

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Chokers no more

SIMON CLEAVES

Nottinghamshire's Championship triumph saw them gain full reward for finally casting off the nerves that had gripped them in pressure situations in recent seasons. A recurrent theme since they finished top of the pile in 2005, those worries reared up again in September 2010 – but this time, with the cards seemingly stacked against them more than in previous years, Nottinghamshire rose to the occasion.

After leading the table for much of the season, they had established a 16-point lead over Somerset with three matches to go. The wheels promptly wobbled alarmingly, with a fourth-day collapse at Chester-le-Street followed by the ignominy of being bowled out for 59 by Yorkshire at home. That meant the lead over Somerset had been reduced to just two points, with Yorkshire a further five behind. With rain allowing only 28 overs on the first three days of the final game at Old Trafford, and Somerset gaining the upper hand over Durham, affairs appeared to be conspiring against Nottinghamshire before the incredible events of the decisive day.

That morning, captain Chris Read was in a quandary: should he try to arrange a fourth-innings run-chase with Lancashire, or claim as many bonus points as possible and hope that Durham could hold off Somerset? After much dressing-room debate, Nottinghamshire chose the second option and threw off the straitjacket. While Durham did their bit by battling to a draw, Adam Voges demonstrated his worth in a dazzling partnership with Samit Patel, Ryan Sidebottom and Darren Pattinson eked out the most important ten runs of their lives to claim the last batting point. When Andre Adams claimed the wickets that brought the crucial bowling point, the Championship pennant was on its way back to Trent Bridge.

That had seemed likely after Nottinghamshire won their first four matches, three of them at home. It was their best start to a season since 1922, when they won their first six (but ended up second behind Yorkshire), and they maintained their momentum with further victories at crucial times, victories based around a pedigree bowling attack and long batting line-up. Adams was the country's leading wicket-taker with 68 and a deserving choice as Player of the Season; he proved Read's "go-to" man, with extravagant sideways movement off the seam and a slippery quicker ball. Around him, the seamers chipped in with the occasional match-winning display – Stuart Broad picked up 19 wickets in his two appearances – and nine different batsmen made Championship hundreds.

Read was once again the most consistent player, while overseas batsmen Hashim Amla, David Hussey and Voges were exceptional. Paul Franks claimed 41 wickets, hit six half-centuries and volunteered for the thankless task of facing the new ball with Alex Hales in the final three matches. Opening had

proved too much for Neil Edwards, Bilal Shafayat and Matt Wood, the last two being released at the end of the season.

While the Championship trophy was the highlight, director of cricket Mick Newell took almost as much pleasure from the way his side improved in limited-overs cricket. After some dismal performances in 2009, Newell set out to generate more dynamism in the side, favouring younger and more athletic players and promoting a more aggressive mindset. That paid particular dividends in the Friends Provident T20, where Hussey was a brutal match-winner and effervescent captain, as Read concentrated on his keeping. Hales demonstrated his exciting potential at the top of the order, while Sidebottom, Pattinson and Dirk Nannes bullied opposition batsmen with their pace and accuracy. With new signings Steven Mullaney and Graeme White throwing themselves around in the field – and making crucial contributions with bat and ball – Nottinghamshire were favourites with many pundits come finals day and, had it not been for the outstretched hand of Kieron Pollard, and an ill-timed rain shower, might well have added a second trophy to the cabinet.

They also did enough in the CB40 to keep their semi-final hopes alive into the final group game, but an underpowered side, missing senior bowlers to injury, were defeated by a Warwickshire team boasting both Ian Bell and Jonathan Trott.

Winning the Championship may represent the high-water mark for many of this generation of players. Sidebottom's return to Yorkshire, after turning down a conditional three-year contract, leaves a massive hole in the bowling attack. Adams, at 35, enjoyed the finest season of his career but will surely not pick up so many wickets again, Pattinson was dangerous in bursts but proved expensive, and Charlie Shreck has increasingly been dogged by injury. With the bat, the stabilising influence of Mark Wagh will be missing from August when he retires to begin a legal career, while Ali Brown, 41 in February 2011, cannot defy his age for ever.

The weight of responsibility will fall even more heavily on skipper Read and the overseas batsman, and the likes of Hales, Mullaney and Samit Patel will need to step up. All three illustrated their talent at times during 2010: the only lean thing about Patel, in the last two seasons, has been his batting aggregate in the Championship. Supporters will also be hoping to see more of young, local talent: Luke Fletcher and Andrew Carter can expect a greater workload, while the likes of Akhil Patel, Jake Ball and Scott Elstone should continue to be given a chance in the 40-over competition. Consistency will therefore become the key question for 2011, when it may be that the one-day format offers a greater chance of further silverware than the Championship.



Andre Adams

Graham Moore

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RESULTS

All first-class matches – Played 17: Won 7, Lost 5, Drawn 5.
County Championship matches – Played 16: Won 7, Lost 5, Drawn 4.

LV= County Championship, winners in Division 1;
Friends Provident T20, s-f; Clydesdale Bank 40, 3rd in Group C.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP AVERAGES, BATTING AND FIELDING

Cap		M	I	NO	R	HS	100s	50s	Avg	Ct/St
2010	H. M. Amla§	4	6	1	377	129	1	4	75.40	1
2004	D. J. Hussey§	5	7	1	399	251*	1	1	66.50	7
2008	A. C. Voges§	3	5	0	254	126	1	1	50.80	1
1999	C. M. W. Read	16	24	4	916	124*	2	5	45.80	59/4
	S. J. Mullaney	11	17	4	512	100*	1	3	39.38	6
2007	M. A. Wagh	15	23	1	853	139	2	3	38.77	8
	A. D. Hales	12	20	1	677	136	1	4	35.63	12
	A. D. Brown	16	24	1	805	134	1	6	35.00	11
1999	P. J. Franks†	15	21	1	651	79	0	6	32.55	1
2008	S. R. Patel	16	26	2	641	104	1	3	26.70	9
	M. J. Wood	4	6	0	148	72	0	2	24.66	1
	N. J. Edwards	6	9	0	189	85	0	1	21.00	15
	L. J. Fletcher†	5	8	3	81	23*	0	0	16.20	2
2007	A. R. Adams¶	14	20	5	240	37	0	0	16.00	13
	B. M. Shafayat†	6	10	0	118	49	0	0	11.80	4
2008	D. J. Pattinson	12	13	4	93	27	0	0	10.33	0
2006	C. E. Shreck	5	7	1	10	7*	0	0	1.66	4
2004	R. J. Sidebottom‡	8	6	6	44	18*	0	0	–	3

Also batted: S. C. J. Broad†‡ (2 matches) 1, 6, 0; G. P. Swann‡ (cap 2005) (1 match) 1; G. G. White (1 match) 29 (1 ct).

