the dirt for Somerset likely on day 4 in a push for victory.
Day 4 – It was always going to be a long day and so it proved. Resuming on 280-5, still 236 runs behind, the Worcestershire batsmen dug in and D'Oliveira was particularly obdurate. He left everything he could and only played the ball when he had to. Somerset's hopes increased when nightwatchman Finch was bowled by Aldridge – 288-6. Matthew Waite then joined his skipper in the 94th over. At lunch Worcestershire were 337-6 with D'Oliveira 99* and Waite 22*. Gregory mixed the bowlers well and with the 3rd new ball 38 overs away, Leach and Vaughan were used in tandem and even Banton turned his

arm for 4 overs of tidy off spin but the only glimmer of hope came when Martin Saggers adjudged D'Oliveira LBW shouldering arms for a magnificent 121 from 340 balls – he remained at the crease for 115.3 overs and can count himself unlucky to have been given out.
Waite continued to keep his end up and from a Worcestershire point of view, he was brilliant taking no risks at all and not giving a chance. Allison (22 from 49) and Taylor (12 from 68), all contributed to sustained resistance but both succumbed to Overton and Leach respectively but with the 9th wicket falling on the 3rd ball of the 186th over, Somerset and all of those present, must have felt with only Hinley to remove, the odds were on for a win. But Hinley had other ideas and despite 9 fielders around the bat for much of the remaining 14.3 overs (87 balls), Somerset failed to take that vital 10th wicket as Hinley held out for 44 balls for 5 and Waite, who was a model of concentration, for a match saving 87* in 319 balls and over 6 hours at the crease.
Summary: There will be much discussion how Somerset failed to bowl Worcestershire out in what became 200 overs. Did Gregory bat on too long to allow Banton to make 350 or potentially 400? In the humble opinion of this reporter, the answer is no. The fact was that Worcestershire, mainly in the form of D'Oliveira, Waite, Taylor and Hinley, batted extremely well on the flattest pitch seen in Taunton since the match v Nottinghamshire in 2024 and in the days of Phil Frost. Gregory tried everything, funky fields, leg side theory (where Rew was positioned on the leg side and not the off side), bouncers, with 5 fielders on the leg side boundary, an arc of 7 fielders like an umbrella, 9 fielders around the bat, 7 fielders on the leg side, all in an effort to take a wicket, but all to no avail. The fact that only 4 wickets fell in 112 overs (672 balls), says it all, but despite all of that there were a few questions. Leach is a fine bowler and, in this match, took his 500th First Class wicket, a memorable landmark. But like Warne said of Panesar – "he bowls the same ball all the time" and this could have been the same for Leach. Yes, he bowled an excellent line and length in 65 overs with 26 maidens and 336 dot balls, but rarely did he give the ball air or dangle the carrot to the batsmen inviting and expansive shot. Runs did not matter at all, so a bit more variety may have induced the batsmen to play an expansive shot. Vaughan for his part bowled well but for long periods, he ended up bowling to the right handed Waite, while Leach bowled to the left handed Hinley and he struggles to get left handers out.
In the end, the pitch was the winner, and it could be argued that Somerset dropped 8 points as Worcestershire were outplayed for large parts of the match. Only time will tell if this has a baring on final Championship positions, but all of Somerset and of course the players were left disappointed.

2 – Sussex, Hove F-M 11-14 April 2025. Lost by 260 Runs, 3 points, Sussex 20. 8th in table.

Pre-match: Club made an announcement during the Worcestershire match regarding Matt Henry that "New Zealand cricket are currently undergoing a phased rehabilitation programme with the New Zealand Sports Science & Medicine team as he looks to return to full fitness." Reading between the lines and the Club's narrative, it is clear the injury is more significant than originally thought and it is entirely possible that he will not make the trip to Taunton at all. Has Hurry got a plan B, or will Somerset run with the resources that are currently within the squad? Anthony Gibson seems to think that if he comes, at all, it won't be until May. Severely dents Somerset's ability to take 20 wickets in CC matches as already been seen against Worcestershire.
Teams: **Somerset**: Dickson, Vaughan, Lammonby, Abell, Banton, Rew†, Gregory*, Aldridge, Pretorius, Davey, Leach. (Overton "rested" & Ball left out of 13).
Sussex: Hughes, Haines, Clark, Alsop, Coles, Simpson*†, Hudson-Prentice, Lamb, Carson, Seales, Hunt. Carter and Karvelas left out of 13. Robinson has a minor foot injury so left out.
Toss: Sussex – elected to bat.
Umpires: Rob White & James Middlebrook
Match Ref: Mike Smith
Scores: Sussex 291 (74.4 overs), & 501/7 (131 overs), Simpson 110* 117 balls, 5x4, 5x6, Haines 141 264 balls, 15x4, 2x6, Hughes 91, 151 balls 16x4 Somerset 201 (46 overs), Rew 80*, 83 balls 13x4 & 334 (99.3 overs) Abell 96 172 balls, 15x4, Pretorius 59 63 balls, 8x4, 1x6, Gregory 56, 140 balls, 10x4.
Points: Somerset 3 (0/3), Sussex 20 (1/3).
Day 1 – Confirmed that Overton was always due to miss this match but does dent Somerset's potency with the ball. After losing the toss, the first session was not productive. Davey and Gregory bowled pretty well, but Aldridge and Pretorious were expensive as Sussex reached lunch at 122-1 from the allotted 30 overs. The pitch at this stage, looks to be a good one. Six left handers in the top seven batsmen does not help. Lunch: Sussex 122-1 30 overs, Hughes 41*, Clark 49*.
After lunch, Sussex lost 4 wickets in 5 overs to collapse to 142-5, losing Clark (49), Alsop (0), Coles (1), and Hughes (49), both Pretorius and Gregory taking 2 wickets each. Simpson, who averages 80.38 for Sussex, dug in and with Hudson-Prentice (15) and Carson (30) pushed the score to 242-9 when he was 9th out for 47 from 87 balls caught by Leach at cover. Then Seales and Hunt frustrated the Somerset bowlers by sharing an entertaining partnership of 52 in 10 overs before Hunt was bowled by Gregory for 33 from 34 balls – 294 all out which included a staggering 35 extras, 24 no balls (12 oversteps, 8 by

Gregory, 3 by Lammonby and one by Pretorius) and 11 leg byes. The leg byes, fair enough but the no ball issue needs to be sorted.

In the 19 over remaining in the day, Sussex's bowlers were on the money. Vaughan departed to an excellent catch by Coles off the pretty rapid Seales for 14, but it was Hudson-Prentice that then produced an excellent 4 over spell, finishing with 4-13. Lammonby played and missed several times and was lucky to remain at the crease until the close unbeaten on 24 from 55. Dickson once again was caught by Coles in the cordon and Abell was in front of all three stumps to be LBW first ball. Last week's triple centurion was brought down to earth with a bump as he fiddled at a ball outside the off stump that he could have left to be caught by Simpson for 6, then nightwatchman Davey was comprehensively LBW for 6 which brought Rew to the crease in the 18th over. Somerset will start day 232 behind with 5 wickets left and if there was ever a need for some rearguard action, this is it or Somerset will capitulate to one of the promotion sides. Close: Somerset 62-5, Lammonby 25*, Rew 0* 19 Overs.

Day 2 – All thoughts of a rear guard action were quicky dispelled as Lammonby (24) and Aldridge departed within 28 balls – 79-7 and staring down the barrel of following on. But Rew and Gregory had other ideas. Rew was excellent in picking off bad balls and scored at a run a ball, Gregory was a little more circumspect but the paid added an excellent 110 in 20 overs before Gregory was caught at mid-off for 36 from 60. Rew was only able to add 3 runs to his 77* as both Pretorius and Leach were out to consecutive balls both caught behind by Simpson off Hunt who ended with 5-48 from 12 overs – a great effort and only playing as Ollie Robinson has a niggle. 201 all out in 46 overs and 91 runs behind was not a great batting display and had Rew and Gregory not shared their partnership, the follow on was a possibility. As it was to concede a lead of 91 was disappointing but the sad facts are that 5 batsmen were caught by the Simpson behind the timbers and 2 others were caught in the slips, plus there were two LBW's. This shows that the bowling was far more accurate than Somerset bowlers who were wayward and did not ask enough questions of the batsmen.

With such a deficit, it was vital to take some wickets with the new ball, but Haines and Hughes clearly had other ideas and Somerset had to wait until the 50th over before taking a wicket when Hughes was denied a well-deserved century caught behind by Rew off Leach for 91 from 151 balls. Clark joined Haines who was on 84 at the time but progressed quickly to a well-deserved century, his first in Division 1 with a 4 off Leach. Somerset's bowling again had little penetration on what looks like a flat pitch as Sussex finished the day on 246-1 from 69 overs – Haines 117* and Clark 29*. Somerset do not bowl well generally to left handers and Sussex have 6 in their top 7. With a lead already of 339, day 3 could see a declaration with a lead of 500+ and it is unlikely that Somerset will be able to bat for 150-200 overs like Worcestershire did at Taunton last week. With Somerset so far behind, there is at this stage only one result and one that Somerset supporters really do not want. Cricket's a funny game, so let's all hope for a minor miracle on Sunday.

Day 3 – The first wicket of the day fell after 8.2 overs and 40 minutes play when Haines departed LBW to Vaughan (his first wicket away from Taunton) and Alsop followed 5 balls later – 300-4. Coles and Simpson saw Sussex to lunch at 334-4, 88 runs scored in the session. The question was, how long would Sussex bat? By now the lead was 427 but Simpson found it easy to score runs freely and did not look in any trouble at all. Coles passed 2000 in First Class cricket when he reached 13 and he and Simpson put on 74 in 21.5 overs. Coles became Vaughan's 2nd victim for 39 from 69 balls as Hudson-Prentice joined his skipper but he departed for 18 from 37 and still no acceleration. Lamb secured a 7 ball pair in a match he may wish to remember as he became Rew's 5th catch of the innings. Carson then injected some urgency and Simpson became more expansive striking 5 sixes and Carson 3 as the declaration finally came at tea with Sussex on 501-7, setting Somerset a monstrous 594 to win or to bat out a minimum of 126 overs to draw the match. Simpson's 110 from 117 balls was an excellent innings and he looked untroubled by any Somerset bowler. Vaughan and Leach toiled away for 40 and 45 overs respectively but there was little in the pitch for them.

As seems to be a familiar pattern, Somerset lost Dickson to the 3rd ball he faced and the 9th ball of the innings for 0 caught at 4th slip. Vaughan then followed after 7.5 overs, Hunt claiming his 2nd wicket. Lammonby and Abell then shared a stand of 63 in 11.2 overs before the former got a leading edge and was well caught and bowled from 33 from 42 balls. Last weeks record breaker, came even further down to earth when Hunt nipped one back to take his off stump out of the ground for a 5 ball duck – 6 runs in the match from 14 balls, 80-4 and staring down both barrels of defeat. Rew (19*) and Abell (60*) saw Somerset through to the close at 125-4, still 469 behind with only 6 wickets in hand. Rew was dropped on 1 (4 balls) after 23.3 overs. Hunt was excellent for Sussex taking 4-28 in 10 overs and asking questions of the batsmen. He will be fresh on day 4. Can Somerset bat for a minimum of 96 overs? Not wishing to be too gloomy, the answer is, that it is very unlikely.

Day 4 – Luckily Hunt, who had taken the last 9 Somerset wickets to fall in the match, was unable to take the field due to injury, but the day did not start well, with Rew out to the 7th ball of the day as Seales made one bounce to Rew who could only get a leading edge to cover. Aldridge was dropped on 13 from 31 balls by Hudson-Prentice at cover but it mattered not very much as Aldridge swished at a wide one from Seales to be caught behind for 14. A poor shot and one he should not have been playing. Abell

batted in a manner to suit the occasion, but 6 minutes before lunch, he was caught at first slip by Alsop off Lamb for 96 – if ever he deserved a century, this was it, but sadly, it wasn't to be. Lunch 208-7, 67 overs, Gregory 26* & Pretorius 1*, and still 386 behind with 3 wickets and 63 overs remaining.
After lunch, Gregory and Pretorius shared a stand of 82 in 18.3 overs at 4.43/over and whilst they were at the crease, there was a small glimmer of hope. But Seales returned to account for Pretorius for 59 from 63 – an enterprising innings but not long enough – 287-8. Davey smote his first ball for 6 off Seales but only lasted another 13 balls before falling to Coles for 10 – 304-9. Leach reached the crease on a pair which he avoided and proceeded to take advantage of the bowlers tiring. He and Gregory put on 33 in 12.5 overs and with the tea interval delayed, Gregory's marathon innings finally ended as he was caught in the slips for an excellent 56 from 140 balls – an uncharacteristic innings from the skipper. All over at 15:48.
Summary: There are many conclusions to draw, but ultimately and being brutally honest, Somerset's bowling on day 1 with the new ball was poor for the most part – good in places, but not consistently good enough. Sussex should probably have made no more than 210, but 35 extras (24 no balls, Gregory 8, Lammonby 3 & Pretorius 1) did not help matters and then the Sussex bowlers showed how to bowl accurately and reaped the rewards taking 5 wickets for 62 before the close and that set the tone.
Somerset's bowling was better in Sussex's 2nd innings lacked penetration and the batsmen cashed in. The pitch had flattened out but Somerset just couldn't take wickets with any regularity and the opposition batsmen also showed how to bat on the pitch. To bat 130 overs was unrealistic, although had Abell stayed in, it may have been possible. Gregory showed application in batting for 3 hours and 19 minutes but the result was really never in doubt, a proper thrashing.
So, Somerset drop from 3rd top to 3rd bottom and in the first two matches v Worcestershire and this match, in the 2nd innings Somerset have bowled 331 overs (1986 balls), conceded 985 runs and taken 16 wickets at 61.56. Two really tough away matches follow at the Rose Bowl and The Oval and the team must pick themselves up and go again.

3 – Hampshire – The Rose Bowl F-M 18-21 April 2025. Drawn 11 pts (1 point deducted for slow over rate), Hampshire 13. 8th in table.

Pre match: Overton returns to squad plus Ogborne, but Ball left out. For Hampshire, Baker not selected – England have told Hampshire not to select him as he has played 2 matches in a row – how ridiculous. Keith Barker for Hampshire has received a 12 month ban for taking a prohibited substance and will not be allowed to return to cricket until 4th July.
Teams: Somerset: Vaughan, Dickson, Lammonby, Abell, Banton, Rew*†, Aldridge, Overton, Pretorius, Leach, Ogborne. Gregory rested or injured.
Hampshire: Stoneman, Middleton, Gubbins, Prest, Albert, Brown*†, Dawson, Hampton, Fuller, Abbott, Wheal.
Toss: Hampshire – elected to field.
Umpires: Mike Burns & David Millns.
Match Referee: Alec Swann
Scores: Somerset 184 in 54 overs & 163-2 in 61.3 overs, Dickson 77*, Hampshire 336 in 93 overs, Gubbins 82, Dawson 72, Pretorius 5-64.
Points: Somerset 11 (0/3) 1 point deducted for slow over rate, Hampshire 13 (2/3).
Day 1 – Rew made captain as Gregory rested, but Overton overlooked. The first and only session proved to be a disaster for Somerset as the Hampshire bowlers ripped the heart out of Somerset's much vaunted but flaky batting. Abbott, as always and trying to improve on his 69 wickets for 1157 at an average of 16.76 in 13 matches v Somerset from 2017-24, Wheal and Fuller all taking 2 wickets a piece as Somerset slumped miserably to 94-6 from 27.5 overs at lunch. An opening stand of only 14 was followed by a decent partnership between Vaughan and Lammonby of 55 in 14.3 overs before Vaughan flashed at a wide ball from Fuller with no foot movement to be caught behind for 29 from 65 and then Lammonby 36 from 43) played at an even wider ball for the same result – two dreadful shots. 69-1 became 79-3 and then Banton was brilliantly caught at mid-wicket by Gubbins for 5 quickly followed by both Rew and Aldridge for 0 to go to the break at 94-6. At this stage it looks like Somerset are yet again staring down the barrel of another defeat. Luckily the rain can during the lunch interval and continued for the remainder of the day, with play abandoned after tea.
Day 2 – Play resumed at 11:30 after overnight rain and still 96 overs in the day, which did not start well when Overton was caught behind off the 9th ball of the day. Abell soon followed comprehensively LBW for 21 from 48 balls – 129-8. Leach hung around and played some nice shots in 20 from 38 before he too was LBW this time to Fuller – 136-9, but Pretorius who hits the ball into odd places and always scores at a run a ball, and number 11 Ogborne produced a partnership of 48 in 14 overs before Ogborne was bowled for 6 from 48 balls leaving Pretorius stranded on 47 from 40 on the stroke of lunch.
The sun had already appeared and had made batting easier but Stoneman and Middleton put on 38 for the 1st wicket (more than Somerset have achieved so far this season), before Ogborne produced a beauty to have Middleton caught behind for 19. Stoneman followed 4 balls later bowled by Pretorius for 17. Gubbins and Prest put on 80 before the latter was LBW to Pretorius but thereafter the bowlers couldn't

find any movement as Gubbins (58*) and Dawson (50*) saw the remaining overs out in an unbeaten partnership of 76 to lead by 10 runs with 7 wickets in hand going into day 3.
Day 3 – Play began late at 11:30 after overnight rain and Hampshire progressed steadily until Lammonby trapped Gubbins LBW for 82 and he followed that wicket with that of Dawson for 72 4 overs later. Bringing Lammonby into the attack was inspired as he then claimed Hampton for a 3 ball duck – 280-7. Pretorius then bagged 3-28 from 6 overs as Hampshire reached 306-9, but the last wicket pair of Brown and Wheal added 30 valuable runs in 9.3 overs until finally Hampshire were all out for 336 in 93 overs on the stroke of lunch. Pretorius, 5-64 and Lammonby 3-26 were the main wicket takers. The ball did start to move around after about an hour and to take 7 wickets in the extended session was a good performance, but the crucial factor was a lead of 152. How would Somerset fare in the 2nd innings?
For the first time this season the opening pair of Vaughan and Dickson put on 50 for the 1st wicket before Vaughan fell into the legside trap to be well caught by Hampton off Fuller for 24. Dickson (55*) and Lammonby (22*) batted well to the close after several periods of bad light, the umpires finally too the players off the field at just before 5pm. With the weather not great for the final day, there's a chance that there will not be a full day's play which will mean the match will meander to a draw.
Day 4 – Prompt start, but the first wicket fell after 4.2 overs when Lammonby, in two minds whether to play the ball or not, edged Abbott to Prest at first slip to take his 73rd wicket v Somerset since 2017. A ball he really could have left. Abell (25*) and Dickson (74*) saw Somerset through until an early lunch at 12:36 – 158-2 with a lead of 6, not without alarm, but both played well in 23 overs bowled with a notional 73 remaining. Play resumed after tea at 15:40, 40 overs remaining, then bad light again stopped play at 15:55 – 163-2 and a lead of 11' but no further play was possible.
Summary: Both teams captained by their respective wicketkeepers – this is a rarity in First Class Cricket. A match ruined by the weather, but one that Somerset would have struggled to draw had the rain not intervened after a poor first innings batting display. Nice to see Dickson in the runs in an extended stay at the crease.

4 – Surrey – The Oval – F-M 25-28 April 2025. Lost by 8 wickets, 4 points, Surrey 22. 9th in table.

Pre match: Squad. Remains the same including Gregory, but whether he is fit to bowl is another issue. Ball has been sent out on loan to Durham for the next 2 rounds, another 1st Division team – hopefully he won't win the match for Durham. How can Somerset loan a player to another Div 1 team? Especially as Somerset are 8th and Durham 10th. Four players now out on loan.
No sign of Henry and seems unlikely that he will play any of the first 7 (half) CC matches.
Surrey meanwhile have a squad of 15, 9 of which are Test players and their squad does not include either Curran, Jamie Overton, Jacks, Topley, Jordan.
It would also be nice to know whether the Performance Psychologist is making a difference.
This match will be a severe test.
Teams: Somerset: Vaughan, Dickson, Lammonby, Abell, Banton, Rew†, Gregory*, Aldridge, Davey, Pretorius, Leach. Overton replaced by Davey as a late replacement, due to a back spasm.
Surrey: Burns, Sibley, Pope, Smith, Lawrence, Foakes†, Patel, Clark, Atkinson, Taylor, Worrall. Roach, Fisher, Steel & Sykes left out of the 15. Two Curran's, Jacks, Roach and Jamie Overton were all unavailable.
Toss: Surrey - field
Umpires: Rob Bailey & Russell Warren
Match Referee: Steve Davis
Scores: Somerset 283 in 95.1 overs, Lammonby 76, Gregory 62, Clark 5-68 & 119 all out in 35.5 overs, Pretorius 54. Surrey 367 in 108.1 overs, Burns 76, Sibley 53, Smith 58, Lawrence 55* & 36-2 in 5.2 overs.
Points: Somerset 4 (1/3), Surrey 22 (2/3).
Day 1: After losing the toss, Somerset were dealt a harsh blow when Atkinson struck Dickson on the hand and after facing 2 more balls was in sufficient pain to leave the field after 2.1 overs. Thereafter, despite the ball seaming around, Vaughan (35*) and Lammonby (43*) saw Somerset through until lunch at 87-0 from 29 overs.
The afternoon session as not a good one for Somerset. Lammonby batted very well for his 76 from 173 balls, before he moved too far across his stumps to be bowled leg stump but in the session 5 wickets fell for 77 in 35 overs. Banton played and missed a fair bit as the ball began to shape alarmingly and yje Surry bowlers exploited the conditions brilliantly. The tea interval arrived with Somerset teetering on 164-5 from 64 overs.
Aldridge dug in as the Surrey bowlers continued to extract movement but after facing 62 balls for 14 he was yorked by Clark who supplied another yorker next ball to bowl Pretorius first ball, 187-7. Davey averted the hattrick and he and Gregory shared a stand of 62 in 16.3 overs before Davey became Clark's 5th victim. Leach departed 3 balls later for 0 but at least Somerset had finally notched an away batting point since June 2024 at Trent Bridge. It was though that Dickson would not bat after his hand injury, but he bravely returned to the crease clearly in pain. Gregory began to cut lose and with a bit of dodgy

running, the pair put on a valuable 33 of which Dickson's contribution was 0, but that didn't matter at all and 283 all out was a good as could be expected given the very good bowling from lunch onwards. Gregory was finally out in the last over of the day caught on the boundary for an excellent 62 from 87 balls striking 3 massive 6's and 5 fours. Somerset were also gifted 32 extras which were most welcome. It will be interesting to see how well Somerset utilise the new ball on day 2 against the strong Surrey line up.

Day 2: Test match openers Burns (53*) and Sibley (30*) batted through the morning session in 29 overs as Surrey entered lunch on 99-0. There was only one blemish when Sibley looked for all money to be LBW to Pretorius but umpire Warren deemed it to be not out. Somerset's bowlers bowled ok but still giving away too many no balls.

The afternoon session brought 119 runs for 3 wickets as Burns departed for a well made 76 from 112 balls followed quickly by Pope who dragged on off Gregory for 1 and then Sibley, for some unknown reason, danced down the track to be bowled by Leach for 53 from 160 balls and at tea Surrey had reached 218-3 with Smith looking ominously confident on 47* and Foakes 17*.

The new ball was taken at 259-4 which brought reward for Gregory who claimed the wickets of Foakes, bowled for 42 and Clark, caught behind off a beauty for 9 but Atkinson joined Lawrence to see Surrey through to the close at 321-7, 38 in front. The bowlers stuck to their task admirably but the 3 wickets need to be taken quickly on day 3 – any lead over 75 may prove too many.

Day 3: Surrey progressed their 1st innings to score 48 runs from 12.1 overs in losing the 3 remaining wickets – Atkinson for 25, Worrall for 6 and Taylor for 4 while Lawrence remained unbeaten on 55 from 74 balls. Gregory was the pick of the bowlers taking 3-46, but Somerset conceded 31 extras including 18 no balls – 367 all out and a lead of 84.

Somerset had 13 overs to face before lunch with Lammonby accompanying Vaughan due to Dickson's injury. Vaughan was brilliantly caught down the leg side for 0 to the last ball of the first over bowled by Worrall to a ball he should have left well alone and then Lammonby went back to Lawrence instead of going forward and comprehensively LBW for 12. Lunch 30-2, still 54 behind.

Nobody predicted the events that followed after the luncheon interval. Take nothing away from the Surrey bowlers, each of which bowled very well but it has to be said that the Somerset batting was dreadful as 5 wickets fell for 8 runs in 5.5 overs and that virtually signalled game over and ultimately it did. Abell was bowled for 4, shouldering arms with his bat skyward. Davey, who was promoted to number 3 to see off the shine of the new ball, then received good one from Clark to be bowled for 17 from 45 followed by Banton brilliantly caught and bowled by Worrall for 3 and then Rew for another 0. 34-2 became 38-7. A partnership of 79 in 15 overs between Gregory and Pretorius did bring a modicum of respectability as Pretorius stroked 54 from 45 before being brilliantly caught by Foakes stretching across to where 2nd slip may have stood to pouch the catch. Leach guided his 11th ball to slip to leave Gregory 18* from 51 balls – 119 all out in 35.5 overs. Surrey required 36 to win.

Surrey managed to lose 2 wickets, Sibley for 3 and Pope for 1, but reached their target with ease after 5.2 overs. To win comprehensively by 8 wickets with 139.2 overs remaining in the match.

Summary: Somerset's 1000th loss in the County Championship. And what a way to achieve that unmemorable feat. When Somerset lose, it is generally in fine fashion and rarely close especially away from home. Why do Somerset perform so badly away from Taunton?

The third innings of a Championship match is always so important, but Somerset really made a mess of this one and the collapse after lunch on day 3 sealed yet another thrashing away from home.

It was level pegging after 2 days pretty much, but the abject batting performance in the 2nd innings was dreadful. There is no point pinpointing specific batsmen, but collectively as a team the batting and bowling have to become more consistent. An attack without Overton does look a bit spineless and Henry's non arrival due to injury has been a big factor and it seems he will not now be fit until the t20 starts at the end of May.

Somerset now also have to decide on who opens the batting in the remaining 3 CC matches (to the end of May – CC season part 1) – Umeed, Goldsworthy, Rew, Smeed or Lammonby? We will all find out next Friday v Essex.

5 – Essex, Taunton F-M 2-5 May 2025 – Won by 3 Wickets. 19 pts, Essex 3. 9th in table.

Pre match: No mention of Henry, so another CC match slips by without his services – such a shame. Dickson out for 6 weeks. Umeed brought into squad with Bashir. Ogborne remains in the squad of 13. For Essex, Dean Elgar returns.

Teams: **Somerset**: Umeed, Vaughan, Lammonby, Abell, Banton, Rew†, Gregory*, Overton, Pretorius, Davey, Leach. Bashir and Ogborne left out of the 13.

Essex: Elgar, Walter, Westley*, Cox, Critchley, Pepper†, Thain, Harmer, Cook, Rajitha, Porter.

Toss: Somerset - field

Umpires: Ben Debenham & Nigel Llong.

Match Referee: Phil Whitticase.

