

= Somerset County Cricket Club in 1882 =

Somerset County Cricket Club made their debut in first @-@ class cricket in the 1882 English cricket season . They were captained by Stephen Newton , and played eight first @-@ class matches , five against county opposition , two against the Marylebone Cricket Club and one against the touring Australian team . They only won one of the eight contests , that against Hampshire at Taunton . Of the other matches , one was drawn and the other six were all losses for Somerset . Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack described the season as " disastrous " , but the publication qualified this statement with mild optimism for 1883 .

Part of the reason for Somerset 's poor performances was their inability to consistently field their best players ; at least four of their better cricketers were unable to commit to the full fixture list , and in all the county played 30 different people in their eight matches . Faint praise was offered to the batting of William Herbert Fowler , Newton and Edward Sainsbury in The Sportsman , but the bowling was considered by Wisden to be sub @-@ standard , particularly that of Arnold Fothergill .

= = Background = =

Somerset County Cricket Club was formed in 1875 , and played irregular county fixtures in the years after that , during which time they struggled to remain financially solvent . Upon their formation , the club had no fixed home ground , and it was declared that they would play " on any ground in the county that may be selected by the committee . " However , in 1881 , they moved into the newly built Athletic Grounds in Taunton . Although it is widely accepted that Somerset 's debut first @-@ class match came in 1882 , some records do include earlier matches in 1879 and 1881 against Gloucestershire as being of first @-@ class status .

= = Squad = =

In their eight first @-@ class matches in 1882 , Somerset fielded 30 different players . Only three appeared in all eight matches : Arnold Fothergill , William Herbert Fowler , and Edward Sainsbury , while fourteen players appeared in only one match that season . The club captain , Stephen Newton , missed the first three matches of the season as he was a schoolmaster in London , and was not available until the summer holidays . Newton was not the only talented player to only make limited appearances for the side ; in their review of the season , the Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack explained that Alfred Evans , Robert Ramsay and Bill Roe were all unavailable at various points , and that these absences were among " many good reasons to account for a disastrous season . "

The following players made at least one appearance for Somerset in first @-@ class cricket in 1882 . Age given is at the start of Somerset 's first match of the season ( 8 June 1882 ) .

Key

denotes that the player appeared as a wicket @-@ keeper for Somerset in 1882

Apps denotes the number of appearances made by the player for Somerset in 1882

Ref denotes the reference for the player details

= = County cricket = =

= = = Summary = = =

= = = = First half of the season : away matches = = = =

Somerset made their debut in first @-@ class cricket against Lancashire on 8 June 1882 . The Western Daily Press noted that Somerset were not able to field a full @-@ strength team in the match , missing Evans , Ramsay and Roe . However , the Lancashire team which faced them was

described by the same paper as being " very second @-@ rate " . The weather was showery most of the day , and play was abandoned at half five because of the rain , with Lancashire on 231 for 8 having won the toss and batted first . Heavy rain overnight made the ground unplayable on the second day , so play resumed the following day , although rain continued to threaten . The original wicket was badly damaged , being described in the York Herald as " a puddle " , and so the stumps were moved to enable play to begin . Somerset took the final two Lancashire wickets in the first ten minutes , bowling them out for 237 . Fowler and Sainsbury opened the batting for Somerset , and put on eighteen runs together before being dismissed in quick succession . The Western Daily Press recorded that " after this disaster waited on the visitors . " Only two other batsmen scored any runs for Somerset , and they were all out for 29 runs , the second lowest first @-@ class total at the time . Somerset followed @-@ on , and their second innings proceeded in much the same fashion as the first ; the pair scored 35 runs , while the rest of the team only added a further 6 . Somerset lost the match by an innings and 157 runs . The Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette defended Somerset 's performance on the third day slightly , noting that the poor condition of the pitch favoured the Lancashire bowlers . Lancashire 's George Nash took eight wickets in the first innings , including four in one four @-@ ball over , while fellow spin bowler Jack Crossland collected six in the second innings .

In Somerset 's second match , they faced their nearest opposition , Gloucestershire . Once again , the weather was poor , and the Spa Ground in Gloucester , which was hosting the match , was specially looked after during the heavy rain preceding the match to ensure that it would be in a good condition for the game . As it was , the Bristol Mercury described the wicket as being " in fairly good order " , and play started just over half @-@ an @-@ hour late on the first day . Somerset 's batting failed to make a significant total ; Fowler was the only batsman to reach double figures , totalling more than half of his team 's runs with 39 . W. G. Grace took eight wickets for Gloucestershire to bowl Somerset out for 62 . In Gloucestershire 's reply , E. M. Grace and Billy Midwinter scored centuries to help them establish a lead of 286 runs . In their response , Somerset scored 109 , including a partnership of 61 between Sainsbury and Fred Welman which was praised in the Birmingham Daily Post . Despite an improved batting performance , Somerset lost the match by an innings and 177 runs .

Facing Hampshire in Southampton for the third match , Somerset won the toss and opted to bat first . The pitch was soft , due to the heavy rainfall through the morning , and play started shortly after midday . Sainsbury was yet again one of few Somerset players to reach double figures , and they were bowled out for 101 . Cecil Currie , a spin bowler for Hampshire , collected eight of the wickets . Somerset managed to restrict Hampshire 's lead to 46 runs ; Francis Reed took four wickets , and Fothergill three . Fowler and Fothergill were Somerset 's most successful batsmen in their second innings , played mostly in light rain , helping the county to reach 118 runs . That left Hampshire requiring 73 runs to win , which the hosts achieved without losing any wickets , to beat Somerset with ten wickets to spare .