† Born in Nottinghamshire. ‡ ECB contract. § Official overseas player. ¶ Other non-England-qualified player.

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W	BB	5W/i	Avg
S. C. J. Broad	66	7	299	19	8-52	2	15.73
R. J. Sidebottom	218	58	582	27	5-35	1	21.55
A. R. Adams	455.5	101	1,508	68	6-79	4	22.17
P. J. Franks	386.2	102	1,046	41	3-15	0	25.51
C. E. Shreck	199	50	577	18	4-81	0	32.05
D. J. Pattinson	294.2	49	1,128	31	5-95	1	36.38
S. R. Patel	311.3	64	954	24	4-55	0	39.75

Also bowled: A. D. Brown 7-0-53-0; L. J. Fletcher 144.2-31-508-9; A. D. Hales 5.5-1-26-0; D. J. Hussey 18-1-82-0; S. J. Mullaney 93.3-19-321-9; G. P. Swann 26-5-88-2; A. C. Voges 1-0-2-0; G. G. White 23-3-104-1; M. J. Wood 1-0-11-0.

LEADING CB40 AVERAGES (100 runs/4 wickets)

Batting	Runs	HS	Avg	S-R	Ct/St	Bowling	W	BB	Avg	E-R
A. C. Voges	127	71*	63.50	79.87	1	S. J. Mullaney	13	3-24	21.53	5.28
D. J. Hussey	114	80	57.00	137.34	3	R. J. Sidebottom	6	3-45	27.00	5.22
S. R. Patel	467	108*	46.70	95.50	3	G. G. White	11	5-35	27.81	5.61
C. M. W. Read	263	69*	43.83	109.12	8/3	P. J. Franks	11	3-22	31.90	6.38
A. D. Hales	370	96*	37.00	104.22	6	D. J. Pattinson	6	3-70	33.33	6.45
M. J. Wood	110	60	22.00	75.86	0	S. R. Patel	11	2-19	33.45	5.23

LEADING FPT20 AVERAGES (100 runs/18 overs)

Batting					Bowling				
<i>Runs</i>	<i>HS</i>	<i>Avg</i>	<i>S-R</i>	<i>Ct</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>BB</i>	<i>Avg</i>	<i>E-R</i>	
D. J. Hussey	524	81*	43.66	142.00	9	S. R. Patel	17	3-26	22.17
A. D. Hales	466	83	29.12	135.86	8	D. J. Pattinson	20	4-19	17.65
S. R. Patel	459	63	28.68	133.04	3	S. J. Mullaney	14	3-12	28.07
A. D. Brown	337	73*	19.82	132.15	5	G. G. White	12	3-22	22.50
S. J. Mullaney	145	53	18.12	122.88	7	R. J. Sidebottom	7	2-19	45.00
M. J. Wood	328	61	21.86	111.56	1	D. P. Nannes	17	2-20	27.41

FIRST-CLASS COUNTY RECORDS

Highest score for	312*	W. W. Keeton v Middlesex at The Oval	1939
Highest score against	345	C. G. Macartney (Australians) at Nottingham	1921
Leading run-scorer	31,592	G. Gunn (avg 35.69)	1902–1932
Best bowling for	10-66	K. Smales v Gloucestershire at Stroud	1956
Best bowling against	10-10	H. Verity (Yorkshire) at Leeds	1932
Leading wicket-taker	1,653	T. G. Wass (avg 20.34)	1896–1920
Highest total for	791	v Essex at Chelmsford	2007
Highest total against	781-7 dec	by Northamptonshire at Northampton	1995
Lowest total for	13	v Yorkshire at Nottingham	1901
Lowest total against	{ 16	by Derbyshire at Nottingham	1879
	{ 16	by Surrey at The Oval	1880

LIST A COUNTY RECORDS

Highest score for	167*	P. Johnson v Kent at Nottingham	1993
Highest score against	191	D. S. Lehmann (Yorkshire) at Scarborough	2001
Leading run-scorer	11,237	R. T. Robinson (avg 35.33)	1978–1999
Best bowling for	6-10	K. P. Evans v Northumberland at Jesmond	1994
Best bowling against	7-41	A. N. Jones (Sussex) at Nottingham	1986
Leading wicket-taker	291	C. E. B. Rice (avg 22.60)	1975–1987
Highest total for	346-9	v Ireland at Nottingham	2009
Highest total against	361-8	by Surrey at The Oval	2001
Lowest total for	57	v Gloucestershire at Nottingham	2009
Lowest total against	43	by Northamptonshire at Northampton	1977

TWENTY20 RECORDS

Highest score for	91	M. A. Ealham v Yorkshire at Nottingham	2004
Highest score against	111	W. J. Durston (Derbyshire) at Nottingham	2010
Leading run-scorer	1,359	S. R. Patel (avg 25.64)	2003–2010
Best bowling for	5-26	R. J. Logan v Lancashire at Nottingham	2003
Best bowling against	5-13	A. B. McDonald (Leicestershire) at Nottingham	2010
Leading wicket-taker	54	S. R. Patel (avg 23.31)	2003–2010
Highest total for	213-6	v Northamptonshire at Nottingham	2006
Highest total against	207-7	by Yorkshire at Nottingham	2004
Lowest total for	91	v Lancashire at Manchester	2006
Lowest total against	106	by Lancashire at Nottingham	2005

ADDRESS

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OFFICIALS

Captain C. M. W. Read
Director of cricket M. Newell
President M. J. Smedley
Chairman P. G. Wright

Chief executive D. M. Brewer
Chairman, cricket committee P. G. Wright
Head groundsman S. Birks
Scorer L. B. Hewes

At Durham, April 10–12. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE drew with DURHAM MCCU.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

At Nottingham, April 15–17. Nottinghamshire won by an innings and 32 runs. Nottinghamshire 24pts, Kent 4pts. Toss: Kent.