Scores: Essex 206 (88.2 overs) & 259 (78.4 overs), Cox 103*, Somerset 145 (46.3 overs) & 325-7, Rew 116, Gregory 57 in 87 balls, Overton 53* in 111 balls.
Points: Somerset 19 (0/3), Essex 3 (0/3).
Day 1: After inserting Essex on a pitch that was the same colour as the outfield, Essex seemed to have little trouble with batting against the new ball. Walter and the returning Elgar put on 40 before the former hit Overton straight to Davey at midwicket for 22 and Elgar followed 13 overs later LBW to fellow countryman Pretorious for a watchful 30 from 76 ball. At lunch Essex were 81-2 and there were no signs of what might happen after the interval
The ball suddenly started to seam and turn more prominently with Davey removing Westley for 20 and Cox for 26 and Pepper and Critchley both succumbed to Leach, who gained some purchase, followed the procession to leave Essex 122-6 from 49.2 overs. Harmer followed LBW to fellow spinner Leach to leave Essex in trouble at 136-7. Cook then produced a dour innings in support of Thain who top scored with 41 from 112 as the pair put on a valuable 43 in 29 overs – definitely not the IPL but an absorbing section of the innings. Finally, Pretorius winkled out Cook for 8 from 73 balls but a 10th wicket pair of Sri Lankan Ralitha and Porter shared a frustrating partnership of 26 to leave Essex all out for 206 from 88.2 overs.
The Somerset bowlers bowled well without much luck, Pretorius beating the bat on numerous occasions without the batsmen getting a touch and Leach also beat the bat as some balls turned sharply and ended up with the impressive figures of 30-12-35-3 at 1.16/over. It was perhaps a little odd that Vaughan did not have the opportunity to turn his arm over but conceding 27 extras (10b, 7lb, 10nb) was disappointing – Gregory bowled 4, taking his season tally to 19.
Somerset had to bat out a tricky 6 overs in the remaining time but lost Vaughan for a second consecutive duck to the final ball of the first over bowled by Cook. Davey was pushed out to undertake nightwatchman duties and luckily survived 20 balls as Somerset ended the day on 9-1 from 6 overs, with Umeed 1*.
Batting against Porter, Cook, Harmer and Critchley will not be easy on day 2, but hopefully, Somerset can bat well enough to gain some sort of lead.
Day 2: An interesting days cricket but not one that somerset came out on top of. Davey and Umeed batted sensibly and survived for 65 minutes without alarm until Umeed suddenly decided to slog sweep Harmer and was bowled neck and crop – 46-1 from 19.3 overs. 19 balls later Davey received a jaffa from Cook as the ball nipped away after pitching just clipping the off stump but Davey had done his job, 27 from 75 balls, 56-3 from 22.4 overs. Abell and Lammonby were both undone by the spin of Harmer as both were caught at slip by Cox for 7 and 13 respectively. 86-6 from 27.4 overs. But worse was to come as Banton chopped on for 12 and then Rew was caught behind for 9 leaving Somerset 108-8 from 38.4 overs but Pretorius who always puts bat to ball, struck a quick 24 from 20 before Harmer caught him brilliantly one handed to his right. Somerset entered the lunch interval 106-7 from 36 overs. After the break, Gregory then became Cook's 2nd victim LBW for 14 for 34 and Overton after hitting a 4, then slapped the next ball to mid-on – 145 all out in 46.3 overs. Somerset went from 46-1 to 145 all out – 99-9 in 27 overs and sadly it was a very poor performance despite the quality of the bowling. Davey actually played well for his top score of 27, but all in all it was a spineless performance on a pitch that was not doing as much as day 1.
When Essex returned to the crease with a lead of 61, Walter was quickly LBW to Overton but Elgar and Westley took the score to 45 when the former was bowled by the skipper for 23. With plenty of time left in the game there was no rush for the Essex batsmen and the pitch was not offering as much as it had done previously in the match. Somerset's bowlers stuck to their task but still bowled too many balls that did not ask questions of the batsmen. The bat was beaten on occasions but the batsmen didn't get a touch on them and there were several confident appeals for LBW that were turned down plus a really tight run out call that the fielders thought was out but was given not out, so Somerset did not get the rub of the green, but in the last over Leach induced an edge from Critchley who was well caught by Gregory at slip as Essex ended the day at 163-4 from 52.3 overs and already 224 in from with 6 sessions and roughly 192 overs remaining in the match.
Somerset need to desperately take the remaining 6 wickets very quicky on day 3 to have any opportunity of winning the match, but that will be incredibly tricky given the nature of the pitch and the quality of the bowling.
Day 3: What a fascinating days play! Cox played a good innings reaching a well-deserved hundred after incurring a side from 155 balls, retiring at 246-4, but the first wicket of the morning did not materialise until after 19.4 overs when Pepper was LBW to Pretorious to a ball that kept a bit low for 36 from 60 balls – 252-7 from 71.1 overs. The next 30 balls saw 4 wickets fall for 6 runs as Pretorius (3) and Leach (2) accounted for the remaining wickets as Essex collapsed to 259 all out, the pair sharing 6 wickets between them. Somerset had to face 1 over before lunch which was successfully negotiated - 0/0.
The afternoon session saw 5 wickets fall in 32 overs, Harmer bowling almost unchanged from the River End a constant threat. Umeed was caught by the buckets of Harmer at 2nd slip for 0, Vaughan was caught off a top edge at mid-wicket for 4, Lammonby and Abell put on 46 before Lammonby was adjudged LBW for 30 from 49 balls. Abell was looking solid but was bowled by Harmer for 29 from 67 and then Banton followed caught by Elgar in the slips, although there was a suggestion that the ball hit his arm

and not the glove. Thereafter, Gregory joined Rew and they stuck in and took singles when available and put away the bad ball to put on 101 before Gregory was bowled by a good ball from Rajitha for57, 179-6. The remaining 16.2 overs were seen out between Rew, 65* from 115 balls and Overton 4 from 34 balls, an uncharacteristic innings but one that was needed in the circumstances. 216-6 overnight with 105 required on day 4 and much will depend on Rew staying in especially as the new ball is due in 12 overs. Somerset have hauled themselves into a position that could see a victory on the final day, but the result is in the balance and could go either way.

Day 4: What 95 minutes! At the start, chasing down an additional 105 runs was by no means a given especially when Essex had Harmer, Porter and Cook in their ranks. The key to any kind of victory was Rew – if he stayed at the crease then Somerset would win, if he was out early or with more than 40 or so to win, then the pendulum swung back in Essex's favour. 65* overnight, Rew was circumspect at first as overs were not an issue and with Overton playing an uncharacteristically subdued innings, slowly but surely Somerset crept to the 321 required to win. Every run was loudly applauded by the crowd of around 500. Rew was particularly severe on anything overpitched despatching anything on the off side through the covers for 4. Overton played second fiddle, rotating the strike cleverly which was just what was required. Rew reached his 10th First Class century from 161 balls with 16 4's in the 85th over. Slowly but surely the pair crept to 300, the applause becoming louder, but Rew tried to slog sweep Harmer and missed to be LBW for a brilliant 116 from 189 balls with 18 4's. He was dejected as he left the field to rapturous applause but with just 9 required the game was in the bag as Pretorius joined Overton who took a couple of singles, stroked a glorious off drive through mid-off and smashed Harmer into the river to complete his half century and a famous victory. And the crowd went wild as did Overton and Pretorius.

Summary: In a match that Somerset were not really in for most of it, it was a brilliant turnaround and showed that Somerset can win matches after being in not very good positions. However, after conceding a first innings lead if 61, to bowl Essex out for 259 in the 2nd innings after being 252-4 was an outstanding effort. Essex lost 6 wickets for just 7 runs – reminiscent of Somerset's effort v Surrey after lunch on day 3 at the Oval last week! Leach and Pretorius took 3 wickets each in 7.3 overs to set up the chase. Pretorius had a good match – 24 & 1*, 3-44 from14 overs and 3-36 in 14 overs.

The number of extras conceded during such a tight match is concerning – no wides but 24 byes, 18 leg byes and 12 no balls which amounts for 22 runs. A total of 64 extras is two batsmen's scores across the two innings and amounts to 13.76% of the runs which is far too high. Gregory bowled 9 no balls taking his season tally to 24 in 4 matches.

A most welcome and fabulous win. The players now have a week off before taking on Sussex at Taunton on 16th May and it is expected that Matt Henry will be fit to join the squad.

6 – Sussex, Taunton F-Su 16-19 May 2025 – Won by 5 Wickets 21pts. 7th in table.

Pre-match: 9th May: James Rew dragged into England squad due to Jordan Cox's injury sustained at Taunton. Great for Rew but likely to remove him from this match due to a training camp. It seems unlikely that he will play as who will he replace in the top 7? But it stops him from playing for Somerset and he is needed to provide stability as at present as the top 5 collectively are not in great form. So, will Banton be asked to keep wicket, or will James Rew's younger brother Thomas be drafted in?

12th May: Thomas Rew selected for PCFCXI v Zimbabwe – a needless fixture but he will make his First Class debut in the same type of match as his brother did aged 17 in 2021. So, looks like Banton is the only option to keep.

15th May: Ball & Ogborne sent out on loan to Kent – is there really a benefit to this? Ball has already won a match for Durham in Div 1 – one of Somerset's rivals! **No players should be allowed to go on loan to another team in Div 1.**

Rew included in the squad plus, finally Matt Henry – lets hope he is fully fit. Umeed retains his place as does Vaughan but no Bashir.

Match Day: Umeed and Aldridge left out of squad and it transpired that Gregory would not bowl due to a niggle but was selected as a batsman only. And Rew in the squad!

Teams: **Somerset**: Gregory*, Davey, Lammonby, Rew†, Abell, Banton, Vaughan, Overton, Pretorius, Henry, Leach.

Sussex: Haines, Hughes, Clark, Alsop, Coles, Simpson*†, Hudson-Prentice, Carson, McAndrew, Robinson, Hayes.

Toss: Sussex – field.

Umpires: Mike Burns & Tom Lungley

Match referee: Simon Hinks

Scores: Somerset 338 in105.1 overs, Vaughan 80 (134), Lammonby 60 (141) & 150-5 in 39.2 overs (Gregory 89*); Sussex 152 in 46.2 overs & following on 335 Haines 50 (76), Simpson 82* (165).

Points: Somerset 21 (2/3), Sussex (0/3).

Day 1: A glorious sunny day and not a cloud in the sky all day. Nobody saw the batting line up coming. After struggling all season so far in posting a decent opening stand against the new ball, it was decided to change the line up. So, it was a massive surprise when Gregory and Davey marched it to face the new ball having lost the toss and been inserted on a pitch that was the same colour as the outfield. Both

played their part but Gregory fell after 5.5 overs, caught at 2nd slip for 15. Lammonby joined Davey and put on 58 together. Davey looked the part choosing when to play and when not to play very well and applied himself as a proper opener until being adjudged caught behind just before lunch for 28 from 77 balls – 79-2. Lunch saw Somerset on 99-2 with Lammonby 31* and Rew 13* from 30 overs.

During the afternoon session, the ball began to seam and spin a bit more than in the morning session, but the batsmen applied themselves well, Lammonby and Rew sharing a partnership of 70 before Rew, who once again showed his class and fully justified promotion to number 4, perished, guiding the ball to slip for 46 from 47 balls. Lammonby was then caught in two minds and stepping away to a ball that he probably should have gone forward to, he also guided to slip for his first half century of the season – 60 from 141 balls. Banton departed to a controversial dismissal, given out by umpire Burns – the ball in question appeared to hit Simpson's gloves and deflected to Alsop at slip – whether he hit the ball is questionable, but he clearly thought he did not. Vaughan came in at 7 to join Abell who was quietly going about compiling an innings as the two put on an excellent 83 before Abell edged to Clark at slip for 42 from 108 – 270-6. Overton, continuing his restraint from the Essex match helped Vaughan add 47 in 13.5 overs as Somerset ended the day 317-6, Overton 22* and Vaughan, reaching his highest First Class score of 70*.

An absolutely absorbing days cricket swinging one way then the other and on balance honours were even and another interesting day's play looks likely on day 2.

Day 2: Another fabulous day of Championship cricket on yet another glorious day. Somerset only added 21 in 9.1 overs as Overton, caught behind for 28 from 60 balls, Pretorius, 1 from 4 and Henry who gave his wicket away for 4 from 12 all perished leaving Vaughan left with Leach but the first ball he tried to hit in anger was hit straight to mid-on for a career best 80leaving Leach 0*. It is certain that his watching father would have wanted him to not hit out but to steadily progress towards a maiden hundred but it wasn't to be – Somerset also squandered a batting point.

Sussex started positively with both Hughes and Haines putting away any loose balls but after 10.1 overs Overton induced and edge from Haines who was caught behind by Rew and 11 balls later Clark was LBW to Henry although he didn't look happy – 45-2. At lunch Sussex had reached 68-2, Hughes 19*, Alsop 8*.

The afternoon session proved to be pivotal as the bat was beaten on several occasions without inducing and edge as the shine on the new ball began to disappear. In 19.2 overs, Sussex slumped from 75-2 to 152 all out 77-8. All the bowlers chipped in and despite Lammonby dropping a relatively regulation catch at 3rd slip all the other catching opportunities being pouched – Overton taking 3 excellent slip catches. He and Pretorius shared 6 wickets for 54 runs, Leach bagging 2 and one each for Davey and Henry who was a little off but hardly surprising seeing as it hadn't bowled for 6 weeks or more.

With a lead of 186 and 7 sessions left in the match, Gregory enforced the follow on. Once again with the new ball, Somerset were a bit wayward and Hughes and Haines cashed in posting an excellent partnership of 100 in 21 overs before finally Leach had Hughes caught behind for 40, followed 8 balls later by his opening partner Haines LBW to Pretorius for 50 from 76 balls. Carson was sent in at 3 but he struggled to find any gaps in the field as did Clark and to everyone's delight both were caught by Rew off Henry and Leach to leave Sussex still 59 runs behind with 6 wickets remaining. Another interesting day to follow on day 3.

Day 3: Yet another fascinating day's play and one not without incident or drama. It was always going to be a difficult to secure 6 wickets on a pitch that had become better for batting as the match progressed. Alsop fell early for caught at slip by Gregory off Overton for 8 and 4 balls later Coles called for a single to get off the mark and Banton threw the stumps down to run Hayes out needlessly for 2. But as always of late Simpson came to Sussex's rescue putting on first 66 with Coles (39) and 78 with Hudson-Prentice (41). By this time Sussex were 87 in front at 273-8, but the final 2 wickets squeezed out another 62 valuable runs as McAndrew (16) and Robinson (18) took Sussex's total to 335 all out leaving the excellent Simpson stranded on 82*, for a lead of 149 on the stroke of tea. Leach bowled with usual accuracy but didn't find much purchase to take 4-51 from 24.2 overs and Henry, although not quite up to his usual standards, 3-90 from 21 overs.

150 to win on paper looked a relatively, but with Robinson and McAndrew with a new ball, the chase was not going to be simple. And so it proved as Robinson bowled Davey with an absolute jaffa for 2, had Lammonby LBW playing across the line for 0, while Rew was caught behind off McAndrew for 6 – 30-3 and still 120 behind. Could this be yet another Somerset collapse that have been regularly seen in recent seasons? Luckily Abell dug in taking 23 balls to get off the mark while Gregory who was caught 2nd ball off a Robinson no ball, played really well putting away the bad ball and rotating the strike. The pair put on 68 before Abell was caught at 2nd slip for 27 from 62 balls – 98-4. Banton soon followed for 15 from 31, 130-5 and it was left to skipper Gregory to see the win in the extra half hour. Gregory was excellent, continuing his good seasons form as Somerset finally won by 5 wickets and secured 21 much needed points.

Summary: A really interesting match and thankfully Somerset won. The upper order batting is still a major concern, although Davey batted very in the first innings as did Gregory in the second. Henry will

be glad to get a few overs under his belt. Banton's form is a concern – take out his brilliant 371, he has scored 86 runs at 9.55. Overton and Pretorius both bowled their hearts out in the Sussex 2nd innings and deserved more reward.
On to Riverside next week for the 7th and final match in the CC Part 1 – half the CC matches will be over by 26th May.

7 – Durham – Riverside F-M 23-26 May 2025 – Won by 7 Wickets. 5th in table.

Pre Match: 19th May: This fixture clashes with ODI training camp which Banton has been selected for and starts the day after the Test Match v Zimbabwe which Rew has been selected for.
21st May: Rew in England squad, but not selected, but his brother Thomas also added to Somerset squad after signing a "short term contract" from 21st May to 26th June, to cover first 8 t20 matches and Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire Championship matches. England ODI & t20 series 29/5-10/6/25, Banton likely to play for England.
Teams: **Somerset**: Lammonby, Umeed, Vaughan, Abell, Rew†, Gregory*, Overton, Pretorius, Davey, Henry, Leach.
Durham: Lees*, McKinney, Gay, Bedingham, Robinson†, Ackerman, Clark, Raine, Killeen, Yusuf, Minto
Toss: Durham - bat
Umpires: Richard Kettleborough & James Middlebrook
Match Ref: James Whittaker
Scores: Durham 277 77 overs, OG Robinson 52 (55, 9x4), Henry 4-60 & 159 43 overs, Henry 3-51, Pretorius 3-46; Somerset 172 38.4 overs Killeen 5-36 & 267-3 77.1 overs, Lammonby 104* (161 1x4), Abell 73* (133 8x4).
Points: Somerset 19 (0/3), Durham 4 (1/3).
Day 1: The perfect start as Henry induced an inside edge first ball to Lees who was bowled, but thereafter, although the ball nipped about, Somerset didn't get any luck at as the ball beat the bat of Gay and McKinney regularly. Gay was dropped twice on 26 and 39, both difficult but catches win matches. Gay finally holed out to Abell off Henry for 41 (90) and at lunch Durham were 96-3 from 30 overs.
The afternoon session was a good one for Somerset with 5 wickets falling in the session in 34 overs. The prized scalp of Bedingham was the first to go, in the first over after the interval, LBW to Pretorius for 17 from 33. Robinson and Ackerman put on 55 before the former was brilliantly caught by Rew off Henry diving across Gregory at first slip for 52 from 55 and was soon followed by Clark again caught by Rew but this time off Davey, then Ackerman was bowled by a jaffa from Overton – 219-7. Finally, just before tea, Raine was `LBW to Henry for 25 from 25, a decision he was not altogether happy with. Tea 227-8 after 64 overs.
Killeen (son of) on debut secured a 15 ball duck poor chap but Yusuf and Minto frustrated Somerset with a 10th wicket stand of exactly 50 before Minto clipped Pretorius to square leg for a very good 34 from 44 balls. Somerset seem to struggle to knock over 9, 10 and jack and it is a reoccurring theme.
Sixteen overs remained in the day and a tricky period to bat. Gregory and Davey opened up again and all Somerset fans were thinking how many wickets would be lost before the close. Gregory dragged on for 5 from 10, then Davey got a good ball from Yusuf to be caught at 2nd slip for 24 from 41. Killeen then induced Lammonby to get an edge to a ball slanting across the left hander to be caught by Robinson for 18 from 43. Leach was pushed out as night watchman and with Rew saw Somerset through to the close. So, 3 down for 63 on in 17 overs. All the Durham bowlers bowled a very tight line and length and on a consistent basis, and it has to be said that they were far more accurate than Somerset's bowlers.
Day 2: Thomas Rew kept wicket while his brother went to hospital to check on a finger injury. Under cloudy skies, Durham's bowlers continued where they left off on day 1, bowling a really good line and length. Killeen troubled all the batsmen, Rew was first to go LBW to one that nipped back for 8 from 7, Leach played some nice shots along with a few plays and misses until he was well caught by Gay for 30 from 38 at 2nd slip. The usual procession of wickets then ensued in typical away Somerset fashion – Abell and Umeed both LBW to Killeen for 5 and 14 respectively, then Vaughan and Overton fell to Killeen in successive balls to leave Somerset 128-9 after 33 overs. Henry and Pretorius produced an entertaining partnership of 44 in 5.4 overs using the long handle to some effect to push Somerset up to 172 all out from 38.4 overs, but only 99 runs scored in 16.4 overs for the loss of 7 wickets. A really poor batting performance but great performance from Killeen 10-2-36-5 on debut – well bowled.
Durham had to face 8 overs before lunch and Somerset managed to get McKinney caught behind for 2 and then Gay caught by Gregory at 1st slip for 0, 18-2 at lunch – a lead of 123.
Rain during lunch prevented play until 2pm, 67 overs remaining. Thomas Rew still keeping wicket. Somerset captured 5 wickets in the afternoon session and the bowlers did well to take them as Durham have a strong order. Bedingham was first to go, caught by Overton at 2nd slip for 8, Lees followed 5 runs later for35 from 50 LBW to Pretorius – 68-5. Twenty runs later Robinson was well caught by Umeed in the gully for 33 from 34 and finally Raine caught by Abell at cover for 9 to leave Durham 131-7 at tea from 33 overs.

Daniel Hogg replaced Yusuf due to concussion, who can bat and bowl. With the pitch not that easy to bat on, every run was crucial for Durham. The last 3 wickets produced 54 runs but the lead of 264 is probably too many (265 to win) for Somerset to realistically chase.
Gregory and Davey again opened the innings and managed to put on 35 in 13 overs before Davey was bowled by Killeen for 15 from 37, but he had done his job. Lammonby joined Gregory and they took the score to 71-1 at the close after 22 overs. Luckily the umpires took the players off the field with 5 overs remaining and both batsmen were delighted to return to the changing room. Lammonby 19* (25) and Gregory 37 (70) both batted well although both were beaten but managed to keep their wickets intact. 18 wickets fell on day 2 for 194 to win on day 3 in 96 overs at 2.02/over – can Somerset win their first away match since the match at Northampton in 2023? All will be revealed.
Day 3: Gregory fell to the 12th ball of the day, caught behind off Raine for the addition of only 1 run to his overnight score – a good ball but did he really need to play it? Rew and Lammonby were circumspect to start with but Rew was a little more expansive and played and missed a few times but made a good 31 from 53 before lobbing up a catch to Lees at cover – a very soft dismissal – 128-3 from 39 overs. Lammonby (65) and Abell (20) saw somerset through to lunch at 174-3 from 55 overs, still 91 to win. Who would have thought that the pair would see Somerset home to extend their partnership to 139 in 40 overs for a fabulous Somerset win on the stroke of 3pm. The partnership was not without alarm as Lammonby was badly dropped by Minto at deep square leg on 69. Had the catch been taken, Somerset may have struggled but as it was, Lammonby completed his 8th First Class century and what an important one it was.
Summary: This was an absolutely brilliant victory and the first one in Durham for 28 years (1997), when Peter Bowler was captain. The third innings in Championship matches is so important and to bundle Durham out in 43 overs for 159 was an outstanding effort, especially after conceding a first innings deficit of 105. All of the seamers were much tighter in the 2nd innings than in the first, but to chase down 265 to win the match on a pitch that saw 18 wickets fall on day 2, was, not only unexpected but testament to Somerset's fighting spirit. There is now a 4 week break while the t20 takes over.

8 – Warwickshire, Edgbaston Su-W 22-25 June 2025. (Kookaburra ball) Drawn 14 pts. 4th in table

Pre-match: Very strange squad selection for this match and worse no proper and understandable explanation from management. Using the use of the Kookaburra ball, depth of squad and the playing schedule as the reason for the squad selection, is not good enough from the Head Coach. Members want some reasons why these decisions are made not bland wishy washy statements that say nothing at all and skirt around the issue – openness and honesty required, which members get very little of.
No Dickson, Goldsworthy, Umeed or Gregory in the squad. Overton to captain – is Gregory injured or rested? Why was Fin Hill selected in the 13 when he hasn't been scoring runs in the 2nd XI – equally why weren't Goldsworthy and Umeed selected. Fair enough, give Gregory a match off. Do management really want to win this Championship or not? Why has TKC been selected in the squad when on a white ball only contract – was this done to appease the ECB knowing full well that he was going to play after the t20 matches?
Somerset have opening batsmen but chose not to use then as Dickson, Umeed and Smeed left in Taunton and nobody knows where Jake Ball is – is he injured? How is he progressing if he is? What is his injury? Or have the club let him go early?
Umeed's non selection smacks of not being given a further contract.
Teams: **Somerset**: Kohler-Cadmore, Davey, Lammonby, Rew†, Abell, Banton, Vaughan, Overton*, Pretorius, Leach, Henry.
Warwickshire: Yates, Davies*, Latham, Hain, Bethell, Barnard, K Smith†, Riccohiccioli, Bamber, Simmons, Hannon-Dalby.
Toss: Somerset - bat
Umpires: Michael Gough & Graham Lloyd
Match Referee: Mike Smith
Scores: Somerset 498 all out 133.3 overs, Lammonby 133 (196), Kohler Cadmore 104 (138), Davey 64 (121) and 229-8, Rew 61 (81, 9x4), Riccohiccioli 5-67. Warwickshire 351 in 121.1 overs, Davies 78 (186, 8x4), Latham 65 (158, 8x4), Hain 78 (170, 8x4, 2x6) and 161-4 from 56 overs. Latham 52 (103, 6x4), Hain 68* (157, 9x4, 1x6).
Points: Somerset 14 (4/2), Warwickshire 11 (2/1).
Day 1: Kohler-Cadmore was pushed up the order to open in Gregory's place but the highlight of day 1 was an excellent opening partnership of 182 in 42.2 overs between Kohler-Cadmore and Davey. Both batted very well and were clinical on any poor deliveries. Somerset reached lunch without losing a wicket, 71-0 – a rarity of late as rain curtailed play and an early lunch was taken. The opening pair marched on to 182 before Davey swung Simmons to long leg for an excellent 64 from 121 balls with seven 4's and two 6's. If ever there was an opportunity for Davey to register a First Class century, then this was it, but sadly it wasn't to be. Kohler-Cadmore reached three figures from 128 balls having struck sixteen 4's and two 6's but almost immediately was caught behind for 104. Lammonby and Rew put on 88 in 26.4 overs

before Rew perished for 38. Abell joined the increasingly confident Lammonby who unfurled some glorious drives both straight and square of the wicket to see Somerset through to the close at 327-3, Lammonby 75* and Abell 20*. A good position for Somerset and a score of 600 should be in sight on the benign pitch.

Day 2: 104 overs scheduled due to the loss of 11.0 overs on day 1 and Lammonby continued where he left off the previous day and he played gloriously – so easy on the eye and he duly reached his 9th First Class century from 168 balls. With such a lifeless pitch, he would never have a better opportunity to reaching not only in making his highest score but potentially making 200. He duly passed 116 but failed after adding an additional 17 runs to pop a catch to Davies at mid-on. Such a shame as it was there for the taking. Abell also perished before lunch to leave Somerset at 446-5 at lunch – Banton 20* and Vaughan 8* from 115 overs.

Day 3: Resuming on 158-1, Henry made an early breakthrough inducing fellow New Zealander Latham to edge to Rew failing to add to his overnight 65. Davies followed 6 runs later brilliantly caught by Kohler-Cadmore one handed at slip for 78. Bethell and Hain added 51 before the former was caught behind on the stoke of lunch for 20 – 229-4 from 80.2 overs. The ball was beginning to reverse swing as there was no shine left on the controversial kookaburra and had been helped by the dryness of the pitch.

After lunch Hain was circumspect as the bowlers bowled a tight line and length but anything off line he punished. Barnard didn't last long caught by Rew off Overton and on the stoke of tea Smith (19) became Rew's fifth victim of the innings and Overton's fourth. The Australian spinner Riccohiccioli frustrated the Somerset bowlers but when he was caught by Lammonby off Pretorius, Warwickshire were still 10 runs away from the follow on target of 349. Sadly, for Somerset, Bamber and Simmons saw them over the target. It must be mentioned that Somerset dropped 3 catches, albeit hard – Bethell on 3 (31) 206-3, 75.2 overs, Smith badly dropped by Rew on 15 (39), 279-5 98.4 overs, so Warwickshire should not have made the follow on target, but the bowlers stuck to their task admirable claiming 9-190 which was a brilliant performance on such a flat pitch and with the designated ball.

With Somerset left to bat for 27 overs, both Davey and Kohler-Cadmore perished to the new ball to Hannon-Dalby and Bamber for 10 and 12, but Lammonby and Rew put on 81 until the formed threw his wicket away and the opportunity of making 3 successive centuries in a row as Somerset finished on 116-3, 263 in front. An interesting day 4 could follow, but a declaration option is a bit tricky and certainly won't be before lunch.

Day 4: Somerset progressed during the morning session adding 113 runs in 27.1 overs for the loss of 5 wickets – Rew for a stylish 61, Banton fell LBW to the Australian Riccohiccioli for 2 continuing his run of low scores, Abell for 42 from 63, Pretorious for 5 and Overton on the stroke of lunch for 12, leaving Vaughan undefeated on 38* and setting Warwickshire 377 to win in roughly 60 overs.

Somerset squeezed in 34 overs between lunch and tea as Warwickshire reached 100-2, Davies for 0 and Yates for 13. But with a further 277 to win it was clear that Warwickshire had absolutely no intention of trying to get close. The ball did reverse swing a little for Pretorious and he bowled his heart out as did all of the bowlers and in the end, it was the kookaburra ball and the docile pitch that won as Warwickshire ended up on 161-4 from 56 overs as the players shook hands at 16:50.

Summary: Subsequent information revealed that Gregory was on paternity leave, but still the club fail to inform members. Kerr was not at this match but Berger was.

A docile flat pitch with a kookaburra ball was in hindsight never going to provide a result **and the sooner the ridiculous sand totally unnecessary experiment with the seamless ball is abandoned the better.** Somerset will be happy with 14 points as Somerset leapfrog Warwickshire by 1 point.

9 – Nottinghamshire – Taunton Su-Wed 29, 30 June, 1, 2 July 2025. Drawn 11 points, 4th in table. (Kookaburra ball)

Pre-match: Poor pre-match report as always. No news on Ball. Squad of 13, Aldridge back from Durham but no Pretorius and Gregory still on paternity leave although yet again this was not communicated by the Club – such poor communication to it's loyal and faithful members.

