

Luton United Cricket Club 1972 - 1986



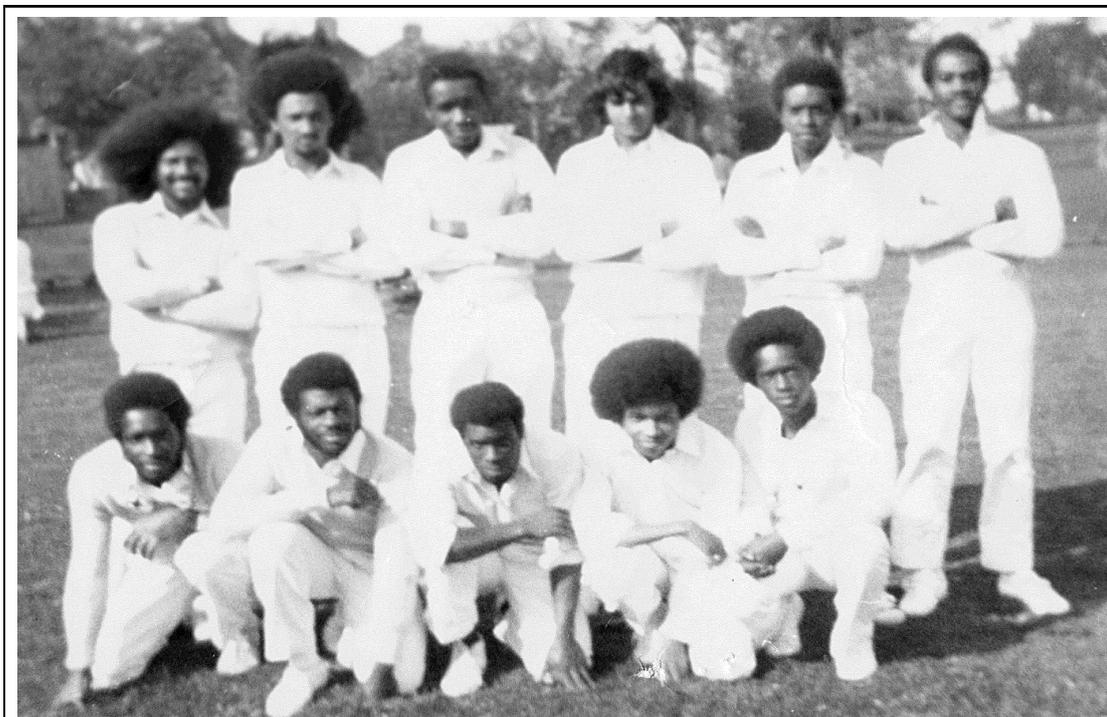
Luton United Club Members

Ossie Clarke <i>(all-rounder)</i>	Jamaica	
Noel Abbey <i>(batsman)</i>	St.Vincent	
Andrew Antrobus <i>(batsman)</i>	St.Vincent	
Gerald Michael <i>(all-rounder)</i>	Dominica	
Terry Gooding <i>(all-rounder)</i>	St.Vincent	
Utel Burgess <i>(all-rounder)</i>	Jamaica	
Elliston Abraham <i>(bowler fast)</i>	St.Vincent	
Trevor Prescott <i>(all-rounder)</i>	Barbados	
George Hunter <i>(spinner o/b)</i>	Jamaica	
Silburn Stevenson <i>(spinner l/b)</i>	Jamaica	
Ramond Larmond <i>(all-rounder)</i>	Jamaica	
Michael Prescott <i>(bowler med)</i>	Barbados	
David Borris <i>(Trini) (wkt)</i>	Trinidad	
Norman Robinson <i>(fast bowler)</i>	Jamaica	
Jerry Williams <i>(all rounder)</i>	Jamaica	
Ossie Jackson <i>(batsman)</i>	St.Vincent	
Albert Hunter <i>(batsman)</i>	Jamaica	
Cleo Burrows <i>(batsman)</i>	Barbados	
Frank Mingo <i>(batsman)</i>	St.Vincent	