Nottinghamshire started their Championship campaign with a thumping victory over the previous year's second division champions, who were made to look underpowered with bat and ball. After Kent decided to bowl first under heavy skies and captured two early wickets, Amla marked his home debut with a century as assured as it was elegant, and shared a 103-run stand with Edwards, who had been signed from Somerset to shore up Nottinghamshire's leaky opening partnership. Amla's application – he batted for just over five hours, and hit 19 fours – was complemented by half-centuries from Read and Franks, who helped secure maximum batting points. Kent were unable to show the same discipline, with few easy pickings from the home attack. Sidebottom started the slide by gating Denly for a 13-ball duck, then trapped Key in front in his next over. Edwards showed a safe pair of hands to take five catches at second slip, the most in an innings by a Nottinghamshire fielder since Derek Randall against Yorkshire in 1987, and two more wickets fell before the end of the second day when Kent followed on. Victory was wrapped up before tea on the third.

Close of play: First day, Nottinghamshire 396-8 (Franks 35); Second day, Kent 51-2 (Edwards 5, Jones 5).

Nottinghamshire

N. J. Edwards lbw b Tredwell	85	L. J. Fletcher c van Jaarsveld b Coles	13
B. M. Shafayat c Tredwell b Khan	4	R. J. Sidebottom not out	8
M. A. Wagh c Tredwell b Khan	0		
H. M. Amla st Jones b Stevens	129	B 9, 1-b 7, w 4, n-b 10	30
S. R. Patel c Jones b Azhar Mahmood	15		
A. D. Brown lbw b Khan	18	1/41 (2) 2/43 (3)	(111.4 overs) 456
*†C. M. W. Read run out	62	3/146 (1) 4/165 (5) 5/203 (6)	
P. J. Franks b Coles	73	6/328 (7) 7/367 (4) 8/396 (9)	
A. R. Adams c Jones b Edwards	19	9/429 (10) 10/456 (8)	110 overs: 451-9

Khan 25–5–108–3; Azhar Mahmood 26–5–75–1; Edwards 14–3–77–1; Coles 15.4–2–65–2; Tredwell 18–2–68–1; Denly 1–0–4–0; Stevens 12–1–43–1.

Kent

J. L. Denly b Sidebottom	0	(7) lbw b Adams	37
*R. W. T. Key lbw b Sidebottom	4	b Fletcher	15
†G. O. Jones b Adams	28	(4) c Adams b Fletcher	11
M. van Jaarsveld c Read b Adams	7	(5) lbw b Fletcher	1
S. A. Northcutt c Edwards b Fletcher	38	(6) st Read b Patel	18
D. I. Stevens c Edwards b Adams	7	(8) not out	42
J. C. Tredwell c Edwards b Adams	19	(1) b Adams	20
Azhar Mahmood c Brown b Franks	52	(9) c Read b Adams	19
M. T. Coles c Edwards b Sidebottom	6	(10) b Patel	28
A. Khan c Edwards b Franks	24	(11) b Patel	9
P. D. Edwards not out	6	(3) c Wagh b Sidebottom	13
B 1, 1-b 6, n-b 2	9	B 2, 1-b 9	11

1/4 (1) 2/13 (2) 3/33 (3) 4/44 (4) (62 overs) 200

5/58 (6) 6/100 (5) 7/140 (7) 8/151 (9)

9/168 (8) 10/200 (10)

1/41 (2) 2/45 (1) (65.4 overs) 224

3/66 (4) 4/70 (5)

5/72 (3) 6/125 (6) 7/125 (7)

8/163 (8) 9/194 (10) 10/224 (11)

Sidebottom 16–6–31–3; Fletcher 13–2–47–1; Adams 18–3–63–4; Franks 11–2–35–2; Patel 4–1–17–0. *Second Innings*—Sidebottom 14–6–35–1; Fletcher 15.2–8–43–3; Adams 18–1–78–3; Franks 11.4–4–33–0; Patel 6.4–1–24–3.

Umpires: R. K. Illingworth and P. Willey.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SOMERSET

At Nottingham, April 21–23. Nottinghamshire won by two wickets. Nottinghamshire 21pts, Somerset 5pts. Toss: Nottinghamshire.

A fast-moving game on a pitch that ensured a good contest between bat and ball came to a thrilling climax inside three days, with two of Nottinghamshire's Test stars Amla and Broad proving the difference between the sides. Broad, making a rare county appearance after requesting match practice ahead of the World Twenty20, was wayward on the first morning but on fire on the second day, when he grabbed five wickets in 27 balls to leave Somerset reeling at 43 for six in their second innings. Trescothick alone survived the Broadside, but perished two short of a hundred when he edged to first slip; he was helped in a partnership of 136 by Wright as Somerset's last five wickets easily outscored the top five for the second time in the match. Chasing a potentially tricky 250, Shafayat and Wagh shared an important stand of 125 before both fell at the same score. Unperturbed by regular wickets at the other end, Amla stayed put and, with the close approaching, upped the run-rate and sealed victory with a pull to the square-leg boundary in the extra half-hour. It was Amla's second diligent innings of a match in which Franks made an important all-round contribution.

Close of play: First day, Nottinghamshire 26-2 (Wagh 12, Amla 4); Second day, Somerset 120-6 (Trescothick 63, Wright 37).