Somerset: Kohler-Cadmore, Dickson, Lammonby, Rew†, Abell, Banton, Vaughan, Aldridge, Overton*, Henry, Leach.

Nottinghamshire: Hameed*, Slater, McCann, Clarke, Haynes, Kishan†, James, Patterson-White, Hutton, F. Ahmed, Abbas

Toss: Somerset - field

Umpires: Nigel Llong & Rob White

Match Referee: Dean Cosker

Toss: Somerset - bat

Scores: Somerset 379 (119 overs), Banton 84 (179 balls 8x4), Abell 64 (166) 7x4, JEK Rew 58 (108 9x4), Henry 41* (29 4x4, 3x6) & 238-4 75 overs, Kohler-Cadmore 147 (196, 11x4, 5x6), JEK Rew 43 (86, 5x4), Patterson-White 4-104; Nottinghamshire 509 163.2 overs, Slater 124 (245, 14x4), Kishan 77 (128 8x4, 2x6), Haynes 157 (295 17x4, 2x6), James 66 (118, 7x4).

Points: Somerset 11 (2/1), Nottinghamshire 12, (2/2).

Day 1: After winning the toss on an overcast but warm morning, Overton chose to bat first. Dickson joined Kohler-Cadmore to open the batting even though Dickson was not in the original squad and the club made absolutely no explanation as to the change. Davey was discarded but rumours of an ankle injury circled. Pretorius was left out although more rumours about a niggle. Why do the Club not come clean about these decisions – communication in this area is so very poor and happens all the time.
Kohler-Cadmore and Dickson became the 12th opening partnership in two seasons, but that partnership didn't last long as Dickson played across the line to Hutton to be comprehensively LBW for 0 to the 4th ball he received. 10-1, became 22-2 as Lammonby, after leaving several balls outside the off stump, chose the play one from Hutton to be caught behind for 2. Kishan behind the timbers pouched Kohler-Cadmore for 31 off Abbas who bowled an excellent line and length, something Somerset's bowlers should make note of – 46-3 and the Somerset faithful were beginning to fear the worst. A fine stand of 55 before lunch saw Somerset through to the break at 100-3 with Rew 41* and Abell 17*.
That partnership extended to 99 in 34.4 overs before Rew who had batted brilliantly but well within himself was well caught and bowled by James from a powerful straight drive for 58. Banton joined Abell and was badly dropped by Patterson-White at 2nd slip on 2 (161-4), but he dug in and was very circumspect for most of the afternoon. Abell, although not his fluent self, also dug in and took runs when he could but the Nottinghamshire bowlers bowled a tight line and length and Paterson-White gave nothing away and was rewarded with the wicket of Abell, caught by Kishan for an excellent 64, his 4th half century of the season. At tea Somerset had reached 185-5, Banton 15* and Vaughan 4.
During the evening session Banton and Vaughan took their partnership to 71 before Vaughan was brilliantly caught by Haynes at 2nd slip for a well-made 35 from 74. Aldridge joined Banton but in facing 36 balls only managed 6 runs but was still there at the close along with Banton who had made 57 from 128. If Somerset could squeeze 350 on day 2, that may prove a decent score. The Nottinghamshire bowling was excellent all day – they did not bowl hardly any balls down the leg side nor did they bowl anything short or wide on either side of the wicket.
Day 2: On a swelteringly hot day with temperatures peaking at 29ºC, Somerset were bowled out for 379 fifteen minutes before lunch. Aldridge was the first to go having faced 42 balls for 7 but Banton continued his marathon rotating the strike well and deploying the reverse sweep when necessary. Overton supported Banton scoring 24 from 38 until he was adjudged LBW by Nigel Llong. Banton followed 10 runs later having faced 179 balls and been a model of concentration. Henry provided the long handle with great effect striking 41 from 29 balls with 4x4 and 3x6 and remained unbeaten as Lech popped up a return catch for 6. Nottinghamshire had three awkward overs to negotiate before lunch and went to the break on 15-0.
The rest of the day was a long hard slog for the Somerset bowlers who stuck to their task admirably. There was no movement off the pitch and none in the air under a cloudless sky and in the remaining 71 overs only three wickets were gained – Hameed was caught being off Henry for 24, McCann poked around for an unconvincing 20 from 49 and finally Clarke made 18 from 48 but it was Slater who held the Nottinghamshire innings together with his first century of the season after having scored nine half centuries this season. Somerset's bowlers will be glad of a night's rest to come back fresh on day three to try and take 7 wickets as quickly as possible but looks like this pitch will be the winner. The completely pointless kookaburra experiment is killing county cricket – this was the day Surrey made 820-9 – no balance at all between bat and ball.
Day 3: Another hot day and an attritional one at that. Nottinghamshire scored 295 runs in 92 overs with Slater adding eight runs to his overnight 116 to become Leach's first victim. But the Somerset bowlers struggled against Kishan and Haynes as they put on 138 in 40.1 overs before the former was caught by Abell off Leach for 77. Haynes and James then scored 105 from 31.3 overs either side of tea. Haynes batted very well and steady, no fancy shots but he put away the ball when needed as he progressed to a career best to 157 from 295 balls. The tail only slightly wagged but still Nottinghamshire amassed 509 all out and Leach took 6-121 from a mammoth 53.2 overs. The odd ball turned slightly but Somerset were not helped by Overton and Rew dropping Kishan on 60 and Rew spilled a chance on 65 but luckily those drops only cost 17 in total. The visitors surpassed their previous best score at Taunton of 505, which was set in 2018, but Leach completed his five-for when he got one to turn sharply and Brett Hutton (16) could only edge the ball through to Overton at first slip. Farhan Ahmed then chipped Vaughan straight to Leach at 509 for nine and when a diving Overton at first slip accounted for James (66), Leach had six for 121 and Notts were all out. Somerset had just one over to bat and pushed Henry out to face that over – he hit a nice 4 though the covers but then kept going back to Patterson-White and duly chopped on the 5th ball – bad technique in the circumstances and start day 4 having to bat through the day to save the match 126 behind.
Day 4: 4-1 overnight – questionwas could Somersrt bat the day out as setting any total was out of the question. At 28-3 (102 behind) and 128-4 (2 behind), Somerset were potentially staring down the barrel of defeat, but commeth the hour, cometh the man and in this case, it was Kohler-Cadmore who produced his finest red ball innings of 147* from 196 balls with eleven 4's and six mighty 6's. Rew dug in with 43 from 86 balls and Abell dropped anchor with an uninteresting but absolutely vital innings of 24 from 126

balls (110 dots), but in the context it was just what was needed. The teams shook hands at 16:50 and what was left of the crowd drifted home after witnessing yet another boring kookaburra draw. Had TKC been able to bat on he was a dead cert for a double hundred, but all the Somerset faithful await that pleasure.

Summary: **In the end a bore draw thanks to Mr Key implementing the use of the kookaburra ball and it will drive away spectators from Championship cricket – perhaps this is exactly what he wants**. Only 1 result in both Divisions and a total of 25 centuries in round 9, with Surrey amassing 810 and Durham 260-0 on day 4 to create another boring draw.

10 – Durham, Taunton, Tu, W, 22, 23 July 2025. Won by 5 Wickets, 20 points, Durham 3. 3rd in table. Kookaburra ball. (4 points deducted in late September for an alleged "below average pitch" which it wasn't – it was bad and reckless batting by Durham)

Pre-match: No information on injuries and nothing mentioned about the squad. Aldridge back from Durham (rumours abound that he has signed for them in 2026), Pretorius and Goldsworthy included. Pretorius, allegedly injured, so Goldsworthy and Aldridge left out of the final XI. Dickson and Umeed playing for the 2nd XI at New Maldon v Surrey. Meredith "not available for selection" no reason given, but he is still in Taunton.

Teams: Somerset: Kohler-Cadmore, Davey, Lammonby, Rew†, Abell, Banton, Vaughan, Gregory*, Overton, Leach, Ball.

Durham: Lees*, Gay, Ackermann, Bedingham, OG Robinson†, G Clark, Raine, Drissell, Potts, Wagner, CF Parkinson.

Umpires: Ian Blackwell & Martin Saggers

Match Ref: Simon Hinks

Toss: Somerset – field

Scores: Durham 145 (30.1 overs), Overton 10-3-26-6; Somerset 250, Lammonby 89 (109 8x4), Drissell 5-59; Durham 190 (58.2 overs), Leach 25-5-63-6; Somerset 89-5, Banton 33* (22, 4x4, 1x6).

Points: Somerset 20 (1/3), Durham 3 (0/3).

Day 1: What a day! And a day on which 22 wickets fell, but mainly down to pretty poor batting on both sides. After winning the toss, Gregory had no hesitation in asking Durham to bat on a very green pitch with lighter coloured and dry ends. There were 2 rain delays and an early lunch was taken at 12:40. Overton was brilliant throughout his 10 over spell with the new kookaburra with figures of 10-3-23-6. The first wicket put on 26 before Gay edged to Gregory at slip followed next ball by Ackermann again caught in the slips, this time by Kohler-Cadmore. In Gregory's first over he induced the dangerous Bedingham to edge to Rew. In the 10th over, Robinson and Clark followed in consecutive balls off Overton and at the end of the over, he had figures on 5-1-8-4. Wickets continued to tumble as Lees skied off Overton and Drissell hit Overton to mid-off but a stand of 31 between Raine and Potts took Durham to 102-8 and Somerset really should have turned the screw but Gregory for some reason did noit reintroduce Overton into the attack. Gregory himself was expensive as was Davey as the tail wager far too hard as Wagner (24) and Potts (21) took Durham to 145 all out in 30.1 overs. All of Durham's innings was completed under leaden skies – Ball and Leach took a wicket each and bowled tidily, but Durham should have only made a maximum of 100. How important this will be remains to be seen.

Kohler-Cadmore and Davey once again opened the innings and put on 62 with TKC being particularly severe on Wagner who he hit for three 4's in one over but Wagner had the last laugh as TKC was caught and bowled off a skier for 40 from 30 balls. Davey then succumbed to Potts for a well-made 367 from 47 balls but his dismissal brought about a further 3 wickets as Somerset went from 98-1 to 115-5 in 6 overs. Rew sliced a catch to point and Abell got a first baller, caught at short leg. Lammonby meanwhile, was showing all the batsman how to play offering something to the bowlers. He played and missed a few times but in between kept the score ticking over in striking eight 4's. The lower order of Vaughan (15), Gregory (17) and Overton (19) all chipped in to push the score to 231-8= when Lammonby was caught off Drissell for a stylish 89. Thereafter ball smote a 6 into Gimblet's hill to reach 250 and secure a batting point before being bowled next ball.

Durham had 3 overs to bat as Somerset opened up with Vaughan from the Tres end as Durham had 2 lefthanders opening and the 2nd ball was a peach as Lees played forward and the new kookaburra turned enough to take the edge to be caught by Gregory. Lees was not a happy bunny as he marched off, verbally giving the Somerset players in the huddle some grief – fact was he got a good ball and was not good enough to keep it out. Parkinson was pushed out as nightwatchman and he lasted 6 balls before falling to LBW to Leach – again he was not good enough to hit the ball. Wagner then became the second nightwatchman and this time he survived the final over ad Durham ended an eventful day on 5-2. 22 wickets in the day but also 400 runs from 82.4 overs at 4.83 per over. That is not a boring day with a kookaburra, but there were some poor shots. More on this in the summary.

Day 2: Durham still needed an additional 100 runs to make Somerset bat again. Gregory and Overton opened up but there was little movement under a blue sky but Vaughan was only brought on in the 11th over. Gay and Wagner batted without any problems against the seam bowlers and put on 75 before

Vaughan trapped him LBW for 33 from 49 balls. Gay followed 4 balls later for a well compiled 42, 76-4. Ackermann then completed a miserable match, a 3 ball pair and then the dangerous Bedingham became Leach's 4th victim as he was trapped in front – 92-6. A partnership of 40 between Clark and Ollie Robinson forced Somerset to bat again they batted sensibly but Robinson left a huge gap between bat and pad and was bowled neck and crop. Raine joined Clark and the pair put on 34 before Clark edged to Rew for 32. Raine again played well putting bat to ball and he was last out for 36 from 63 as Durham were all out for 190, setting Somerset 86 to win.

A simple target with over 6 sessions in the match left, but no, Somerset never do things simply. Parkinson and Drissell opened the bowling as expected but as expected TKC hit the 2nd ball of the first over for 6 but fell in the 4th over for 10. Davey had already departed LBW for 4 but Lammonby continued where he left off in the first innings making a nice 22 before leaving a ball from Parkinson which took his off stump. Rew and Abell both went cheaply the pair making 15 in 4 innings, so it was left to Banton who played a real cameo innings as he virtually reverse swept every ball and finally striking a 6 over long on to win the match, and a memorable one too.

Summary: A fabulous win! Some really poor batting by Durham.

11 – Nottinghamshire, Trent Bridge, Su-W 29 July-1 August 2025 – Drawn (4th and final Kookaburra ball match). 3rd in table.

Pre-match: Kohler-Cadmore in the squad but not selected until late in the day it transpired that he was in Taunton awaiting the birth of his first child. No communication from the club as usual and a typical smoke and daggers approach which seems to be the norm these days. Still no explanation as to why Smeed or Goldsworthy are not selected.

Teams: Somerset: Gregory*, Davey, Lammonby, Rew†, Abell, Banton, Vaughan, Overton, Pretorius, Leach, Ball.

Nottinghamshire: Hameed, Slater, McCann, Clarke, Haynes, James, Paterson-White, Harrison, Hutton, Pennington, Abbas.

Toss: Nottinghamshire- field

Umpires: Mike Burns & Rob Bailey

Match Ref: Steve Davis

Scores: Somerset 438 132.2 overs, JEK Rew 166 (278, 14x4, 3x6), Abell 156 (254, 19x4) & 200-5d 66 overs, Abell 51 (116, 5x4, 1x6), Banton 43* (132, 3x4); Nottinghamshire 544 159.2 overs (no new ball taken, so 1 ball used for all 956 balls), Hameed 206 (388, 23x4, 2x6), Haynes 70 (127, 6x4, James 72 (94, 7x4, 1x6).

Points: Somerset 12 (3/1), Nottinghamshire 13 (3/2).

Day 1: After loosing the toss and being inserted on an overcast morning, it was no surprise when Mohammed Abbas found an exquisite length to remove Gregory, shouldering arms to a straight ball, Lammonby, caught at 2nd slip and Davey, caught at slip, to reduce Somerset to 25-3 and a very familiar position of late. But Rew and Abell knuckled down and saw Somerset through until lunch at 90-3.

The pair continued their partnership after lunch and during this session both batsmen rotated the strike, taking quick singles and hitting the bad ball for 4. Somerset fans were delighted when both reached their hundreds before tea with the score at 227-3. Abel's first of the season and 17th overall and Rew's 3rd of the season and 11th First Class. Could they bat another session out? The answer was almost and in doing so crept past the Somerset record 4th partnership, 310, set by Denning and Botham v Gloucestershire at Taunton in 1980. Nottinghamshire set a trap with a long leg and a deep square leg and sadly Abell, after batting so brilliantly fell into the trap neck and crop as he hit his 254th ball straight down James' throat for a career best 156. If ever there was an opportunity to get a double hundred, this was it. Leach came in as nightwatchman, faced two balls before the players were brought off the field by the umpire for bad light with Somerset 338-4.

Day 2: After some early morning rain, play started on time but with a damp outfield, Somerset lost Leach to the first ball of the day, a poor slash outside the off stump as James took a good catch off Pennington. Nottinghamshire's bowlers bowled a tight line and length as Banton and Rew struggled to find runs easy to come by. Rew fell for a brilliant 168, as he feathered to Clarke as did Banton for 14 from 41 and Vaughan, 15 from 36 and at lunch Somerset had progressed to 396-8 from 120 overs but at least a third batting point had been secured; Overton and Pretorius being the not out batsmen on 19 and 6 respectively. Ten balls later Pretorius chipped a catch to the bowler, Harrison. Ball joined Overton and in his own way batted really well to score 24 with 3 well struck 4's from 46 in a partnership of 41 in 10.5 overs. The innings ended with Somerset having scored exactly 100 in the day to end on 438, which probably should have been nearer 500, nevertheless a decent score after being 25-3. Nottinghamshire did not bowl a wide or a no ball in 132.3 overs, 795 balls.

On the bland surface, Somerset's only chance of putting Nottinghamshire under pressure was to take early wickets with the new kookaburra. Despite Slater shouldering arms to Overton's 6th ball to be bowled for 4, all the other batsmen looked comfortable against all the Somerset bowlers. Hameed was excellent never failing to hit a bad ball for 4 or on 2 occasions for 6, so it was no surprise that he progressed to 100 just before the close from &&& balls as Notts ended the day on 189-2 in 55 overs.

Day 3: From a Somerset point of view, this was a really boring day of Championship cricket on a completely dire, slow, turgid pitch with absolutely nothing in it for the bowlers. Hameed batted very well for his 206 keeping his composure as Overton tried everything to get him out and it was unfortunate that Hameed was run out by James or he could easily have made 300. All the batsmen made runs and all 8 bowlers went for plenty. The day was epitomised by Gregory's refusal to take the new ball at 80 overs instead setting odd fields and eventually bowling 159.2 overs (956 balls) with it, which must be some kind of record. There was a modicum of reverse swing but even that didn't produce a wicket. So another potentially boring day looks likely on day 4 as Nottinghamshire have no intention of achieving a result and Somerset will not be able to take 13 wickets, yet another bore draw likely with the kookaburra. 511-6 at the close.

Day 4: The final day was going to go one of two ways and that was a boring draw or Somerset would capitulate and be bowled out on a pitch that potentially would break up. Luckily, Somerset managed to draw the match but not before alarm. Nottinghamshire batted on as Gregory still refused to take the new ball which by now was incredibly soft but it made scoring runs difficult. Notts moved to 544 all out in 8.2 overs, Ball and Davey sharing the 4 wickets, so Somerset conceded a lead of 106.

With new ball in Mohammed Abbas' hands it was entirely possible that he may well run through Somerset's upper order but an opening partnership of 32 in 8 overs soon became 32-2 as both Gregory and Davey succumbed but Lammonby, on a pair and Rew shared a steady partnership of 68 taking the score to 100 before both were out in quick succession to Harrison who was much more effective than Patterson-White. Banton batted in an incredibly restrained manor to move the match to a boring draw facing 132 balls for 43* as most of the spectators had either gone home or were asleep and thankfully the players shook hands at 16:50 to bring the misery to an end.

Summary: Yet another boring draw with a kookaburra – this type of match will do nothing to encourage spectators to attend Championship matches. The idea is that 4 day matches are a balance between bat and ball and this match certainly did not fall into that category.

12 – Yorkshire, Taunton M_Th 8-11 September 2025. Drawn. 3rd in table.

Pre match: Five and a half weeks since the last Championship, the players re-assembled after the dreaded 100 to play the most important 3 matches of the season. **Pretorius**, allegedly, has returned to South Africa but as usual NO communication from the Club. But on day 1 of this match, it was announced in the Daily Telegraph, that **Dickson** had signed a 2 year contract at Glamorgan to replace Northeast – again no communication from the Club. **Green** recalled from Leicestershire for the rest of the season, plus Goldsworthy and Ball added to squad. **Overton** and **Ball** "rested" ahead of t20 Finals Day on Saturday 13th September.

Teams: Somerset: Kohler-Cadmore, Vaughan, Lammonby, JEK Rew†, Abell, Goldsworthy, Gregory*, Green, Aldridge, Davey, Leach.

Yorkshire: Lyth, Bean, Agarwal, Wharton, Bairstow*†, Revis, Hill, Bess, Thompson, Moriarty, White.

Toss: Yorkshire – Field.

Umpires: Rob Bailey & Mick Newell

Match Referee: Steve Davis

Scores: **Somerset 441-6d (127 overs), Abell 130 (227b, 16x4), Rew 54 (102b, 8x4), Goldsworthy 65 (185b, 7x4); Yorkshire 134-9, Thompson 57 (48b, 9x4, 2x6).**

Points: Somerset 14 (3/3), Yorkshire 9 (0/1).

Day 1: Only 42 overs were possible after Somerset were inserted by Yorkshire on a green used pitch. Yet another reshuffle at the top of the order as Vaughan returned to open with Kohler-Cadmore, **Somerset's 9th opening pair of the season** – this surely must be addressed for 2026. The ball moved around and both openers played and missed. Vaughan (10) was first to depart with the score on 20 and Lammonby seemed to play down the wrong line to be bowled for 1 – 30-2 in the 10th over but Kohler-Cadmore and Rew put on 117 in 28.2 overs. Kohler-Cadmore was particularly severe on anything sort or pitched up as he advanced down the wicket to negate and seam movement. Bess appeared in the 12th over from the Rived End and Kohler-Cadmore deposited him for two large sixes, but after an exquisite cover drive off Thompson he advanced once too often and his luck ran out as he guided the ball to Hill and 2nd slip for an entertaining 76 from 110 balls. Rew completed his 45th half century of the season to take his tally to 930 runs for the season. Hopefully on day 2 he will be able to reach 1000 runs. Play was suspended at 14:07 at 155-3 from the 42 overs as thunderous clouds swirled around the County Ground and the subsequent rain left 4 puddles of surface water, which mean there was no further play. Somerset 155-3 from 42 overs, Rew 54*, Abell 3*.

Day 2: Rew departed to the 3rd ball of the day for his overnight score of 54 but in the 76 overs possible between the rain showers, Somerset progressed to 392-6 scoring 237 runs at 3.11/over. The highlight was a fabulous 2nd century of the season by Tom Abell to take his tally to 904 runs for the season at 47.57. During the day, 80 minutes were lost to the ever present threat of showers, but Abell was severe on anything off line and was well supported by Goldsworthy, making his first Championship appearance of the season, in a stand of 143 in 54.5 overs before Goldsworthy was LBW to Moriarty for a dogged 65 from 185 balls. Abell was out 20 overs later for 130 as he and Aldridge put on 92 in 20.4 overs. Green

joined Aldridge but the players marched off for bad light with 8 overs remaining. It appeared that the umpires couldn't get off the field quick enough – the light was no worse than it was half an hour previously. Somerset 392-6 from 118.3 overs, Aldridge 29*, Green 0*.

Day 3: Somerset decided to bat on when play started remarkably on time. Green and Aldridge playing a few shots and scoring 49 runs in the 8.3 overs before rain sent the players from the field. Sufficient rain fell to delay play until mid-afternoon by which time Somerset had declared on 441-6 from 127 overs, Aldridge 42*, Green 33*. Just 2 overs were possible, Yorkshire reaching 17-0, Lyth 4*, Bean 6* before rain set in again and no further play was possible.

Day 4: It was unlikely that Somerset would bowl Yorkshire out twice in a day, but the search for bowling points was important. Somerset bowled really well to have the Yorkies 60-6 at lunch. Gregory bagged 2 in 2 as he had Bean caught behind for 10 then induced Agarwal, the Indian Test batsman, to guide the next ball to slip where Abell took a regulation catch. Wharton was bowled by Davey and Bairstow was well caught by Kohler-Cadmore off the same bowler for 2. Revis (9) and Hill (4) soon followed to leave Yorkshire in a bit of trouble especially as Bess followed 5 balls after lunch for 2. Thompson reached the crease and began to play some shots. He rode his luck to make 50 in 42 balls with 8 4's and 2 6's before he departed for 57 from 48, bowled by Davey. Meanwhile at the other end Lyth was proving to be most obdurate but the was 9th out for 30 from 92 balls facing 77 dots as Yorkshire declared at 16:20 on 134-9, Moriarty 0* and White 1*. Gregory registered his 32nd no ball of the season costing 64 runs.

Summary: A match ruined by the rain. It is entirely possible that Somerset may have bowled Yorkshire out twice if a bit more time was available, but the poor weather was the winner. Sadly, Championship matches in September are always likely to lose overs, so draws are very likely, but Somerset gained 14 points to Yorkshire's 9.

13 – Hampshire, Taunton, M-Th 15-18 September 2025. Drawn. 3rd in table.

Pre match: Still in with a shout for the Championship but dependant on other results. 14 man squad including Bashir and Ball and Green.

Teams: Somerset: Kohler-Cadmore, Vaughan, Lammonby, Rew†, Abell, Goldsworthy, Aldridge, Green, Overton, Gregory*, Leach.

Hampshire: Orr, Middleton, Gubbins, Albert, Brown*†, Washington Sundar, Organ, Fuller, Abbott, Barker, Jack.

Toss: Somerset – bat.

Umpires: Ben Debenham & David Millnes

Match Referee: Peter Such

Scores: Somerset 4548d 103 overs, Abell 118 (189, 14x4), Aldridge 180 (233, 20x4, 6x6), Overton 50* (42, 6x4, 2x6); Hampshire 172, Leach 24.3-9-69-7 & 201-8 126.5 overs (1.58/over), Vaughan 50-20-96-6 (261 dot balls).

Points: Somerset 16(5/3), Hampshire 10 (0/2).

Day 1: No play.

Although there was rain during the day, the umpires showed no inclination to get play started much to the annoyance of all those that had turned up to watch. It transpired, after the day's play had been abandoned at 16:00, that because the wind was over 35mph, the umpires were, allegedly, bound to not let the ground staff take the covers off! This is, again allegedly an ECB directive. There was absolutely NO communication from the umpires to the loyal and patient members who were waiting for play to this effect and it was clear in hindsight that they had no intention of getting play underway even when there were sunny breaks and no rain for well over an hour and a half. How many times in 134 years of the County Championship has wind EVER allowed play to be abandoned all day? The answer is of course, probably never. And this is exactly what gives cricket a bad name as at times play could have started. For all their gesticulating when umpires Debenham and Milnes dared to enter the field of play, they did not stay long and there was a clear reluctance to ever remove any of the plastic sheets, which seemed reasonable to all waiting. A poor show all round from the officials and the ECB.

Day 2: A brilliant day for Kasey Aldridge who made a career best 149* from 206 balls with 16x4 and 5x6 and put to bed his first century v Lancashire in 2022 when the opposition chose to bowl their batsmen. But today he was brilliant and thoroughly deserved three figures. He shared a record breaking 6th wicket partnership v Hampshire of 221 with Tom Abell after reaching the crease at a perilous 99-5 in the 30th over. Earlier Abbott and the evergreen Barker, bowled well with the new ball as expected and claimed the scalps of Kohler-Cadmore caught at mid-wicket for 10 off 10 and Lammonby for a disappointing 0 from just 3 balls as he failed to move his feet outside the off stump and waved the wand at the ball to be caught by Brown. Vaughan swiftly followed after unfurling 3 glorious drives to the same method of dismissal – 43-3. Rew dragged on for a polished 30, stroking 4 glorious 4's. Lunch came at 83-4, Abell 10*, Goldsworthy 12* 21 overs.

Goldsworthy was snaffled down the leg side 8 overs later and Somerset were in trouble at 99-5 in the 30th over. After a 45 minute rain break, it was left to Abell and Aldridge who, it must be said, batted extremely well to put away anything short or wide and make use of the short Caddshack boundary.

Washington Sundar, pulled in by Hampshire for the last two Championship matches, bowled well but occasionally allowed both batsmen to take liberties as Abell pulled out the reverse sweep to good effect and Aldridge smacked 4 sixes into the short Caddyshack boundary. There were no nervous 90's for either batsman, Abell reaching his century in 164 balls and Aldridge in 155 but the partnership was broken when Abell was bowled by a ball that turned from Organ for a splendid 118, his second 100 in a row, 3rd of the season and 20th of his career. The celebration for Aldridge's land mark was equally well received and he progressed from 100 to 149 in 51 balls. Somerset ended the day on 381-7 from 93 overs, Aldridge 149* from 206 balls and Overton 9* from 9 balls. Weather permitting, Somerset will bat on to hopefully acquire a further 69 runs in 17 overs ang gain maximum batting points and then try to bowl Hampshire out twice in roughly 5 sessions, approximately 160 overs.

Day 3: Those that attended on Day 3, were lucky to see play until 5pm with dark clouds around all day – the brief shower drove the players from the field and with the light poor play was abandoned for the day with16 overs remaining. During the morning session, play was all about how many Aldridge could add to his overnight score. He claimed the single to the first ball be faced to go to 150 and began to be more expansive until in an effort to increase the scoring he was run out for 180 from a direct hit by Gubbins at extra cover. Overton, who himself had reached 50 from 56 balls, had helped Aldridge add 107 in 16 overs but with the latter's dismissal, Gregory declared on 454-8 from 103 overs. Aldridge's mammoth innings from 233 balls featured 20x4 and 6x6 and he broke the record score in First Class Cricket for Somerset by a number 7 batsman, previously Shane Lee's 167 v Gloucestershire at Bath in 1996.