Venol John <i>(all-rounder)</i>	Jamaica	
Cleo Burrows <i>(batsman)</i>	Barbados	
Evans Clarke <i>(batsman)</i>	Jamaica	
Alford Jackson <i>(all-rounder)</i>	St.Vincent	
Harry Lloyd	Jamaica	
Dipak Parsooth <i>(all-rounder)</i>	India	
Linden Brown <i>(bowler med)</i>	Barbados	
Eric (bushy) <i>(batsman)</i>	Jamaica	
Ian Burke <i>(batsman)</i>	St.Vincent	
Reg Patel <i>(batsman)</i>	India	
Charles Paris <i>(bowler l/b)</i>	India	
Van Clarke <i>(batsman)</i>	Jamaica	
Lesroy Davis <i>(all-rounder)</i>	St.Vincent	
B Brooks <i>(bowler)</i>	Jamaica	
Horace Manning <i>(all-rounder)</i>	Jamaica	
Steve Clouden <i>(batsman)</i>	St.Vincent	
Garnet Stevenson <i>(batsman)</i>	Jamaica	
Clubert Hendrickson <i>(all-rounder)</i>	St.Kitts	

Luton United Cricket Club 1974

Early Luton United Team Photos



Back Row: Eric , Silburn Stevenson, Trevor Prescott, Utel Burgess, Harry Lloyd, Noel Abbey
Front Row: Eli Abraham, George Hunter, David Borris, Raymond Larmond, Terry Gooding



Back Row: Harry Lloyd, Trevor Prescott, Raymond Larmond, Dipak Parsooth, Utel Burgess, Garnet Stevenson,
Front Row: Noel Abbey, Terry Gooding, Eli Abraham, George Hunter, Ustosh Fahye

Luton United Cricket Club 1976

Clarke Ends Park's Oliver Shield Hopes

Former Luton Town cricketer Ossie Clarke last night ended Stockwood Park's hopes of retaining the Ralph Oliver Shield for the second successive year.

Bowler Clarke now skipper of Luton United caused havoc among the Park batsmen to earn his side a place in the final.

His final figures of 5-8 in seven overs were largely responsible for confining Park to a meagre 43-8.

With Antrobus 16 and Prescott 16 not out, Luton United won with ease reaching 47-3 in 12 overs.

It was soon obvious it wasn't going to be Park's day. Opening batsman Mike Morgan, the man the rugby club usually look to for big scores, was out in the second over for only two. In fact, number three batsman John Howells was the only one to show any resistance. He was the

only Park player to reach double figures with 21 not out.

Luton United now meet Luton Town "A" in the final at Wardown Park on Wednesday. They have already disposed of Luton B and the final looks certain to be a very close affair. Luton A defeated Redbourn in their semi-final last week.

CUP ACTION



Stock wood Park Malcolm Hudson is bowled by Luotn United's man of the match Ossie Clarke

HAT-TRICK OF SUCCESSES BY LUTON UNITED

After defeating Stockwood Park in 11 overs to reach the final of the Ralph Oliver Shield. Luton United had a successful weekend of victories over Luton International and Laporte.

There were good all-round performance from their batting line-up against International as scored 192 with Prescott the top scorer with 43 and Gooding contributing a useful 31.

International went for the runs to make it an entertaining and competitive game, but failed by 34 runs in their attempt to put one over on United. Top scorer of the match was DaSilva with 45 for International. Abraham 4-35 and T.Prescott 4-38 did most of the damage.

At Skimpot on Sunday, United scored a convincing four wicket vic-

tory with Burgess top scoring with an unbeaten 57 and Prescott 36 in their 125 run target chase.

United won by four wickets.

Luton United Cricket Club 1976

Century For Gooding

A fine century by Terry Gooding, and 53 by Ossie Clarke set up Luton United for a comfortable win over Aylesbury West Indians on Saturday Luton United were able to declare at 216-8, and Gooding batted through the innings for his 124. With Ossie Clarke completing a fine all-round performance by taking 3-51, aided by Prescott 2-15 and Burgess 2-22, United then bowled out the visitors for 130.



