

= Somerset County Cricket Club in 1885 =

The 1885 season was an annus horribilis for Somerset County Cricket Club . Captained by Edward Sainsbury , who had taken over from Stephen Newton , captain for the previous three seasons , they played six first @-@ class cricket matches . Somerset 's only win of the season came in their first match ; all the other were lost . Two of the losses , those away against Gloucestershire and Surrey , number among the county 's ten heaviest defeats . Somerset were unable to field a full team for their fourth match , which coupled with their poor results and lack of fixtures resulted in the club being stripped of its first @-@ class status at the end of the season .

At an emergency meeting held in Taunton a new club secretary was appointed and wealthy benefactors were sought , but Sainsbury retained the club captaincy . Somerset played second @-@ class cricket for five seasons , until their readmission to the first @-@ class game for the 1891 season .

In their histories of Somerset County Cricket Club , Peter Roebuck and David Foot mostly gloss over the season ; Roebuck includes a scorecard , but provides only two paragraphs of prose , while Foot only mentions the loss of first @-@ class cricket .

= = Background = =

Somerset had been granted first @-@ class status in advance of the 1882 season . Their maiden season at the top level was described by Wisden as disastrous , but the publication qualified this statement with mild optimism for 1883 . The county failed to live up to this optimism , and although there were a few wins , performances on the whole were poor . Twice between 1882 and 1884 Somerset 's opponents scored over 500 runs in an innings against them , and against Lancashire in 1884 they fielded only ten players . Stephen Newton , who had captained the side since 1882 , left the club at the end of the 1884 season , and thereafter played all his cricket in London .

= = Squad = =

In their six first @-@ class matches in 1885 , Somerset fielded 26 different players . Only two appeared in all six matches : the captain Edward Sainsbury , and Charles Winter . James Lillywhite 's Cricketers ' Annual suggested in 1883 that " professionals not being indigenous to the area [Somerset] it is feared that their advance is only temporary " . This prediction was particularly accurate during 1885 : only Albert Clapp was a professional . Ten of Somerset 's players that year only appeared once during the season , and of those , all but George Mirehouse , Crescens Robinson , and Francis Terry , made fewer than five career first @-@ class appearances .

The following players made at least one appearance for Somerset in first @-@ class cricket in 1885 . Age given is at the start of Somerset 's first match of the season (16 July 1885) .

Key

denotes that the player appeared as a wicket @-@ keeper for Somerset in 1885

Apps denotes the number of appearances made by the player for Somerset in 1885

Ref denotes the reference for the player details

= = County cricket = =

During 1885 Somerset suffered badly from their lack of a strong bowling attack . Playing six matches , there were a total of 120 wickets on offer , but Somerset 's bowlers took only 67 . Edward Bastard , a slow left @-@ arm orthodox bowler , was the county 's leading wicket @-@ taker , claiming 25 wickets during his four appearances , at an average of 15 @.@ 32 . His bowling average was not far below that of George Lohmann , who finished the season as the country 's leading wicket taker , with 142 wickets from his 24 matches . Unfortunately for Somerset , Bastard was only able to play in four of the county 's six matches , and of the other bowlers , the best bowling average was the 25 @.@ 85 managed by Bill Roe , who took only seven wickets . Charles

Winter , who took the next highest total of wickets , only managed to claim 15 in his 6 appearances . Batting was the strongest aspect of Somerset 's play , but the club lacked the strength @-@ in @-@ depth of other county teams . Herbie Hewett , playing his second season of first @-@ class cricket , finished with the highest batting average for the county with 35 @. @ 28 , a respectable average which exceeded a number of England Test batsmen that season . Only four Somerset batsman passed 50 runs in an innings ? Hewett , Octavius Radcliffe , Bill Roe , and Charles Winter ? and only Radcliffe advanced to reach a century during the season .

Somerset 's first match of 1885 commenced on 16 July 1885 , over two months after Nottinghamshire faced Sussex and Surrey travelled to Hampshire to open the first @-@ class county cricket season in England . Somerset began their season at home against Hampshire , and after losing the toss were asked to field . Somerset 's bowlers restricted the visitors to 175 runs in the first innings , during which Bastard took a career @-@ best eight wickets in the innings , conceding 54 runs (eight for 54) off his 38 four @-@ ball overs . In reply , Somerset fell short of equalling their opponents and were bowled out for 153 , Radcliffe top @-@ scoring with 51 runs . Bastard collected another three wickets in the second innings , granting him one of two career ten @-@ wicket hauls , and Winter took four as Somerset bowled Hampshire out for 111 , leaving themselves needing 134 to win . None of Somerset 's top four batsmen reached 20 runs , but an unbeaten 50 from Hewett , accompanied by 32 from the number seven , Farrant Reed , helped Somerset achieve a five @-@ wicket victory .

For their next match Somerset travelled to Moreton @-@ in @-@ Marsh , where they faced Gloucestershire . Bastard did not take part in the match , and it fell to Winter to bowl the majority of the overs in his absence . Along with his fellow opener , James Parfitt , Winter claimed three wickets , but both openers conceded over 100 runs for their wickets . Sainsbury tried eight different bowlers in an effort to take wickets , and Gloucestershire were eventually bowled out for 448 after 190 overs . In reply , Somerset conceded their first three wickets for 18 runs , before a brief revival took them to 61 for 3 . The last seven wickets then fell for the addition of 39 more runs , and Somerset closed on 100 , still trailing their opponents by over 300 runs . Captain Edward Sainsbury top @-@ scored for Somerset , reaching his highest total of the season , 40 , and only two other batsmen reached double figures for the county : Parfitt and the professional , Albert Clapp . Five Somerset players fell for ducks . Asked by Gloucestershire to follow on , Somerset batted even more poorly in their second effort , in which Winter 's total of 21 was the highest score . A total of 80 meant that they lost the match by an innings and 268 runs , their heaviest defeat in first @-@ class cricket at that point .