Six overs of seam with the new ball gave way to Leach and Vaughan and at lunch Hampshire had reached 61-4 as Orr and Middleton were both bowled by Leach, Gubbins slapped a reverse sweep to Vaughan and Albert offered a simple return catch to Vaughan.

After lunch, wickets fell at regular intervals as Leach took control and despite a few blows by Fuller (24), Hampshire were bundled out for 172 in 54.3 overs. Washington Sundar faced 53 balls for 23 and Brown was becalmed for most of his innings but fell to Vaughan bowled through the gate for 21 from 78 balls. Abell left the field after a full blooded sweep from Fuller hit him on the helmet at short leg and he did not return and it is entirely probable that he may not field on Day 4 and may have been concussed. Abbott and Barked hit a few lusty blows but it was Leach who registered his seasons best return of 7-69 and was well supported by Vaughan who took 3-79. Tea was taken after the Hampshire first innings and in the 21.5 overs possible Vaughan claimed the wicket of Orr LBW for 27 as Hampshire reached 35-1, still 247 runs behind and with the weather looking better on day 4, a potential Somerset victory at this stage looks entirely possible.

Day 4: Archie Vaughan claimed six wickets during day but Hampshire held on to frustrate Somerset and all but end title aspirations. Vaughan finished with career best figures of six for 96 and Jack Leach bowled 33 maidens (and bowled 279 doit balls) but it wasn't enough to prevent the game ending in a rain affected draw. The home faithful had been buoyed by the news of Surrey's defeat against Nottinghamshire, which had left the door ajar, but Hampshire battened down the hatches to take a share of the points. Resuming on 35 for one, Hampshire had added just two runs to their overnight total in five overs when Fletcha Middleton was caught at leg slip off Vaughan for nine from 77 balls. Hampshire had set their stall out to frustrate the home side and just 20 runs came from the following 18 overs, nine of which were maidens. The visitor's obdurate resistance was finally broken again by Vaughan when Albert (10 from 52) was trapped lbw at 57 for three. By the time the lunch interval arrived the score had crawled to 82 for three. Hampshire eventually reached three figures in the 77th over. The score had reached 121 before Somerset made the next breakthrough and it was Vaughan again. Nick Gubbins (37 off 203) was the batsman to depart, Aldridge taking a sharp catch on his knees close in. Jack Leach then got in on the action, trapping Ben Brown lbw for 36. Tea was immediately taken with Hampshire on 129/5. After the break, Washington Sundar and Organ took their side to 176 and at this stage the draw looked like the most likely result. However, the former was bowled through the gate by Vaughan for a hard fought 46 as Somerset breathed new life into a game which had looked to be heading towards stalemate. That wicket, coupled with the news drifting through from the Kia Oval, injected fresh energy into the match. With bowler's tails up and fielders surrounding the bat, the home side pressed for victory. The seventh wicket fell with the score on 185, and with only 22 minutes remaining, courtesy of a superb catch from Josh Thomas, on as a concussion substitute for Tom Abell. Fielding on his knees, he leapt forward to take the grab to remove Organ for four and give Leach his ninth wicket of the match. Just when you thought the drama couldn't increase, James Fuller inexplicably attempted to flick Vaughan through the leg side and was bowled between his legs to leave Hampshire eight down with just 11 minutes remaining. Despite the best efforts of Vaughan and Leach, Hampshire held on.

Summary: Somerset have potentially a points deduction hanging – rumours range from 20 point deduction to a suspended sentence, either way, the ECB want to dock Somerset as many points as they can.

14 – Essex, Chelmsford, Tu-F 23-26 September 2025. Lost by 7 Wickets.

Final Position in Table - 3rd.

Pre-Match: Josh Thomas included in squad along with Davey. Pretorius returned to South Africa as he has a stress fracture. Abell not included in the squad, presumably still suffering from concussion although as always, no information forthcoming from the club. Ball included, Davey and Green left out of final 11.
Teams: Somerset: Vaughan, Thomas, Kohler-Cadmore, Lammonby, Rew†, Goldsworthy, Aldridge, Green, Gregory*, Leach, Ball.
Essex: Walter, Elgar, Westley*, CWJ Allison, Critchley, Pepper†, Thain, Harmer, DAJ Bracewell, Bennett, Porter.
Toss: Somerset – bat.
Umpires: Nigel Llong & Russell Warren.
Match Referee: Wayne Noon.
Scores: Somerset 433 (122.2 overs), Goldsworthy 100 (193b, 14x4), Thomas 86 (127b 14x4, 1x6), Rew 74 (115b, 8x4), Overton 60 (70b, 11x4) & 99 33.3 overs, Porter 4-18; Essex 438 106 overs, Elgar 118 (227, 17x4, 1x6), Walter 156 (167, 21x4, 3x6), Overton 27-5-88-6 & 99-3 18.1 overs.
Points: Somerset 6 (3/3), Essex 22 (4/2).
Day 1: Somerset produced the 9th opening pair of the season in Vaughan and Thomas, the latter making his first start in First Class Cricket after a cameo appearance as a concussion substitute for Tom Abell in the last match v Hampshire at Taunton. After Vaughan departed for 8, brilliantly caught one handed by Walter at slip, Thomas and Lammonby enjoyed a fruitful partnership and at lunch had scored 111-1 from 30 overs. Thomas was particularly positive and displayed a wide range of shots and certainly struck the ball hard. He had one escape on 55 when he was badly dropped by ex-Somerset overseas Elgar at slip. Thereafter and after lunch Thomas struggled to have the same fluency but a maiden hundred was definitely on the cards until he was bowled through the gate by Porter for an excellent 86 from 127 balls – 141-2. Ten overs later Lammonby was a tad unlucky to be adjudged LBW for 47 from 129 balls, meanwhile Rew was imperious hitting anything near his legs through the on side and picking off singles and hitting the bad ball for 4. When he had made 40, he reached 1000 First Class runs. In between time Kohler-Cadmore gave his wicket away for 6 and as he always says "that's the way I play" but advancing down the track to a decent ball from Bracewell that moved away was not a great shot. Tea came with Somerset on 211-4. There was a bit in the pitch if the bowlers pitched the ball in the right place, so it was a bit of a surprise when Rew edged to the stand in keeper Fernandez for 74 from 115, 274-5. Aldridge was also caught behind for 5 and it was left to Goldsworthy and Overton to put on 58 in the 9 overs before the close as Somerset ended on 339-6, which is a decent score. Hopefully the pair and the remaining batsmen can squeeze out another 100+ on day 2.
Day 2: Somerset resumed with thoughts of a large score and also to only bat once and put Essex under pressure. But it soon became clear that the day would be long without much reward. The pitch had flattened out and the remaining Somerset batsmen added an additional 93 to the overnight score in 26.2 overs, the highlight being Lewis Golldsworthy's excellent 3rd First Class century from 191 balls including 14 4's. Overton added s further 29 before he was bowled by Harmer for 60. Leach and Gregory, batting at number 9 and 10 respectively swung the bat as Somerset reached 433 all out 15 minutes before lunch. Walter and Elgar saw out the 2 overs for 8 runs without trouble.
The afternoon was all about the two openers as the pitch became more and more unresponsive. They added 151 between lunch and tea in 33 overs at 4.57/over. Somerset's bowlers failed to cut off scoring options and bowled far too many loose balls but take nothing away from the quality of the batting as Elgar and Walter took Essex to tea on 159-0, Walter completing a fine century in 100 balls. The evening session was no different as the pair took their partnership to a massive 277 when Walter was brilliantly caught by Goldsworthy for a career best 158 from 167 balls with 21x4 and 3x6. Elgar marched on and duly reached his 58th First Class century from 184 balls. Just one more wicket came Somerset's way as Overton clipped nightwatchman Harmer's glove and his dismissal in the last over ended the play for the day as Essex ended on 295-2 from 66.4 overs. Another potentially long day in the field on day 3 looks likely. All 7 bowlers did their best, but there was no turn for the spinners and no movement for the seamers.
Day 3: In the morning session, Essex scored 98 runs for the loss of 5 wickets as the Somerset bowlers found a smidgeon of movement. Westley was the first to go for 7, followed by Elgar who was LBW adding just 7 to his overnight score, but it was Overton who bowled really well to take 3 of the wickets to fall as Essex went to lunch on 393-7. The only blemish on the mornings play was 3, possibly 4 dropped catches and unusually two were by Overton in the slips – Thain on 0 and Pepper on 7, but neither proved too costly. Gregory also missed a run out opportunity and the ball went for – Overton was not best pleased to say the least. After lunch, Overton picked up his 6th wicket and Leach claimed the last 2 wickets as Essex claimed a lead of 5. All square.
But, then in typical Somerset fashion, the batsmen managed to bat so badly on a pitch that seemed to be completely different to day 1 & 2 as it began to seam around and the batsmen failed miserably to apply themselves. Admittedly, Porter was excellent and the light was not brilliant, but there were some really poor shots from Vaughan & Rew. Lammonby, taking his usual off stump guard fell LBW to a ball

that kept low, Kohler-Cadmore was bowled through the gate and Aldridge nicked off to the substitute wicketkeeper Fernandes – 89-6. The only batsmen to show proper application was debutant (in terms of innings), Thomas who dug in to make 39 from 65 balls but when he was out at 89-7 from 26.1 overs, the writing was on the wall. Goldsworthy was the only other batsman to dig in as he made 19 from 58 but when he was 9th out at 97-9 the match was done. In between time Leach was completely needlessly run out when sent back and quite rightly so – terrible running. When Ball was bowled by Harmer, the players left the field and that was it for the day as the umpires decided to have an early beer with 25 overs remaining in the day. Essex requiring 93 to win on Day 4.

Day 4: In the 85 minutes that it took Essex to knock off the paltry target of 93 to win, Somerset claimed 3 wickets. Had luck been kinder, then several more wickets would have been achieved as there was plenty of playing and missing by all the batsmen that reached the crease. Elgar was beaten neck and crop by Gregory to the LBW to the first ball he received, but Walter rode his luck for 30 from 31 balls taking his tally for the match to 188 runs in the match (nearly double what Somerset made in the 2nd innings), but Allison batted well for 32 from 34 but could have been out 5 or 6 times and Westley wafted at a few before finally getting a nick to Rew. The inevitable happened as Allison lifted Ball for 6 to win the match in the 19th over and Somerset can take the bus home early and watch the Ryder Cup.

Summary: Yet another dismal September Somerset performance after posting 433 in the 1st innings – a position from which any side should NEVER lose, but Somerset contrived to do so after an abject batting display in the 2nd innings. (Durham did exactly the same and got relegated for their abject 2nd innings batting performance). After 2 days the game was a nailed on draw on a flat benign pitch. Walter and Elgar had pummelled Somerset's attack for 277 in 60.2 overs at 4.59/over and it can be argued that it won the match for them as no Somerset partnership could match that. Although they played well, Somerset did not bowl very well, Overton excepted who was excellent. For the teams to be within 5 runs after 2 innings and then collapse in the 3rd innings was really poor, despite perhaps indifferent light.

A dreadful end to the season – more detail later in terms of matches in September.

Rothesay County Championship 2025
Round 14 -27/09/25
Division 1 – Final Table

	County	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	D	Pts	+/-
1	Nottinghamshire	14	7	1	6	32	34	2	**224**	-
2	Surrey	14	5	1	8	30	34	0	**208**	-
3	**Somerset**	**14**	**4**	**3**	**7**	**29**	**37**	**5**	**181**	**-**
4	Sussex	14	4	4	6	20	40	0	**172**	+2
5	Warwickshire	14	3	2	9	21	31	0	**172**	-1
6	Essex	14	3	3	8	27	33	0	**172**	-1
7	Yorkshire	14	4	4	6	21	36	1	**168**	-
8	Hampshire	14	2	3	9	12	37	8	**145**	-
9	Durham	14	2	6	6	30	34	0	**144**	-
10	Worcestershire	14	1	8	5	12	39	4	**103**	-

Division 2

	County	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	D	Pts	+/-
1	Leicestershire	14	7	1	6	46	35	0	**241**	-
2	Glamorgan	14	5	3	6	32	34	1	**193**	-
3	Derbyshire	14	3	2	9	32	36	0	**188**	-
4	Middlesex	14	5	4	5	26	36	0	**182**	+1
5	Lancashire	14	3	3	8	26	37	0	**175**	+1
6	Gloucestershire	14	2	4	8	35	37	2	**166**	-2
7	Northamptonshire	14	2	6	6	27	36	0	**143**	-
8	Kent	14	2	6	6	18	30	14	**114**	-

Somerset County Cricket Club
LV County Championship Division 1 Stats 2025

Only Play: Worcestershire (H), Yorkshire (H) Surrey (A) and Warwickshire (A) once

Opposition	Taunton		Result	Away		Result
	Somerset	Opposition	Points	Somerset	Opposition	Points
Essex	145-10	206-10	Won by 3 Wickets 19 pts	433-10	438-10	Lost by 7 Wickets
	325-7	259-10		99-10	99-3	
Durham	250-10	145-10	Won by 5 Wickets 20 Pts[2]	172-10	277-10	Won by 7 Wickets 19 pts
	89-5	190-10		267-3	159-10	
Hampshire	454-8d	172-10	Drawn 16 Pts	184-10	336-10	Drawn 9 pts[1]
	-	201-8		163-2	-	
Nottinghamshire	379-10	509-10	Drawn 11 Pts	438-10	544-10	Drawn 12 Pts
	238-4d	-		200-5	-	
Surrey				283-10	367-10	Lost by 8 wickets 4 pts
				119-10*	36-2	
Sussex	338-10	152-10	Won by 5 Wickets 21 pts	201-10	294-10	Lost by 260 Runs 3 pts
	335-10	150-5		334-10	501-7	
Warwickshire				498-10	351-10	Drawn 14 Pts
				229-8	161-4	
Worcestershire	670-7d	154-10	Drawn 16 pts			
	-	485-9				
Yorkshire	441-6	134-9	Drawn 14 pts			
	-	-				
Total Runs/Wkts	**3664-87**	**2757-111**		**3620-118**	**3563-96**	
Average RPW Home & away	**42.11**	**24.83**		**30.67**	**37.11**	
Average RPW all matches	**35.53**				**30.53**	

[1] 1 point deducted for slow over rate
[2] 4 points deducted for "below average" pitch (which it was not)

Kookaburra ball

Somerset CCC – Rothesay County Championship
Division 1 - Round 14 - 27/09/2025
Final Batting Averages

	Player	M	I	NO	Runs	Balls	H	Ave	SR	100	50	0	4	6
1	JF Thomas	2	2	0	125	192	86	62.50	65.10	0	1	0	21	1
2	LP Goldsworthy	3	4	0	206	476	100	51.50	50.07	1	1	0	26	0
3	TB Abell	13	23	3	1022	2041	156	51.10	50.07	3	5	3	120	2
4	T Kohler-Cadmore	6	10	1	436	586	147*	48.44	74.40	2	1	1	54	13
5	JEK Rew	14	24	1	1053	1736	166	45.78	59.92	3	5	3	131	7
6	T Banton	10	17	2	669	1030	371	44.60	64.95	1	1	1	87	3
7	BGF Green	2	2	1	41	48	33*	41.00	85.41	0	0	0	3	2
8	L Gregory	11	16	4	470	808	89*	39.16	58.16	0	4	1	59	6
9	C Overton	11	13	4	312	505	60	34.66	61.78	0	3	2	36	3
10	TA Lammonby	14	25	1	810	1431	133	33.75	56.60	2	3	4	96	0
11	KL Aldridge	8	11	1	280	541	180	28.00	51.75	1	0	2	30	6
12	MJ Henry	4	5	1	79	79	41*	26.33	100.00	0	0	0	11	3
13	M Pretorius	8	12	2	226	237	59	22.60	95.35	0	2	1	27	1
14	AM Vaughan	14	23	4	389	797	80	20.47	48.80	0	1	2	59	0
15	JH Davey	10	15	0	294	618	64	19.60	47.57	0	1	0	36	3
16	SR Dickson	5	8	2	111	309	77*	18.50	35.92	0	1	1	11	0
17	JT Ball	3	4	1	39	71	24	13.00	54.92	0	0	0	4	1
18	MJ Leach	14	14	4	114	264	30	11.40	43.73	0	0	3	16	0
19	ARI Umeed	2	3	0	34	76	20	11.33	44.73	0	0	1	4	1
20	ARJ Ogborne	1	1	0	6	48	6	6.00	12.50	0	0	0	0	0

Final Bowling Averages

Player	Overs	Balls	M	Dots	Runs	W	NB	BBI	BBM	Ave	Eco	SR	5	Ct	S
Green	6.0	36	0	23	37	2	0	2/37	2/37	18.50	6.16	18	0	0	
Leach	491.0	2946	126	2252	1185	52	4	7/69	9/109	22.78	2.41	56	3	8	
Pretorius	211.2	1268	34	952	702	29	13	5/64	6/60	24.20	3.32	43	1	0	
Ball	51.1	307	7	189	187	5	0	3/76	3/76	37.80	3.69	61	0	0	
Overton	294.2	1766	64	1358	838	33	0	6/23	6/45	25.39	2.84	53	2	19	
Henry	123.0	738	21	548	439	14	5	4/60	8/111	31.35	3.56	52	0	0	
Davey	177.2	1064	26	778	630	19	10	3/34	4/82	33.15	3.55	56	0	3	
Gregory	174.3	1047	21	779	649	17	37	4/90	4/90	38.17	3.71	61	0	12	
Vaughan	286.2	1718	59	1196	833	20	3	6/96	9/175	41.65	2.90	85	1	7	
Aldridge	132.1	793	20	588	528	13	4	5/36	7/100	40.61	3.99	61	1	8	
Lammonby	40.0	240	7	175	141	3	9	3/26	3/26	47.00	3.52	80	0	6	
Ogborne	19.0	114	1	74	92	2	0	2/92	2/92	46.00	4.84	57	0	0	
Banton	4.0	24	1	18	8	0	0	-	-	-	2.00	-	0	0	
Goldsworthy	10.0	60	2	43	25	0	0	-	-	-	2.50	-	0	0	
Abell	-													11	
Dickson	-													1	
K-Cadmore	-													3	
Rew	-													37	1
Thomas	-													3	
Umeed	-													2	

Somerset & Nottinghamshire Opening Partnerships Comparison 2025

Match	Opening Batsmen	Partnership	Overs	Nottinghamshire	Partnership	Total	Overs	Scores
1 Worcestershire (H)	**Dickson & Vaughan**	21	**6.2**	1 Durham (H)	Hameed & Slater	**62**	20.3	27/92
	-	**-**	**-**		Hameed & Slater	8	1.2	39*/0
2 Sussex (A)	Dickson & Vaughan	14	2.6	2 Essex (H)	Hameed & Slater	1	2.1	0/1
	Dickson & Vaughan	4	1.3		Hameed & Slater	**113**	32.4	92/67
3 Hampshire (A)	Dickson & Vaughan	14	5.4	3 Warwickshire (A)	Hameed & Slater	**81**	14.3	138*/40
	Dickson & Vaughan	50	16.2		-	-	-	-
4 Surrey (A)	Dickson & Vaughan	2*	2.1	4 Sussex (H)	Hameed & Slater	36	7.6	85/20
	Vaughan & Lammonby	**0**	0.6		Hameed & Slater	**67**	14.2	62*/21
5 Essex (H)	Vaughan & Umeed	**0**	**0.5**	5 Hampshire (H)	Hameed & Slater	**62**	19.1	25/31
	Vaughan & Umeed	**0**	**3.5**		Hameed & Slater	11	3.3	8/13
6 Sussex (H)	Gregory & Davey	21	**5.5**	6 Durham (A)	Hameed & Slater	**104**	20.5	206*/52
	Gregory & Davey	11	**2.2**		Hameed & Slater	41	10.4	13/74
7 Durham (A)	Gregory & Davey	13	3.2	7 Yorkshire (A)	Hameed & Slater	9	5.4	6/52
	Gregory & Davey	35	12.6		Hameed & Slater	**73**	15.3	33/78
8 Warwickshire (A) (Kookaburra)	Kohler-Cadmore & Davey	**186**	42.2	8 Yorkshire (H) (Kookaburra)	Hameed & Slater	**90**	32.2	52/96
	Kohler-Cadmore & Davey	24	4.4		Hameed & Slater	**81**	19.5	38/74
9 Nottinghamshire (H) (Kookaburra)	Kohler-Cadmore & Dickson	10	**3.6**	9 Somerset (A) (Kookaburra)	Hameed & Slater	38	10.6	24/124
	Henry & Kohler-Cadmore	4	**0.6**		-	-	-	-
10 Durham (H) (Kookaburra)	Kohler-Cadmore & Davey	**62**	**8.4**	10 Hampshire (A) (Kookaburra)	Hameed & Slater	**3**	3.1	2/7
	Kohler-Cadmore & Davey	13	**2.3**		Hameed & Slater	9	4.6	50/3
11 Nottinghamshire (A) (Kookaburra)	Gregory & Davey	0	0.2	11 Somerset (H) (Kookaburra)	Hameed & Slater	**6**	1.6	208/4
	Gregory & Davey	32	7.6		-	**-**	-	-
12 Yorkshire (H)	Kohler-Cadmore & Vaughan	20	**5.4**	12 Worcestershire (A)	Hameed & Slater	0	0.2	0/24
	-	-	**-**		Hameed & Slater	0	2.4	0/36
13 Hampshire (H)	Kohler-Cadmore & Vaughan	21	**3.5**	13 Surrey (A)	Hameed & Slater	25	9.4	9/50
	-	-	**-**		Hameed & Slater	9	4.5	14/4
14 Essex (A)	Vaughan & Thomas	20	6.4	14 Warwickshire (H)	Hameed & Slater	**56**	19.2	122/22
	Vaughan & Thomas	22	6.3		Hameed & Slater	30*	3.4	15*/5*
Totals		**601**	169.2	Totals		**1015**		
Average		**24.04**	**3.55**	Average		**40.66**		
Innings		24		Innings		25		
Unbroken/NO		1*		Unbroken/NO		1		

* Dickson retired hurt a 2-0 with a broken finger, Vaughan (24) and Lammonby (76) took the score to 98 when the 1st wicket fell.

Somerset

- 25 opening partnerships
- If the 186 is removed from the stats, then 415 runs in 24 partnerships = 17.29/opening partnership.
- Three partnerships of 50 or more

- One partnership of 100 or more
- 7 opening partnerships under 10
- Take out 186 between TKC & Davey – 415 runs at 17.29
- 9 different opening pairings:

1) Dickson/Vaughan (6)
2) Vaughan/Lammonby (2)
3) Vaughan/Umeed (2)
4) Gregory/Davey (6)
5) Kohler-Cadmore/Davey (4)
6) Kohler-Cadmore/Dickson (1)
7) Kohler-Cadmore/Henry (1)
8) Kohler-Cadmore/Vaughan (2)
9) Vaughan/Thomas (2)

Nottinghamshire

- 25 opening partnerships
- Average 31.23
- 8 over 50
- 2 over 100
- 9 under 10
- One opening partnership, Hameed/Slater

County Championship Review

If any Somerset supporter was asked at the start of the season if they would take a 3rd place position, most would have said yes. But the start of the campaign was a frustration for all concerned. Worcestershire batted out 200 overs (1200 balls) in their 2nd innings and anybody who follows cricket would have expected a side to be bowled out in that time, but the pitch offered diddly squat to seamers and spinner alike to the frustration and annoyance of all concerned. It was just too flat but enormous credit must go to D'Oliveira and Waite who faced 479 balls between them. Gregory tried everything to get a wicket but it wasn't to be.
A generally dismal 1st innings batting performance then cost Somerset the match at Hove against Sussex to lose by a stonking 260 runs. A dismal rain effected draw at the Rose Bowl was then followed by a visit to the Oval to face the Champions Surrey. All was neck and neck until after lunch on day 3 when Somerset were 30-2, still 54 behind with 8 wickets intact but there followed a monumental collapse to 37-7, 5 wickets for 4 runs in 5.4 overs (34 balls) and sadly Somerset slumped to 119 all out despite Pretorius making a breezy 54 (45% of the runs). Worrall and Clark sharing the wickets. So, four matches completed and Somerset were in 9th place with 33 points and 37 points behind the leaders Surrey and stating down the barrel of a really tough season.

But in true Somerset fashion, the team picked themselves up with 2 fabulous wins against Essex and Sussex and a very rare away win against Durham, the first since 1997. At the half way stage, Somerset were 5th with 92 points. Then came the 4 matches using the Kookaburra ball and thank god Key's ridiculous experiment has at last been shelved as Somerset's 4 matches produced 3 boring draws against Warwickshire and Championship winners Nottinghamshire and an emphatic thrashing of Durham. It has to be put on record that despite being deducted 4 points for an allegedly "below average" pitch (and 4 points suspended until 2027), the Durham batting was incredibly poor and the facts are that they showed no application or grit on a pitch that was the same for both sides – indeed, Lammonby made a brilliant 89. Over to took 6 wickets in Durham's first innings and bowled beautifully and in fact deserved more wickets and then Leach and Vaughan shared the wickets in Durham's 2nd innings. The ECB wanted to encourage spin bowlers and that's why the Kookaburra was introduced but when spinners take wickets at Taunton, the pitch inspector gets involved and it appears that the ECB will do anything to dock Somerset points. Never has the pitch inspector travelled to Chelmsford when Harmer was takin a shed load of wickets on a pitch prepared exactly for him! Talk about double standards.

Three matches to go but a wait of 37 days due to the dreaded 100. Somerset well placed 3rd with 149 points but 26 points behind leaders Surrey. A rain effected draw against Yorkshire when they were under the cosh trailing by 290 and then a draw against Hampshire after the first day was abandoned at 16:00 due to high winds.It seems unlikely that play has ever been abandoned for high winds despite play being possible in the afternoon but it appeared that the umpires had no intention of playing as there was allegedly danger to the ground staff to take the covers off. This was not communicated to the spectators and they kept everyone hanging around to find out the inevitable. It would have been easy to interview the umpires so that

spectators could understand the reason, even so, how many times has play been abandoned due to high winds or potential covers flying all over the ground since the Championship began in 1891? Answer, probably lay not one.

Then onto the final match and once again Somerset, although probably had the worst of the conditions on day 3, contrived to lose a match that was a dead cert draw after 2 days. Luckily Somerset held on to 3rd place and the £130,000 (approx) that came with it despite the 4 point deduction.

Somerset had 9 opening partnerships during the season as can be seen but nobody could nail down a place with consistent runs. Yes, it's a tough job, but our players are incredibly talented and it was a sad reflection that the best opening stand by a long chalk was at Edgbaston v Warwickshire (and a Kookaburra) between Kohler-Cadmore and Davey – 186 in 42.2 overs. It was sad that Dickson and Vaughan could not come up with the goods. Vaughan is young and still learning but unfortunately Dickson was deemed surplus to requirements even in white ball (this is covered elsewhere) and was ultimately sacked.

The September fixtures are still an issue and the table below shows the results since 2015. Since 2021, the results are, let's be honest, poor 9 losses and only 3 wins – Somerset will never win the Championship with a record like that. As this reviewer keeps saying – other counties win matches in September, so why can't Somerset.

Overall, however, a third place is an excellent place and but for some poor sessions, Somerset could have challenged for the title, but Nottinghamshire deservedly won and ended Surrey's run on three titles in a row.

And so to 2026 – which is at the bottom of this review.



