

# ST HELEN'S BALCONIERS



**President: Alan Jones M.B.E.**



## Newsletter 2021 Centenary Year of First Class Cricket -Glamorgan CCC

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*St Helen's, 30<sup>th</sup> July 1921. Australian skipper Warwick Armstrong leads the tourists out from the pavilion in front of a large Swansea crowd.*

*Glamorgan's captain (and opening batsman and wicket keeper) Norman Riches scored 75 when the home side batted first, sharing a second-wicket stand of 153 with Eddie Bates as Glamorgan totalled a respectable 213. A hundred from opener Warren Bardsley, and half-centuries from Taylor, Mayne and Armstrong himself, saw Australia reach 461 for 8 by the end of the second day. Unfortunately, heavy overnight rain caused the third day- and the chance of a result- to be lost. The day following this game, Glamorgan welcomed Worcestershire to Swansea for a match that was not only an important milestone in their first Championship year, but a hundred years later is still a memorable part of St Helen's historic heritage.( The game is highlighted in an article on Page 18 )*

## ORIELWYR SAN HELEN

Dear Balconiers and all Supporters of Glamorgan

It is with a very heavy heart that I compile this report when we as a cricket club, and the game globally, have suffered eighteen months of unprecedented upheaval because of the Covid-19 virus that has swept throughout the world. Our thoughts at this time are indeed with all those families who have lost loved ones during these challenging pandemic times, and as Balconiers we wish to express our condolences to all who have been afflicted by bereavement.

The pandemic has caused an incomparable burden on the senior management staff at Sophia Gardens. It has been a trying time for Chairman Gareth Williams, CEO Hugh Morris, and Head of Operations Dan Cherry and his team who have meticulously maintained a bio-secure environment which has enabled county games to be played. Compliance with Welsh Government Coronavirus guidelines has been a huge task and Dan Cherry and his team must be complimented for their tireless work in this direction.

The one bonus that all supporters of Glamorgan cricket have benefitted from during the pandemic adversity is that they have been able to watch all games transmitted to their own homes by high quality live streaming. This facility, introduced by the ECB at significant expense, is extremely popular and our thanks go to our Head of Commercial Huw Warren who has been instrumental in supervising the installation of the high-tech camera systems at Sophia Gardens for our enjoyment.



### The demise of St Helen's, Glamorgan's spiritual home

Balconiers members, Glamorgan supporters throughout Wales and Cricket lovers worldwide would be astounded and heart-broken by what has happened to our historic Swansea ground. This is largely the result of the decision of the Ospreys to move their training ground lock, stock, and barrel to St Helen's during the winter and spring 2020/2021. In so doing they ruined – indeed, completely sabotaged – the cricket outfield. It was we who alerted Hugh Morris and Dan Cherry as there was no prior consultation before this appalling situation arose, just as we were preparing to celebrate Glamorgan's centenary as a first-class County. During that hundred years St Helen's staged sixty Tourist games involving all the world's cricketing countries and witnessed spectacular and unforgettable victories over them all. No second ground of any County can boast such historic achievements – so why does the second city of Wales apparently show no interest in investing and preserving its sporting history and heritage that is so deep-rooted in the soil of St Helen's?



St Helen's celebrate the defeat of South Africa in 1951

The abrasive manner in which the Ospreys bulldozed their way over the hallowed turf of our world-renowned cricket venue here in Swansea, and – to add insult to injury – the audacity shown in dismantling the Balconiers' signage over 'Fred's Bar', is unforgiveable. Cricket has been played at St Helen's since 1850, an amazing period of 171 years (as shown in the photo of the centenary brochure 1850-1950). The disrespect shown towards the Balconiers, and to Glamorgan's cricket heritage, is disgraceful, preventing as it does our opportunity to be able to celebrate Glamorgan's Centenary as a first-class County at St Helen's. During the past hundred years, so many of Glamorgan's most famous victories have occurred here. It is catastrophic when one realises that the council of the second city of Wales are seemingly prepared to wipe out the ground's world-famous sporting significance in one stroke. St Helen's heritage is rightly recognised by the most illustrious cricketers and rugby players across the globe who we have been privileged to watch play on this iconic ground with its views over Swansea Bay.



Proof that Cricket was played at St Helen's in 1850

### The Balconiers not in control of their own destiny

Next season the Balconiers will be celebrating 50 years of dedicated support for Glamorgan CCC, particularly through safeguarding the Cricket Festival at our much-loved ground St Helen's. Organisation of this this annual event has always been made especially difficult because of the involvement of – and need to deal with - three separate organisations, namely, Swansea City Council who owns the ground, Swansea RFC for the use of the Clubhouse as regards hospitality and players changing rooms, and lastly Glamorgan CCC who decide on the allocation of fixtures per season. The current situation regarding the ground makes this difficulty all the more relevant.

Every year since the late 1980s the Balconiers have gone 'cap in hand' to the Officers at Glamorgan appealing to them that St Helen's deserve a meaningful Festival comprising of ten days cricket, to include two Championship games and two one-day games. Our archive minutes, documents and e-mails confirm this and are available for all to inspect. It is so sad that Cheltenham, Scarborough, and Chesterfield have achieved a proper meaningful annual festival for decades, yet none of these venues can claim a greater cricket heritage that is deep-rooted in the soil of our world-famous St Helen's. It breaks our hearts when we read the headline in the press last spring "YORKSHIRE CRICKET AND SCARBOROUGH AGREE TEN YEAR DEAL". This means that, in return for the promise of ten days festival cricket, Scarborough Town will provide the cricket club with funding worth up to £250,000. The money will be used to refurbish the North and West Stands, new bar facilities and toilets, female changing rooms and two hybrid pitches so that the ground will become a hub in the area for junior boys' and girls' cricket.