Trade mark. Gooding sweep for another six

Luton United were involved in an exciting finish when they visited Vauxhall SPC on Sunday and were beaten by one run.

Burgess and Prescott each took 3-9 as Vauxhall were dismissed for a modest 59.

But with Tompkins, who was Vauxhall's top scorer with 24, taking 6-22, United struggled for runs, and although their number 12, Abraham was the only batsman to get into double figures with 28, they were all out for 58.

CRICKET HONOURS

BATTING

Dipak Parsooth, Luton College, against Welwyn III ...	153*
Terry Gooding, Luton United, against Aylesbury WI	124*
A. Wood, Vauxhall SPC, league, against Luton United	86*
R. Smith, 61 Club, league, against Boys' Club	70*
Jack Bannister, Electrolux, against Luton Nomads	69
Hartup, Kent Instrument, league, against Harlington	63
Derek Dady, Luton Saracens, against Luton Nalgo ...	59*
Ossie Clarke, Luton United, against Aylesbury WI	53
Barry Evans, Vauxhall, against Commonwealth	50*

* Not out

BOWLING

T Tompkins, Vauxhall SPC, against Luton United ...	6-22
Bernie Cains, Luton Town II, against St Albans II ...	6-43
S Farrar, Sundon Park, against Flitwick II	5-8
Ron Glencross, Luton Saracens, against Luton Nalgo ...	5-16

RUNS FLOWED FOR UNITED

A ton by Gooding who hit 15 fours and three sixes in his 116 not out, helped Luton United to their highest score of the season when they declared against Hitchin West Indians with 250-6 in only 35 overs.

Then some tight bowling ensured them of victory as they dismissed Hitchin for 134. M. Prescott 3-10, O. Clarke 4-60.

EASY FOR UNITED

Luton United were given a good breakthrough with 5-12 by Gary Burgess and never looked back in their match with Stevenage Post Office.

They dismissed Stevenage for 85 and went on to win by eight wickets.

Their top scorer were Andrew Antrobus with an unbeaten 36 and Terry Gooding with 33.

Details

Stevenage Post Office:85 (Burgess 5-12); Luton United: 87-2 (Gooding 33, Antrobus 36, Gerald 15) United won by 8 wkts.

CRICKET HONOURS

BATTING

F. Gooding, Luton United against Hitchin West Indians	116
Paul Harris, Luton Town against Southill Park	99
Roger Adams, Luton Town II against Berkhamsted II	95
Subhash, Luton Indians against Luton Schoolmasters	92
Roger Cox, Luton Town against Berkhamsted	89
Arun Patel, Luton Strollers against Wembley III	86
Pat Carrigan, Luton Saracens against Eaton Bray ...	84
Paul Stephens, Luton College against London West Indians	70
Brian Taylor, Luton Town II against Berkhamsted II	70
Colin Tinsley, Electrolux against Leighton Buzzard ...	68
A. Briggs, Luton Schoolmasters against Luton Indians	65
Keval, Luton Indians against Luton Schoolmasters ...	64
Brian Taylor, Luton Town II against Southill Park II	63
Norman Levy, Luton College against West Indians	62
Peter Rhodes, Luton Saracens against Eaton Bray	60
Dave Bang, Estate Agents against Law Society	60
Peter Taylor, Luton Town against Southill Park	58
John Bowerman, Luton Town II against Southill Park II	55
I. Buckingham, Eaton Bray against Luton Saracens ...	53*
Mahendra, Luton Indians against Luton Schoolmasters	52*

Luton United Cricket Club 1976

IT'S A TIE AND A SHOCK FOR TOWN

A change in one of the Ralph Oliver Trophy rules took Luton Town A by surprise at Wardown Park last night and cost them victory in the final against local rivals Luton United.

The outcome hung in the balance right up to the last ball of the final over, and Luton Town came off the field thinking that although the scores were level the trophy was theirs because they lost fewer wickets.