Somerset CCC – September Championship Matches 2015-2025 Updated 27/09/25					
2015	**Yorkshire** Hampshire Sussex Warwickshire	**Headingley** Taunton Hove Taunton	**Lost** Drawn Drawn Won	**Innings & 126 runs** 17 Runs	Trescothick
2016	Lancashire Warwickshire Yorkshire Nottinghamshire	Old Trafford Taunton Headingley Taunton	Drawn Won Won Won	 31 Runs 10 Wickets 325 Runs	Rogers
2017	**Essex** Warwickshire Lancashire **Surrey** Middlesex	**Chelmsford** Edgbaston Taunton **The Oval** Taunton	**Lost** Won Won **Lost** Won	**179 Runs** 169 Runs 7 Wickets **6 Wickets** 231 Runs	Abell
2018	Essex Yorkshire **Lancashire** **Hampshire** Surrey Nottinghamshire	Taunton Headingley **Taunton** **Rose Bowl** Taunton Trent Bridge	Won Won **Tied** **Lost** Drawn Won	45 Runs 224 Runs **6 Wickets** Innings & 46 Runs	Abell
2019	Warwickshire Yorkshire **Hampshire** Essex	Edgbaston Taunton **Rose Bowl** Taunton	Won Won **Lost** Drawn	5 Wickets 298 Runs **136 Runs**	Abell
2020	**COVID**				
2021	**Nottinghamshire** **Yorkshire** **Lancashire** **Warwickshire**	**Taunton** **Scarborough** **Taunton** **Edgbaston**	**Lost** **Lost** **Lost** **Lost**	**Innings & 160 Runs** **Innings & 33 Runs** **10 Wickets** **118 Runs**	Abell
2022	Gloucestershire Warwickshire Northamptonshire **Kent**	Taunton Edgbaston Taunton **Canterbury**	Drawn Drawn Won **Lost**	 352 Runs **Innings & 151 Runs**	Abell
2023	**Hampshire** Kent Warwickshire	**Rose Bowl** Taunton Edgbaston	**Lost** Drawn Drawn	**185 Runs**	Abell
2024	Durham Surrey **Lancashire** **Hampshire**	Taunton Taunton **Old Trafford** **Taunton**	Won Won **Lost** **Lost**	293 Runs 111 Runs **168 Runs** **5 Wickets**	Gregory
2025	Yorkshire Hampshire **Essex**	Taunton Taunton **Chelmsford**	Drawn Drawn **Lost**	 **7 Wickets**	Gregory

Somerset CCC September Championship Results Summary 2015-2025					
	P	**W**	**D**	**T**	**L**
Taunton	**21**	**10**	**7**	**1**	**3**
Away	**20**	**5**	**4**	**0**	**11**
Total	**41**	**15**	**11**	**1**	**14**
2021-2025	**18**	**3**	**6**	**0**	**9**

Deductions/Comments – updated 30/10/25 (same issues still apply)

- When Somerset lose, it's a bad loss, i.e. never by under 50 runs or less than 5 wickets.
- **2021-2025 – 5 seasons. This period has been particularly poor - Played P18, W3, D6, L9.**
- All 11 losses have pretty much been an absolute thrashing.
- All of the losses have been comprehensive, by an innings (4), over 100 runs (5) or 5 wickets or less (5), none have been close e.g., less than 5 wickets or under 100 runs.
- Really poor record away from home – 11 losses

- Interestingly, more wins than losses but 10 have come at Taunton.
- Only 3 losses at Taunton which is also interesting.
- The tied match v Lancashire in 2018 was the match where Leach tried to slog the ball out of the ground when 9 down with 1 to win chasing 84 to win.
- 2021's record – 4 losses (and all comprehensive thrashings) out of 4 was really dreadful – players returned from the dreaded 100 and failed to perform miserably as a unit, being stuffed in all 4 matches.
- Most successful season was 2016 when Rogers was captain and Somerset were pipped at the post when Chanderpaul gave his wicket away for Lancashire, thereby handing Nottinghamshire the title on a silver platter.
- This table does not show the variables of the final stages of the Championship season which include: the toss and decision, pitches, umpiring decisions, the weather, overseas player availability, England call-ups, injuries, opposition player availability and overseas players etc.
- In 2025, the loss to Essex was incredibly disappointing. To be in the match after 2 days and then to bat so badly in the 2nd innings was frustrating. Just a good job that the loss did not cost £ in terms of prizemoney.
- To actually win the Championship, not only do teams have to be in the top 4 coming into the second part of the Championship season, but the team has to keep the level of performance up and perform. It is tough for sure but other counties manage to find a way, **so why can't Somerset?**

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White Ball Cricket 2025
T20 Vitality Blast

T20 Blast Prize Money 2025 (2024)*		
	County	**£**
Winners	**Somerset**	**260,000**
Losing Finalists	**Hampshire**	**117,000**
Losing semi-finalists (each)	**Lancashire, Northamptonshire**	**32,000**
Losing quarter-finalists (each)		**8,000**
Total		**473,000**

***ECB refused to release 2025 Prize Money**

Somerset T20 Results 2025 (Won 12 tosses)								Extras Conceded	
	Opposition	**Venue**	**Toss**	**Decision**	**Result**	**Pos**	**Opposition score**	**SCCC**	**Opp**
1	Surrey	Taunton	Somerset	Field	**Won by 5 W**	1	146-9	4	10
2	Essex	Chelmsford	Essex	Bat	**Won by 8 W**	2	148-10	4	7
3	Sussex	Hove	Somerset	Field	**Won by 7 W**	3	166-8	20	9
4	Middlesex	Taunton	Somerset	Field	**Won by 5 W**	1	229-5	9	9
5	Gloucestershire	Bristol	Somerset	Field	**Won by 6 W**	1	135-7	5	3
6	Kent	Taunton	Somerset	Field	Lost by 4 Runs	1	228-5	11	7
7	Hampshire	Taunton	Hampshire	Field	**Won by 17**	1	192-7	6	7
8	Glamorgan	Cardiff	Somerset	Field	**Won by 6 W**	1	130-9	6	1
9	Glamorgan	Taunton	Somerset	Field	Lost by 2 Runs	1	176-7	9	6
10	Hampshire	Rose Bowl	Somerset	Field	**Won by 4 W**	1	178-3	7	7
11	Essex	Taunton	Essex	Field	**Won by 95 R**	1	130-10	0	9
12	Kent	Canterbury	Somerset	Field	**Won by 5 W**	1	137-8	4	5
13	Surrey	The Oval	Somerset	Field	Lost by 67 R	2	201-6	17	7
14	Gloucestershire	Taunton	Somerset	Bat	**Won by 16 R**	2	148-8	3	6
15	Warwickshire	Taunton	Warwickshire	Bat	**Won by 4 W**		190-6	5	6
16	Lancashire	Edgbaston	Lancashire	Field	**Won by 23 R**		159-10	8	7
17	Hampshire	Edgbaston	Somerset	Field	**Won by 6 W**		194-6	6	7
							2887-124	**124**	**113**
					Average		**23.28**		

T20 Blast Matches

Pre-tournament: Banton in England squad, so will miss the first 3, maybe 4 matches, so Rew in line to keep. Then, Rew gets selected for needless Lions match v India A at Northampton, so he will miss at least first 2 matches. Thomas Rew signed a short term contract to cover, so may play.
Van Der Merwe's return to South Africa means that Somerset have a quandary over who to play as a spinner. Management don't like spinners and certainly don't like to play two, but a spinner must play – options are Leach, Goldsworthy, Vaughan. Bashir unlikely to feature due to England contract.
Kohler-Cadmore on a White Ball contract only and has been in the PSL where he scored 92 runs in 7 innings but 52 scored in one of those so 40 runs in 6 at an average of 7. He has not played much cricket and has not scored many runs – unknown how he will perform.
Ball and Ogborne has been on loan to Kent, although Ogborne did not play and Green has been loaned to Leicestershire.
27th May: Kerr suggesting that Thomas Rew may start in the t20 as his brother is captaining England Lions v India A. Kohler-Cadmore is back from Pakistan t20 but won't keep wicket. Dickson is still injured, Banton with England ODI/t20 squad. Ball injured in last match v Derbyshire, so unlikely to play in first few matches although extent of injury is unknown – no update from the club – no change there.
28th May: Alrdrige sent out on loan to Durham for their first 8 t20 matches. Clearly, he is not in the frame for inclusion in the t20 squad despite being an excellent fielder anywhere on the field, a bowler who takes wickets or who can bat lower down the order. How many more players are Somerset going to send out on loan this season?

T20 Vitality Blast 2025
South Division - Match by Match

1 – Surrey – Taunton, Friday 30th May 2025 18:30 – Won by 5 Wickets

Pre-match: Banton released by England, Thomas Rew debuts for Somerset, no Leach.
Teams: **Somerset**: Smeed, Banton† Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Rew THS, Gregory, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Henry, Meredith.
Surrey: Sibley, Pope†, Roy, SM Curran*, Evans, TK Curran, Sykes, Jordan, Smith NG, Worrall, Majid.
Toss: Somerset - field
Umpires: Mike Burns & Ant Harris
Match Ref: Mike Smith
Scores: Surrey 146-9 (20 overs), Roy 92 (54, 6x4, 7x6), Somerset 147-5 (Smeed 35 (29).
Match Report: Surrey included 8 internationals in their starting XI, with vast experience. Overton and Henry opened the bowling with great effect, Overton's 2nd over was a rare maiden. Sibley spooned a catch to Overton in Henry's first over bringing Roy to the crease who was a little circumspect to start. The powerplay was a good one for Somerset as Surrey had only mustered 30-2 as Pope was caught on the fence for 5 from 12 ball. Skipper Sam Curran and Roy put on 57 from 6.4 overs before Curran hit the first ball of Green's second over down the throat of Thomas Rew to claim his first professional catch, albeit not behind the timbers. Surrey then subsided from 85-1 from 12.1 overs to 146-9 after the full 20. Roy was brilliant and thoroughly deserved a century but nobody could stay with him and he was finally out in the 20th over for 92 from 54 balls having struck 7x6 and 6x4. Overton pouched another 4 catches – he has such a great [air of hands and accepts anything within range. Henry was excellent (3-21) as was Meredith (3-26). The two criticisms were that when bowling to Roy, the ball must be of an awkward length, not full or short as he will score heavily of those types of deliveries and Gregory getting Roy caught on 72 off a no ball – it was bound to happen at some point.
Banton and Smeed made use of the power play although Banton was caught off Sam Curran to the last ball for 23 from 20. Kohler-Cadmore it seems these days, only plays one way and made a breezy 23 from just 10 balls before being bowled not moving his feet at all off Curran – 88-2 from 9.3. Abell is the glue to the batting and so it proved again, picking off singles and twos in dispersed with the odd four but 17 tear old Thomas Rew on debut missed out as he tried to hit a ball from Majid over mid-off only to be caught for 1 – his time will come for sure. Gregory perished cheaply so it was left to Green (23* from 16) and Abell (29 from 22) to put on an unbroken 35 to see Somerset home. Green's favourite hitting area has now been renamed from Trego's corner to Green's corner, otherwise known as cow corner, as he utilised the long handle with good effect.
Summary: A fabulous win over such a strong Surrey side who really batted badly (Roy excepted) on a decent hybrid pitch. Henry and Meredith make a big difference but only 1 over of spin – 2 spinners will be required at Cardiff, the Rose Bowl and Bristol so Leach may come into the frame later on.

2 – Essex, Chelmsford, Sunday 1st June 2025 16:00 – Won by 7 wickets. 2nd in table.

Pre-match: Banton back with England, Umeed replaces him in the squad.

Teams: **Somerset**: Smeed, Lammonby, Kohler-Cadmore†, Abell, Rew THS, Gregory, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Henry, Meredith.
Essex: Rossington, Elgar, Pepper, Walter, Critchley, Allison, Benkenstein, Harmer*, Snater, Cook, Amir.
Toss: Essex - bat
Umpires: Ben Debenham & Nigel Llong
Match Ref: Alec Swann
Scores: Essex 148 all out in 19.1 overs. Elgar 50, (37 balls, 5x4, 2x6), Critchley 54 (31 balls, 3x4, 4x6). Somerset 149-2, Smeed 81* (54 balls 11x4, 1x6).
Match Report: Somerset's bowlers were clinical and took 3 wickets in the power play 36-3, Overton bowling his 3 overs for 24. Henry was excellent 1-28, Meredith took 2-18 with 14 dot balls and Green took 3-30 but at 10/over. After 10 overs, Essex had struggled to 80-3 and only mustered 68 in 9.1 overs as wickets fell at regular intervals, to finally make 148 all out.
Somerset reached their target of 149 with 25 balls to spare as Smeed made an excellent 81* from 54 and Lammonby made a nice 36 from 22 as they put on 96 for the first wicket in 9 overs.
Summary: Always nice to beat Essex and especially at the awful Chelmsford in front of their not very nice home supporters – many left long before the victory. Perhaps Don Topley won't be so chirpy after this thrashing.

3 – Sussex – Hove, Friday 6th June 2025. Won by 7 Wickets. 3rd in table.

Pre match: Same squad, same team.
Teams: Somerset: Smeed, Lammonby, Kohler-Cadmore†, Abell, Rew THS, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Henry, Meredith.
Sussex: Ward, Hughes, Simpson†, Coles, Alsop, Clark, Carson, McAndrew, Robinson, Currie.
Toss: Somerset - field
Umpires: Nigel Llong & Mick Newell
Match Referee: Wayne Noon
Scores: **Sussex 166 (20 overs), Simpson 58 (42 balls, 6x4, 1x6), Somerset 169-3 (18 overs), Kohler-Cadmore 64 (43 balls, 7x4, 3x6).**
Match Report: Sussex scored 14x4 and 3x6, Somerset bowled 44 dot balls – 36.66%. Simpson was the only batsman to score more than 23, but the Somerset bowlers were excellent for the most part and especially Henry, Overton and nice to see Green only concede at 8.33. After the power play Sussex were 36-3 and at 10 overs 81-3 but they only managed an additional 85 which on a flat pitch with a quick outfield and short boundaries was not enough.
Somerset lost Smeed in the first over after screaming two 4's through the covers before leaving a massive gap between bat and pad to be bowled for 8. Kohler-Cadmore produced a fine innings of 64 but failed to see Somerset home which was left to debutant Thomas Rew, 17 from 14, including one huge 6 and Abell who scored an excellent 36 from 25 as Somerset won with 12 balls to spare.
Summary: A thoroughly clinical win but mainly won by the bowlers who squeezed Sussex's batsmen and didn't allow them to get away. Meredith was not at his best but still bowled 12 dot balls, but Somerset conceded 20 extras, 15 of which were wides.

4 – Middlesex, Taunton, Friday 12th June 2025. Won by 5 Wickets. Top of South Group

Pre match: Banton back in the squad after England duty – only batted once in the three t20 matches making 31 from 12 balls in the 2nd match. Thomas Rew and Umeed left out and James Rew not selected in the squad for some unknown reason. Dickson returns to the squad but the question is will Lammonby retain his place? Ball still presumably injured although no communication from the club – par for the course. The spinning berth is under pressure as Goldsworthy has struggled but it's tough for him as he doesn't bowl much. Leach and Pretorius also not included.
Teams: Somerset: Smeed, Banton†, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Henry, Meredith.
Middlesex: Eskinazi*, Williamson, Holden, Geddes, du Plooy, Higgins, Davies†, Hollman, Zafar Gohar, Helm, Cornwell.
Toss: Somerset - field
Umpires: Ant Harris & Mick Newell
Match Referee: Jason Swift
Scores: **Middlesex: 229-5 (20), Holden 87* (47 balls, 12x4, 1x6), Geddes 69 (32 balls, 2x4, 7x6), Meredith 4-46; Somerset 235-5 (19.2 overs), Dickson 78 (36 balls, 6x4, 5x6), Gregory 58* (23 balls, 3x4, 6x6).**
Match Report: How do you start on such an epic match, made even more epic by the fact that Somerset won with 4 balls to spare chasing 230 to win at 11.5/over. This match was certainly not one for the bowlers – Higgins was the only one who has a decent economy rate at 7.75, but everyone else went round the park.

A flat pitch with even bounce was conducive to some serious hitting and after Middlesex were inserted, Eskinazi and Williamson put on 39 in 4 overs before the former unluckily dragged on after Meredith's first over which went for 17. Williamson soon followed as his countryman Henry had him caught by Abell at deep square lag for 28 from 17. But it was the entry of Geddes who really upped the strike rate as he hit his first ball for 6 and proceeded to take the Somerset bowlers to the cleaners striking 50 from 25 balls and with the reliable Holden put on 135 in 10.3 overs at 12.85/over. Geddes smote 7 large sixes, three of which were deposited in the Tone. Holden was excellent and only failed to score from 5 balls from the 47 he received while Geddes only failed to score from 6. When Geddes was caught by Henry off Meredith, the score was 183-3, which became 183-4 when du Plooy hit a catch to Overton – 190-4 from 17. The momentum was continued as the final 3 overs went for 15, 13 and 11 to take Middlesex to 229-5. This was a brilliant batting display from Middlesex.

The Somerset innings started badly as Smeed, after hitting two sumptuous off side fours, was bowled through the gate for 8 from the 5th ball of Cornwell's first over. Banton followed in the 4th over for 12 from 9 and then Kohler-Cadmore for 21 from 9 to leave Somerset 45-3 from 4.1 overs. Abell soon followed for 24 from 20 – 88-4 from 9 overs. Somerset requiring 142 from 11 overs as Dickson and Gregory began their match winning partnership of 104 in 7.1 overs striking at 14.58/over – incredible striking. Gohar might wish to forget this match as his 4 overs cost 64 runs (16/over). Dickson was brutal on anything short or full scoring 54 in boundaries with only 8 balls not scored from and Gregory was even more effective striking 58 from 23 and only 4 dots – 48 in boundaries. With Green chipping in at the end with 27 from 15 (3 dots) with 4 fours, Somerset gained a memorable victory with 4 balls to spare.

Summary: This was a truly astonishing victory. The pitch was flat but Somerset definitely did not get the rub of the green when in the field as half chances didn't carry or fielders just missed the ball but the rub of the green certainly was evident when batting as two complete dollies were dropped by du Plooy on the boundary, Gregory being the lucky batsman and Davies failed to stump the skipper off Gohar when he had made 24. However, in the field, Somerset, despite the excellent batting of Middlesex, leaked far too many runs. Goldsworthy's overs have become expensive and now that VD Merwe has left, the overs that he bowled now have to be shared amongst the seamers especially when Leach is not selected. It is hard to be too critical as this win means Somerset are top of the South Division.

5 – Gloucestershire, Bristol, Friday 13th June 2025. Won by 6 Wickets. Top of South Group.

Pre match: Leach added to squad – surely 2 spinners must play at Bristol. Same team selected.

Teams: **Somerset**: Smeed, Banton†, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Henry, Meredith.

Gloucestershire: Hammond, Bancroft, Short, Price, Taylor JMR, Charlesworth, Bracey†, Akhtar, Taylor MD, Payne, Dale.

Toss: Somerset - field

Umpires: Paul Pollard & Mike Burns

Match Referee: Simon Hinks

Scores: Gloucestershire 135-7 (20 overs), Goldsworthy 4-13; Somerset 137-4 (17.4 overs), Smeed 51* (45, 8x4, 1x6)

Match Report: Gloucestershire started well against the new ball and reached 46-0 after the power play. Bancroft (28 from 26) and Hammond (36 from 29) departed in consecutive overs number 9 and 10 with the score at 70-2. But their batting fell away as Somerset's bowlers bowled with a soft ball. Goldsworthy bowled 4 overs for the first time and took 4-13, including 14 dot balls and took the wickets of Price (2), Short (6) and Charlesworth (first ball duck), in his 3rd over and the 12th of the innings. The score was then 75-5 and Gloucestershire struggled their way to 135-7 in the 20 overs, Jack Taylor with 43 was the architect of reaching this total – without him it was likely that a score of 115 would have been scored.

Payne is a quality bowler with new or old ball and trapped Banton LBW to the 4th ball of the Somerset innings. Kohler-Cadmore made a breezy 25 from 17 including 2 massive sixes, Abell came and went for 2 and Dickson continued his form striking 23 from 17 also hitting 2 massive sixes.

Summary: Such a poor pitch and total non-conducive of regular free scoring!

6 – Kent, Taunton, Sunday 15th June 2025. Lost by 4 Runs. Top of table.

Pre-match: Same squad, no news on Ball.

Teams: **Somerset**: Smeed, Banton†, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Henry, Meredith.

Kent: Muyeye, Bell-Drummond, Billings*†, Finch, Leaning, Rogers, Stewart, Evison, Agar, Klaassen, Gilchrist.

Toss: Somerset - field

Umpires: Mike Burns & Mick Newell

Match referee: Simon Hinks

Scores: Kent 228-5 (20), Bell Drummond 100 (49, 12x4, 4x6), TS Muyeye 70 (40, 6x4, 3x6); Somerset 224-6 (20), Banton 68 (33, 5x4, 6x6).
Match report: An absolutely cracking t20 match but the wrong result. For Kent Bell-Drummond and Muyeye batted brilliantly in posting 69 in the powerplay, 119 in 10 overs and 158 in 13.2 overs at 11.85/over. Goldsworthy was the only bowler to stem the flow on yet another flat pitch bowling the 7th, 11th, 13th and 15th over and although wicketless he only conceded 26 runs and two 4's within the 24 balls. Overton bowled 3 decent overs up front conceding 22 from the 18 balls (2x4, 1x6), but all the others were despatched to all parts of the CACG. Henry 3-40 from 3, Meredith 3-45 from 4, Gregory 1-51 from 3 - 136 runs in 10 overs 13.6/over plus Green 1-35 from 3. The last 4 overs went for 45 and only (only!) 2x4 and 3x6 were conceded. 228 was a massive score and another large chase followed.
Banton came to the party smiting 68 from 33 and the power play realised 81 before he fell in the 7th over swiping across the line to be LBW 91-1. Smeed soon followed for 28 from 16, 98-2 from 8.2. Kohler-Cadmore and Abell then put on 59 in 5.3 overs (33 balls), but both were out within 3 balls to leave Somerset 159-4 from 14.2 – 70 needed from 5.4 overs (34). Somerset's hopes were pinned on Gregory who has been in great form in white ball cricket, at least with the bat, but he was quickly out for 2, so it was left to Dickson and Green to get Somerset over the line. To be fair to both of them they made a fair effort striking five 6's and two 4's but Green was out trying to hit another 6 in the final over with 14 to win. Neither Dickson nor Overton could get hold of Rogers who bowled a brilliant last over when it really mattered. Overton hit the last ball of the match for 6 but Somerset were short by 4 runs.
Summary: A fabulous spectacle for the crowd on a really flat pitch which was coming on nicely. However, the bowling is of concern – Overton and Goldsworthy bowled very well conceding 48 from 7 overs, but the rest had an off day and mix that with 2 top class innings from the Kent openers was the difference – these matches are won and lost on incredibly small margins and at the end of the day Somerset were not quite good enough on the day.
Pace off when bowling wins t20 matches as the batsmen have to hit the ball rather than relying on the pace of the ball but it seems that management do not like taking pace off the ball – Somerset got away with one spinner at Bristol but may not at Cardiff and the Rose Bowl.

7 – Hampshire – Taunton, Thursday 19th June 2025. Won by 17 Runs. Top of table.

Pre-Match: Same squad.
Teams: **Somerset**: Smeed, Banton†, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Davey, Meredith.
Hampshire: Pretorius†, Vince, Albert, Brevis, Weatherley, Fuller, Howell, Dawson, CP Wood, SW Currie, Jack.
Toss: Hampshire - field
Umpires: Paul Baldwin & Ian Blackwell
Match Ref: Mike Smith
Scores: Somerset 209-7 Smeed 68 (37b, 9x4, 3x6), Gregory 55 (27b, 4x4,4x6); Hampshire 192-7, Vince 54 (6x4, 2x6).
Match Report: It was a good job that Somerset scored 64 from the last 4 overs as Gregory and Green smashed 82 in 38 balls to go from 127-6 to 209-7 at the end of the innings. Smeed was again excellent but yet again he was out for 68 from 37 after 10.5 overs – half the innings remaining to make a score well over 100. Banton again failed as did Dickson but TKC played another cameo making 29 from 15 and the same applies to him as it does to Smeed.
Overton bowled a brilliant 3 over spell with 12 dots conceding 22 runs which included 2x4 and 2x6. `If only he could cut those boundary balls out, he would be even better. Goldsworthy also bowled a decent 3 over spell conceding 24 runs and only 2 boundaries, a 4 and a 6. Vince as ever, was the thorn in the side – a master batsman in this format, but thankfully Overton caught him on the boundary for 54 from 30 balls with the score on 107-3 after 12.4 overs – 102 required from 44 balls. The match looked in the bag but Hampshire are a quality side and managed to reach 192-7 as Somerset won by just 17 runs.
Summary: Gregory and Green's partnership certainly posted a decent score and in the final analysis won the game. The bowling could be a bit tighter as Somerset conceded 15x4 and 11x6, 126 in boundaries – 64% of the runs in boundaries.

8 – Glamorgan – Cardiff, Friday 20th June 2025. Won by 6 Wickets. Top of table.

Pre-match: Overton rested, same 13 as previous match – no Rew (either) and no update on Ball.
Teams: **Somerset**: Smeed, Banton†, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Davey, Henry, Meredith.
Glamorgan: Carlson* Smale, Kellaway, Ingram, Cooke†, Tribe, Douthwaite, Imad Wasim, Van Der Gugten, Leonard, Crane
Toss: Somerset - field
Umpires: Paul Baldwin & Surendiran Shanmugam
Match Ref: Ian Herbert

Scores: Glamorgan 130-9 (20), Meredith 4-21. Somerset 131-4 (16.4), Kohler-Cadmore 38 (29 balls 3x4, 2x6).

Match Report: A clinical victory, but after Gregory won his 6th toss out of 8, Glamorgan were 24-2 after 2 overs and 30-1 after 3. But the Somerset bowlers then restricted them to a further 100 in 17 overs for a well below par 130-9. Meredith was excellent, bowling 15 dots, with Gregory 12, Henry 17 and Davey 11 – 59 dot balls in total, which meant that Glamorgan only scored off 61 and only finding the boundary on 15 occasions (11x4, 4x6). Henry was equally as excellent delivering his 4 overs for just 18 and Gregory for 19.

Somerset started brightly as always and Banton clearly wanted to get the game over as soon as possible but fell LBW to Douthwaite for 21 from 14 in the 5th over hitting four 4's. Smeed continued in similar vein (24 from 14 with 3x4 and 1x6, while Kohler-Cadmore top scored with 38 from 29 striking 3x4 and 2x6. Thereafter Abell fell cheaply for 10 but Dickson and Gregory saw Somerset home with a partnership of 32 in 4.4 overs with 3.2 overs to spare.

Summary: An excellent end to the first 8 t20 matches with just the one loss to Kent. It's hard to be critical, so all that needs to be said is that Somerset need probably 5 wins from 6 to achieve a home quarter final but some tough games coming up. Now a 2 week break where Somerset play 2 CC matches v Warwickshire at Edgbaston and Nottinghamshire at Taunton – poor scheduling, but that's another issue all together.

9 – Glamorgan – Taunton, Friday 4th July 2025. Lost by 2 runs. Top of table.

Pre-match: Same squad – inexplicably no James Rew but Ball, who nobody has heard anything about since the end of May, added to squad when he's played very little cricket.

Somerset: Smeed, Banton†, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Henry, Meredith.

Glamorgan: Carlson* Smale, Horton†, Kellaway, Ingram, Tribe, Douthwaite, Imad Wasim, Gorvin, Leonard, McIlroy.

Toss: Somerset - field

Umpires: Mike Burns & Ben Peverell

Match Ref: Phil Whitticase

Scores: Glamorgan 176-7 (20), Ingram 55 (33 6x4, 2x6), Douthwaite 26 (32 3x4,4x6); Somerset 174-9 (20), Smeed 72 (49 3x4, 3x6).

Match Report: Glamorgan were deserved winners on the day and Leonard epitomised that with 5-25 wickets returning to the county that failed to offer him an additional contract last season.

Glamorgan really should not have made 150 as the bowlers had Glamorgan under the cosh. The pitch was a used hybrid and did not come on to the bat as when it is was fresh pitch. Henry was brilliant bowling his 4 overs for just 15 runs, but Ingram used all his experience to post 55 from 33 but it was Douthwaite's fine innings of 56 in just 32 balls that enabled them to reach 176-7. Banton dropped a straightforward catch when he was on 2 (105-5, 13.4 overs) and sadly this determined the outcome of the match. He made an additional 54 runs. Gregory's last over went for 22 as Douthwaite went from 31 to 53 in that over. Goldsworthy probably bowled 1 over too many and Meredith was inconsistent but managed 10 dot balls. The fielding was as good as ever but Somerset rarely hit the stumps for a run out.

Kohler-Cadmore possibly should have opened the batting given his current form as Banton looked out of form in this format is completely out of form and it showed. Glamorgan bowled much better than Somerset as they put the batsmen under pressure. The only scores of note were Dickson's 27 from 17 and Green's 27 from 21. Smeed top scored with 72 from 49 but found it difficult to get the ball away only striking 6 boundaries, but when he was foolishly out trying to hit over cover to the last ball of the 18th over that was the game.

Somerset did well to get within 2 runs but the better side won.

Summary: Somerset's batting is all right handed – how come Rew and or Lammonby do not get a game, both of whom have been in good form. It must be said that Abell's t20 form has not been great and perhaps he should be "rested". The difference in the bowling was great – Glamorgan's bowlers put Somerset's batsmen under real pressure, bowling low full tosses or yorkers when Somerset's bowlers (Henry excepted) bowl far too many short and wide which batsmen can hit and usually for 4 or 6. So, some improvement required for the next match v Hampshire and 2 spinners required! But as management are reluctant to include 2 spinners this seems unlikely.