Somerset

*M. E. Trescothick c Amla b Broad	22	– c Brown b Franks	98
A. V. Suppiah c Brown b Adams	10	– c Adams b Broad	11
N. R. D. Compton c Wagh b Fletcher	42	– c Read b Adams	1
J. C. Hildreth lbw b Fletcher	14	– lbw b Broad	0
Z. de Bruyn c Edwards b Franks	1	– c Adams b Broad	0
†C. Kieswetter c Read b Franks	1	– c Read b Broad	0
P. D. Trego c Read b Franks	66	– c Patel b Broad	3
D. G. Wright c Edwards b Broad	43	– b Fletcher	78
A. C. Thomas not out	40	– c Edwards b Franks	12
D. A. Stiff c Fletcher b Broad	14	– not out	5
C. M. Willoughby c Wagh b Adams	8	– b Franks	4
L-b 7, n-b 4	11	L-b 5, n-b 10	15

1/23 (2) 2/35 (1) 3/65 (4) 4/66 (5) (76.1 overs)	272	1/25 (2) 2/26 (3) (48.5 overs)	227
5/78 (6) 6/142 (3) 7/199 (7)		3/33 (4) 4/33 (5)	
8/220 (8) 9/254 (10) 10/272 (11)		5/33 (6) 6/43 (7) 7/179 (8)	
		8/216 (1) 9/223 (9) 10/227 (11)	

Broad 19–1–79–3; Fletcher 16–5–48–2; Adams 19.1–4–68–2; Franks 16–6–45–3; Patel 6–0–25–0. *Second Innings*—Broad 15–2–89–5; Fletcher 10–1–49–1; Adams 14–5–59–1; Franks 6.5–0–22–3; Patel 3–1–3–0.

Nottinghamshire

N. J. Edwards lbw b Willoughby	2	– c Trescothick b Willoughby	1
B. M. Shafayat c Trescothick b Thomas	1	– lbw b Wright	49
M. A. Wagh b Stiff	16	– c Wright b Trego	70
H. M. Amla c Kieswetter b Wright	58	– not out	64
S. R. Patel c Wright b Willoughby	33	– lbw b Thomas	10
A. D. Brown lbw b Thomas	2	– lbw b de Bruyn	16
*†C. M. W. Read lbw b Trego	29	– c Trescothick b Willoughby	0
P. J. Franks lbw b Willoughby	61	– c Kieswetter b Thomas	12
S. C. J. Broad c Hildreth b Willoughby	1	– c Suppiah b Willoughby	6
A. R. Adams b Wright	10	– not out	0
L. J. Fletcher not out	5		
B 4, l-b 14, w 2, n-b 12	32	L-b 6, w 4, n-b 12	22

1/2 (1) 2/4 (2) 3/56 (3) 4/121 (5) (87 overs)	250	1/2 (1) (8 wks, 71.5 overs)	250
5/124 (6) 6/129 (4) 7/231 (7)		2/127 (2) 3/127 (3)	
8/235 (9) 9/236 (8) 10/250 (10)		4/171 (5) 5/195 (6) 6/198 (7)	
		7/233 (8) 8/246 (9)	

Willoughby 23–8–40–4; Wright 19–10–41–2; Thomas 17–7–34–2; Stiff 12–1–52–1; Trego 7–2–22–1; de Bruyn 6–1–31–0; Suppiah 3–0–12–0. *Second Innings*—Willoughby 22–5–83–3; Thomas 15.5–3–54–2; Wright 10–1–30–1; Stiff 5–0–36–0; Trego 13–4–30–1; Suppiah 4–2–3–0; de Bruyn 2–0–8–1.

Umpires: T. E. Jesty and G. Sharp.

At Southampton, May 4–7. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE beat HAMPSHIRE by five wickets.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DURHAM

At Nottingham, May 10–13. Nottinghamshire won by an innings and 62 runs. Nottinghamshire 24pts, Durham 3pts. Toss: Nottinghamshire.

Remembering Durham's crushing victory in this fixture in 2009, locals were delighted to see the tables turned as the champions of the previous two years were put to the sword. It was their first Championship defeat in 24 games since August 2008, but Nottinghamshire's fourth straight win, their best start to a season since 1922. Durham were under pressure from the start. The top three departed inside 12 overs of a rain-interrupted first day, then three wickets in 16 balls just before lunch next day exposed the tail. Durham's bowling was less impressive: Steve Harmison looked laboured in his first Championship appearance of the season following a back strain. After Amla and Wagh blunted what little threat was posed by the bowling, Brown and Read put on 237, Nottinghamshire's second-highest seventh-wicket partnership as Durham – hit for 610 by Yorkshire in their previous match – conceded more than 500 for the second match running. Needing 341 to avoid the innings defeat, Durham slumped again: although left-hander Ben Stokes, three weeks short of his 19th birthday, became their second-youngest Championship centurion (behind Nicksy Peng in 2001) with a swashbuckling maiden hundred – he shot from 82 to 102 with four, six, six and four from successive balls from Patel – even he could not prevent a chastening defeat. It was a memorable match for Read: his catch to remove Ben Harmison was his 700th first-class dismissal, then his unbeaten century took him past 10,000 runs.

Close of play: First day, Durham 79-3 (Benkenstein 20, Blackwell 24); Second day, Nottinghamshire 191-3 (Wagh 44, Mullaney 4); Third day, Durham 88-4 (Rushworth 0, Blackwell 2).

Durham

M. J. Di Venuto c Patel b Pattinson	15	– (2) c Edwards b Pattinson	29
K. J. Coetzer c Franks b Shreck	3	– (1) lbw b Shreck	45
*W. R. Smith c Read b Shreck	10	– c Read b Mullaney	4
D. M. Benkenstein b Shreck	36	– c Edwards b Franks	8
I. D. Blackwell c Shafayat b Pattinson	43	– (6) c Shreck b Pattinson	15
B. A. Stokes st Read b Patel	32	– (7) c Mullaney b Franks	106
†P. Mustard c Read b Franks	31	– (8) st Read b Mullaney	23
B. W. Harmison c Read b Franks	14	– (9) b Pattinson	18
L. E. Plunkett c Shafayat b Patel	3	– (10) c Edwards b Franks	3
C. Rushworth c Edwards b Franks	9	– (5) c Read b Pattinson	6
S. J. Harmison not out	4	– not out	4
B 4, l-b 2, w 6, n-b 6	18	B 1, l-b 4, w 3, n-b 10	18

1/16 (2) 2/32 (1) 3/36 (3)	(67.4 overs) 218	1/49 (2) 2/69 (3)	(85 overs) 279
4/117 (5) 5/129 (4) 6/188 (6)		3/84 (4) 4/86 (1)	
7/188 (7) 8/191 (9) 9/205 (8) 10/218 (10)		5/104 (6) 6/109 (5) 7/179 (8)	
		8/266 (7) 9/269 (10) 10/279 (9)	

Pattinson 17–2–63–2; Shreck 23–6–73–3; Franks 15.4–4–38–3; Mullaney 5–1–21–0; Patel 7–3–17–2. *Second Innings*—Pattinson 21–3–95–4; Shreck 19–5–30–1; Franks 21–8–58–3; Mullaney 12–6–35–2; Patel 12–3–56–0.