Balconier's and Swansea public concerned about lack of cricket as far back as 1988

In comparison both Swansea Council and Glamorgan Cricket have not shown the vision to develop our unique St Helen's maritime location, much admired by Richie Benaud and so many other cricketers over the years. It has given pleasure to so many spectators, too. John Arlott's famous poem about enjoying watching cricket at St Helen's captures the mood perfectly.

We are privileged to have a unique location – the only first-class cricket ground in the UK where spectators can watch the game and benefit from the wonderful sea view of Swansea Bay and the Mumbles at the same time.

No wonder visiting teams and their supporters much prefer watching the game at St Helen's.

You may have heard David 'Bumble' Lloyd twice mentioning live on TV this summer how much he and fellow players enjoyed visiting Swansea and St Helen's, staying at the Osborne Hotel and being captivated by the superb ambience of the Gower Peninsular, Swansea Bay, and the Mumbles.



*Alan Jones being presented with the Balconiers' Player of the Year Award by the Lancashire captain David Lloyd in August 1977*

It is hard to swallow the reality which confirms there has been no council investment at St Helen's for the past twenty-plus years. St Helen's has been a magnificent venue for both cricket and rugby and it is beyond belief that the City Council has not taken care of this much-loved ground which has a momentous sporting history that needs to be preserved on an on- going basis. The Council needs to be reminded that even now the people of Swansea still mourn the loss of the Mumbles Train – what a tourist attraction that would have been today. I trust the Council hierarchy will take heed of that lesson and not let the same happen to St Helen's. Once gone, gone forever.

It is also sad to record how a buzzing club like the 'All Whites Rugby' has disintegrate to a shadow of its former self. I was a proud 'Patron' and always supported and enjoyed the social events that took place in the Clubhouse. I am afraid professional sport has much to answer for! The Club these days regrettably is rarely open.



### Balconiers' volunteers and Fred's Bar

The refreshment franchise which provided beer and teas to members of Glamorgan and visiting supporters at the Mumbles Road end of the ground belonged to Mr Fred Jenkins for many years prior to 1985. It was when Mr Jenkins decided to give up the franchise after the 1984 season that I suggested to the Balconiers Committee that we ought to grab the opportunity of running this facility ourselves on a voluntary basis. It was unanimously agreed that we provide refreshments from the Beer and Tea Bar during Glamorgan matches. 'Fred's Bar' — or 'Fred's Shed' — soon became a popular focal point for enjoying a pint or tea and Welsh cakes, all at reasonable prices.

We are very much indebted to our vast squad of volunteers who have worked tirelessly over a period of 34 years with all the profits being

ploughed back to support Glamorgan CCC and its players. In recent seasons the success of running both Beer and Tea Bars must be attributed to Paul Sussex, David Jenkins and others on the beer side and Rachel Owen, Cynthia Young and Jacki Denning behind the Tea Bar. Our thanks also go to Allan Gray and Edward Cooper for being Hosts to our Sponsors and for managing the Charity Raffle.

There is no doubt that Glamorgan CCC have benefited tremendously over the years from the support – financial and otherwise – of the Balconiers. The Club's involvement in playing at Swansea has been at minimal cost with the Balconiers contributing £10k towards the refurbishment of the dressing rooms, as well as to the purchase of new covers and ground sheets. And we would always willingly spend time cleaning and painting the press and scoreboxes prior to the annual fixtures at St Helen's.



*From l to r: Peter Lynn, John Williams Clive Hemp, Allan Gray, Jamie Rewbridge Dan Cherry and Mike Hayden mark the arrival of new covers at St Helen's 2015*

Indeed, profits from Fred's Bar and a range of other fund-raising activities have contributed massively towards supporting the County in so many directions including, for example:

- Donating noteworthy cheques to players Benefits and Testimonials from 1972 to the present time.
- Contributing financially to players expenses when sent abroad to develop their skills during the winter months.
- Being instrumental in subsidizing and staging the Annual Players Awards Dinner in the west for the past forty-six years.
- Paying substantial sums of money towards repairs to the press and scoreboxes including new roof and carpets.

And finally

- During the past 20 years we have presented the County with cheques at our Awards Evenings totalling more than £450,000, income generated from our own initiatives following our success in selling sponsorship packages and fund-raising.



*A packed Towers Function room being welcomed by John William*

**Festival Sponsorship**

At the beginning of the 1990's Clive Hemp and I were told by Glamorgan's 'Head of the Commercial Dept' at the time that there was no appetite for sponsoring cricket in Swansea and West Wales. Clive and I were determined to prove him wrong and the evidence of our success over the past 30 years is there for all to see in our archive records. We built over the years a close, sound, fruitful and rewarding relationship with the local business community and have accumulated an impressive database of sponsors.

Our partnership with our principal Festival sponsor Peter Lynn and Partners has been outstanding. We are very much indebted to Peter and his Company for the loyal support we have received from them for the best part of twenty years. Our gratitude is immense.



Principal Sponsor Peter Lynn presenting Player of the Year in 2013

There have been a wide variety of professional practises many of which have supported us over several decades, and to them all a very big 'thank you'. Lastly, a number of former-pupils' associations enjoy a get-together at the Festival. Our condolences at this time go to the family of Ken Sharpe who passed away this summer and who for many years organised a day out at St Helen's for a large gathering of 'Old Dy'vorians'. To all these groups, and to local cricket clubs as well, we owe a huge debt of gratitude for their annual support. All Sponsors have made a valuable contribution to the handsome cheques presented by the Balconiers to Glamorgan at our annual end-of-season Awards Evening.

### [Daffodil Cricket Tours](#)

As a result of the Pandemic no cricket trips were possible during season 2020. However, after favourable negotiations between our CEO Hugh Morris and Sussex CEO Rob Andrews, we were able to plan a trip to Hove to the County Championship game v Sussex starting on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July. The accommodation at the Hilton Brighton Metropole was excellent and the staff at Sussex looked after us well, allocating exclusive seats to our party on the seaside end of the ground.