10 – Hampshire, Rose Bowl, Sunday 6th July 2025. Won by 4 Wickets. Top of South Group.

Pre-match: Same squad, but still no Rew.

Teams: Somerset: Banton†, Smeed, Kohler-Cadmore*, Abell, Dickson, Lammonby, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Ball, Meredith.

Hampshire: Orr, Vince*, Albert†, Weatherley, Cartwright, Howell, Fuller, Dawson, Wood Currie, Baker.

Umpires: Mike Burns & Ben Peverell

Match Ref: Sarah Bartlett

Toss: Somerset – field

Scores: Hampshire 178 (20), Vince 82 (57 10x4, 2x6), Weatherley 60* (42, 1x4, 5x6); Somerset 179-6 (19.5) Dickson 52 (33, 2x4, 4x6).

Match Report: This was a match that Somerset were lucky to win as Hampshire posted an above par 178-3. Vince, as always against Somerset, made a classy 82 but even he struggled early on. After the power play Hampshire had made 36-2 as Overton, Henry and Meredith bowled well. Overton's 4th over went for just 1 run as his 4 overs cost 17 runs and he claimed his 3rd wicket of the campaign. At the 10 over mark Hampshire were 62-2 and after 16 overs 128-2, but the death bowling in the last 4 overs was poor as in the Glamorgan match as 50 runs were leaked in the 25 balls including a front foot no ball by Henry to allow Hampshire to reach 178.

Somerset's response started badly against the new ball as the out of t20 form Banton, after hitting Wood for 6, then tried to repeat next ball and was caught for 10. The powerful top 3 were back in the hutch after 6.2 overs with the score on 50. Abell and Dickson on 0, neither having faced a ball. But to their massive credit, the pair staged a come back by putting on 89 in 9.3 overs until Dickson was caught for an excellent 52 - Abell followed 4 runs later as he was brilliantly caught and bowled by Currie for 37 from 26 balls (5x4). Green, batting with his mate Lammonby pushed the score along but 38 were required from the final 24 balls. Singles were taken but boundaries were hard to come by but Goldsworthy's 6 off the final ball of the 19th over bowled by Currie left Somerset needing 11 from the final over to be bowled by Somerset's finest Sonny Baker. 2 singles off the first 2 balls, 9 from 4 – Green then smashed baker for 6, a scrambled two and then a penultimate ball single to seal the match with 1 ball to spare and all of Somerset sighed with relief.

Summary: Gregory reported in ill (unknown exact detail), so he was replaced by Lammonby – a batsman for an allrounder? Surely another bowler, Davey or Ball should have been drafted in as it meant that Lammonby had to bowl 1 over which went for 12. Death bowling is an issue as Somerset leak runs like a cullender and regularly. Two spinners at the dead pitch at the Rose Bowl, but Somerset do not like to select 2 spinners or even have them in the squad.

11 – Essex – Taunton, Tuesday 8th July 2025. Won by 95 Runs. Top of table.

Pre-match: Henry's final match.

Teams: Somerset: Banton†, Smeed, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Henry, Meredith.

Essex: Pepper, Walter, Cox JM, Allison CWJ, Critchley, Benkenstein, Das, Thain, Harmer, Mohammad Amir, Bennett.

Toss: Essex – field.

Umpires: Mike Burns & Jack Shantry.

Match Ref: Wayne Noon.

Scores: Somerset 225-6 Kohler-Cadmore 90 (39b, 8x4, 7x6); Essex 130 all out. Henry 4-21.

Match Report: Somerset claimed a quarter final spot with a comprehensive victory over Essex. Matt Henry and Tom Kohler-Cadmore inspired the home side to a 95-run win with 37 balls to spare. After being invited to bat, Somerset started solidly with Tom Banton beautifully driving Bennett for back to back boundaries in the second over. However, Banton didn't fare as well against Mohammad Amir and chipped the Pakistan international to Benkenstein at mid-on to depart for 15 in the third over. Kohler-Cadmore replaced Banton at the crease and he looked to continue his recent rich vein of form as he raced to 21 from his first 11 balls. The Somerset 50 arrived in the sixth over courtesy of a massive six from Kohler-Cadmore off Walter. The 50 partnership for the second wicket between Kohler-Cadmore and Will Smeed came from just 26 balls and the former looked to further increase the run rate by smashing back to back sixes in the eighth over which was bowled by Matt Critchley at a cost of 20 runs. Another monster six took Kohler-Cadmore to his 50 from just 24 balls and also brought up the home side's 100 in the 10th over. The score had advanced to 109 when Smeed (32 off 20) miscued Benkenstein and Allison took a good catch on the run at long off. Kohler-Cadmore and Abell took their side to 150 in the 13th over and their 50 partnership for the third wicket came from 23 balls. All good innings come to an end and Kohler-Cadmore fell for 90. His brilliant innings came from just 39 deliveries but he perished when he was caught at long off by Pepper off the bowling of Harmer at 164-3. Never will he have a better chance of making a big 100, but he would always argue that that is the way he plays. Abell fell for 20 with the score on 178, caught in the deep by Pepper off Critchley, but the scoreboard kept ticking over as Sean Dickson and Lewis Gregory took 21 runs from 17th over, bowled by Harmer. The 200 came off the opening ball of the 18th over but Gregory (18 from 7) departed shortly thereafter when flicking Mohammad Amir to Thain at deep mid wicket at 206 for five off the last ball of the 18th over. Ben Green (13) was caught off the final ball of the innings as Somerset finished on 225 -6.

Essex needed to make a strong start and they did just that, Pepper and Walter plundering 15 runs off the opening over from Craig Overton. Indeed, the visitors had raced to 28 in the third over when Meredith snapped Pepper's leg stump in half. The Essex opener departing for 13. Green then took a stunning catch on the run over his shoulder to remove Jordan Cox for one off Matt Henry at 33-2. The score had advanced to 44 when Essex lost three wickets for just four runs. Allison (10) spooned Meredith to Abell, Walter (24) was caught at mid on by Gregory off Henry and then Benkenstein (0) skied Henry to Smeed

in the deep to leave the visitors in disarray. Critchley and Robin Das added 16 before the former was run out brilliantly by Abell for two to leave Essex on 64 for six in the eighth over. Das in turn fell for 17 at 81 for seven 10th, picking out Dickson in front of the Somerset Stand boundary to give Lewis Goldsworthy a wicket. Thain and Harmer shared a stand of 36 to frustrate the home attack but Thain (38 from 17) fell to Overton at 117 for eight when Matt Henry took an excellent catch running in from the boundary at long on in front of the Trescothick Pavilion.

Summary: Always nice to give Essex a good stuffing and it was just that. It will certainly keep Don Topley quiet for a few days at least!

12 – Kent – Canterbury, Friday 11th July 2025. Won by 5 wickets. Top of table.

Pre match: Henry has returned to play for New Zealand and Pretorious and Leach added to squad – still no Rew.

Teams: Somerset: Banton†, Smeed, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Ball, Meredith.

Kent: Muyeye, Finch, Denly, Billings*†, Benjamin, Leaning, Evison, Klaassen, Agar, Gilchrist, Parkinson.

Umpires: Neil Bainton & Mick Newell

Match Referee: Steve Davis

Toss: Somerset - field

Scores: Kent 137 (20); Somerset 138-5 (18.3).

Match Report: Overton bowled Muyeye first ball of the match and Meredith also bowled Finch in the 2nd over and this set the tone of the match as Kent never really recovered despite a fighting 40 from Joe Denly and 37 from Leaning. Meredith was excellent sending down his 24 balls for just 19 runs which included 12 dot balls. Overton also bowled 12 dot balls for 1-26. Kent mustered 137, Somerset bowling 45 dot balls and only conceding 10x4 and 4x6. A bizarre event occurred after 13 overs when the sun dipped so low that it was in the batsmen's faces so play was suspended for 22 minutes while it disappeared behind the pavilion – no overs lost.

Banton had to leave the field after 2.2 overs, Kohler-Cadmore taking the gloves. He did not bat so Smeed and Kohler-Cadmore opened the batting, but the later hit his 5th ball down the throat of long leg – a shot that was not required. Goldsworthy was pushed up the order but only managed 14 and Dickson was again LBW as Somerset subsided to 73-4 in the 12th over. But Abell stood fast, knocking the ball into gaps, something he is so good at. When Gregory joined him, he increased the run rate dramatically as he bludgeoned 37 from23 overs including 2x4 and 3x6. The pair put on 57 and effectively won the game but Gregory was bowled by ex-Somerset Academy player Gilchrist and Green joined Abell to see Somerset home with 16 balls to spare.

Summary: The pitch was not one on which free flowing stoke play or even slogging in a t20 match and although it looked a belter, it was far from it. There was a bit in it for all of the bowlers as the ball stuck in the surface regularly.

This victory ensured that Somerset (40 points and top by 8 points) will have a home Quarter Final against any one of 6 teams from the North Group – Lancashire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Durham, Warwickshire and Nottinghamshire. Currently 4 teams have 28 points and two teams have 24, so anything could happen.

13 – Surrey, The Oval, Sunday 13th July 2025. Lost by 67 Runs. 2nd in table.

Pre match: Banton will not feature in the next two t20 matches and may not play Championship match v Durham at Taunton on 22nd July. Finally, James Rew is included in place of Banton but unknown whether he will keep wicket.

Teams: Somerset: Smeed, Lammonby, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Pretorius, Goldsworthy, Leach, Meredith.

Surrey: Jacks, Patel, Roy, SM Curran, Lawrence, TK Curran, J Overton, Jordan, Foakes, Zappa, Topley.

Toss: Somerset - field

Umpires: Hasan Annan & Mick Newell

Match Ref: Jason Swift

Scores: Surrey 201-6 (20), Jacks 57 (37, 6x4, 3x6); Somerset 134 (19.3).

Report: Always an incredibly tough fixture playing Surrey at the Oval and this match was no different. With 9 international players in their XI and only 3 in the Somerset XI, the odds were stacked against Somerset. The facts were that Surrey delivered in spades and Somerset did not, equally in spades. In the Surrey innings, Jacks was dominant in the powerplay as he and Patel posted 60 and after 10 overs they scored 36 runs reaching 97-1 as Roy, Lawrence and Tom Curran all made significant contributions and although n Surrey batsman made a big score they all kept the score ticking along by punching the ball in to the huge are on one side of the ground, something Somerset failed to do later on. The batsmen put the bad balls away, and there were many as Somerset conceded 16x4 and 9x6. It has to be said that although Meredith has taken 26 wickets so far in this campaign, he did not hit his straps on the night conceding 46 from 24 balls including 3x4 and 4x6. Margins are of course tight but he and most

of the other bowlers has an off day too, the only exception was Pretorius, who was making his first appearance of the season in the t20, who managed to get his 24 balls (12 dots) down for 28.
Somerset were really sloppy in the field. Kohler-Cadmore, in the absence of Banton, conceded 7 byes despite taking 2 easy stumping off Leach and Goldsworthy. There were 3 front foot no balls, 7 runs scored from the resultant free hits plus the 6 conceded from the no balls, so 13 runs and there were 3 wides – 17 extras. No catches were dropped but no run outs were achieved from at least 3 opportunities. 201 should have been 170, but well batted Surrey.
For Somerset, one of Smeed or Kohler-Cadmore had to get a big score, but Surry's bowling was excellent as all 5 bowlers hit their straps – Topley, Sam Curran, Jordan, Zappa and Jamie Overton (why did Somerset let him go?), their lengths were excellent especially when bowling to the larger side and Somerset struggled despite Kohler-Cadmore striking Jordan for 5 fours in the 4th over. Lammonby fell to Topley but when TKC was out after 8.4 overs with the score on 73, the game was effectively over as Somerset still needed 129 from 11.2 overs. Abell tried to increase the tempo but was caught off a skied ball to replacement wicketkeeper Lawrence. Dickson was beaten for pace by Overton, Gregory threatened briefly but with the run rate increasing by the over, the inevitable happened as Somerset were bowled out in 19.2 overs for 134.
Summary: Surrey were clinically excellent and thoroughly deserved the win by 67 runs to take them to within 4 points of Somerset in the South Group and also to secure a home quarter final.
Somerset were out played in all three disciplines, and it is immensely frustrating to produce a performance like this, but it does seem to happen every season. Additionally, why was Rew not selected in place of Banton? Rew has been in good form all season and has all the shots for t20.
Let's hope normal service is resumed on Friday against Gloucestershire.

14 – Gloucestershire, Taunton, Friday 18th July 2025. Won by 6 Wickets. 2nd in table.

Pre-Match: With qualification already assured, Somerset rested Meredith, although this was assumed as nothing from the Club as usual. As he was not available for selection for Championship cricket, he already had 2 weeks off ahead of the dreaded 100. Abell also "rested" as Rew finally included in the t20 squad. Smith from Gloucestershire making his final appearance as a professional cricketer.
Teams: Somerset: Lammonby, Smeed, Kohler-Cadmore, JEK Rew†, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Goldsworthy, Overton, Leach, Ball.
Gloucestershire: Hammond, Short, Boorman, JMR Taylor, OJ Price, Bracey†, Payne, MD Taylor, Shaw, TJM Smith.
Umpires: Ian Blackwell & Mick Newell
Match Referee: Dean Cosker
Scores: Somerset 164 (20) Green 36*; Gloucestershire 148-8 (20), Short 71*.
Report: For the first time in this campaign after winning the toss, Gregory elected to bat. A decision that perplexed the faithful, but all would become apparent. Somerset struggled on a really slow surface but still managed 53 in the power play for the loss of Lammonby for 15 and Smeed for 18. At the 10 over stage the score was 91-4 with the further loss of Rew for 19 and Kohler-Cadmore for 21 from 13 – all the top four struggled with their timing and the pitch was definitely not conducive to stroke play as usual at Taunton. After 16 overs the score stood at 121-6 and then 18 overs 131-7, but Green who had been circumspect since coming in in the 13th over, and Overton then squeezed 33 from 12 balls to take the final score to 164-7. Payne's last over going for 616216 (22) and ultimately this was the difference. Gloucestershire used 8 bowlers of which Jack Taylor bowled his 4 overs for just 19 runs and 3 wickets – pace off, just like at Edgbaston is mighty effective!
Overton started with a maiden to Short, very unusual but Gregory conceded two 6's off his first over (Gregory has now conceded 18x6 in this campaign) but Gloucestershire managed 43-2 from the power play as Hammond (16) and debutant Boorman perished. Short was excellent but even he could not find any rhythm as the pitch became almost the same as a Bristol pitch – slow and low and not easy to bat on. After 10 overs the score stood at 67-4 and then at 16 overs 113-5. Still needing 52 in 4 overs or 24 balls. The 18th over bowled by Green went for 15 and the final over bowled by Gregory for 12 but the damage had already been done as Somerset ran out winners by 16 runs.
Summary: A clinical victory and fair play to Gregory for choosing to bat on a worn and slow surface and it will be very similar to the pitch which will be served up at Edgbaston should Somerset beat Warwickshire on 5th September in the quarter final.

15 – Warwickshire (Quarter-Final) – Saturday 6th September 2025. Won by 4 Wickets. (Forevermore known as "Dickson's Match").

Pre-Match: A full 50 days after the final Group Match, finally we all arrive at the Quarter Final - All pay match - £60 per ticket with an ungenerous 10% off for 1875 members – not that long ago this was included in the 1875 and Long Room package – no more.

Henry declare unavailable by NZ Cricket as he "prepares" for series v Australia. Meredith available but only because he was playing in the 100. Management tight lipped as always about whether he would be available for Finals Day, if victory secured.
Davey playing for Scotland in Canada but included in the 15 man squad.
Teams: Somerset: Kohler-Cadmore, Smeed, Abell, Rew†, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Overton, Goldsworthy, Ball, Meredith.
Warwickshire: Davies*†, Yates, Mousley, Hain, Barnard, K Smith, Garton, Briggs, Lintott, Gleeson, Hannon-Dalby.
Toss: Warwickshire – bat.
Umpires: Ben Debenham & Martin Saggers.
Match Referee: Simon Hinks
Scores: Warwickshire 190 (20), Davies 71 (39b, 13x4); Somerset 191-6 (19.5), Abell 51 (31b, 5x4, 1x6), Dickson 71* (26b 5x4, 6x6).
Report: Unbelievable and totally unexpected victory! Sean Dickson produced one of the most amazing one day innings ever seen at Taunton striking 6 sixes and 5 fours in scoring 71 not out from just 26 balls - his scoring sequence was: .141161614162411262 (50 from 19) 4..6641 as the crowd were treated to a fabulous display of power batting. The cause was lost when Dickson came to the crease at 80-3 from 10.5 overs with 9.1 overs remaining and 111 still required at 12.15/over. But he hung in there and produced some clean hitting as can be seen from the table left. Although Abell perished for an excellent 51 from 31 in the 16th over, Dickson continued to put the bowlers to the sword. Gregory gave the strike to Dickson, but he gave Mousley a catch on the fence, and Green fell in the same manor but it was left to Dickson to strike Barnard's 3rd over and final of the innings for 16641 (after the first ball wide) to secure a historic victory with a ball to spare.

Over	Runs	Score
12	13	93-3
13	11	104-3
14	11	115-3
15	17	132-3
16	11	143-4
17	9	152-4
18	16	158-6
19	14	172-6
19.5	19	191-6

The Warwickshire innings started as Somerset would not have wanted it to as Yates hit the 2nd over of the match bowled by Meredith for six consecutive 4's conceding 24 in the over and the first two balls of Overton's next over also went for 4 – 8 balls in a row all hit the rope as 32 runs conceded. Ball was introduced in the 4th over which went for 7 but Overton's 3rd, the 5th of the match, went for a further five 4's after a first ball dot. Scoring sequence from the 2nd over: 444444441..11..41.44444142144 – 17 4's in 29 balls as the power play ended at 82-1. From this position Warwickshire should have made a much bigger score than they did as they only managed 108 in 14 overs at 7.7/over as the bowlers pulled the situation back very well as Gregory bowled 3 overs for 18, Goldsworthy 25 in 3 and Green 30 in 4. Davies got himself out on 71 in the 12th over when he really should have made a 100 and despite Smith making 28* from 22 no other batsman made more than 25. Meredith did return and bowled much better but it is a concern that he concedes so many boundaries.
Summary: This victory was a triumph for Dickson and a complete two fingered gesture to the DoC who decided not to offer him any kind of contract. His last match at Taunton was one that all of those present will never forget and rightly so. This was also Ben Green's last match at Taunton before heading off to Leicestershire.

16 – Semi-Final – Lancashire, Edgbaston, Saturday, 13th September 2025. Won by 23 Runs.

Pre-Match: Meredith called back to Australia for pre-season training – this was always expected as no Australians play in England in September but frustrating all the same – replaced by Pretorius, who, it was revealed later, was not fully fit and was having suffered a stress fracture, but fair play to him for playing. 15 man squad included Lammonby, Davey, Aldridge and Leach.
Teams: Somerset: Smeed, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Rew†, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Overton, Goldsworthy, Pretorius, Ball.
Lancashire: Wells, Jennings*, Hurst†, Livingstone, MA Jones, Shetty, Blatherwick, Balderson, Hartley, Aspinwall, Anderson.
Toss: Lancashire – field.
Umpires: Michael Gough & James Middlebrook
Match Referee: Will Smith
Scores: Somerset 182 (20), Kohler-Cadmore 81 (52b, 6x4, 4x6); Lancashire 159 (19.5), Jennings 44 (28b, 3x4, 4x6), Pretorius 3-27.
Report: The pitch at Edgbaston usually provides low scoring affairs on Finals Day. This pitch was certainly not the standard fare served up for such a day. The average score in match one is 164, so it was a question of how many Somerset could make over and above that score after being inserted by Lancashire. Smeed, who has thus far, has had a really good t20 season, departed in the 3rd over and looked out of sorts, but Abell (26), promoted in the absence of Banton to number 3, helped the ever positive Kohler-Cadmore to put on 43 in 3.5 overs as Somerset reached 49-2 at the end of the power play. TKC was at his dominant best, but not without a few wild swishes but he managed to punish the

bad ball severely. At the 10 over point, the score stood at 78-3, with Rew back in the hutch for 1. The next 5 overs produced 36 runs for the loss of Dickson for 16. But it was the last 5 overs that propelled Somerset with scores of 11, 17, 8, 8 and 21 being scored. The final over bowled by Aspinwall went for 441462 as Pretorius and Overton took advantage of a poor over to push Somerset to a very decent score of 182, 18 more than the average.

Bowling in the power play has been an issue all season and it proved to be the same in this match as Lancashire plundered 73 for the loss of Wells for 7 and Hurst for 5. Overton was plundered for 39 in 3 overs conceding 2x4 and 4x6 but he did take the wicket of Hurst. The key to winning was to remove Jennings and Livingstone, two potential matchwinners for Lancashire. Luckily Jennings hit Goldsworthy to TKC an long on who took an excellent catch – 78-3 after 7.4 overs. After 11.5 overs with the score on 102, the most controversial moment of the match occurred. Livingstone was adjudged LBW off Gregory, which he immediately reviewed. TV umpire Redfern upheld the out decision stating "no evidence of bat involved", but Livingstone was adamant he hit the ball. Whether he did or not he had to depart, a decision he was clearly not happy with. 102-4, still needing 81 from 8.1 overs. Jones did his best but scored 36 off 35 as Green, Goldsworthy and Ball all bowled well. Pretorius' 3rd over (17th) was a disaster – 16(a no ball+2)6(free hit)1W.2, so 14 off one ball and 18 from the over, but Lancashire couldn't keep up the tempo. Balderson was "retired out" after 19.1 overs as Hartley replaced him but he was out ironically first ball off Green, but the task was out of reach as Lancashire ended 23 runs short and Somerset were in the final for the 8th time.

Summary: Pace off at Edgbaston is effective. Goldsworthy has bowled pretty well all season but only bowled 2 overs for 15 and arguably should have had another. Pretorius bowled 3 good overs 2, 2 and 6 but one dreadful over that went for 18. Somerset's fielding was excellent as always and was far superior to Lancashire's – all those drills certainly pays off. TKC was brilliant and deserved a century, but he rarely pushes fielders on the fence for 2 runs, but if he keeps finding boundaries that's a small price to pay.

A fabulous victory and well deserved.

17 – Final – Hampshire, Edgbaston, Saturday 13th September 2025. Won By 6 Wickets. **CHAMPIONS 2025**

Pre-Match: Same team selected.

Teams: Somerset: Smeed, Kohler-Cadmore, Abell, Rew†, Dickson, Gregory*, Green, Overton, Goldsworthy, Pretorious, Ball.

Hampshire: Albert†, Lynn, Vince, Fuller, Howell, Mayes, Orr, Fortuin, Currie, Wood, Baker.

Toss: Somerset - field

Umpires: Michael Gough & James Middlebrook

Match Referee: Will Smith

Scores: **Hampshire 194-6 (20), Albert 85 (48b, 10x4, 2x6), Vince 52 (34b, 4x4, 3x6); Somerset 195-4 (19) Smeed 94 (58b, 14x4, 1x6).**

Report: To chase down 194 at Edgbaston was a fantastic effort. But Somerset were under pressure in the field as Albert produced a magnificent innings of 85 from just 48 balls finding the boundary easily and it looked like he would make a big hundred to put the match out of sight. The power play yielded 83 runs for the loss of only Lynn fresh from the first 100 at finals day in the 23rd year of t20 cricket. Pretorious' disastrous only over, the 5th, went for 25 (446x644) and then Overton's 3rd went for 17 (6441.2). This set Hampshire up for a big score and Vince once again delivered with 52. After 10 overs the sore was 107-1, but Goldsworth produced 4 excellent overs only going to 28 which in the context of the free scoring was much needed. 136-3 from 15 but the last Hampshire managed 58 in the last 5 overs (13, 17, 6, 14, 8) to take their total to 194-6. It was fortunate that Vince, in an effort to hit Goldsworthy out of the ground, he only found Dickson in his customary position on the boundary, who pouched the catch to much delight from all the Somerset faithful.

With Banton carrying drinks for England, Kohler-Cadmore opened the innings with Smeed but he perished to the hand of Baker (yet another player let go by Somerset) bowled in the 5th over for 23 from 14 with two large 6's 46-1, but Abell followed 5 balls later for a duck – 55-2 from 5.5 overs and 139 needed from 14.1 overs at 9.83/over. James Rew joined Smeed and the pair put on 34 in 3.5 overs before Rew was bowled by Currie for 20 from 13 – 89-4 and 105 needed from 10.2 overs at 10.16. Hero of the quarter final, Dickson joined Smeed and from his first six balls he had scored just 2 runs but from the next 15 he clobbered 31. Meanwhile Smeed was batting beautifully, picking off the bad ball and rotating the strike and anchoring the innings. After 10 overs the score was 90-3 and 15 overs 136-3, still needing 58 from 5 overs at 11.6/over. But Smeed's excellent innings came to an end to the first ball of the 19th over in an effort to hit only his second 6 as he hit the ball straight down Vince's throat at mid-on. Visibly shaken and disappointed he had to drag himself from the field, but that only allowed skipper Gregory to enter the arena with 18 needed from 11 balls. Five balls later, it was all over as he smashed the unfortunate Currie for 18 (426.6). Admittedly, his first ball was a streaky outside edge to where third man would have been, but the 2 and two massive 6's to win the match were sublime/

Somerset Champions!

Summary: For the first time in many years the pitch at Edgbaston was conducive to t20 cricket and the crowd was at last treated to some fabulous batting but this year it was a bowler's graveyard. Albert and Vince were excellent and a target was always going to be challenging. Gregory's 18 from just 5 balls was truly outstanding and fitting for the skipper to smash he final ball of the 19th over into the crowd. A brilliant run chase and Somerset thoroughly deserved their 3rd t20 title. Smeed was excellent and more than deserved a hundred but his new found maturity will hold him in good stead moving forward for sure.

T20 Blast 2025
Somerset Averages
Round 17 (Final) - 13/09/2025
Batting (by Runs scored)

	Player	M	I	NO	Runs	BF	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	0	4s	6s
1	WCF Smeed	17	17	2	621	428	94	41.40	144.85	-	5	-	73	19
2	T K-Cadmore	17	17	0	557	334	90	32.76	166.76	-	3	-	58	28
3	SR Dickson	14	14	5	411	257	76	45.66	159.92	-	3	-	22	25
4	TB Abell	16	16	4	317	249	51	26.41	127.30	-	1	2	29	5
5	L Gregory	16	14	4	293	172	58*	29.30	170.34	-	2	-	19	21
6	BGF Green	17	12	5	195	136	36*	27.85	143.38	-	-	-	14	8
7	T Banton	10	9	0	165	123	68	18.33	134.14	-	1	1	18	8
8	TA Lammonby	5	5	0	103	76	36	20.60	139.18	-	-	-	10	4
9	LP Goldsworthy	17	6	3	67	53	29*	22.33	126.41	-	-	-	5	3
10	JEK Rew	4	4	0	51	43	20	12.75	118.60	-	-	-	9	0
11	C Overton	15	5	4	37	19	16*	37.00	194.73	-	-	1	3	2
12	THS Rew	3	2	1	18	19	17*	18.00	94.73	-	-	-	1	1
13	M Pretorius	3	2	1	14	10	12*	14.00	140.00	-	-	-	1	1
14	MJ Henry	10	1	0	9	5	9*	-	180.00	-	-	-	1	0
15	MJ Leach	2	1	1	8	8	8*	-	100.00	-	-	-	1	0
16	RP Meredith	14	2	1	5	5	4*	5.00	100.00	-	-	-	1	0
17	JT Ball	5	-											
18	JH Davey	2	-											
	Totals	187	127	31	2870	1937	(94)	29.89	148.16	-	15	4	265	133

Bowling (by RPO)

	Player	Overs	Balls	Dots	Runs	W	BBI	NB	W	4	6	Ave	Econ	SR	4	Ct	St
1	Henry	38.0	228	106	281	16	4/21	1	4	29	10	17.56	7.39	14	-	4	
2	Ball	19.0	114	41	152	5	2/20	1	4	12	4	30.40	8.00	22	-	2	
3	Overton	50.1	301	148	403	10	2/32	0	9	38	18	40.30	8.03	30	-	17	
4	Goldsworthy	44.0	264	68	366	13	4/13	0	1	25	13	28.15	8.31	20	1	5	
5	Meredith	53.0	318	134	457	28	4/21	1	11	44	20	16.32	8.62	11	2	4	
6	Green	55.0	330	74	490	20	3/30	0	7	30	21	24.50	8.90	16	-	2	
7	Pretorius	8.5	53	27	80	4	3/27	2	3	8	4	20.00	9.05	13	-	1	
8	Leach	7.0	42	14	64	3	2/42	1	1	5	3	21.33	9.14	14	-	1	
9	Gregory	50.1	301	98	462	15	2/19	4	6	41	18	30.80	9.20	20	-	7	
10	Davey	7.0	42	16	72	1	1/17	0	3	8	3	84.00	10.28	42	-	-	
11	Lammonby	1.0	6	2	12	0	0/12	0	0	1	1	-	12.00	-	-	2	
12	Abell															10	
13	Banton															5	0
14	Dickson															4	
15	K-Cadmore															11	2
16	JEK Rew															1	0
17	THS Rew															2	
18	Smeed															9	
	Totals	333.1	1999	698	2839	115	4/13	10	49	241	115	24.68	8.52	17	3	87	2

t20 Summary

A fabulous campaign and it's hard to criticise as squad that won 14 out of the 17 matches, compared to 15 out of 17 in 2023. There were some brilliant moments throughout the campaign and a few that supporters may well like to forget. The squad is incredibly talented both with bat and ball and Somerset are the best all round fielding side in the country. All those drills that the players do pre match and probably when there are no spectators, have certainly paid off.