Nottinghamshire

N. J. Edwards b Plunkett	33	P. J. Franks c Mustard b S. J. Harmison . . .	64
B. M. Shafayat lbw b Plunkett	16		
M. A. Wagh c Di Venuto b Rushworth	44	B 2, 1-b 22, w 11, n-b 14	49
H. M. Amla c Mustard b B. W. Harmison . .	67		
S. J. Mullaney c Di Venuto b Rushworth . .	24	1/34 (2) 2/91 (1) (8 wkts dec, 118 overs)	559
S. R. Patel lbw b Rushworth	4	3/179 (4) 4/191 (3)	
A. D. Brown c Mustard b Plunkett	134	5/199 (6) 6/226 (5)	
*†C. M. W. Read not out	124	7/463 (7) 8/559 (9)	110 overs: 492-7

D. J. Pattinson and C. E. Shreck did not bat.

S. J. Harmison 28–4–123–1; Rushworth 28–4–113–3; Plunkett 21–1–115–3; B. W. Harmison 19–1–86–1; Blackwell 16–5–39–0; Stokes 6–0–59–0.

Umpires: J. H. Evans and G. Sharp.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

At Nottingham, May 17–20. Hampshire won by two wickets. Hampshire 22pts, Nottinghamshire 5pts. Toss: Hampshire.

An exciting match saw fortunes sway to and fro before Hampshire finally clinched their first win of the season in any form of cricket, although all four results seemed possible late in the final session. On a pitch tinged with green, Nottinghamshire – without Amla (on tour with South Africa) and Wagh (sitting law exams) – were in deep trouble after losing four wickets in the first hour, before a recovery ensured a par total. Mullaney fell three short of a century, two weeks after his maiden Championship hundred against the same opposition at Southampton, while Franks passed 50 for the sixth time in eight first-class innings. Hampshire enjoyed similarly up-and-down fortunes on their way to a 35-run lead, with Jimmy Adams showing particular application for more than four hours. Hales, still only 21, finally replicated his one-day form with a superbly constructed maiden first-class hundred, reached with a six off Herath, which helped set a target of 281. With two down at lunch and four at tea, Hampshire looked marginal favourites, only for four more wickets to fall, three of them to the new ball. But there were still two Test players at the crease, in McKenzie and Herath, and the South African ended the match in fine style with seven balls to spare, three leg-side pick-ups off Andre Adams proving decisive.

Close of play: First day, Hampshire 23-1 (Adams 16, Tomlinson 1); Second day, Hampshire 305; Third day, Hampshire 7-0 (Adams 2, Dawson 5).

Nottinghamshire

N. J. Edwards c Pothas b Cork	4	– c Pothas b Ervine	23
B. M. Shafayat c Adams b Tomlinson	14	– c and b Tomlinson	14
A. D. Hales lbw b Tomlinson	0	– c Benham b Cork	136
S. R. Patel c Pothas b Cork	11	– c Pothas b Ervine	0
S. J. Mullaney c Pothas b Balcombe	97	– lbw b Cork	7
A. D. Brown lbw b Ervine	42	– lbw b Cork	15
*†C. M. W. Read c Pothas b Tomlinson	22	– b Balcombe	27
P. J. Franks not out	57	– c Pothas b Cork	45
A. R. Adams c Herath b Balcombe	8	– not out	26
D. J. Pattinson lbw b Tomlinson	8	– b Ervine	7
C. E. Shreck c Pothas b Tomlinson	0	– c Vince b Ervine	0
B 1, 1-b 2, n-b 4	7	L-b 11, w 2, n-b 2	15

1/5 (1) 2/6 (3) 3/19 (4) 4/29 (2)	(85 overs) 270	1/25 (2) 2/55 (1)	(92 overs) 315
5/107 (6) 6/147 (7) 7/226 (5) 8/238 (9)		3/59 (4) 4/79 (5)	
9/270 (10) 10/270 (11)		5/125 (6) 6/220 (7) 7/264 (3)	
		8/293 (8) 9/315 (10) 10/315 (11)	

Tomlinson 25–7–66–5; Cork 13–2–43–2; Balcombe 17–1–92–2; Ervine 15–4–47–1; Herath 15–5–19–0. *Second Innings*—Tomlinson 23–6–90–1; Cork 23–2–85–4; Ervine 15–2–31–4; Balcombe 18–1–60–1; Herath 13–3–38–0.

Hampshire

J. H. K. Adams c Read b Franks	96	- c Read b Adams	21
L. A. Dawson c Read b Pattinson	4	- c Brown b Franks	21
J. A. Tomlinson c Read b Pattinson	5		
C. C. Benham b Shreck	38	-(3) b Adams	45
N. D. McKenzie lbw b Pattinson	55	-(4) not out	115
J. M. Vince c Mullaney b Franks	0	-(5) c Read b Franks	8
*†N. Pothas lbw b Adams	22	- c Edwards b Pattinson	17
S. M. Ervine not out	31	-(6) lbw b Patel	26
D. G. Cork c Read b Adams	11	-(8) c Hales b Adams	1
D. J. Balcombe b Adams	4	-(9) lbw b Pattinson	10
H. M. R. K. B. Herath c Brown b Adams	1	-(10) not out	6
B 13, 1-b 14, w 1, n-b 10	38	B 4, 1-b 6, w 1	11
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1/21 (2) 2/39 (3) 3/154 (4)	(104.5 overs)	305	1/42 (1) (8 wkts, 97.5 overs) 281
4/168 (1) 5/168 (6) 6/242 (5)			2/52 (2) 3/127 (3)
7/249 (7) 8/277 (9) 9/293 (10) 10/305 (11)			4/138 (5) 5/182 (6)
			6/213 (7) 7/214 (8) 8/225 (9)

Pattinson 24–7–58–3; Shreck 26–9–70–1; Adams 25.5–8–56–4; Franks 20–5–57–2; Mullaney 5–1–15–0; Patel 4–1–22–0. *Second Innings*—Pattinson 21–4–51–2; Shreck 16–6–38–0; Adams 29.5–5–118–3; Franks 16–3–41–2; Patel 15–7–23–1.