What a bonus we received with the success of our team in reaching the final of the Royal London Cup at Trent Bridge. We had a very narrow window to arrange everything as we did not know until the Monday evening that we had reached the Final on Thursday. I am pleased to say that we found a hotel that we had previously stayed at in the 1980s and '90s and who could accommodate 38 of us for an overnight stay.

The whole team played exceptionally well, resulting in a fantastic and well-deserved victory for Glamorgan against a strong Durham side. All the boys deserve our congratulations for winning our first Trophy since 2004. Well done! We are proud of you.

## Commemoration



It is with much sadness that we record the passing of a long-serving Glamorgan Committee Member Jeffrey Bird whose dedicated contribution to the Club was always full of commitment during his 30 year tenure. Since our 2020 Newsletter we are saddened to also commemorate the passing of the following members: Keith Brace, Judith Davies, Sheila Jenkins, Roland Griffiths, Malcolm Hill, Valerie Hill, Graham Philips and Ken Sharpe.

We miss them all and at the same time remember the many enjoyable times we shared together. Our thoughts are with them and their families.

## Get well wishes and thanks

My grateful thanks to Clive Hemp who I have particularly missed – in common with a host of cricket friends – over the past three years during which time Clive has not been enjoying the best of health. As Balconiers we regard you as our mentor, Clive, and much valued sounding board. On behalf of all Balconiers and Glamorgan Supporters may these few words offer you solace during the days ahead.

*“May God who hears our every prayer grant you comfort of His loving care, and the blessing of improved health.” God Bless!*



*Balconiers' Treasurer Clive Hemp presenting a record-breaking cheque for £22k to Glamorgan CEO Hugh Morris from fund-raising efforts during the 2016 Festival*

Our sincere thanks to Dr Andrew Hignell, as always, for his co-operation in supplying us with archive material and photographs for our Newsletter. We are also grateful to both Andrew and Dr Richard Bentley for contributing noteworthy articles to our Newsletter this season and over many years. We know these are always enjoyed by members.

Our President Alan Jones MBE has always been on hand, and I am grateful for the benefit of his wisdom whenever it is needed. I don't profess to be a skilled computer operator, so I am always thankful for the assistance of Paul Sussex and Edward Cooper whenever I'm stuck. Lastly, I want to thank Roger Skyrme. Since moving to the Mumbles and joining our committee his contribution and guidance is most appreciated.



Mural depicting Glamorgan Legends Don Shepherd, Alan Jones and the Mumbles Tram on the Mumbles Road end of St Helen's

### In Conclusion

Over the past two years the state of the square, the out-field, and some of the buildings at St Helen's has deteriorated considerably, to the extent that there is no question of being able to play first-class cricket there. It is impossible to put into words how sad our historic old ground looks at the moment. The love and care displayed by our former groundsman George Clements are unfortunately memories of the past.

However, I am assured by CEO Hugh Morris that immediate priority will be given to developing an elite cricket centre in Swansea which will provide comfort to the Cricket enthusiasts of West Wales.

### Balconiers' Celebration Lunch

The Towers Hotel will be the venue of the Balconiers Celebration Lunch to mark Glamorgan's Centenary as a first-class County dated, 1921-2021. In addition, we shall be celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Jeff Jones (Glamorgan and England).

Date of Lunch: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Time: 12 noon for 12-30. Further details please contact John Williams

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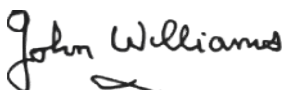
### Membership

Balconiers membership for many years has been a modest £5 per season. The pandemic has meant that we have not been in touch with our members or Glamorgan supporters at large. Any contribution will be very welcome as we continue our battle to ensure that Glamorgan will continue to allocate first-class fixtures to us in West Wales, an area which has been such an important cricket nursery to the County during the past hundred years.

Please accept our apology for the delay in delivering our Newsletter to you. We trust you will understand the circumstances behind this, and the significant uncertainty of events unfolding that were out of our control. Yes, it has been a traumatic two seasons, feeling as it does as if we have been driven out of our own home – and been powerless to prevent it.

### Reminder

The Balconiers were founded in 1972 and the Society will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next season. Please look out for details of Celebration events and publications



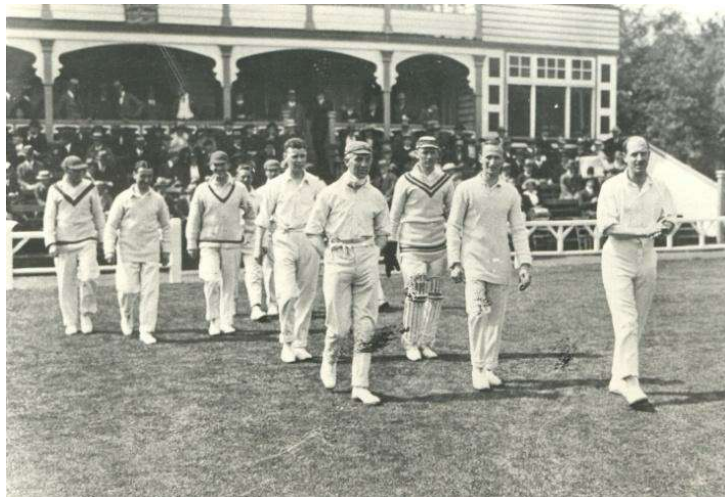
In celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Glamorgan's first season of Championship cricket, Richard Bentley turns the clock back to a very significant game at St Helen's.

### A challenging Championship start

There was great rejoicing in South Wales in the Spring of 1921 when, after a number of very successful years in Minor Counties cricket, Glamorgan's ambition of being admitted to the County Championship was finally realised. But the step up to the first-class level did not prove to be an easy one, despite a famous 23-run win over Sussex in their season's opening fixture at Cardiff.