The county had just four days to rest and recover from their loss before facing Surrey at The Oval . Bastard was again unavailable for Somerset , and after losing the toss once more , Somerset spent the whole of the first day in the field . Surrey accumulated 564 runs during that day , and reached 635 before Somerset claimed the tenth wicket to close the innings . At that stage , Maurice Read remained at the crease , having scored 186 not out , his highest score in first @-@ class cricket . The Somerset opening bowlers , Winter and Parfitt , had both conceded in excess of 100 runs for the second match in a row . Sainsbury had utilised one less bowler than against Gloucestershire in his search for wickets , and claimed four of the wickets himself , recording a career @-@ best four for 74 . Hewett , whom he asked to bowl 30 overs , finished with 11 maiden overs . The 30 overs he bowled in the match accounted for over a quarter of all his bowling in first @-@ class cricket . In reply to Surrey 's total , Somerset were bowled out for 83 in their first innings , in which only John Challen and Crescens Robinson reached double figures , scoring 29 and 12 respectively . Clapp is recorded as " absent hurt " in both of Somerset 's innings . In the second innings , Somerset were much improved , reaching 251 , their highest batting total of the season . Radcliffe scored the county 's only century of the season , scoring 101 , and he shared a partnership of 129 with Hewett for the fourth wicket . Hewett reached his own highest score of the season , totalling 85 . Nevertheless Somerset 's loss was even heavier than that suffered a week earlier , losing by an innings and 301 runs . As of March 2011 , both of these back to back losses remain among the ten heaviest experienced by the county in first @-@ class cricket .

Somerset had just over a week off before their next match , for which they travelled to the County Ground , Southampton to face Hampshire once more . Possibly due to their losses in the previous

two matches , Somerset could only field nine men in the fixture , a situation which Roebuck described as shameful . For the first time that season , Somerset batted first . They scored 117 , and a contemporary match report praised the batting of Winter and Radcliffe , who scored 22 and 34 respectively in the first innings . Bastard " did a capital performance in the first innings of Hants , taking eight of the ten wickets at a cost of only 59 runs " , according to the same report . Despite his efforts , Hampshire exceeded Somerset 's total , opening up a 45 @-@ run lead from the first innings . Winter top @-@ scored for Somerset in their second innings , reaching his highest total in first @-@ class cricket , 62 , after opening the batting . Scores in the 20s from Radcliffe and Egerton Hall helped take Somerset to 166 , but Hampshire reached the total required for victory with a day of the match remaining , winning by eight wickets .

Surrey visited the County Ground , Taunton a few days later for the counties ' second meeting of the season . In a repeat of their previous fixtures , Surrey won the toss and chose to bat . Bastard , who had not played in their earlier clash , opened the bowling for Somerset alongside John Challen . Bastard , presumably due to the weakness of the rest of the county 's attack , bowled 50 overs , but he could not repeat the successes he had achieved against Hampshire , toiling to take two for 99 . All of Somerset 's six bowlers in that innings claimed a wicket as Surrey were bowled out for 292 . In reply , Radcliffe occupied the crease as the batsmen at the other end came and went , scoring exactly half of Somerset 's 164 . Roe , Sainsbury and Hewett all reached double figures , but four Somerset batsmen were dismissed for ducks . Requested to follow on , Somerset fared less well in their second innings : Roe reached 43 , but no other batsman passed 20 , and Somerset were all out for 123 , five runs short of forcing Surrey to bat again .

Somerset were the hosts once more for their final match of the season , played with just a single day off after the Surrey match , and that only because the scheduled three @-@ day match was concluded in two days . The home side won the toss and elected to bat first against Gloucestershire , who opened the bowling with W. G. Grace and William Woof . The pair bowled unchanged for 30 overs each , and claimed five wickets apiece as Somerset were dismissed for 105 . Only Frederick Smith and Challen reached double figures , scoring 37 and 39 . In response , Gloucestershire totalled 242 , during which Bastard claimed four wickets , three of them from the tail . Somerset batted admirably in their second innings , with Roe and Hewett both scoring half @-@ centuries (76 and 66 respectively) , and they reached 246 , six of the wickets falling to Woof , who collected eleven in the match . Gloucestershire achieved victory for the loss of just one wicket in their second innings , subjecting Somerset to their fifth successive loss .

== Season record ==

== Match log ==

== Batting averages ==

== Bowling averages ==

== Aftermath ==

Somerset were stripped of their first @-@ class status for three reasons : they had not organised and played enough first @-@ class fixtures during the season , their performances were not what was expected from a first @-@ class county , and they had not succeeded in fielding a full side of eleven players in all their matches . An emergency meeting was held in Taunton during which a new club secretary was appointed , rules were altered , and wealthy benefactors were sought . Despite these widespread changes , Sainsbury retained the club captaincy . Somerset played second @-@

class cricket for five seasons , finishing as " second @-@ class county champions " in 1890 , after which they were readmitted to the first @-@ class game .