Umpires: B. Dudleston and J. F. Steele.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v ESSEX

At Nottingham, May 29–June 1. Drawn. Nottinghamshire 7pts, Essex 9pts. Toss: Nottinghamshire.

For the first time all season in the Championship, Nottinghamshire found themselves on the back foot throughout as Essex – who had previously been struggling – produced a disciplined performance with bat and ball, only to be left frustrated by persistent rain on the final day. Just 17 overs were possible on day one and, with conditions assisting the seamers, Essex had every reason to be pleased with their first-innings total. While the top order struggled, skipper Pettini, who dropped himself to No. 7, added 103 with Foster for the sixth wicket and 80 for the eighth with Masters before, with the last man in, he perished just short of his first Championship hundred for almost a year, trying for a second straight six off Mullaney. Nottinghamshire were in some disarray at 88 for six before Mullaney followed his career-best bowling figures with a century partnership alongside Read as the bowlers pitched too short, but the constant menace of Masters eventually earned Essex a lead of 112. Bopara's half-century further strengthened their position, but the weather had the final say.

Close of play: First day, Essex 61-2 (Bopara 13, Walker 2); Second day, Nottinghamshire 33-2 (Edwards 9, Wagh 0); Third day, Essex 152-2 (Bopara 57, Walker 46).

Essex

T. Westley c Read b Pattinson	17	- c Edwards b Adams	23
J. C. Mickleburgh lbw b Adams	10	- lbw b Franks	25
R. S. Bopara lbw b Sidebottom	22	- not out	57
M. J. Walker lbw b Pattinson	6	- not out	46
R. N. ten Doeschate lbw b Franks	26		
†J. S. Foster c Edwards b Adams	59		
*M. L. Pettini c Read b Mullaney	96		
G. R. Napier lbw b Mullaney	12		
D. D. Masters c Patel b Mullaney	32		
C. J. C. Wright c Read b Mullaney	0		
M. A. Chambers not out	1		
B 4, 1-b 32, n-b 12	48	L-b 1	1
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1/27 (1) 2/57 (2) 3/74 (4)	(102.5 overs)	329	1/36 (1) (2 wkts, 43 overs) 152
4/76 (3) 5/118 (5) 6/221 (6) 7/240 (8)			2/70 (2)
8/320 (9) 9/322 (10) 10/329 (7)			

Sidebottom 22-4-49-1; Pattinson 22-2-60-2; Adams 24-6-82-2; Franks 17-6-45-1; Patel 4-0-26-0; Mullaney 13,5-5-31-4. *Second Innings*—Sidebottom 5-1-24-0; Pattinson 10-1-33-0; Adams 9-2-34-1; Franks 8-1-13-1; Patel 8-0-30-0; Mullaney 3-0-17-0.

Nottinghamshire

A. D. Hales c and b Masters	6	P. J. Franks c ten Doeschate b Masters	23
N. J. Edwards c and b Chambers	30	A. R. Adams c and b Napier	1
D. J. Pattinson c Walker b Masters	2	R. J. Sidebottom not out	0
M. A. Wagh b Chambers	10	B 4, 1-b 6, n-b 18	28
S. R. Patel c Walker b Wright	12		
S. J. Mullaney c Pettini b Chambers	53	1/14 (1) 2/32 (3) 3/65 (4) (58.4 overs)	217
A. D. Brown lbw b ten Doeschate	0	4/84 (5) 5/84 (2) 6/88 (7)	
*C. M. W. Read c Foster b Masters	52	7/189 (6) 8/193 (8) 9/202 (10) 10/217 (9)	

Masters 16.4-6-48-4; Chambers 15-3-63-3; Napier 14-3-47-1; Wright 12-1-44-1; ten Doeschate 1-0-5-1.

Umpires: P. J. Hartley and V. A. Holder.

At Tunbridge Wells, June 4-7. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE drew with KENT.

At Chelmsford, July 5-7. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE lost to ESSEX by 143 runs.

At Birmingham, July 20-22. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE beat WARWICKSHIRE by ten wickets. *Stuart Broad takes the first seven wickets as Warwickshire slip to 33 for seven in their second innings.*

At Taunton, July 29-31. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE lost to SOMERSET by ten wickets.

At Leeds, August 3-6. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE drew with YORKSHIRE. *David Hussey scores 251 not out.*

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

At Nottingham, August 16-17. Nottinghamshire won by an innings and 55 runs. Nottinghamshire 22pts, Warwickshire 3pts. Toss: Nottinghamshire.

If the idea of two-division cricket was to improve standards, this fixture suggested it was failing. Nottinghamshire's total in their first home Championship match for 11 weeks was little more than solid – and helped by four dropped catches – but Warwickshire's batting on the second day, when they lost all 20 wickets, was simply shambolic. In the face of accurate seam bowling, their batsmen didn't know whether to defend and wait for the storm to pass, or counter-attack and put the pressure back on the bowlers. Adams bowled 52 deliveries and took three wickets before conceding a run from the bat, finishing with four for 14, while Franks also sent down six consecutive maidens. Asked to follow on before tea, Warwickshire made a better start, reaching 48 in 17 overs before Westwood was bowled by the irrepressible Adams. But the last nine wickets then tumbled for 65, with Sidebottom collecting his best county figures for four years. A thoroughly bad day was worst of all for Javid, twice bowled playing no shot, and Ambrose, whose nightmare season reached its nadir with a pair inside two sessions as Nottinghamshire won inside the extra half-hour.

Close of play: First day, Warwickshire 13-0 (Westwood 10, Chopra 3).