When the side arrived at St Helen's for the ninth match of their inaugural campaign, they still had only this solitary victory to their name – alongside several heavy and demoralising losses.

Skipped by their talented opener Norman Riches, who by the end of the season would become the first Glamorgan batsman to pass 1,000 runs, the Glamorgan team was a mixture of young recruits and aging (though very willing and able) veterans.



*Norman Riches (far right) leads his team out at the Arms Park for the opening game of the 1921 season*

### Some significant team changes

Worcestershire were their opponents in the late-July game. When the sides had met at Kidderminster a fortnight earlier the home side had won by 38 runs, though there were several heartening Glamorgan performances – including a ten-wicket match haul for opening bowler Jack Nash, and a fighting 85 from their reliable top-order batsman Eddie Bates.

The side at Swansea showed a number of changes, though Nash and Bates were included again. Neath's David Reason was brought in to keep wicket in his only appearance of the season. Also drafted in were two schoolteachers taking advantage of the opportunity to play cricket provided by the long summer holiday. George Cording, part of Glamorgan's cricket scene since 1900, had already played a few Championship games. But Frank Pinch, who had earned a reputation as an outstanding young all-rounder with Barry, was brought into the side for his first-class debut.

### Two memorable centuries

Winning the toss and electing to bat, Glamorgan got off to a good start with the first wicket not going down until 89 runs were on the board. But a flurry of wickets followed, and the score was 176 for 5 when Pinch joined Cording out in the middle and the two batsmen safely saw out the remainder of the day's play. The next morning, as a result of the time lost on Day 1, the instructions from skipper Norman Riches were clear. Go for quick runs!

Cording and Pinch certainly did as they were told, flaying the Worcestershire attack to all parts of St Helen's to great effect. Their unbroken partnership for the sixth wicket was 195 before Cording fell to Pearson just after reaching his hundred. Their efforts enabled a Glamorgan declaration at a very healthy 405 for 7.



*Frank Pinch, 138\*  
(far left) and George  
Cording, 101\**

Frank Pinch remained not out on 138. His partner George Cording had made 101. With these innings, both batsmen not only achieved career-best scores but at the same time set unusual personal records which are still significant in Glamorgan's history. At the age of 43, Tredegar-born Cording remains the Club's oldest player to score a maiden Championship century. And Pinch became the first Glamorgan player to score a hundred on his first Championship appearance.

Worcestershire had certainly been taught a batting lesson by Glamorgan's two school-teacher heroes. But sometimes heroes come in threes – and that was the case in this game which saw a sensational bowling performance by veteran Jack Nash to capitalise on Cording and Pinch's efforts with the bat.

### [Glamorgan's third hero](#)

Nash, Cardiff's professional and groundsman at the Arms Park, had been a regular and key member of Glamorgan sides since 1902, initially as a medium-pacer and later as an off-spinner. His opening partner at Swansea was Stamford Hacker, another stalwart of Minor Counties' days – originally a genuinely fast bowler with Gloucestershire, but now operating at a more gentle (but very effective) medium pace.

Perhaps demoralised by Glamorgan's unexpectedly large score, and at the same time intimidated by the prospect of facing Nash on a dry and dusty St Helen's wicket (he had, remember, taken ten wickets against them just two weeks earlier), Worcestershire's batsmen found run-making difficult.

Bowling well and making good use of the conditions, Hacker and Nash were soon amongst the wickets, removing an opener apiece. The pair continued to bowl unchanged through the Worcestershire first-innings of 63 all out in just 25.4 overs, Nash taking 7 for 34 and Hacker 3 for 25.



*Jack Nash, 15 for 116*

Following-on, Worcestershire's second innings was more resolute with veteran all-rounder 'Dick' Pearson opening the batting and scoring a defiant 167 – a career-best performance at the age of 41 – before becoming one of Nash's eight second-innings victims. His figures of 8 for 82 off 32.3 overs gave him a career-best match return of 15 for 116. Recording a career-best aggregate is an achievement in itself, but doing so at the age of 48 is truly remarkable!

So, despite the improved Worcestershire second-innings total of 289, Glamorgan were victorious by an innings and 53 runs. This was a rare and resounding Glamorgan victory – only the second in a tough inaugural first-class season, and their first Championship win at St Helen's.

Thankfully, the first of many!

The match at St. Helen's against the 1961 Australians over the August Bank Holiday saw a remarkable innings by Don Shepherd which saw the legendary bowler, who for several years had tricked and teased opponents with his wide repertoire of off-cutters, enter the record books for his batting exploits

