

COUNTY CRICKET

Selectors spared a dilemma

Morris so close to 1000 runs

Hugh Morris is poised to become the first England qualified player to win the race to 1,000 runs since Chris Smith in 1985.

The Glamorgan opener is 90 runs short of the magic four figure mark and will be hoping to reach the target in the three day Britannic Assurance Championship match against Middlesex at Cardiff, which starts tomorrow.

Closest to the man who currently tops the national averages with 82.72 is Smith himself. The Hampshire and England batsman, who launched his career at Glamorgan, is 38 runs behind Morris, with Essex's Salim Malik next in line another 30 runs behind.

In the last 11 seasons, only three England qualified players have won the race to 1,000 runs — current Test captain Graham Gooch in 1980, Mike Gatting in 1982 and Smith in 1985.

Morris will also be eyeing another landmark as he attempts to break the Glamorgan record for the quickest 1,000 runs for the county in a season.

That record is held by former Test player Gilbert Parkhouse, who reached four figures on June 17 in both 1950 and 1959.

As far as Glamorgan are concerned, Morris needs to score 134 more runs by Monday to match Parkhouse as 44 of his first-class tally to date this summer came when he led MCC against Middlesex.

If he could get those runs in one innings, he would also match the record of Majid Khan of reaching his 1,000 for the county in 15 innings.

Morris is well ahead of his record breaking schedule of last year when he had to wait until July 24, and his 26th first-class innings, to reach 1,000. After that, he flourished and went on to amass a county record 2,276 runs.

● Nottinghamshire welcome back England A team paceman Andy Pick for their Britannic Assurance championship match against Gloucestershire at Gloucester tomorrow.

Pick has recovered from a back muscle injury after resting for a fortnight and missing one championship match.

Ian Botham has spared England's selectors the painful task of axing one of their Headingley heroes.

By admitting last night that he is still not fully fit — despite producing a man-of-the-match performance in the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final at Chelmsford — Botham ruled himself out of next Thursday's second Test.

With the 35-year-old all-rounder no longer a contender for Lord's, England seem certain to name an unchanged squad, a fitting enough reward following the historic victory over the West Indies.

Manager Micky Stewart must have been impressed yesterday as Botham ended any hope of an Essex fightback by exploiting helpful conditions to capture three wickets for just 11 runs from 11 overs.

But Worcestershire's trump card then advised England's boss against picking him at tonight's selection meeting because the hamstring injury he sustained nearly three weeks ago is still not completely better.

"I'm only about 75 per cent fit and there's no way I can play for Worcestershire this weekend," admitted Botham. "In all honesty I can't say I'll be ready for a five-day game by Thursday."

Doubt

"Micky and I have discussed the situation and we've come to the same conclusion. It's frustrating but I'll have to be patient."

Had Botham — whose hamstring was torn during the first Texaco Trophy international at Edgbaston — declared himself fit, there seems little doubt he would have made the squad, probably at Steve Watkins's expense.

Watkins was the first to admit he did not bowl anywhere near his best at Headingley, but he still

Botham saves blushes

picked up five wickets.

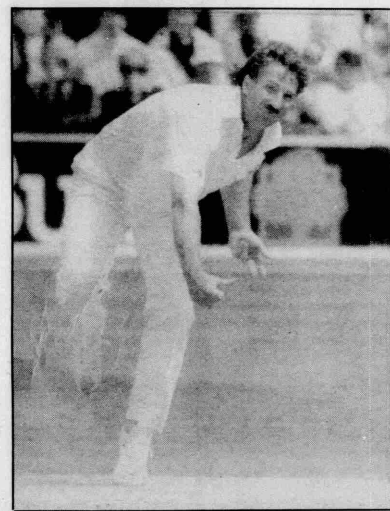
The only decision needing to be made is whether to stick with Worcestershire spinner Richard Illingworth — 12th man in Leeds — or call up fellow left-armers Phil Tufnell?

Any hope Worcestershire's candidate had of strengthening his case yesterday disappeared on a Chelmsford pitch which was tailor-made for seam bowling before lunch.

Illingworth watched as Graham Dilley dismissed Graham Gooch and Salim Malik before Botham weighed in to send Essex crashing to 104 all out.

Worcestershire then booked a return trip to Lord's. Tom Moody led them to a nine-wicket win with 72 not out.

Probable Test squad: Gooch, Atherton, Hick, Lamb, Ramprakash, R. Smith, Pringle, Russell, DeFreitas, Illingworth, Malcolm, Watkins.