But that only applies to the quarter final. In the semi-final and final the rules state that if the scores are level after the stipulated 20 overs then the game is a tie-irrespective of which team lost the fewer wickets.

The Luton Town side were unaware of the rules. From the last ball they could probably have saved the single which gave United a tie. But rather than risk an overthrow wicket keeper Ian Hemley removed the bails only after the first run.

Both sides face the option of holding the trophy for six months each or meeting again.



John Quinn is run out by Ossie Clarke

and so there is to be an action replay next Monday at Wardown Park (6.30pm) to settle the score.

The Town side batted first and made 100 for 6 off their 20 overs. County player Paul Harris was top scorer with 26 and extras contributed a generous 15 to the total.

United's opening partnership was worth 59 and they looked well set for victory. But United skipper and top scorer Ossie Clarke was first out for 42 and after that runs was hard to come by.

With one ball left United were 99 for 7 and the situation was tense enough, without the shock that was in store for the players when they came off the field.

Town's best bowling performances came from Talban's footballer Keith King with 2-29 and Roger Adams, 4-30

Ossie's inspiration is a

SOME inspired bowling by Ossie Clarke and Pat Carrigan kept batsmen of both sides at full stretch when Luton United met Luton Saracens. United produced a stand of 30 for their second wicket, from George Michael and Terry Gooding, and this proved to be the highest partnership of the match.

winner

Carrigan finished with seven wickets, aided by some smart slip catching by Brian Ward as United made 112.

Saracens began their reply

well, but after bowling two overs Clarke changed ends and turned the game round. Wickets fell regularly, with Clarke taking six and Horace Manning four as Saracens were bowled out 27 runs short of the target.

Luton United Cricket Club 1976

Smash - Hit United Take Oliver Shield

After being held to a tie in the Ralph Oliver Shield final last week, boisterous Luton United made no mistakes in the replay on Monday when they beat Luton A with something to spare.

But at a cost to club secretary George Hunter. His skipper Ossie Clarke clouted a six straight back over the bowler's head, over the sight screen, and drilled a hole through the rear window of George's parked car.

United won because they were better on the night in all aspects of their game. Their fielding was sharp, and the bowling played to the field settings perfectly and some of the Luton Town's batsmen chucked away their wickets.

After ten overs the game was evenly balanced with United stuttering on 40 for 3. But Clarke so often the hero of United, stepped in with a tremendous knock.

He and Elliston Abraham were the executioners, accelerating the run rate with some big hitting and seeing off Roger Adams, the Town most successful bowler.

Abraham followed Clarke's example by smashing Adams for a six to mid-wicket and the pair put on 57 in quick time for the fourth wicket.

United lost their way slightly in the last three overs when Adams had revenge to finish with figures of 4 for 35 in six overs. Keith King had bowled with very little luck, including the only maiden of the evening, to return 1 for 29 in seven overs.

Luton opening pair raised some eyebrows. Skipper Barry Robinson went out with veteran Vic Galier.

Abraham's first ball was a bouncer to Galier. The second bowled him. Robinson went for 2 an over later, leaving Luton's hopes resting on Paul Harris and Keith King.

Abraham, fiery and difficult to face in fading light, bowled King, to leave Luton in deep trouble at 13 for 3.



Clarke hammers Roger Adams for a straight six

Harris was lucky when he edged Burgess just wide of the wicket keeper to record Luton's first boundary, but the next ball also found the edge and this time Terry Gooding snapped up the catch.

Luton were 26 for 5 with half their overs gone. Roger Adams had given his wicket away, run - out by the wicket keeper.

Gooding was standing well back to Burgess and threw the wicket down from eight yards after Adams played at the ball, missed and wandered casually back to his crease.

United's field placing and agility was beautiful to watch and so was their accurate throwing from all distances.

John Quinn offered some resistance to the United power but the game was over as Luton slumped to 42 for 9 with just three overs left.

Ian Hemley and Joe Malloy staved off further disaster with the best partnership of the innings, adding 29 without being parted.