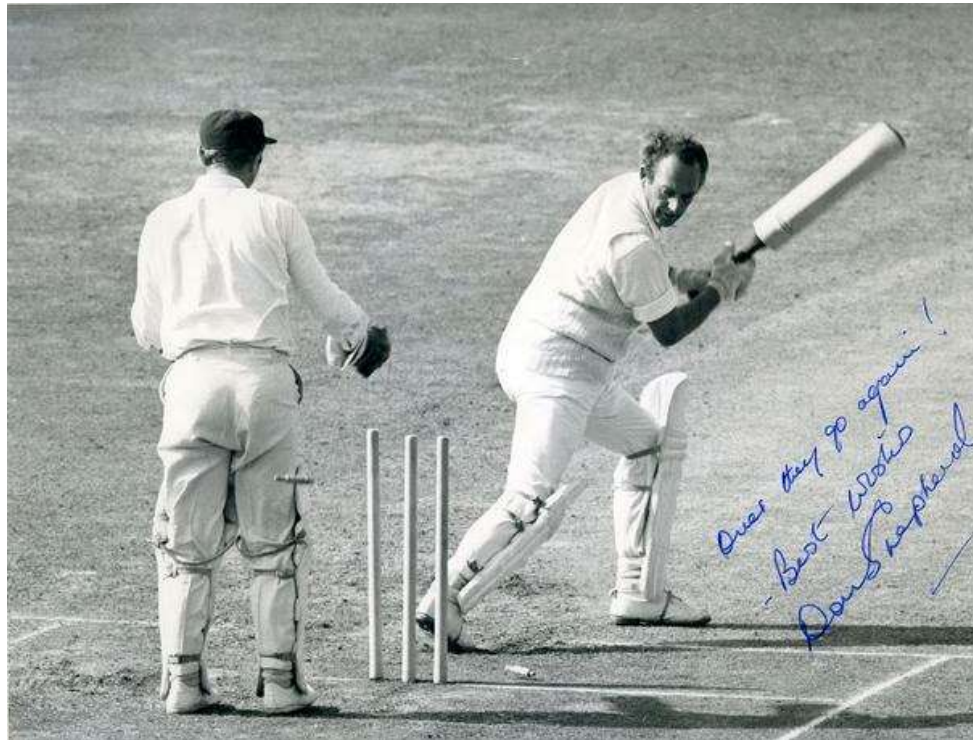


On a few occasions, 'Shep' (pictured left) had played a few innings, full of lusty and quite rustic blows, but more often than not, it was a case of six and out. This match in August 1961 saw a longer display of his batting talents, much to the delight of the home supporters who had nearly been shocked into silence as, on the second day of the contest, Glamorgan had slumped to 94-8 in reply to the tourists' first innings total of 192.

Down the long flight of steps at the Swansea ground came an unlikely saviour in the shape of Donald John Shepherd who had overcome a nasty blow to his head during the previous game and had shrugged off suggestions to sit out the game with the Australians. Despite still feeling a bit groggy, in the course of the next few minutes, 'Shep' equalled the world record for the fastest fifty ever recorded in first-class cricket. The architects of the Welsh county's sharp, and sudden, decline had been leg-spinner Richie Benaud and slow left-armed Lindsay Kline, who each found plenty of assistance from the dry and dusty St. Helen's wicket. But in the blink of an eye 'Shep' was soon in double figures as the ball sped to, and over, the boundary ropes as the Glamorgan tailender unleashed some furious blows.

With his partner David Evans reduced to a watching brief at the other end, 'Shep' raced to his fifty with six massive sixes, three each off each spinner, plus three other fours, a quickly scampered two and a hastily run single –

and all in the space of just fifteen minutes to equal the world record. His rousing efforts lifted the spirits of the home supporters, and the Glamorgan team alike, whilst his efforts also drew rich praise from Richie Benaud, who as Don made his way back into the Glamorgan dressing room after being caught by Bobby Simpson for 51 said "That was the greatest bit of sustained hitting that I have ever seen in my life."



Thanks to Don's whirlwind hitting, Glamorgan ended just 43 runs in arrears, and despite a fine century from Simpson, the Welsh batsmen were able to save the game, as a downpour washed out play with just over two hours to play and with the tourists still needing eight wickets. Glamorgan's spirited fightback, inspired by Shep's feat, had been a moral victory for the home side as the Australians left the damp and deserted Swansea ground thinking what might have been, had it not been for his remarkable innings.

Three years later the Swansea faithful had even more to crow about as they witnessed one of Glamorgan's most famous hours against the men in the baggy green caps.

Fifty years ago, on 25 June 1971, Glamorgan beat the touring Pakistani's in a gripping encounter at St. Helen's which saw twenty wickets fall on the opening day of the contest.

After captain Tony Lewis had opted to bat first, the visitors had spun Glamorgan out by mid-afternoon for a paltry 114 with leg-spinner Intikhab Alam taking 7/37 in a mesmerizing spell of wrist spin. But thoughts of the Pakistanis amassing a decent first innings lead were quickly snuffed out as Malcolm Nash claimed the first three wickets in a typically probing new ball spell as the tourists slipped to 28-3. Tony Cordle then filleted the middle-order before Nash returned for a second salvo and claimed two more wickets as the Pakistanis limped to 89-8. Wasim Bari and Mohammad Nazir then used the long handle to launch a recovery mission before both fell shortly before the close of play to Clive Davies, the rookie left-arm spinner, as the visitors were dismissed for 158 shortly before the close.



Conditions for batting were easier on the second day with Alan Jones and Kevin Lyons (***Pictured Left***) sharing an opening stand of 83 before the former chipped a ball back to Intikhab and departed caught and bowled. However, Lyons remained resolute and during his three and a quarter hour innings he made a fine 88 and received valiant support from Len Hill, the Newport County footballer, plus Eifion Jones who was promoted up the order to number five.



Each displayed a more assertive approach compared with their modest efforts in the first innings, whilst Gwyn Richards, **(Pictured Left)** the young all-rounder from Maesteg also showed glimpses of his batting talents as Glamorgan's lead went past the 200-mark.

Nash also struck a quickfire 39 as Glamorgan ended on 322 and a lead of 278 with Intikhab returning figures of 6/99 from a marathon spell of 48 overs.

The tourists then had a short spell before the close with night-watchman Wasim Bari defending stoutly with Azmat Rana. The following morning, the makeshift opening pair emulated the efforts of their Welsh counterparts and added 82 before both fell to the wily off-cutters of Don Shepherd. Lawrence Williams, the canny seamer from Tonna, also bowled the dangerous Zaheer Abbas as Glamorgan surged back into the game.

But Saeed Ahmed continued to play fluently against the home attack and reveled in an aggressive approach against the spin, seam and swing deployed by Tony Lewis in a bid to regain the upper hand. As so often at Swansea, it was Nash who made the breakthrough as he had Saeed caught by Hill before bowling all-rounder Asif Iqbal. The spinners Shepherd and Davies then shared a trio of wickets as Glamorgan regained the ascendancy and after his efforts with both bat and ball, it was fitting that Nash should polish off the Pakistani innings by bowling Asif Masood as Pakistan ended on 232, leaving the Welsh county to celebrate a 46-run victory and another fantastic triumph over a touring team.