Nottinghamshire

A. D. Hales c Ambrose b Rankin	9	A. R. Adams b Clarke	6
M. J. Wood c Ambrose b Woakes	15	R. J. Sidebottom not out	18
M. A. Wagh c Maddy b Woakes	54	D. J. Pattinson c Maddy b Rankin	6
S. R. Patel c Javid b Maddy	34	L-b 8, n-b 8	16
D. J. Hussey b Woakes	32		
A. D. Brown c Chopra b Rankin	76	1/19 (1) 2/45 (2) 3/105 (4) (87.5 overs)	328
*†C. M. W. Read b Maddy	45	4/146 (5) 5/165 (3) 6/248 (7)	
P. J. Franks lbw b Imran Tahir	17	7/279 (8) 8/292 (9) 9/322 (6) 10/328 (11)	

Woakes 18–4–59–3; Rankin 14.5–0–66–3; Barker 9–1–35–0; Clarke 11–1–53–1; Maddy 17–3–52–2; Imran Tahir 18–1–55–1.

Warwickshire

*I. J. Westwood c Read b Sidebottom	19	b Adams	14
V. Chopra lbw b Adams	15	b Sidebottom	54
D. L. Maddy c Hales b Adams	8	c Wood b Adams	11
J. O. Troughton lbw b Adams	0	c Read b Sidebottom	13
R. Clarke c Read b Franks	15	b Sidebottom	4
A. Javid b Franks	5	b Adams	1
†T. R. Ambrose c Adams b Sidebottom	0	lbw b Sidebottom	0
K. H. D. Barker c Hussey b Sidebottom	4	c Read b Sidebottom	10
C. R. Woakes not out	19	c Hussey b Franks	20
Imran Tahir c Adams b Franks	1	b Franks	11
W. B. Rankin c Sidebottom b Adams	13	not out	0
B 13, 1-b 7, n-b 2	22	L-b 10, n-b 4	14

1/32 (1) 2/53 (3) 3/53 (4) 4/58 (2) (54.1 overs) 121 1/48 (1) 2/87 (3) (52 overs) 152
5/83 (5) 6/84 (6) 7/86 (7) 8/97 (8) 3/91 (2) 4/95 (5)
9/98 (10) 10/121 (11) 5/108 (4) 6/108 (7) 7/118 (6)
8/122 (8) 9/151 (10) 10/152 (9)

Sidebottom 18–5–37–3; Pattinson 12–3–35–0; Adams 13.1–9–14–4; Franks 11–6–15–3. *Second Innings*—Sidebottom 16–4–35–5; Pattinson 5–1–34–0; Adams 16–7–37–3; Patel 4–2–16–0; Franks 11–3–20–2.

Umpires: N. L. Bainton and R. A. Kettleborough.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

At Nottingham, August 24–27. Nottinghamshire won by three wickets. Nottinghamshire 20pts, Lancashire 4pts. Toss: Lancashire.

A match which seemed destined for a draw after rain washed out four sessions ended up as an unexpected Nottinghamshire victory, to provide crucial impetus as the title race entered the home straight. Given the situation late on the first day, it was all the more unlikely: Lancashire's top four had all scored half-centuries, but Chanderpaul's dismissal precipitated a collapse, the last eight wickets falling for the addition of 39 runs in 16 overs, with Adams claiming his best county figures. Nottinghamshire were then in trouble themselves at 37 for three, but the back-up bowlers failed to maintain the pressure before rain arrived at tea. The third day was washed out completely, and a sleepy accumulation of bonus points seemed inevitable. Instead Chapple, keen to stay in the title hunt himself, offered generous terms for a run-chase: two declarations and some part-time bowling set up a target of 260 in 64 overs. Nottinghamshire wobbled again early on, but Patel and Brown counter-attacked while Hales produced another well-judged innings. He fell just short of three figures for the second time that day, and later Brown and Franks departed to successive balls, but Mullaney and Adams completed the job with almost nine overs to spare as Nottinghamshire stretched their Championship lead to 16 points.

Close of play: First day, Lancashire 303-6 (Chilton 61, Sutton 5); Second day, Nottinghamshire 178-4 (Hales 87, Read 35); Third day, No play.

Lancashire

P. J. Horton lbw b Adams	51	– (2) b Mullaney	4
T. C. Smith c Hales b Sidebottom	61	– (1) not out	76
M. J. Chilton lbw b Sidebottom	67	– not out	49
S. Chanderpaul lbw b Sidebottom	92		
S. J. Croft c Adams b Sidebottom	9		
G. Keedy lbw b Adams	4		
G. D. Cross c Hales b Adams	0		
†L. D. Sutton c Patel b Adams	11		
S. I. Mahmood lbw b Adams	4		
*G. Chapple not out	0		
K. W. Hogg c Read b Adams	0		
B 4, 1-b 7, w 3, n-b 6	20	L-b 2, w 10, n-b 2	14

1/87 (1) 2/129 (2) 3/280 (4) (100 overs) 319 1/4 (2) (1 wkt dec, 24 overs) 143
 4/292 (5) 5/297 (6) 6/297 (7)
 7/311 (8) 8/319 (3) 9/319 (9) 10/319 (11)

Sidebottom 26–7–79–4; Pattinson 15–3–61–0; Adams 26–6–79–6; Franks 17–4–40–0; Mullaney 8–2–16–0; Patel 8–1–33–0. *Second Innings*—Pattinson 3–1–11–0; Mullaney 8–0–45–1; Hales 5–1–21–0; Brown 7–0–53–0; Wood 1–0–11–0.