The Somerset team travelled to Lord 's in London in early August to face the Marylebone Cricket Club ( MCC ) . Somerset batted first after winning the toss , but lost three batsmen for ducks early in the innings . Somerset 's captain , Newton ? playing his first match of the season for the county , batted for the rest of the innings to score 57 runs , and shared a large partnership with Francis Reed . The MCC started well in their innings , but the introduction of Fowler into the bowling attack brought their batting to a quick conclusion ; Fowler took four wickets while only conceding eight runs , and claimed a hat @-@ trick by bowling Edward Hawtrey , Charles Burke and Thomas Mycroft in successive deliveries . Somerset had a 25 @-@ run lead going into the second innings , in which Newton once again top @-@ scored . In addition to his total of 67 , Lyonel Hildyard made an unbeaten 59 , and Fowler scored 23 runs from just six scoring shots , including a six which went out of the ground . The Western Daily Press described Fowler as " possibly the hardest hitter amongst English cricketers " , while his history of the county , David Foot suggests that Fowler was " perhaps the earliest Somerset batsman to parade the fundamental skills of sloggng . " Somerset totalled 219 , to leave the MCC needing to score 245 runs to win . Principally due to the batting of John Russel , the MCC reached the target , but only had one wicket remaining ; Fothergill having taken five

wickets and Charles Winter four .

= = = Second half of the season : home matches = = =

A few days later , Somerset played their first home fixture , at the Taunton Athletic Grounds , hosting Hampshire . In contrast to many of their previous game , the weather was good , and on winning the toss , Hampshire decided to bat first . Charles Seymour batted well for the visitors , accruing 57 out of Hampshire 's 146 runs , but Fowler was again the best of the Somerset bowlers , collecting four wickets for nine runs to help restrict the Hampshire total . Ramsay top @-@ scored for Somerset in their reply , accumulating 71 runs before being bowled , while a number of other batsmen made useful scores to help Somerset to their total of 214 . Edward Western , the Somerset secretary batted in his only innings of the season for the county , coming in as the last man , but he failed to score a run . Somerset struggled to collect wickets when Hampshire batted again , and tried eight different bowlers without much success . Their fielding was described by the Bristol Mercury as being " loose " , but when the sixth wicket was taken , with 232 runs scored , the rest followed reasonably quickly , and Hampshire finished on 290 . Fowler was dismissed early in Somerset 's chase , but Newton and Sainsbury put on 118 runs together to help their towards victory . Sainsbury was dismissed for 63 , but Newton continued to bat , putting on 80 runs before being dismissed . Somerset eventually reached the required total with five wickets remaining to achieve their first win of the season .

The next day after defeating Hampshire , Somerset faced the MCC at Taunton . The MCC had brought a strong team , including eight professionals , and on winning the toss they elected to bat . After a cautious start , the second @-@ wicket partnership of Billy Gunn and William Hearn put on 173 runs together , and according to the Western Daily Press , " the Somerset bowling was completely mastered . " Somerset tried eight different bowlers to try to get a wicket , but the partnership was eventually broken when Hearn was run out for 91 . Frank Hearne then joined Gunn at the crease , and the pair continued the MCC 's dominance , adding a further 130 runs . Another run out , again due to the fielding of Newton , brought Gunn 's innings to an end , after the MCC batsman had scored 188 runs . Wickets then began to fall more frequently ; Roe collected three , while Fothergill and Winter had two apiece , and the MCC were eventually all out for 506 on the second morning . In their response , Somerset lost the early wickets of Sainsbury and Newton , but then a partnership between Fowler and Roe took the score up to 181 , during which Fowler reached his century , coming in just 55 minutes . Once that partnership was ended with the dismissal of Roe , Somerset regularly lost wickets . Fowler was caught in the slips for 139 , which had included three sixes , and Somerset ended their innings on 286 . They followed on , and lost five early wickets before a partnership between Francis Terry , who scored 77 runs , and Fothergill steadied the innings and help Somerset secure a draw .

Somerset 's final county match of the season came against the same opposition as their first , Lancashire . The low attendance at the match was criticised in the press , and the Western Daily Press in particular described that " it was painfully obvious that Tauntonians , as a body , take no interest in first @-@ class cricket . " Six wickets from Evans helped Somerset to limit Lancashire to 178 runs in their first innings , but Somerset failed to capitalise ; Fowler and Newton scored 24 and 23 runs respectively , but no other batsman reached double figures . Somerset were dismissed for 74 runs , more than 100 behind , and were asked to follow on by Lancashire . Batting again , the Somerset players put in an improved performance , and reached 157 runs , of which Roe scored 45 . Lancashire were required to bat again , but reached the winning target of 53 runs for the loss of only one wicket .

Towards the end of August , the touring Australian team visited Taunton , attracting the largest crowd of the season , roughly 1 @, 500 people . Somerset were not considered to have much chance in the match , though Australia were missing three of their better players . The Leeds Mercury offered Somerset faint praise , suggesting that they had " no great cause to be dissatisfied with their performances . " The Australians batted first , and were restricted to 245 by Somerset . Alick Bannerman was the highest scorer for the tourists , with 50 runs , while Evans and Fothergill

took three wickets each . In their response , Somerset 's batsmen struggled against the bowling of Fred Spofforth , who was known as the " Demon " . Spofforth took nine wickets , while conceding only 51 runs , and Somerset were forced to follow @-@ on ; no batsman scored more than 17 runs in the first innings for the county . In the second @-@ innings , Somerset performed slightly better ; Newton scored 32 runs , and five other batsmen reached double figures . The Australian bowling once again proved too much though , and Somerset lost the match by an innings and 19 runs . The Western Daily Press praised the accurate bowling of both Spofforth and Harry Boyle during the match .

= = = Season record = = =

= = = Match log and statistics = = =