With that high standard comes a high degree of expectation and there is always room for improvement. The two areas of concern are, for this reviewer at least are the bowling in the power play and at the death. It is certain that all the other side probably have this on their list too. Overton bowls really well for 12 or so balls of his opening 3 overs and it's unfair to be over negative but if the other balls went for just a single or a two, even better. Meredith took wickets for sure but he leaked runs like a colander going for 20x6 and 44x4 which is a lot.

Smeed had a brilliant season and his 94 from 58 in the final effective won the match. 620 runs from 428 balls at 41.33 and five 50's and a strike rare of 144.85, reflected how much more mature he has become. In 2024 he was more inclined to try and smash the ball straight away but this season he has become much more selective. He sure has the shots and amazing power and opposition bowlers fear him and one day he will make a massive score and well over 100. However, one thing he does need to work on is when he encounters a bowler that swings or seams the white ball. Foot movement is minimal and looks out of sorts at the start of the innings. If he can master this he will be even better and potentially force his way into the red ball side.

Goldsworthy, an unsung hero really in this format. He had the dubious task of filling Van Der Merwe's shoes which was always going to be difficult but but 13 wickets and an economy rate of 8.31 was better than Meredith and Green and he was only hit to the boundary 38 times compared to Meredith, 64, Overton 66, Green 51 and Henry 39.

Ten no balls were bowled and 49 wides – difficult in t20 as bowlers are always forcing the batsmen to have a go at wide balls outside the off stump. Sometimes all bowlers stray down the leg side and it's a fine line.

Fielding – excellent as always and all those pre-match drills certainly pay off. From memory only one of 2 catches dropped all campaign, which were half chances.

In 2026, the question is, who will fill the Green role? There are no immediate replacements on the staff and as Davey has left as well, Somerset are looking for a number 7 and a bowler, unless Goldsworthy steps into that slot and Ogborne or Leach provide additional bowling. As Dickson was not offered even a white ball contract, it must be assumed that the Rew's will fill that slot. Both possess prodigious talent and can play 360 degrees but whether one of them takes the gloves from Banton, who is has done nothing wrong, remains to be seen. This decision may be affected if Banton is retained in the England white ball squad, although he has not been awarded a central contract.

At the time of writing, Pretorius has just been resigned on an all format all season contract. Meredith has also resigned for the whole of the competition in 2026. Henry position is unknown although it seems unlikely that he will return as New Zealand are in England next season.

Metro Bank 50 Over Cup 2025

Metro Bank Prize Money 2025 (2024) *		
	County	£
Winners	Worcestershire	182,000
Losing Finalists	Hampshire	91,000
Losing semi-finalists (each)	Somerset/Yorkshire	26,000
Total		325,000

With 8 players signed up for the 100, Somerset were left wit a 17 man squad which sadly did not include Umeed as Somerset announced 4 days before the start of the competition that his contract would not be renewed. No reason given and usual platitudes on the website. The facts are that he has scored very heavily in the 50 over competition but unfortunately has not taken his opportunities in red ball cricket.
As this competition starts, Green and Davey have also been offered new contracts by Leicestershire (£100,000pa allegedly) and Aldridge has signed for Durham to play more cricket. More on this later.

Metro Bank 50 Over Cup 2025
Group A - Match by Match

1 – Middlesex, Radlett, Wednesday 6th August 2025 – Won by 6 Wickets

Pre-match: Hill and Langridge left out of final XI.
Teams: **Somerset**: Lammonby, Vaughan, Goldsworthy, JEK Rew*†, THS Rew, Thomas, Green, Pretorius, Leach, Ogborne, Ball.
Middlesex: Cracknell†, de Caires, Robson, Geddes*, Davies, Hollman, Fernandez, Roland-Jones, Brookes, Cornwell, Little.
Toss: Somerset – field.
Umpires: Ben Debenham & Rob Bailey
Match Ref: Mike Smith
Scores: Middlesex 289-7 (50), de Caires 71 (86b, 10x4, 1x6), Davies 64 (56b, 5x4, 2x6); Somerset 293-4 (47.3), JEK Rew 106* (90b 15x4), THS Rew 51 (54b 3x4, 3x6)
Match Report: After winning the toss on a gloriously sunny day and inserting Middlesex, Somerset found it hard to take wickets even with the new ball. Ogborne conceded 22 from 3 overs while Pretorius went for 27 from 6 as the Cracknell and de Caires posted 54 from the 10 over power play. The breakthrough came when Ball, in his 4th over had Cracknell caught at slip by Green. Middlesex played sensibly as Ball and Leach dried the runs up – after 20 overs the score was 89-1, 35 runs scored between overs 10 and 20. The pattern continued as 54 scored between 20 and 30 and 38 between 30 and 40, but it was Davies who enabled the hosts to post 289 as he made 64 from 56 balls and was well supported by Hollman (29), Fernandez 27 and skipped Geddes (40).
The Somerset chase followed a similar pattern. Lammonby, making his List A debut for Somerset, and Vaughan put on 49 until the latter edged to Cracknell for 18 which brought Goldsworthy to the crease, but Lammonby although unfurling six fours, then became becalmed as he scored 3 runs from 16 balls, playing and missing regularly – whether this was because the ball suddenly started to seam or swing a bit more is unknown but it was inevitable that he would eventually get an edge – 81-2 from 16.2 overs. Goldsworthy made 38 from 46 – 131-3 after 24.1 overs but then Thomas Rew joined his brother for the first time in any format for Somerset 1st XI. And what a fabulous partnership they put together – 107 in 26.1 overs before Thomas, having just completed his maiden professional 50, slapped a short ball straight to midwicket for a polished 51 from 54 balls with 3x4 and 3x6. 238-5, 51 required in 9.4 overs. But, Thomas joined the elder Rew and although circumspect to start with, unfurled some good shots to keep the sore ticking o=ver. Rew, of course completed a wonderful century, his 3rd in List A cricket, to go with his 11 First Class hundreds – an amazing achievement for one so young (21 ½). Somerset winning the match with 15 balls to spare.
Summary: A good start to the MB 50 campaign. Ogborne was a little loose and was expensive, but he will play the next match for sure, but Ball was the pick of the bowlers and Leach did a good job too. There were remarkably few fielding errors on a really bumpy outfield.

2 – Durham, Taunton, Friday 8th August 2025. Won by 4 Wickets.

Pre-match: Langridge and Davey left out of 14 man squad. Hill selected. Pretorius and Leach not included in the match day squad.
Teams: Somerset: Vaughan, Lammonby, Goldsworthy, JEK Rew*†, THS Rew, JF Thomas, Hill, Green, Aldridge, Ogborne, Ball.

Durham: Gay, Borthwick, Rhodes, Ackermann, OG Robinson*†, Mustard, Drissell, Coughlin, Killeen, Minto, LS Robinson.
Umpires: Ian Blackwell & Ant Harris
Match Ref: Simon Hinks
Toss: Durham - bat
Scores: Durham 255 (50), Rhodes 100 (120b, 10x4), Ogborne 10-0-41-5; Somerset 258-6 (46.2), THS Rew 84*, (81b 8x4, 2x6); Somerset 258-6)46.2), THS Rew 84* (81b, 8x4, 2x6).
Match Report: Durham chose to bat on winning the toss on a used pitch, which was probably the right decision but they ended up about 25-30 runs short of a par score. Will Rhodes held the innings together and batted brilliantly to score 100 from 118 balls where he took all the singles on offer to keep the score ticking over as Somerset reduced the visitors to 67-4 from 14.2 overs. Mustard (son of the Colonel) was circumspect and didn't play his natural game but supported Rhodes as they put on 78 in 19.3 overs. Coughlin put bat to ball to score 38 from 30 to push the score to 255-9. Ogborne was excellent, conceding only 41 from his 10 overs and taking a maiden five wicket haul for Somerset and took wickets in each of his 2 spells, 2-18 and 3-23. Ball had an off day conceding 72 after such a good performance at Radlett.
Vaughan and Lammonby got somerset off to the perfect start on the slow pitch with 41 on the board after just 4 overs as Minto and Coughlin struggled to find a decent length. Lammonby dragged a ball onto his stumps for 24 and Vaughan, looking like a big score was imminent, was bowled by Rhodes for 37 from 48. But once again it was the Rew brothers who shared a stand of 95 in 15.4 overs before James was in two minds and popped an easy catch to mid-on, 173-4 needing 85 in 19 overs and what should have been an easy chase. But Hill was unluckily run out and Thomas perished – 189-6, but Green steadied the ship and with Rew picking off the bad balls and showing a maturity beyond his tender years, the pair saw Somerset home with no further mishaps and with 22 balls remaining. Thomas Rew impresses again with an unbeaten 84*, his highest score for the 1st Xi, but there is no doubt that it will not take him long to better that score. Green was excellent and his 34* from 35 was mature innings.
Summary: Another victory and one on a slow pitch, something that the players will have to get used to as the pressure on pitches increases with the addition of the women's team. Thomas Rew – what a talent and only 17! A very bright future but let's all hope that England do not come calling.

3 – Lancashire, Taunton, Sunday 10th August 2025. Lost by 2 Wickets.

Pre match: Left out of 15 man squad: Green & Ball, but Kian Roberts and James Theedom included in 15 players. Leach and Pretorius return. Umeed's location is unknown, but doubtless a tad hacked off at not being given another contract. Left out of final XI; Ball, Leach, Pretorius and Green – Kian Roberts handed a debut for Somerset.
Teams: Somerset: Lammonby, Vaughan, Goldsworthy, JEK Rew*†, THS Rew, JF Thomas, Hill, Roberts, Davey, Ogborne, Langridge.
Lancashire: MA Jones, Bell†, Harris*, Bohannon, Singh, Balderson, Shetty, Sutton, Hands, Bailey, Barnard.
Toss: Lancashire - field
Umpires: Mike Burns & Ben Peverall
Match Referee: Dean Cosker
Scores: Somerset 250-7 (50), Goldsworthy 63 (88b, 6x4), Vaughan 59 (93b, 3x4), Hill 57 (53b, 4x4, 2x6); Lancashire 254-8 (48.4), Harris 95 (99b, 7x4, 2x6), Balderson 65 (76b, 6x4).
Match Report: Another used pitch and Lancashire had no hesitation in asking Somerset to bat first. Lammonby departed early wafting at Balderson but a partnership of 124 in 28.5 overs between Goldsworthy and Vaughan got Somerset back on track on a slow pitch where it was difficult to score quickly. Both batsmen scored many singles but neither put the fielders under pressure so did not convert singles into twos. 10 over score was 33-1, 20 overs 81-1 and 30 overs 129-2 as Goldsworthy was out in the 30th over for 63. 20 overs left to post a score north of 250. After 2 matches in which both Rew's made significant contributions, this one was where both failed – James running down the pitch to be stumped by a yard for 4 off the excellent Shetty on debut and Thomas nicking off to Bell for 2 off the impressive 16 year old Hands also on debut. Thomas and Hill played sensibly and started to be more belligerent than their predecessors as they put on 66 in 11.5 overs. Thomas perished for 32 from the same number of balls and this prompted Hill to strike 2 fours and 2 sixes with able support from debutant Kian Roberts who played one magnificent square drive for 4. Hill duly completed a well-deserved maiden 5 for Somerset from 49 balls to enable Somerset to scape to 250-7. Lancashire's bowlers were excellent throughout despite bowling 11 wides and constantly put the batsmen under pressure and add in the slowness of the pitch, were the reasons why Somerset didn't make 275-280.
The matched hinged on whether Somerset were able to get Harris, Lancashire's Australian Test match player. Others had struggled to find the middle of the bat, but even defensive shots found the middle. He nudge the singles but also put the bad ball away striking 7 4's an2 2 6's in a match willing 95 from 99 balls and only 42 dot balls. Balderson supported him well making 65 from 76 balls but fell to a lively if a little inaccurate Langridge with 23 still required. With 8 required, Vaughan dropped Sutton at short mid-wicket – a catch that a professional cricketer should really take and with that despite the efforts of

Davey and Langridge. Of the bowlers, Ogborne (1-41) was tidy again as was Vaughan (2-41), but Langridge bowled 2 no balls (4 runs) but neither free hit went for runs.
Summary: A disappointing result. These matches are won and lost on fine margins and Vaughans drop plus the 2 no balls were not the only reason for the loss. It is fair to say that Somerset were 20-25 runs short. Vaughan and Goldsworthy, although they batted well, they need to get a wiggle on and put the fielders under pressure and take some notes from Abell, Dickson and Banton's running between the wickets. The Rew's failed and Somerset must find a way to win when they only score 6 between them, having said that both Thomas and Hill provided some impetus at the back end but not quite enough runs but it was great to see Hill reach his maiden 50 and also to see Roberts on debut.
With potentially 8 players leaving the Club at this date, Somerset will need these players in 2026 and beyond.

4 – Yorkshire, York C.C., Thursday 14th August 2025. Won by 6 Wickets.

Pre match: Pretorius, Roberts, Davey and Langridge all left out of 13 man squad. James Theedom included. Umeed obviously searching for another contract. Nothing on SCCC website about Aldridge going to Durham, but on BBC site 12th August. Eight players leaving as of 14th August and little or no explanation from the Club, which is par for the course.
Teams: Somerset: Lammonby, Vaughan, Goldsworthy, Rew*†, THS Rew, JF Thomas, Green, Aldridge, Leach, Theedom, Ball.
Yorkshire: Lyth, Bean, Luxton, Wharton, Revis, Hill, Duke†, Bess*, Milnes, Moriarty, Cliff.
Toss: Somerset - field
Umpires: Hasan Adnan & Peter Hartley
Match referee: Peter Such
Scores: Yorkshire 247 (48.4), Revis 85 (85b, 9x4); Somerset 252-4 (49.1), Vaughan 95 (127b, 11x4)
Match Report: On a glorious day in York, with an equally glorious setting, Somerset made it 3 victories out of 4. The toss was an important one on a pitch used 2 days previously for the Roses encounter and the groundsman had left 7mm of grass on the hybrid strip. The power play was to prove decisive as Yorkshire struggled to 32-3 as Lyth and Wharton perished plus Luxton inexplicably ran himself out first ball as Thomas threw down the stumps after a misfield. The next 20 overs produced 105 runs as Somerset's bowlers bowled tidily. Overs 30-50 only produced 110 runs with Lammonby taking 2-37, his maiden List A wickets. Revis held the innings together with a fine knock of 85 from the same number of balls and it was left to Moriarty (30) and Milnes (14*) to take Yorkshire to 247 all out in the 49th over.

Yorkshire		
Overs	Runs	Wkts
1-10	32	3
11-20	54	1
21-30	51	0
31-40	60	3
41-50	50	3

Summary: An excellent win, albeit a little later than expected in front of the Yorkshire faithful. Vaughan threw away the opportunity of a maiden 100 in any format and he knew it but an excellent innings all the same.

5 – Warwickshire, Taunton, Sunday 17th August. Lost by 3 Wickets.

Pre match: Pretorius injured allegedly. Bowlers shuffled around again as Davey and Ogborne added to squad of 15.
Teams: **Somerset**: Vaughan, Lammonby, Goldsworthy, JEK Rew*†, THS Rew, JF Thomas, Green, Ogborne, Leach, Langridge, Ball.
Warwickshire: Yates, Barnard, Malik, Davies, Shaikh, K Smith, Jani, Lintott, Booth, Ali, Hannon-Dalby.
Toss: Warwickshire - field
Umpires: James Tredwell & Mohammed Waseem
Match Referee: Phill Whitticase
Scores: Somerset 309-8 (50), Lammonby 100 (111b, 9x4, 2x6), JEK Rew 81 (69, 9x4, 2x6)
Match Report: A score of 309 was probably 25 short of a par score but it was dominated by a maiden List A century by Lammonby from 110 balls with 9x4 and 2x6. Sadly, he was out in the 39th over when the score was 212-3. Having batted so well it was frustrating all round that he perished to a top edge the very next ball after reaching his century. It is worth noting the number of runs scored and wickets lost in each block of 10 overs. Although 91 were scored in the final 10 overs, the first 20 overs only produced 87 runs.

Overs	Runs	Wkts
1-10	43	0
11-20	44	2
21-30	57	0
31-40	84	2
41-50	91	3

James Rew was again excellent and thoroughly deserved a 4th List A 100, but Booth yorked him on 81 and his brother also batted well for 41 from 29. There is certainly more to come from the brothers and both so young. Ogborne came to the crease and put bat to ball striking 30 from 16 balls which was most welcome after Green and Thomas perished cheaply.
Warwickshire batted steadily and continued throughout their innings and it was not until Lintott entered the arena that the tempo increased. He came in at 243-6 needing 66 in 9.3 overs and had a certain amount of luck hitting 50 from 36 balls, hitting the ball into unlikely areas. Smith remained with him ending up on 45* from 43 balls. Green took 3-65 was a little expensive and Ogborne conceded 6 wides as Warwickshire won with 3 balls to spare.

Summary: A game Somerset should really have won, but Lintott turned the match and the bowlers could get him out – an unlikely hero for the visitors. 27 extras conceded was far too many – 13 wides and 2 no balls by Langridge gave away 17 runs plus the 8 runs from the no ball and a free hit, so 25 runs gifted.

6 – Sussex, Hove, Thursday 21st August 2025. Won by 90 Runs

Pre-match: Pretorius is allegedly injured. No Leach, Ball or Davey in the squad for this match.
Teams: Somerset: Vaughan, Lammonby, Goldsworthy, JEK Rew*†, THS Rew, JF Thomas, Hill, Roberts, Aldridge, Ogborne, Langridge.
Sussex: Tear, Haines, Clark, Hudson-Prentice, Simpson*†, Carter, Lamb, Carson, Lenham, Crocombe, Hunt.
Toss: Sussex – field.
Umpires: Rob Bailey & Sam Hollingshead
Match Referee: Wayne Noon
Scores: Somerset 243 (47.3), Thomas 50 (58b 7x4, 1x6), Hill 55 (68b, 3x4, 1x6); Sussex 153 (36), Lammonby 7-3-20-5.
Match report: from a Somerset point of view, this was a comprehensive victory and so it looked on paper after the match. Somerset, after being asked to bat first on basically a very good pitch for batting, lost Vaughan to the very first ball of the day and then Lammonby to the 14th – 6-2, which quickly became 21-3 as Goldsworthy departed for 8. But the Rew's slowly but surely put on 38 before the elder chipped an opportunity back to Crocombe who duly held on. The younger then fell for 30with the score on 82-5. At this point it seemed unlikely that a score of 180 could be achieved, but Thomas and Hill batted sensibly as the circumstances required to take the score to 141 when Thomas, having just reached his 2nd List A half century from 54 balls, feathered to Simpson – a shame as he was going well. Roberts joined Hill and showed great maturity in adding 67 in 12.4 overs. A target of 250 was on the cards but Roberts was out for a commendable 29 from 32 including his first 6 and Hill quickly followed for an excellent 55 from 68. Some lusty blows took the score above 240 but Somerset were all out in the 48th over for 243. Not a great score and arguably 35+40 short of a par score especially considering an inexperienced bowling attack.
The early loss of Haines brought Clark to the crease to join Tear and the pair put on 53 when the game was turned completely on its head by Lammonby's remarkable 2nd (11th of the innings) over during which he captured 3 wickets, Tear for 16, Hudson-Prentice for a first ball duck and then 2 balls later the ever reliable Simpson for a 3rd ball duck. Aldridge then induced and edge by Clark as Sussex went from 60-1 to 60-5 in 8 balls, which became 70-6 when Lamb was caught at slip off Aldridge. Thereafter it was only a matter of time before the inevitable happened as Lammonby was brought back in the 32nd over and trapped Crocombe LBW and then had Hunt caught by Ogborne as Sussex were bowled out in 36 overs for 153 to give Somerset victory by the large margin of 90 runs. A remarkable bowling performance from Lammonby, 7-3-20-5, including 28 dot balls.
Summary: Three left arm seamers and two left arm spinners that didn't bowl – should they have – well, not really as the seamers bowled well. Langridge was good but need to pitch the ball in them right place more often. A fabulous win away from home on a very good batting pitch that has 14mm of grass on it. Still in with a chance of qualifying, just need to win both remaining matches.

7 – Kent, Canterbury, Sunday 24th August 2025. Won by 4 Wickets.

Pre-Match: Pretorius returns to the squad of 13 along with Green, Leach, Ball and Theedom, the only bowler retained is Aldridge, so rested are: Ogborne, Langridge and Roberts.
Teams: **Somerset**: Vaughan, Lammonby, Goldsworthy, Rew*†, THS Rew, Thomas, Hill, Green, Leach, Theedom, Ball.
Kent: Dawkins, JK Denly, JL Denly, Leaning, Finch*†, E Singh, Curtiss, CL Flintoff, Rizvi, Klaassen, Cohen**.**
Toss: Kent – bat.
Umpires: Phil Mustard & Ben Peverall.
Match Ref: Jason Swift
Scores: Kent 269-9 (50), JK Denly 65 (72b, 9x4, 1x6); Somerset 270-6, Lammonby 102 (104b, 11x4).
Match Report: After 20 overs, Kent looked well placed at 107-1, but Leach removed both Joe Denly and his nephew Jayden for 39 and 65 respectively within 4 balls in his 5th over and the 22nd of the innings.

Overs	Runs	Wkts
1-10	53	1
11-20	54	0
21-30	40	2
31-40	51	3
41-50	71	3

Kent then had to rebuild and moved quietly along to 147-3 at the 30 over stage. Finch batted well for 48 from 57 and was well supported by Singh (31) and Corey Flintoff (28) but it was Klaassen who injected some late, albeit brief momentum striking 2 big 6's to take Kent to 269-9, 20 more than they should have achieved but probably 25 short of a par score.
Vaughan and Lammonby batted nicely to post 62 from the power play overs. Vaughan was the first to depart playing back to leg spinner Rizvi instead of playing forward to be bowled for 28 from 29 balls. Lammonby, despite making 0 in the last match, looked in decent nick, selecting the right ball to hit, his 50 coming in 56 balls as he and Goldsworthy, in need of a few runs, put on 101 in 18.4 overs before Goldsworthy offered a return catch to bowler Jayden Denly. Rew was a man on a

mission striking four 4's in 10 balls before nicking off to Finch. Brother Thomas was a little more conservative but for one so young, he certainly has bags of talent and will only improve. It was a surprise when he was dismissed for 29 from 30. Thomas continued to support Lammonby who reached a well-deserved 2nd List A century in the 35th over but then proceeded to get himself bowled the very next ball 313-4. Somerset still required 53 from 14.4 overs – a simple task, or at least it should have been. But Somerset contrived to lose 2 more wickets, but finally Hill and Green saw Somerset to the 5th win of the campaign with 5.3 overs to spare.

Summary: A suitable comprehensive performance. It was difficult to gauge whether Somerset fielded well, as Kent only provided 2 static cameras, which in these days and age was poor, but it's likely that there were a few fielding misdemeanours in the field but to keep an inexperienced Kent team to 269 was a commendable effort. Lammonby batted very nicely and it's certain that actually playing cricket rather than carrying drinks in the dreaded 100, is far better for him. But he really must stop getting to a century and then immediately getting out – he really should have made 135 not out.

8 – Northamptonshire, Tuesday 26th August 2025. Won by 8 Wickets.

Pre-match: 12 man squad with a long tail. No explanation or reason for those left out. Same top 5, Thomas not included having played all 7. Thomas played.

Teams: **Somerset**: Vaughan, Lammonby, Goldsworthy, JEK Rew*†, THS Rew, JF Thomas, FJ Hill, Green, Aldridge, Ball, Langridge.

Northamptonshire: Vasconcelos, Sales, Bopara, TB Robinson, Broad, McManus*†, Bartlett, SP Van Der Merwe, Proctor, Leech, Chahal.

Toss: Northamptonshire – bat.

Umpires: Ian Blackwell & Caspar Viljoen.

Match Ref: Simon Hinks

Scores: Northamptonshire 238 43.2 overs. Robinson 69 (58b 6x4, 3x6), Aldridge 4-54; Somerset 240-2 42.4 overs. Vaughan 109* (122b, 13x4, Lammonby 86 (96b 12x4).

Match Report: Due to a shower, the match was reduced to 47 overs per side. Northamptonshire's 238 was built around Robinson and Broad who shared a partnership of 60 in 9 overs, but when he was out at 163-4, the remaining batsmen mustered 75 in 13.2 over and failed to bat out their overs. Van Der Merwe made 27 from 25 but the bowlers bowled well to take all 10 – Aldridge bowled well for 4-54 from his allotted ten overs.

A splendid opening partnership between Vaughan and Lammonby of 168 in 31.4 overs became the cornerstone of the 8 wicket victory and it was particularly pleasing to watch Vaughan make his first professional hundred with his mother and sister in the stand to witness such a landmark – let's hope there are many more over the next 15 or so years. His 109* from 122 balls was excellent and he is trying to increase the tempo as is Lammonby whose 83 was a languid as ever. If truth be told, he was batting so well that Somerset really should have won by 10 wickets as it was a surprise when he was out in the 32nd over with a big 100 looming. Goldsworthy perished for 26 and it was left to skipper Rew and Vaughan to knock off the remaining runs with 4.2 overs remaining.

Summary: A comprehensive victory and so nice to see Vaughan's first 100. On to the quarter final v Gloucestershire in 2 day's time – great planning by the ECB.

9 – Quarter Final – Gloucestershire, Taunton, Thursday 28th August 2025, 11:00. Won by 6 Wickets.

Pre-match: A hastily arranged match with 36 hours between final Group match and the Quarter Final. Poor scheduling by ECB, but **everything bows to the dreaded 100**.

Somerset: Vaughan, Lammonby, Goldsworthy, JEK Rew*†, THS Rew, JF Thomas, Hill, Green, Aldridge, Leach, Ball.

Gloucestershire: Bracey†, Bancroft, OJ Price, Charlesworth, JMR Taylor*, van Buuren, Boorman, Ahmed, Miles, MD Taylor, Shaw.

Toss: Gloucestershire – bat.

Umpires: Ian Blackwell & Simon Widdup

Match Referee: Dean Cosker

Scores: Gloucestershire 155 (40.5), JMR Taylor 43 (59b, 6x4); Somerset 149-4 (31.3), JEK Rew 46 (52b, 4x4, 1x6).

Match Report: Surprisingly, Gloucestershire decided to bat first on an already three times used pitch. There were no demons within it. Bracey departed to the 2nd ball of the match to a ball that nipped back and although Bancroft and Price put on 56 for the 2nd wicket, Gloucestershire only managed an additional 101 runs in 40.3 overs. Skipper Jack Taylor (43) and Bancroft (34) were the only batsmen to score over 30 as the old enemy put in a poor batting display. It must be recorded that Somerset bowled really well and were backed up by some excellent catching, especially Aldridge's catch to dismiss Ahmed as the ball was struck high into the air, he took the ball over his shoulder having run all of 25 yards. Leach was excellent – his first ball went for 4, a spurious edge past James Rew, but he conceded only 2 other 4's and bowled 47 dots from 60 balls with only 10 singles and a wide the only scores taken from his 10

overs, plus he picked up the wickets of Boorman and Ahmed. Lammonby caused problems but despite bowling 3 wides he took 3 wickets to take his tally for the MB 50 to 14 at 17.92.
Somerset lost Vaughan early for 8 and after 10 overs were 39-1. Lammonby and Goldsworthy were out in the 12th and 20th over for 18 and 27 respectively and it was left to the Rew's to share a partnership of 46 before James ran down the wicket to Jack Taylor to be stumped for a stylish 46, but Thomas (40*) saw Somerset home and into the semi-final v Worcestershire at Worcester on Sunday 31st August.
Summary: Gloucestershire's batting was pretty poor really, but they faced some good, tight bowling, so a big score was not on the cards. A strange decision to bat first.