Nottinghamshire

A. D. Hales c Sutton b Hogg	98	– c Sutton b Keedy	93
M. J. Wood c Sutton b Chapple	0	– c Cross b Mahmood	2
M. A. Wagh c Smith b Mahmood	6	– c Smith b Chapple	3
S. R. Patel c Sutton b Hogg	10	– b Mahmood	37
A. D. Brown lbw b Mahmood	28	– c Smith b Hogg	65
*†C. M. W. Read not out	49	– c Croft b Keedy	2
S. J. Mullaney not out	0	– not out	34
P. J. Franks (did not bat)		– c Horton b Hogg	0
A. R. Adams (did not bat)		– not out	8
B 1, 1-b 3, n-b 8	12	B 4, 1-b 5, w 2, n-b 6	17

1/1 (2) 2/14 (3) (5 wks dec, 58.1 overs) 203 1/20 (2) (7 wks, 55.2 overs) 261
 3/37 (4) 4/94 (5) 5/199 (1)
 2/23 (3) 3/109 (4) 4/193 (1)
 5/199 (6) 6/252 (5) 7/252 (8)

R. J. Sidebottom and D. J. Pattinson did not bat.

Chapple 13–3–41–1; Mahmood 15–4–43–2; Hogg 12–2–47–2; Smith 13–1–49–0; Keedy 5.1–1–19–0. *Second Innings*—Chapple 17.2–4–67–1; Mahmood 16–1–77–2; Smith 5–0–31–0; Hogg 3–0–20–2; Keedy 14–0–57–2.

Umpires: M. J. D. Bodenham and M. A. Gough.

At Chester-le-Street, August 31–September 3. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE lost to DURHAM by 210 runs.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

At Nottingham, September 7–9. Yorkshire won by five wickets. Yorkshire 21pts, Nottinghamshire 3pts. Toss: Yorkshire. Championship debut: M. A. Ashraf.

Not for the first time in recent years, Nottinghamshire appeared to choke with a major trophy almost in their grasp. Conditions were extremely helpful to seam bowling on the first day, but to be bowled out for 59 – their lowest total for 22 years – left them with too big a mountain to climb. The highlight for Yorkshire was their Academy graduate Moin Ashraf, making his Championship debut at 18, who produced two perfect away-swingers to knock back Voges's off stump and have Patel caught behind. Gale then batted superbly for his third century of the season, but the rest of the

batsmen were unable to cope with Adams, who claimed his third five-for in consecutive matches. Still, Yorkshire were 201 ahead by the end of the first day, and Gale admitted: "It wasn't a great pitch in the morning, it went around a bit. But it did get a bit better as the day went on." Next day the promoted Franks combined with Hales for Nottinghamshire's highest opening stand of the summer so far, and some handy contributions down the order left Yorkshire chasing 209 on the third day. Lyth and Rudolph hit 65 off the first 12 overs and, although Pattinson took three wickets in three fiery overs after a shower, the ice-cool Bairstow – whose 51-ball innings featured 12 fours – helped Yorkshire close the gap at the top of the table to just seven points.

Close of play: First day, Yorkshire 260-8 (Gale 147, Hannon-Dalby 0); Second day, Nottinghamshire 357-6 (Read 24, Pattinson 20).

Nottinghamshire

A. D. Hales c Rashid b Shahzad	3	–	c Brophy b Ashraf	24
P. J. Franks c Bairstow b Shahzad	0	–	c Rudolph b Rashid	79
M. A. Wagh c Rudolph b Shahzad	22	–	c sub (R. M. Pyrah) b Rashid	90
A. C. Voges b Ashraf	8	–	c Brophy b Hannon-Dalby	72
S. R. Patel c Brophy b Ashraf	0	–	c Bairstow b Shahzad	4
A. D. Brown lbw b Hannon-Dalby	16	–	c Brophy b Shahzad	4
*†C. M. W. Read lbw b Hannon-Dalby	0	–	b Shahzad	47
S. J. Mullaney lbw b Hannon-Dalby	0	–	(9) b Patterson	15
A. R. Adams c Lyth b Shahzad	3	–	(10) not out	0
L. J. Fletcher not out	6	–	(11) b Shahzad	8
D. J. Pattinson c Brophy b Hannon-Dalby	0	–	(8) lbw b Patterson	27
L-b 1	1		B 16, l-b 27	43

1/1 (2) 2/4 (1) 3/18 (4) 4/18 (5)	(33.2 overs)	59	1/56 (1) 2/187 (2)	(102 overs)	413
5/41 (6) 6/47 (7) 7/47 (8) 8/49 (3)			3/278 (3) 4/283 (5)		
9/52 (9) 10/59 (11)			5/291 (6) 6/329 (4) 7/373 (8)		
			8/405 (9) 9/405 (7) 10/405 (11)		

Shahzad 11-4-21-4; Patterson 7-2-8-0; Ashraf 6-4-11-2; Hannon-Dalby 9.2-4-18-4. *Second Innings*—Shahzad 29-6-100-4; Patterson 21-2-83-2; Hannon-Dalby 18-2-71-1; Ashraf 14-1-50-1; Rashid 17-4-48-2; McGrath 3-0-18-0.

Yorkshire

A. Lyth c Voges b Adams	19	–	c Hales b Pattinson	45
J. A. Rudolph c Brown b Adams	10	–	c Brown b Pattinson	29
A. McGrath c Adams b Franks	10	–	c Read b Pattinson	4
*A. W. Gale not out	151	–	b Adams	5
J. M. Bairstow lbw b Adams	36	–	not out	63
†G. L. Brophy b Adams	5	–	c Hales b Adams	41
A. U. Rashid c Fletcher b Patel	11	–	not out	9
A. Shahzad c Read b Franks	7			
S. A. Patterson c Read b Franks	0			
O. J. Hannon-Dalby lbw b Adams	0			
M. A. Ashraf c Patel b Adams	0			
L-b 8, w 1, n-b 6	15		B 1, l-b 10, n-b 2	13

1/30 (2) 2/31 (1) 3/60 (3)	(62.1 overs)	264	1/70 (2)	(5 wkts, 42.3 overs)	209
4/171 (5) 5/195 (6) 6/228 (7) 7/251 (8)			2/78 (3) 3/91 (1)		
8/251 (9) 9/260 (10) 10/264 (11)			4/95 (4) 5/192 (6)		

Fletcher 8-0-39-0; Pattinson 10-2-58-0; Adams 20.1-3-82-6; Franks 15-3-58-3; Patel 9-1-19-1. *Second Innings*—Fletcher 5-0-23-0; Pattinson 13-2-67-3; Adams 16-0-77-2; Franks 3-0-23-0; Patel 5.3-2-8-0.

Umpires: M. A. Gough and R. T. Robinson.

At Manchester, September 13–16. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE drew with LANCASHIRE. *Nottinghamshire clinch the Championship title at the last gasp after a rain-affected finale.*