● Hamstring . . . Ian Botham yesterday.

Sam: why I am going

From back page

I speak from experience. Burton Albion can progress further — despite all the odds — but it needs the goodwill of everyone to achieve it.

I wish all at Burton Albion and its supporters the very best for the future. A part of me will be at Eton Park forever. It's a great club; it is good for the town; so please support it through thick and thin.

Judged

I think back to the clearing of the huge debts, the vast improvements made to the ground, the excellent commercial base achieved, Wembley, West Brom, Maine Road, Molineux and the, hopefully five years' consecutive profits. On that record — despite the recession and ground-grading problems — I am happy to be judged.

Burton Albion Football Club is still there — and in pretty good fettle!

Good luck to you Burton Albion! You deserve it. It has been a privilege and honour to serve you, despite the countless sleepless nights along the way!

Survival

The new chairman of the board will be announced within the next week or so. Please give him your support in any way you can; believe me, that can make the task of running the club much easier.

The next few years are going to be critical for the survival of non league clubs. Burton Albion among them, and they will need all the support — both moral and financial — that they can get.

Don't moan; don't criticise; roll up your sleeves and help instead. Fail to do that and you place your club in great peril.

Sam Brassington.

Faulkner leaves Luton

Luton's first team coach John Faulkner has left the club following new manager David Pleat's decision to bring in Colin Murphy as his assistant.

Faulkner, 43, played for Luton in the 1970s and returned to Kenilworth Road as youth team coach seven years ago during Pleat's first spell as Luton manager.

He stepped up to be first team coach when Jim Ryan became manager 18 months ago.

Hammers win it with a rush job

On a wet and soggy day for cricket two clubs still managed to complete their matches and earn themselves valuable points.

HAMMERWICH were able to extend their lead still further on Saturday by bowling out **SWADLINCOTE** in only 19 overs with Phil Russell being destroyer-in-chief with seven wickets for 14.

Seven of Swadlincote's men went for ducks but Kevin Gardner battled almost alone as he carried his bat through the innings for a brave 12 not out.

Hammerwich, with an eye on the approaching clouds, knocked off the runs in only eight overs, although they lost two men (and a point) in doing so.

A match reduced to 40 overs a side saw **NETHERSEAL ST PETERS** produce a fine team batting effort, with opener Peter Sturgess top-scoring with 32 including two sixes and four fours. **RAWDON'S** best bowler was the accurate Ball who claimed four for 38 runs.

Collapse

Rawdon had no answer to the bowling of Dave Hall who took the first seven wickets to fall at a cost of only seven runs in an inspired ten-over spell with the aid of some outstanding

Albion Maltsters 2nd Division

catching. Netherseal won by 117 runs and thus earned maximum points from the rain-affected day.

The other three matches were all abandoned during the first innings and the teams concerned thus took three points apiece.

HILTON had started well against **KINGS BROMLEY** with an opening stand of 63 from Bob Barber and Pete Laban before they suffered one of their familiar collapses. They were saved from any further disaster by the arrival of the rain with their score on 117 for six.

TRENTSIDE visited **BRACKENSFIELD** and managed to complete their innings before the match was abandoned. Their total of 143 was due chiefly to Martin Stakes who scored 69 and shared in a seventh wicket stand of 54 with Geoff Gazzard.

The rain reached **DRAYCOTT** and **HANBURY** earlier than most places in the league's area, and their match with Elford was called off after 29 overs in which the home side had scored 91 for six.

ALBREW DIV 2 SCOREBOARDS

Hammerwich v Swadlincote

| | |
|--|---|
| K Gardner not out.....12 | Extras.....26 |
| S Newton c Wainwright b Russell.....0 | Total.....(9 wks) 166 |
| M Amos b Russell.....0 | Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-57, 3-68, |
| M Lunn lbw Owen.....0 | 4-101, 5-111, 6-128, 7-140, 8-146, 9-166. |
| G Newbold c Elliott b Owen.....0 | Bowling: I Hextall 13-2-49-2, R |
| S Metcalf b Russell.....0 | Faulkner 6-1-18-0, S Ball 13-5-38-4, D |
| D Taylor c Cuts b Owen.....1 | Bennett 3-0-28-2, D Hewitt 4-0-27-1 |
| I Brotherhood c French b Russell.....0 | RAWDON |
| D Witham b Russell.....2 | D Clamp lbw D Hall.....6 |
| T Heath b Russell.....7 | A Wood c J Walton b D Hall.....4 |
| D Lunn b Russell.....0 | D Bennett c C Whetton b D Hall.....0 |
| Extras.....6 | D Ball c M Sturgess b D Hall.....1 |
| Total.....30 | I Hextall c G Brown b D Hall.....6 |
| Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-3, 3-7, 4-7, | R Faulkner c C Whetton b D Hall.....6 |
| 5-8, 6-12, 7-13, 8-18, 9-30, 10-30. | D Orpwood b D Hall.....16 |
| Bowling: P Russell 9.2-1-14-7, A | D Hewitt b C Sturgess.....1 |
| Owen 9-1-0-3, N Cuts 1-1-0-0 | S Ball b C Sturgess.....4 |