Glamorgan and England fast-bowler Jeff Jones celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday later this year. Joining the County when he was only 16, Dafen-born Jeff played 157 first-class games, including 15 Tests, between 1960 and 1968. Balconiers everywhere join in celebrating his many achievements on the cricket field, and in sending their good wishes as he and his family mark this special anniversary.



### Fire, speed, sustained hostility!

Grace Road, Leicester, late August 1965 – unquestionably one of many career-highlights, and a game Jeff remembers well. There were only three more Championship games left after this one, and Glamorgan were riding high in the table as a very successful season drew to a close. In fact, they were in with a chance of the title itself.

Jeff Jones, described by Christopher Martin-Jenkins as “a fast and graceful left-arm bowler, who had immense fire, speed and sustained hostility”, had played a significant part in this success. And he was about to play a very significant part in this game, too.

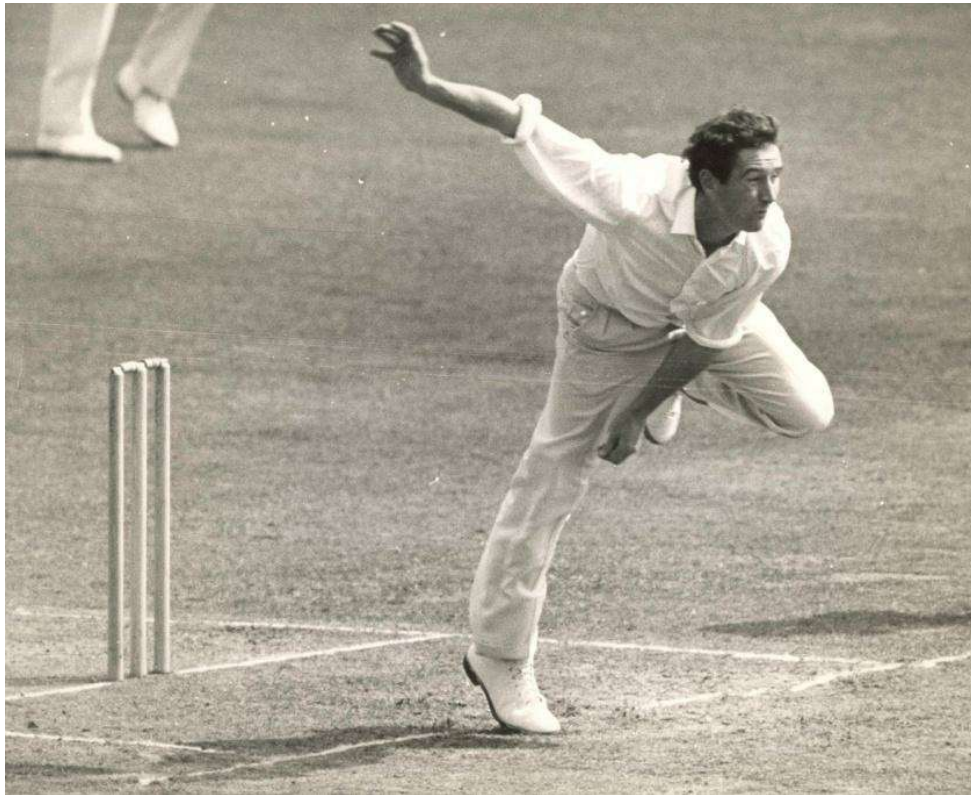
Rain allowed only two hours of play on the first day, and after winning the toss Leicestershire found themselves in disarray losing six wickets for 64 runs by close of play. They eventually reached 117, with skipper Ossie Wheatley, the other half of Glamorgan’s highly effective pace-bowling partnership, taking 6 for 54.

Glamorgan also found batting on a lively wicket difficult, but were rescued by fighting innings from Jim Pressdee and Alan Rees and managed to take a useful first-innings lead of 68. However, when the third day started, time was running out fast, and with it the chance of a Glamorgan victory – and of staying in the Championship race.

### Career-best figures

The Leicestershire second innings started with skipper Maurice Hallam taking strike. And it could not have started more sensationally. An excited Wilf Wooller takes up the story:

*"Jeff Jones moves smoothly up his run. His back arches, his arm speeds over. The shiny new ball flashes through the air. Hallam jerks, strikes desperately. The ball flies like a bullet up over the heads of a ring of tense slip fielders. One leaps, projecting his 6 feet 3 inches off the ground, his arm is at full stretch, his hand ten to eleven feet up. 'Smack,' the ball hits it, his fingers grip, it sticks ..."*



It was an unplayable ball, and a brilliant catch by Peter Walker. Leicestershire had lost their first wicket. Soon, their second fell too – still without a run on the board. They progressed to 2 for 3, then 2 for 4, and 3 for 5. Amazingly, Leicestershire's top five batsmen – Hallam, Booth, Marnier, Jayasinghe and Inman – were all back in the pavilion. And all five wickets had fallen to Jeff Jones (supported by some brilliant close catching) without him conceding a single run.

Leicestershire were eventually bowled out for 40 runs in just one hour and forty minutes. Glamorgan had won a famous victory by an innings and 28 runs and were still very much in Championship contention with three more matches to play. Jeff's final analysis was an astonishing and career-best 8 for 11 in 13 overs (9 of them maidens). He was – a little belatedly – awarded his county cap. And, with 84 wickets at an average of 15.9, he was selected for the 1965/66 winter tour to Australia and New Zealand. He played in four Tests in the drawn Ashes series and was the leading wicket-taker on the tour, his 6 for 118 at Adelaide being the best figures by a Glamorgan bowler in international cricket. It was a fitting end to a great season.

### A rare and special talent emerges

Now Jeff found himself acknowledged as an international cricketer of note, and a key part of England's longer-term planning. The Aussies liked the look of him, too, comparing him with their own left-arm bowling hero Alan Davidson. He was firmly established in both the domestic and international game. The cricket world was in full agreement: a rare and special talent had emerged.