Luton United Cricket Club 1976

RALPH OLIVER SHIELD WINNING TEAM 1976



Back Row: F Hunter, A Antrobus, T Prescott, U Burgess, N Abbey, G Hunter, L Terilong
Front Row: B Brooks, S Stevenson, G Michael, T Gooding, E Abraham, G Paris

Luton United Cricket Club 1976

LEADERS FALTER AND STILL DEADLOCK

SHOCK DEFEATS this week for leading contenders Luton United and War down wanderers have ensured that the Luton Midweek league's major trophy, the Luton News Cup, stays up for grabs right through to the last match of the season.

The two giants, locked on top of the Premier Division, were stunned by fighting displays from Sixth Form College, who crushed United and lowly Electrolux.

Lux's win over Wanderers was only their third victory in eight matches.

Luton United's downfall against Sixth Form College brought sweet revenge for Keith King and Paul Harris.

On Monday they had been in the Luton Town team which was beaten by United in the Ralph Oliver Shield final.

On Tuesday they blasted United bowlers to take the College to victory with nine wickets in hand.

The College contained United to 77-9. Terry Gooding, with 22 and Abbey 18, were the only batsmen to look happy.

Ossie Clarke's dismissal caught by Harris off Satish Patel, started a rot which gathered pace once Abbey was out to leave United on 49-3. Gooding went two runs later, and six more wickets fell for the addition of 26 runs.

King and Harris put on 47 for the College's opening partnership before King was bowled by Clarke for 31, and Harris, and Bowerman stayed together to win the game with two overs to spare.

The defeat could have been more disastrous but for the Wanderers unexpected slip-up at Electrolux. The Lux bowlers held on grimly to hold Wanderers to 83-8.

Peter Webley, Mike Morgan and Terry Roe were mainly responsible for the runs, with Chris Shields taking 3-12 in his five overs.

RESULTS AND TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

Sixth Form College shocked Luton United: United 77-9 (Gooding 22, King 2-20, Bowerman 2-20); College 8-1 (King 31, Harris 25 not).

Electrolux shocked Wardown Wanderers: Wanderers 83-8 (Webley 25, C Shields 3-12, Manning 2-22, Orloop 2-27); Lux 84-7 (C Shields 22 not, Heffer 22, Stacey 2-14).

Saracens A beat Electricity: Saracens 130-1 (Green 101 not, Carrigan 20); Electrics 90-6 (Hull 23, Basterfield 3-10, Glencross 2-24).

	P	W	L	T	Pts
Wardown Wanderers	3	6	2	0	36
Luton United	1	6	3	0	36
Sixth Form College	3	5	3	0	30
Saracens A	3	4	4	0	24
Electrolux	3	3	5	0	18
Electricity	1	1	8	0	6

DIVISION I

Kent Instruments beat Saracens B: Kent 98-5 (Hartup 37 not, Drewitt 35, Rashid 2-38); Saracens B 91-6 (Rhodes 27, Hartup 2-22).

Sundon Park beat Vauxhall SPC: Sundon Park 96-4 (Tutton 20 not, Simpkins 20, Jhala 2-14); SPC 91-8 (H Patel 22, Tomkins 20 not, Parrar 4-21).

	P	W	L	T	Pts
Kent Instruments	7	5	2	0	30
Sundon Park	7	5	2	0	30
Vauxhall SPC	3	4	4	0	24
Houghton Regis	3	4	4	0	24
Saracens B	3	1	7	0	6

(Postels withdrawn, record expunged)

DIVISION II

Luton 61 Club crushed United Counties: Busmen 55-8 (Walsh 2-7, Smith 2-13, Van Hoof 2-16); 61 Club 60-2 (Lawrence 26).

Pre-Star beat George Wimpey: Pre-Star 74-7 (Barnard 41, Hetherington 20, Sutcliffe 4-17, Hopkins 2-31); Wimpey 65-8 (Read 24 not, Morne 2-10, Coleman 2-18, Clough 2-24).