10 – Semi-Final. Worcestershire, Worcester, Sunday 30th August 2025. Lost by 131 Runs.

Pre-match: Another hastily arranged match. Same squad. Same XI.
Teams: Somerset: Lammonby, Vaughan, Goldsworthy, JEK Rew*†, THS Rew, JF Thomas, Hill, Green, Aldridge, Leach, Ball.
Worcestershire: D'Oliveira, Lategan, Kashif Ali, Libby*, RP Jones, EA Brookes, Cullen†, Waite, Taylor, Allison, Khurram Shehzed.
Umpires: Mick Newell & James Tredwell
Match Ref: Wayne Noon
Toss: Somerset - field
Scores: Worcestershire 275-9 (50), Lategan 78 (82b 10x4, 2x6); Somerset 141 (29.2).
Match Report: It was frustrating that Somerset produced their worst performance of the MB50 competition in the semi-final and were outplayed on the day by a good Worcestershire side. The openers, D'Oliveira and Lategan put on 85 for the 1st wicket in 15.2 overs as Somerset failed to get the breakthrough that had happened in the previous 9 matches. D'Oliveira departed for 45 and Ali soon followed but steady batting and after the 20th over, the score was 103-1. At 30 overs only two more wickets had been taken and the score was 142-3. Lategan soon became Leach's first victim LBW sweeping, but the middle order managed 133 in 20 overs to push Worcestershire to 275 but the batsmen punished Aldrige who was wayward in both length and direction going for 78 in his 10 overs. Leach however was brilliant bowling his 10 overs on the bounce conceding only 28 runs for 2 wickets and only two 4's were hit off him and one was an involuntary edge past Rew and that was the first ball he bowled – 59 balls for 24 runs and 40 dots. It was a shame that the other bowlers did not, on this occasion bowl half so well. Lammonby bowled well and has been a find during the competition for sure. Green picked up 4 wickets for his best haul of the campaign. The fielding was generally good as the outfield was bumpy in places. 275 was probably 35 runs more than Worcestershire should have maid but credit to them for posting a challenging target.
Although the first over went for 11 and the second eight, the Worcestershire's bowlers bowled much better thereafter as Somerset lost Lammonby (9), Goldsworthy (10) and Vaughan (23) inside 9 overs and after 10 overs the score was 55-3. The next 10 overs yielded a paltry 21 runs and a further 3 wickets, Thomas Rew (0), Thomas (6) and Hill (5), to leave Somerset 76-6 – game over. Shehzed, Taylor and Allison were excellent and bowled in the right place to make it difficult to score runs and sadly Somerset's batsmen had no answer. James Rew was the only batsman to find any sort of rhythm but with so many wickets lost, it was always a forgone conclusion. Heavy rain came at 4:40 with Somerset on 108-7 and after an hour and a half's break, play resumed with Somerset needing 165 in 14.2 overs. Aldridge and Leach fell to Brookes and Rew tried to find the rope but was last out for 47 from 55 balls as Somerset were all out for 141 in 29.2 over to give Worcestershire victory by 131 runs.
Summary: Worcestershire thoroughly deserved their victory. Somerset were outplayed in both batting and bowling which was a massive shame as the team had played well throughout the competition. A difficult loss and one that hopefully the players will learn from.

MB 50 Review

It was indeed incredibly disappointing to produce such a performance against Worcestershire as the squad had played some great cricket up until then and deserved to get to the final for the second year running.
In many ways, it was nice to see some of the young players get an opportunity and the introduction of Kian Roberts and James Theedom was a good move. Fin Hill (another cricketer from Kings College) also showed what he can do with two 50's batting at 7, while JT Langridge proved he can make batsmen uncomfortable when he gets it right, but his radar certainly needs some fine tuning.
Goldsworthy will be disappointed with his campaign but there's plenty more to come from him and is unlucky not to feature more in the Championship.
Seventeen players formed the squad – Davey and Pretorius played one match each. It is entirely possible that the Rew's may not feature in the 2026 MB50 as they may get drafted in to the dreaded 100, which will deprive Somerset fans of two special batsmen.
Paul Tweddle did a good job as coach and it was a worthy step up.

Somerset CCC
Metro Bank 50 Over Cup
Round 10 (Semi-Final)
31/08/2025
Final Averages
Batting (by Average)

Player	M	I	NO	Runs	BF	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	0	4	6
JEK Rew	10	10	3	438	453	106*	62.57	96.68	1	2	-	50	4
AM Vaughan	10	10	1	397	533	109*	44.11	74.65	1	2	1	48	-
THS Rew	10	9	2	308	320	84*	44.00	96.25	-	2	1	24	14
ARJ Ogborne	5	2	1	42	30	30*	42.00	140.00	-	-	-	5	1
KJT Roberts	2	2	1	40	43	29	40.00	93.02	-	-	-	4	1
TA Lammonby	10	10	0	390	462	102	39.00	84.41	2	1	1	48	2
FJ Hill	7	5	1	131	158	57	32.75	82.91	-	2	1	8	3
JF Thomas	10	9	3	176	186	50	29.33	94.62	-	1	-	22	3
BGF Green	8	4	2	58	63	34*	29.00	92.06	-	-	-	9	-
LP Goldsworthy	10	10	0	262	343	63	26.20	76.38	-	1	-	27	3
KL Aldridge	6	2	0	21	19	17	10.50	110.52	-	-	-	1	1
MJ Leach	6	2	0	16	20	13	8.00	80.00	-	-	-	1	-
JT Langridge	4	2	2	11	4	11*	-	275.00	-	-	-	2	-
JT Ball	8	1	1	0	0	0*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JH Davey	1												
M Pretorius	1												
JM Theedom	2												
Totals	110	78	17	2290	2634	(109*)	37.50	86.94	4	11	4	251	32

Bowling (by RPO)

Player	O	Balls	M	Dots	R	W	BBI	NB	W	4	6	Ave	Econ	SR	4	Ct	St
Leach	53.0	318	3	181	220	9	3/47	-	1	19	2	24.44	4.15	35	-	4	
Ogborne	44.0	264	2	165	215	8	5/41	-	14	29	1	26.87	4.88	33	1	1	
Ball	76.3	459	5	253	383	14	4/34	-	11	43	2	27.35	5.00	32	-	1	
Vaughan	19.0	114	0	49	95	2	2/41	-	-	6	1	47.50	5.00	57	-	6	
Lammonby	57.5	347	6	170	290	15	5/20	1	8	19	4	19.33	5.01	23	-	5	
Pretorius	10.0	60	0	38	51	0	-	1	2	6	-	-	5.10	-	-	1	
Green	74.0	444	6	254	382	16	4/52	-	5	26	16	23.87	5.16	27	-	6	
Davey	7.4	46	0	26	40	2	2/40	-	2	7	-	20.00	5.21	23	-	0	
Roberts	9.0	54	0	33	47	1	1/28	-	1	6	1	47.00	5.22	54	-	1	
Aldridge	52.0	312	0	163	295	10	4/54	1	11	26	6	29.50	5.67	31	1	6	
Goldsworthy	31.0	186	0	75	182	2	1/34	-	2	15	3	91.00	5.87	93	-	2	
Langridge	26.0	156	0	79	153	5	2/32	4	7	18	-	30.60	5.88	31	-	1	
Theedom	7.0	42	0	18	51	1	1/32	-	1	7	-	51.00	7.28	42	-	1	
Hill																5	
JEK Rew																16	0
THS Rew																6	
Thomas																1	
Totals	467	2802	22	1504	2404	87	(5/20)	7	65	225	36	27.63	6.00	32	2	60	0

Brief Review of Players

Tom Abell

Tom would argue that he scratched around a bit and didn't feel fluent – well, if that was the case, he still managed 1022 runs at 51.10 including 3 centuries and 5 fifties, so we all look forward to seeing him in tip top form! Tom forms the glue in the middle order and is a brilliant fighter for sure. He accumulates runs well and keeps the scoreboard ticking over. Fabulous fielder in any position and opposition batsmen will not risk runs if the ball is anywhere near him. He does need to impart that to some of his younger colleagues. By his own admission, in t20 he is not a Smeed or Banton, but he does again provide the glue in the middle order and is so good a strike rotation to allow big stroke makers the strike and is very quick between the wickets. Brilliant on the fence and never misses a catching opportunity.

Kasey Aldridge

Bags of promise in all 3 disciplines. It is Incredibly sad to see Kasey leave Somerset. He still has great potential with both bat and ball and now boasts a higher First Class score than Abell, Lammonby, TKC and Vaughan. His brilliant 180 v Hampshire was an incredible innings and one that all who were present will not forget. Full of crisp drives and anything short was pulled into the stand. His bowling still is a work in progress, but when he gets it right, he will take wickets. Ultimately the long term replacement for Gregory in all formats. Brilliant fielder too whether in the slips or in the outfield.

Sadly, he was not even considered for the t20 squad for some reason and there was absolutely no explanation for that, so he was pushed out on loan to Durham who obviously liked what they saw and offered him a contract.

Kasey's fate was almost sealed when management decided to bring in Pretorius who is a good cricketer, but the whole of Somerset felt that Pretorius had jumped in in front of Kasey and pushed him out. **Surely Somerset should be pushing our own players forward?** (isn't that what we always hear?) Kasey has been with Somerset from the age of 8 – obviously not as Kasey, who quite rightly wants to play more cricket -that must be a contradiction somewhere as we are told they all want to play less cricket! (And the ECB are determined to reduce red ball cricket at all costs to push the dreaded 100 forward).

So, when offered a contract at Durham, he took it, and this reviewer does not blame him. With Graham Onions as bowling coach at Durham, he may well improve considerably over the 3 years and let's hope he returns to Taunton in 2029.

Jake Ball

Didn't get much opportunity, then sent out on loan, took 6 wickets for Durham in Div 1 – was that a good option? To assist another side in the same Division is not a good idea. Division 2 maybe. Then he was injured although as ever the membership were not informed about what this issue was or indeed any progress made during the unknown recovery period.

Played in 4 t20's in the Group matches and bowled pretty well for the most part and took that brilliant catch in the semi-final. Played 7 matches in the 50 over competition taking 14 wickets at 27.35.

There were rumours that he was being courted by Kent and Durham, but as Somerset have lost at least 3 seamers plus the unknown situation regarding overseas players, the third optional year of his contract was honoured.

Tom Banton

A remarkable and historic innings v Worcestershire on the flattest pitch in the world, was naturally the highlight of his season. 371 is a truly remarkable score beating langer's 342 at Guilford in 2009, but thereafter in the CC he struggled with only 298 runs in 16 innings at 21.28 which was a disappointment. Overall, he scored 669 at 44.60. He did play some memorable innings not least v Nottinghamshire at Taunton where he faced 179 balls for 84 and 132 balls for 43* v Notts at Trent Bridge, but only two scores over 50 (other than the 371) was disappointing for someone of such abundant talent. He missed 2 matches with a finger injury and then missed the last 3 CC matches due to an England call up for the white ball matches and then only batted once in the ODI's and twice in the t20I's. There is definitely more to come from him in both formats.

In t20, he had a frustrating season, and he was not as dominant as he was in 2024. Only 2 scores above 50 was disappointing but with Smeed forms a frightening opening pair. Glove work good behind the timbers, but it remains to be seen if he retains that job if the Rew's break into the side. He has done absolutely nothing wrong, just depends on whether he should just be a batsman only.

Shoaib Bashir

Didn't play all year, so no comments. Offered a contract but is yet to sign it. Presumed that from 1st November, Somerset no longer pay him as contract expired 31st October. May have to wait until after the Ashes before he makes a decision and to see if any other county offers a deal. Leach still number 1 spinner.

Josh Davey

An honest county pro and it's sad to see him leave. Has been a great player in all formats and has produced inspiring performances in all 3 formats and even this season opened the batting when all other options failed. Can bat anywhere from 1-11 and has done so for Somerset. Took 19 wickets at 33.15 but generally didn't have the luck he deserved.

Only played 1 50 over match and 2 t20 matches.

A 3 year contract with Leicestershire will more than likely see out his career, and hopefully he will make a success of it.

Sean Dickson

Another disappointing red ball season for him. A massive contrast compared to his white ball season. A contrast which ultimately cost him any type of contract. In red ball, he only made one 50 – 73* v Sussex at Hove before a broken finger against Surrey at the Oval ruled him out as he missed 4 matches. He did return but 2 failures saw him dropped never to return. This reviewer still thinks he is a decent player but his returns over the 3 years has been poor and it is certain that he will be massively frustrated himself by lack of red ball runs.

In the t20 he was brilliant. Excellent fielder whether on the ground or catching and the perfect boundary rider. His batting was a sensation at times and who will ever forget his 73* from just 26 balls to win the quarter final v Warwickshire when the team were dead and buried.

A really nice chap and he really should have been offered a white ball contract as a minimum but it's likely that the DoC did not offer a contract due to the emergence of Thomas Rew.

A 2 year contract with Glamorgan followed his effective sacking and it would be great to see him return to the CACG and make a big score in the Championship as Glamorgan seek to stay up in Division 1. Good luck to him and let's hope he has a bumper season in all formats.

Lewis Goldsworthy

Poor old Golders! Would probably get into any other side, but with Somerset being so strong in batting, he missed out early on, but when Banton was called into the England squad, he came in and didn't let anyone down and scored a brilliant 100 v Essex at Chelmsford in the last CC match of the season. Excellent fielder at cover in all formats and a safe pair of hands.

In the t20, he was drafted in to fill the boots of Van der Merwe and did a pretty good job. He rarely got smashed consistently, yes, he went for a few 6's (13) but far less that other bowlers. Didn't bowl any rubbish either and came into his own at Bristol where he took 4-13 in his 4 overs. In the 50 over competition, he had a disappointing year batting at 3 scoring only 262 runs at 26.20 and only registered one 50 (63 v Durham). In 2024 he was brilliant but couldn't quite recapture that form despite having plenty of opportunities and it's a dead cert that he will be frustrated with his performances.

Ben Green

A loanee out to Leicestershire for the second season running in the Championship and it was kind of inevitable that they would offer a contract which they did (3 years), and he accepted as he wants to play in all formats – who can blame him.

A shoo-in for the t20 team. His variations of pace when bowling have been fundamental to the success over the last few seasons. However, when he gets it slightly off, he goes round the park, (conceded 21x6 and 30x4 but then it's a batsman's game) but when he gets it right, he's lethal. T20 is built on fine margins. Good fielder in the ring and a dangerous batsman in the last 4 overs if needed.

Somerset will have to re-think t20 strategy with his departure and all Somerset fans will wish him all the best and it would not be surprising if he was to captain Leicestershire in the t20 in 2026.

Lewis Gregory

A great captain. A tough job and he did it brilliantly in both CC and t20. Although members were not informed, it is probable that he was not fully fit at various time in the season but soldiered on in typical fashion. He batted in all positions from 1-10 and made a brilliant 82 in the victory over Sussex to win the match. He made runs when it was needed and was a great first slip all season. His bowling was probably not quite a quick as it once was understandably but still shaped the ball away from the bat nicely but didn't get the rewards he deserved. Bowls far too many no balls – 37 this season in 174.3 overs.

T20 winning captain again! A fourth consecutive finals day appearance and a cameo 5 ball 18 in the final to win the match with an over to spare – who will ever forget that! So experienced in captaining the side and goes with a gut feeling and mostly gets it right. Question remains of how much longer he can continue given the rigours of being an all rounder in both formats, but let's all enjoy it while he's still delivering with bat and ball.

Matt Henry

Sadly, his return to Taunton was delayed due to injury. He had declined a greater financial offer from Yorkshire to return to the CACG, testament to how much he enjoyed himself in 2023.

Quality bowler but his arrival coincided with the ridiculous experiment with the kookaburra and although he played 4 matches and took 14 wickets at 31.35.
He did play 12 t20 matches taking 16 wickets at 17.56 and the best economy rate of any Somerset bowler – 7.39. It a shame that he was forced return to New Zealand the "prepare" for 3 weeks for a needless 3 match t20 series v Australia, so missed the t20 QF and Finals Day. However, his contribution in the competition was most valuable. Great fielder too and a good catcher.

Fin Hill
Played seven 50 over matches making 131 in 5 innings at 32.75 with two excellent 50's when they were very much needed 55 v Sussex at Hove, having reached the crease at 82-5 in the 20th over. He found a niche for himself as a fielder on the boundary.

Tom Kohler-Cadmore
Had to sign a white ball contract only due to ECB not allowing players to play in PSL as it overlapped with the first 7 CC matches and they wanted all players available for England…ridiculous! So, when he came back in June, he went straight into t20 format. A really explosive batsman who can hit the ball miles. Did well in the t20 but you always feel that he should score more runs than he does. "That's the way I play" is great but can leave some runs on the pitch with a silly dismissal. One day, he will get a big 100, or several. All of a sudden, he appeared in the CC v Warwickshire opening the batting with Davey. They produced Somerset's largest opening stand for some time 186 in 42.2 overs admittedly on a flat pitch with a kookaburra, but nevertheless a fabulous partnership. Presumably he was on a "match to match" basis, but no confirmation as usual.
Batted well in the CC for 557 runs at 32.76, but for a player of such abundant talent, it is frustrating when he gets himself out recklessly in any format, but his tally of runs would be the envy af a lot of cricketers in this format.

Tom Lammonby
Another fabulous season until July, then a poor run of scores saw him make only 83 runs in the final 3 CC matches – 6 innings. Prodigious talent and a delight to watch when he gets going. But when he makes a big score, he must go on. Eighties should be 100's and 100's should be 150's as he has the ability and talent. His off stump guard however makes him susceptible to being LBW but he's obviously trying to get outside the line and rely on his eye to get him out of trouble. His bowling has improved now that his foot has improved, so now that Abell no longer bowls, he provides something different when the shine has gone off the new ball or to fill in a few overs. He also registered his best bowling of 3/26 in the Championship.
It was brilliant to see him not selected for the dreaded 100 and play for Somerset instead – not sure if he was miffed on missing out on the cash, but it did mean that he could make his debut in 50 over cricket. He made 2 excellent hundreds and dominated in both but should have gone on to make a really big score but got out shortly after reaching three figures. Scored 390 runs at 39 but should have scored more heavily for a batsman of his abilities. His bowling was a definite welcome addition to the team and registered his first 5 wicket haul – 5/20. Always a brilliant fielder in any position.

JT Langridge
Left armer and Somerset certainly need one or two. Played in five 50 over matches and bowled some fabulous balls but equally bowled some not so good balls as well. Needs to find some consistency as he will cause batsmen problems with his left handedness and the angle he bowls from.

Jack Leach
Excellent all year. Loves playing for Somerset and it shows. 52 wickets is surely enough to keep his England contract but obviously not, but what it does mean is that Somerset have total control over when he plays, which will suit very well. Still the best spinner in the land.
Bowled 491 overs with an economy rate of 2.41 and delivered 2252 dots. Batsmen are very cautious for the most part and don't take liberties. But there is always room for improvement and that is taking wickets on pitches that don't turn or are totally unresponsive. But the Taunton pitch is a target for the ECB and there is nothing they would like to do more than impose the 4 point penalty within the 2 years, so Nick Pepper will have to be very careful about producing a pitch that takes any kind of spin or is likely to be marked as "below standard" although how that is measured is a mystery.
Featured in 3 t20 matches – 2 spinners should always play at Bristol, Rose Bowl and Cardiff. Played 8 50 over matches taking just 9 wickets with an economy of 4.15 and only conceded 2x6 and 19x4 from 318 balls which is excellent in white ball cricket. Certainly, held an end for 10 overs, but sometimes he didn't bowl all 10 which was unexplained. Steady pair of hands and took a couple of brilliant catches.

Riley Meredith
T20 only. Quick and took 28 wickets at 16.82 but conceded 20 sixes and 44 4's in 53 overs, including 6 4's in his first over in the quarter final v Warwickshire. Plus bowled 11 wides. But in t20 cricket, taking wickets,

especially in the power play is crucial and he took 9 wickets in the PP. Run rate was 8.62 – could be better but when he takes top order wickets that really doesn't matter. Nice to have him back for 2026 as the t20 will be completed before the dreaded 100 starts.

Alfie Ogborne
More opportunities needed. The signing of Pretorius gave Alfie little opportunities. Played just the one CC match taking 2 wickets but bowled well in the MB50 taking 8 wickets in 5 matches including a career best 5-41 v Durham at Taunton.

Craig Overton
Somerset's talisman for sure. He certainly deserved more wickets and was unlucky with some decisions as well but 32 wickets at 24.60 was a good effort. He is always a wholehearted bowler and gets bounce too. Gregory always turns to him when he needs to and he's happy to give it his all. He never bowls a front foot no ball in any format. Batting wise, he made some very much needed performances with the bat and he's a very competent number 7 or 8. Catching and fielding as always is exemplary.
In white ball t20, he is best suited to open the bowling but best to bowl 3 or 4 on the bounce. However, as he bowls CC length for the most part, if a batsman takes a liking, then he may go for a few and had 18 sixes and 38 4's hit off his bowling. Doesn't take many wickets but often bowls 2 brilliant overs in the power play which is incredibly hard to do. Took 17 catches and you know that if the ball goes anywhere near him he will catch it.
Loves the crowd to be up for him and the loyal supporters love it when he gets the bit between his teeth.

Migael Pretorius
A wholehearted and good cricketer and someone who will run in all day and give his best. Took quite a lot of the hard overs especially with that kookaburra where he made it reverse especially at Trent Bridge. Can bat and employs the long handle very effectively. The downside of his signing was that he took Aldridge's place who decided to sign for Durham to play more cricket.
Played in 1 t20 match and then in both the semifinal and final when he was not fit. Made his mark in the semi with a brilliant catch and bowled 3 decent overs but went for 25 in his one over in the final. Nevertheless, he got his hands on a winner's medal.

James Rew
Another excellent season and what a talent! Ten First Class centuries and he's only just 20 – a really bright future but this reviewer does not want England to come calling. Being pushed up to number 4 in the order was a good move and his game continues to develop. Being left handed is an added bonus and he has all the shots including a glorious cover drive plus his strike rate is impressive in red ball cricket. He is solid behind the stumps but perhaps needs to sharpen up his glovework when standing up to Leach and Vaughan – it's a tough job but the more he does it the better he will become. Being given the captaincy for the CC match v Essex will do him no harm at all and it clearly shows that he is a captain in the making.
In the white ball game, he captained the 50 over team with aplomb. Doubtless we will see him bat with his brother on many occasions in the future. His partnership against Middlesex at Radlett was great to see and effectively won the game. A decent return of 438 runs at 62.57 but you always felt that he should have scored more runs.
In t20, he only made it into the side when Banton became injured, but with Dickson now departed a slot is open for him although he may be competing with his brother for it but a lot will depend on whether Banton retains his England squad place.

Thomas Rew
What a player and only 17! Clearly has an incredibly bright future. Fabulous innings of 51 v Middlesex on 50 over debut at Radlett and a career best (very short career so far) 84* v Durham at Taunton from 81 balls. Also played 3 t20 matches with limited opportunity but in 2026 will be vying for the number 5 slot with his brother in the shortest format – whether he also gets the gloves is up for debate.

Kian Roberts
Debut in the MB50 playing two matches and scored 29 v Sussex at Hove, only took one wicket so hard to judge on such a small sample.

Will Smeed
Contract revised to include red ball as he realised he was not playing enough cricket. Luckily this was put in place but did not feature in any red ball matches. Had he done so then it would have been a First Class debut, but given that Somerset had 9 opening partnerships during the season, surely he would have been worth offering an opportunity. Whether he is a red ball opener is another issue but if he was to be given that opportunity he may crack it. However, he would need to move his feet a lot more against a new red ball.

A brilliant t20 season and pretty much won Somerset the final. This season he scored 620 runs at 41.33 with a strike rate of 144.85 with five 50's striking 73x4 and 19x6. Such power and he hits the ball all around the wicket. Showed much more restraint and was happy to play 2nd fiddle to Banton and Kohler-Cadmore. Only made 4 scores under 10 and 8 scores from 20-49. There is more to come from him and it is very likely that sooner or later he will make several t20 100's and one will be a big one.

James Theedom
Made his debut in the MB50 competition and did ok. Difficult to assess on a small sample of 2 matches, but took a maiden professional wicket.

Josh Thomas
A First Class debut as a concussion substitute – great quiz question. The 2nd match he played and was asked to open v Essex at Chelmsford and scored 83 and 38, when others failed. Thoroughly deserved a 100 but succumbed after being bogged down.
Played all 10 MB50 matches and often didn't get much opportunity to show what he could do, but made an excellent 50 v Sussex at Hove from 54 balls. Seems he is now a batsman as he didn't bowl all season.

Andy Umeed
A disappointing season which ultimately allowed management not to offer a new contact. It is indeed a shame that he failed to take advantage of the opportunities given as he was brilliant in 2023 and 2024 in the MB50 over competitions but it seemed that he tried to play t20 style in the red ball matches at the back end of 2024 and did not show his red ball game. Hope he finds a new county and some success.
Did not feature in the MB50 as he had already been effectively sacked.

Archie Vaughan
A tough season for Archie. Opening the batting in the Championship is the hardest job in county cricket as there are some good bowlers in Div 1 especially with a Duke ball in their hands. He has bags of potential, and he is still only 19, so his development has age on his side. He dropped down the order after a run of low scores but only made one score over 50, an excellent 83 v Warwickshire at Taunton, his highest First Class score. His bowling is a huge asset and it's likely that he will be selected to provide additional options with the ball.
In the 50 over competition, he opened the batting and scored 397 runs at 44.11 including a maiden professional century v Northamptonshitre at Taunton. Also made 3 other 50's but the one area he needs to expand on is pinching singles and rotating the strike (strike rate 74.65). He does have a very bright future with Somerset for many years hopefully.

Overall Observations

The Pitch
Having been burned by the ECB twice, Somerset are now a target and it is certain that the ECB would love to instigate the 4 suspended point deduction if the pitch is again marked as "below average" again in 2026. The ECB want to encourage spin bowling as there is a dearth of good spinners allegedly, but they by docking points just because the ball spins and then docking points because of it, is not the way to go. The pitch v Durham was not a bad pitch and the fact remains that Durham's batting was really poor in both innings and they did not show any fight or resilience which was epitomised by their outspoken Yorkshireman Alex Lees who moaned about it rather than admitting that their batting was poor. In fact, Overton took 6-23 and was absolutely brilliant ripping out their middle order 145 all out in 30.1 overs. Somerset then made 250 with Lammonby making a sublime 89, but in the Durham 2nd innings, the lack of application was plain to see, only Gay (42) and Raine (36) showed any of the required application. Yes, Leach took 6-63 and Vaughan 4-85, but the batsmen's technique was very poor.
The ECB dislike Somerset winning at home with spinners taking wickets as they simple do not want Somerset to win the coveted Championship. Why shouldn't Somerset prepare a surface to suit our bowlers? Essex have been doing it for years at Chelmsford with no penalty and the pitch inspector only knows where Taunton and the Rose Bowl are. When England batsmen are asked to bat on a turning surface in the subcontinent (regardless of whether the pitch have been raked to death and dried by an industrial dryer), they struggle due to lack of facing a spinner on a turning surface – you can' have it both ways.
So much more to say on this topic, but that will do for this review!

And so, finally to 2026

In the Championship, Somerset simply (it's not simple really!) have to:

- **Win more away matches.**
- **Continue to win at home.**

- **Win matches in September.**
- **Sort two decent openers.**
- **Strengthen seam bowling resources.**
- **Produce a pitch at Taunton that does not require the ECB's pitch inspector to get in his car. (He only knows how to get to Taunton and the Rose Bowl).**

T20

- A new game plan needed after Green and Dickson's departure but expected that the Rew's will fill the batting slot, but Green's role as allrounder and especially his bowling, is going to be hard to replace. Two spinners is a good option but it seems management don't like that option much.
- Meredith returns – a good signing despite being expensive - he takes wickets, which in t20 is crucial.
- A new format, 3 Groups of 6, so 5 matches home and away plus 2 additional matches v teams in the other 2 Groups – in Somerset's case, that's Hampshire at home and Derbyshire at Derby.
- Tournament to finish before the dreaded 100 starts but there are still 2 Championship match's slap bang in the middle of it and no explanation from ECB either. So, we'll see how that plans out.

Duncan Sperring

This review is only a personal view – there are many more topics for discussion but 54 pages are more than enough! I hope you have made it to the end.

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