Of course, we Glamorgan supporters had known for years that Jeff was special. Very special! Indeed, as a 16 year-old schoolboy Jeff Jones was being talked about excitedly by people who knew a good cricketer when they saw one! He had already impressed coach Phil Clift after being taken on the County's junior staff in 1958. In his report for that season, Clift noted excitedly that in a second XI game against a North Wales XI "the new boy, Jeffrey Jones, took 8 wickets for 8 runs", predicting at the same time that "we may well have a fine young bowler of the future".

And less than two seasons later, Jeff Jones was making his first-team debut against Kent at Blackheath in late-June 1960. This was the first of a run of four consecutive games, all away, during which he took 9 wickets. Over the next couple of seasons he established himself in the Glamorgan side, and by 1962 was the regular new-ball bowler. The final game of the season at Harrogate saw Jeff take a hat-trick, and such was his potential that he was



chosen for the forthcoming winter's tours to East Africa and India. He won his first England cap in the drawn second Test at Bombay in January 1964 – interestingly, while still uncapped by his county. (Even more unusually, his fast-bowling son Simon – another Glamorgan bowling hero – was also awarded his England cap before his county cap!)

### [An untimely ending](#)

Fast-forward to 1967. Jeff, in peak form, takes 100 first-class wickets in the season, and gets another England call-up – this time for the winter tour to the West Indies. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Test, marred by crowd riots, Jeff Jones took 5 for 129. And in the final Test at Georgetown it was his batting prowess that

captured the headlines when he famously negotiated the final over from Lance Gibbs to earn a hard-fought draw and series win, and to prompt the unlikely headline *'JEFF JONES IS BATSMAN OF THE YEAR'*.

Returning for the new season, Jeff was poised to play a key role in the 1968 Ashes series, and to consolidate his place as a regular in the England side. But opening the bowling for Glamorgan in a Championship match against Essex at Ilford on 1<sup>st</sup> June he aggravated an elbow injury sustained at Lord's in the previous game, and which would eventually force him to retire from first-class cricket at the age of only 26 when he still had so much more to contribute.

But he had already given so much – and achieved so much – both for Glamorgan (with 142 appearances and 364 first-class wickets) and for England (15 Tests, 44 wickets). And behind these impressive statistics, he had given so much enjoyment to so many cricket lovers

Forty years ago Javed Miandad rewrote Glamorgan's record books, scoring over 2,000 runs in the season, including six centuries and two double-centuries. Richard Bentley recalls a record-breaking game at St Helen's that was one of the highlights of Javed's truly memorable summer of 1981.



### Hitting the headlines

For Malcolm Nash's improving Glamorgan side, the 1981 campaign had not started well – 'a sluggish start with some awful weather' was how Malcolm remembered it. But when the side arrived in Swansea in early June to play Somerset, it was on the back of their first win. And what a good win, too! It was a comprehensive innings victory over a strong Warwickshire side, and included a century from their Pakistan international Javed Miandad.

Javed had already made a huge and instant impact on joining Glamorgan at the beginning of the previous season. A score of 140 against Essex at Swansea in his first game – an innings described by several of the players



as the best they had ever seen – was followed by another 140 in the second match at Bristol. He ended the season as the side's top scorer, with an average of over 50. It was only the third time a Glamorgan batsman had achieved this. No surprise, then, that even greater things were expected of him in 1981.

Of course, Javed was already no stranger to hitting big scores – or to hitting the headlines! He was still a teenager when he made his international debut against New Zealand at Lahore in October 1976. In this game he scored 163 to become only the second Pakistan player to score a century in his first Test.

Later in the same series he made 206, and so at 19 years and 141 days became the youngest batsman ever to score a double-century in a Test match.

### Botham fights back

Universally regarded as a brilliant right-handed batsman with the full range of strokes and a positive, aggressive approach in the middle, Javed was already captain of Pakistan when he joined Glamorgan from Sussex. When he led his country in their 1979-80 home series against Australia – still only 22 years of age – he was not only Pakistan's youngest captain, but also the third youngest captain ever in Test cricket.

Interestingly, lining up in Brian Rose's Somerset side at St Helen's was another international skipper, Ian Botham (*pictured overleaf*), who had recently taken over the England captaincy from Mike Brearley.



He would go on to resign this post before the end of the summer's Ashes series, but would nevertheless make a huge contribution to the outcome – including his historic performance in 'the miracle of Headingley'.

Winning the toss at St Helen's, Glamorgan elected to bat. Norman Featherstone joined Javed at 67 for 3, and this pair put on 143 before Featherstone's run out. Javed remained unbeaten on 137 when Nash declared at a promising 301 for 4.

Somerset responded by matching the home side's total, declaring on 303 for 9 with Ian Botham top-scoring on 123 not out in a typically hard-hitting innings.

### A record-equalling feat

In Glamorgan's second innings, quick runs were the order of the day. Javed figured in a fast-scoring century stand with Geoff Holmes, and went on to score 106 before falling to a catch by Botham off the gentle off-cutters of Viv Richards. Glamorgan declared their second-innings closed on 247 for 5 when Holmes reached his half-century, leaving the visitors to chase 246 for victory. Their run-rate of under two an over suggests that it was a chase neither relished nor attempted! Eventually hands were shaken on a draw – a disappointing result, perhaps, but it had been a good team performance by Glamorgan.

However, the match is best remembered for Javed Miandad's stunning and record-equalling performances with the bat. Once again, he wrote his name in cricketing history books – for two reasons.