	P	W	L	T	Pts
Luton 61 Club	9	8	0	1	51
Pre-Star	10	6	2	2	42
Geo Wimpey	9	5	3	1	33
United Counties	10	4	6	0	24
Harlington School	10	2	8	0	12
Kingsway	10	2	8	0	12

DIVISION III

Luton Indians clubbed Vauxhall: Indians 84-5 (Arun Patel 25, Parsooth 25, Waterhouse 3-15); Vauxhall 55-6 (Arun Patel 2-10, Gill 2-20).

Luton Boys' Club beat Co-op Sports: Co-op 102-4 (Burgess 32 not, Cannadine 24); Boys' Club 105-5 (Hull 34, Boanson 22 not, Turner 21, Haywood 3-23).

	P	W	L	T	Pts
Luton Indians	9	9	0	0	54
Vauxhall	9	5	4	0	30
Tech College	9	5	4	0	30
Luton Boys' Club	9	4	5	0	24
SKF	10	4	6	0	24
Co-op Sports	3	0	3	0	0



New men shine

LUTON UNITED made a good start to their season when they thrashed Greenleys by 87 runs. Their two new players, H. Manning, who was top scorer with 55, and P. Johns, who took 3-9, staked strong claims for regular places in the team.

Stephenson shattered Greenleys when he took four wickets in a two-over spell for two runs.

Details

Luton United 135-7 dec (Manning 55, Abbey 25), Greenleys 48 (Stevenson 4-2, John 3-9). Luton United won by 87 runs.

BOWLING

E. Abraham, Luton United against Flitwick	5-9
P. Ingigall, Stopsley against Luton St Mary's	5-14
Chris Howard-Cramer, Flitwick II against Kimbolton II	5-15
Bert Bamber, Co-op, League, against Vauxhall Specs	5-24
John Meikle, Strollers, against Weston	5-27
Ken Willis, Luton College OSA against Vauxhall II	5-28
Ken Willis, Luton College OSA against Much Hadham	5-35
Julian Bhugandass, Vauxhall II, against Saracens	5-49

Luton United Cricket Club 1976

Hot-shots are too good

Luton United are finding no difficulty in scoring runs this season. They notched up over 200 runs in both weekend games against Finsbury and Shillington, but failed to register a victory.

Their prolific batsmen run up a total that appears out of reach of the opposition, who then made no attempt to match it and settle for a draw.

Against Finsbury, the United batsmen went for their shots and did not spare any of the bowlers. The innings was assured by a first wicket stand of 80 between Abbey and Clarke.

Although four wickets fell quickly with only five runs added, Gooding 45, and Larmond, the top scorer with 56, boosted the middle order and United declared at 218 for 9.

Finsbury batted slowly and with eight wickets down managed to draw.

It was a similar story on Sunday when an unbeaten century by Michael boosted the target set for Shillington to 228, made for the loss of eight wickets.

Shillington had no heart for the chase and the United bowlers lacked penetration to beat their play-safe approach, claiming only six victims as the game petered out.

Details

United 218-9 dec (Larmond 56, Clarke 48, Gooding 45) Finsbury 113-8 (Prescott 3-18, Abrahams 3-35)

United 227-8 dec (Michael 103 n.o., Shillington 97-6,



Trevor Prescott

UNITED LOSE TO CHEVETTE

Chevette scored two more victories, over Luton United and Luton Stars over the weekend with spin bowler Winston Service taking a hat-trick against the Stars on his way to 5-30.

A splendid 68 by Errol Crawford boosted their total to 116 against United, and although Gooding, had a good knock of 40 United were dismissed for 90.

Michael St Ville prove virtually unplayable in his for overs, taking five United wickets for 11 runs.

Details

Chevette 116 (Crawford 68, Abraham 3-15, T Prescott 3-29)

United 90 (Gooding 40, Clarke 20, St Ville 5-11)



Noel Abbey

Luton United Cricket Club 1977

UNITED ARE SHATTERED

For the second time this season the powerful United had to give second best to Luton Indians. All-rounder Dipak Parsooth ripped into the pride of United's batting his seven wickets sent United tumbling to 53-run defeat.