Hammerwich

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| P Russell lbw Witham.....9 | Extras.....2 |
| N Smytheman lbw Witham.....5 | Total.....(2 wks) 32 |
| B Hurcombe not out.....8 | Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-22, |
| P Elwell not out.....8 | Bowling: D Witham 4-1-0-18-2, T |
| Extras.....2 | Heath 4-0-14-0 |
| Total.....(2 wks) 32 | Hammerwich won by 8 wks. |

Netherseal SP v Rawdon

| | |
|--|--|
| P Sturgess c D Clamp b S Ball.....32 | Extras.....10 |
| C Whetton c A Wood b I Hextall.....18 | Total.....(6 wks) 117 |
| G Smith b I Hextall.....5 | Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-69, 3-80, |
| J Walton c A Wood b A Bennett.....18 | 4-86, 5-89, 6-113. |
| L Waring c D Hewitt b D Bennett.....14 | Bowling: Oakley 8-0-26-0, B Porter |
| M Sturgess b S Ball b I Hextall.....13 | 5-0-17-0, H Baker 12-3-40-3, T Watkins |
| C Sturgess c S Ball b D Hewitt.....8 | 10-0-25-2 |
| J Smith c D Clamp b S Ball.....18 | Match abandoned 3pts each. |
| S Sturgess c D Orpwood b S Ball.....13 | |
| G Brown not out.....13 | |
| D Hall not out.....0 | |

Brackensfield v Trentside

| | |
|--|--|
| M Stakes c D Rout b R Measures.....69 | Extras.....11 |
| I Morgan c J Reynolds b S Fleming.....19 | Total.....(43) |
| C Wood run out.....0 | Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-41, 3-45, |
| T Cooke b M Wallis.....3 | 4-50, 5-53, 6-74, 7-128, 8-128, 9-140, |
| C Williams b S Fleming.....1 | 10-143. |
| A George lbw M Wallis.....0 | Bowling: S Fleming 17-3-44-2, R |
| P McCloy b J Reynolds.....8 | Measures 15-2-55-3, M Ball 6-3-2-10-3, |
| G Gazzard not out.....29 | J Reynolds 6-0-28-1 |
| M Stubbs b R Measures.....0 | Match abandoned 3pts each. |
| S Remington b R Measures.....3 | |
| M Upchurch b M Wallis.....0 | |
| Extras.....11 | |
| Total.....(43) | |

Hilton v Kings Bromley

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| R Barber b Baker.....31 | Extras.....2 |
| P Laban c McKenzie b Watkins.....31 | Total.....(6 wks) 91 |
| A Barber c Oakley b Baker.....18 | Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-29, 3-29, |
| D Holloway run out.....3 | 4-45, 5-45, 6-57. |
| P Daffern b Baker.....4 | Bowling: B Woodall 12-5-24-3, M |
| P Slaney c McKenzie b Watkins.....16 | Drabble 8-1-31-1, R Wain 6-1-16-2, M |
| P Bingham not out.....0 | Heathfield 3-1-8-0 |
| A Sellers not out.....2 | Match abandoned 3pts each. |
| Extras.....10 | |
| Total.....(6 wks) 117 | |

Draycott Han v Elford

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| P Walker b.....2 | Extras.....2 |
| V Taylor b.....21 | Total.....(6 wks) 91 |
| S Carpenter c D Wain.....1 | Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-29, 3-29, |
| C Flack c Woodall.....5 | 4-45, 5-45, 6-57. |
| C Wallace c D Wain.....11 | Bowling: B Woodall 12-5-24-3, M |
| M Manners not out.....22 | Drabble 8-1-31-1, R Wain 6-1-16-2, M |
| P Stubbs c M Storey.....17 | Heathfield 3-1-8-0 |
| G Dodd not out.....0 | Match abandoned 3pts each. |
| Extras.....2 | |
| Total.....(6 wks) 91 | |