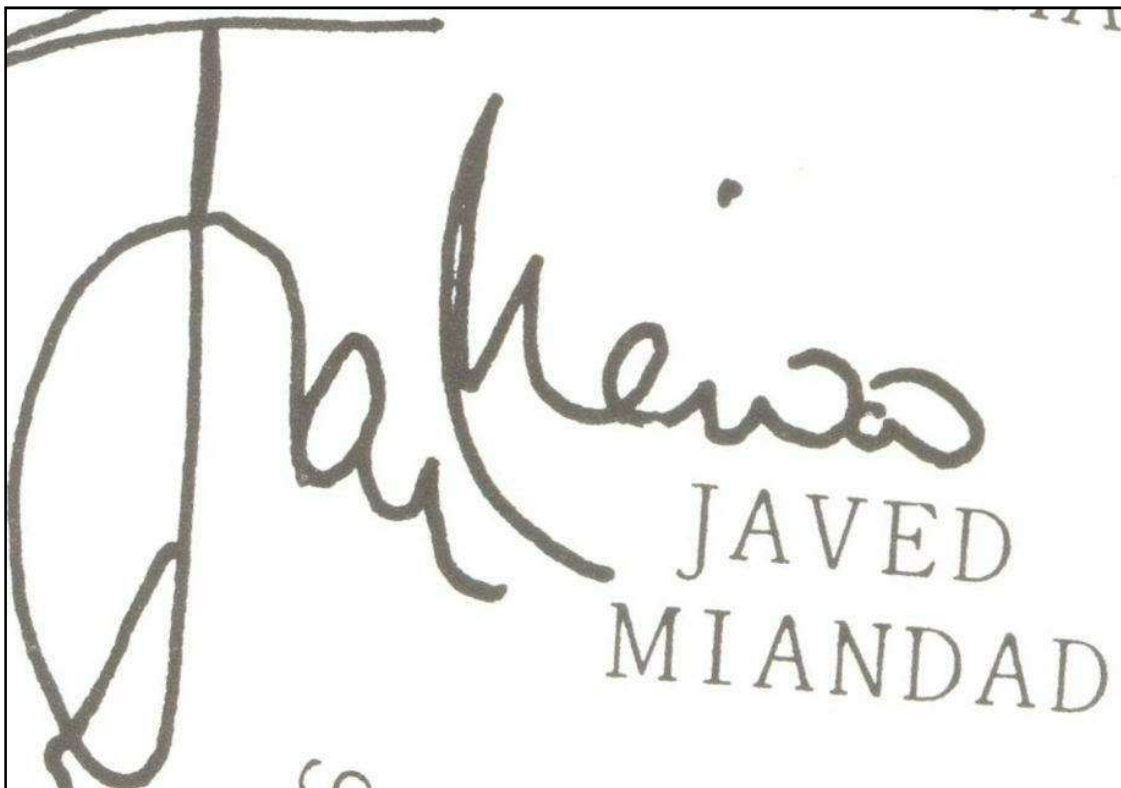
Firstly, it was only the sixth time that a Glamorgan batsman had scored a century in each innings of a Championship match. And secondly, by scoring three centuries in three successive innings, Javed equalled another record, following in the illustrious footsteps of two other Glamorgan favourites, Dai Davies (in 1928) and Gilbert Parkhouse (in 1950).

### A memorable season and a special ground

More was to come! In fact, the whole 1981 season was a record-breaking one for Javed.

As well as the two hundreds in this game against Somerset, he scored four other centuries, and two double-centuries, in reaching 2,083 first-class runs for the season (at an incredible average of just under 70), and beating Gilbert Parkhouse's record for the most runs in a season by a Glamorgan player.

It was fitting that St Helen's played such a significant part in Javed's memorable and historic season. He had a soft spot for the Swansea ground and always managed to produce something very special when he played there. It was where he had made his Glamorgan debut, and (in the same game) made his first century in Glamorgan colours. And in 1984 it was where he would make his career-best score of 212 not out against Leicestershire.



## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

A typical scene at St Helen's when Swansea hosted the West Wales Cricket festival, which included a One Day Fixture as well as a four day County Championship game



Typical crowd at a Glamorgan One day fixture

The Balconiers have over the years built up a really strong client sponsor list, some of which are pictured below



Gerallt Davies, Sterling Asset Management and his Guests-2014

## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE



Bladdyn Bowen, Infinity Document Solutions and his Guests -2012



As well as Business Sponsors the Festival also attracted Societies and Cricket Clubs to purchase hospitality

## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Daffodil Tours down the Years



Stopover at Rhayader on the way to Colwyn Bay, 2014



Balconiers group outside Kent supporters marquee at the Canterbury Cricket Festival in the early 80's



- [Norman Riches](#) (1921, 1929)
- [Tom Whittington](#) (1922–1923)
- [Johnnie Clay](#) (1924–1927, 1929, 1946)
- [Trevor Arnott](#) (1928)
- [Maurice Turnbull](#) (1930–1939)
- [Wilf Wooller](#) (1947–1960)
- [Ossie Wheatley](#) (1961–1966)
- [Tony Lewis](#) (1967–1972)
- [Majid Khan](#) (1973–1976)
- [Alan Jones](#) (1974, 1976–1978)
- [Robin Hobbs](#) (1979)
- [Malcolm Nash](#) (1980–1981)
- [Javed Miandad](#) (1982)
- [Barry Lloyd](#) (1982)
- [Mike Selvey](#) (1983–1984)
- [Rodney Ontong](#) (1984–1986)
- [Hugh Morris](#) (1986–1989, 1993–1995)
- [Alan Butcher](#) (1989–1992)
- [Matthew Maynard](#) (1992, 1996–2000)
- [Steve James](#) (2001–2003)
- [Robert Croft](#) (2003–2006)
- [David Hemp](#) (2006–2008)
- [Jamie Dalrymple](#) (2009–2010)
- [Alviro Petersen](#) (2011)
- [Mark Wallace](#) (2012–2013)
- [Jacques Rudolph](#) (2014–2017)
- [Michael Hogan](#) (2017–2018)
- [Chris Cooke](#) (2019 to date)

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