Earlier Utel Burgess of United had looked like being the man of the match because he took 6-49 in 14 overs.

But all the Indians early batsmen scored runs and although United had them on 96-6 at one time, number eight batsman Keval Gill rattled up a quick 38 and the Indians made 143.

United never recovered after Suresh sent back both openers with only 18 on the board, and Parsooth finished them off.

His victims included United's skipper Ossie Clarke.

Abbey, with 20 and last man Abraham, 21 not out, were the only resistance.

UNITED ROMP IN FOR SHIELD WIN

HOLDERS of the Ralph Oliver Shield, the 20-over competition staged by Luton Town Cricket Club, Luton United defended the trophy in fine style when the first matches in this year's tournament were staged.

They dismissed Flitwick in 19.5 overs for 59 and then romped to victory with six overs and four wickets to spare.

Flitwick had found runs hard to come by with Abraham and Ossie Clarke restricting them to 35 for 8 in 14 overs. With Abraham taking 5-9 and Clarke 3-15 Flitwick were finally all out for 59 runs in 19.5 overs.

United in turn were held down for a while with Hardy breaking the back of their innings by taking four wickets. But Burgess joined Clarke to punish the bowlers and won in 14.1 overs with Clarke the top scorer with 29 and Burgess getting 17.

United now meet Luton Indians, who beat Hexton, in the next round.

Leg-side bowling let off lightly

With too many batsmen playing and missing outside the leg stump Luton United felt disappointed with their total of 183 against Luton International. Gooding led the way with 45, and there were good knocks from Prescott and Ossie Clarke. When International replied Holder's 39 put the backbone into their innings. Clarke claimed five wickets, but some of the United's bowling was well off target and in the end International held out for a draw with their last pair at the crease.

United 183 (Gooding 45, Prescott 29, Clarke 27, Locker 3-13, Arthur 3-23; International 108-9 (Holder 39, Belone 20, Clarke 5-31, Abraham 2-35.

HOLDERS GO OUT

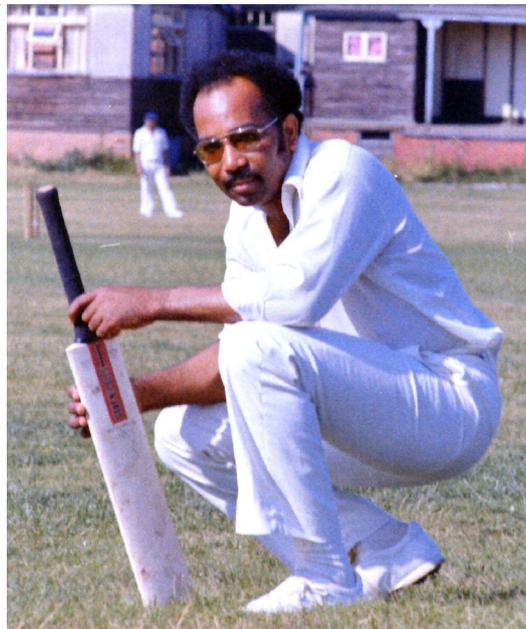
THE holders, Luton United, made their exit from the Ralph Oliver Shield competition when they were defeated by 15 runs by their local rivals Luton Indians.

Arun Patel with 71 and Subhash Jani with 24 gave the Indians a brilliant start with an opening stand of 66. Subhas was out when attempting to take an easy single. He slipped and was run out.

Indians finished their innings after 20 overs with the score on 127-7. Ossie Clarke, 3-29, and Utel Burgess, 2-14, were the main wicket-takers for United.

Good fielding and catching, which was the main reason for claiming three wickets for 20 runs, left United struggling. Terry Gooding, 43, and Manning brought United back into the game. Gooding, who was dismissed by Dipak, was followed by Burgess with 21 not out, and along with Abraham, 14, United fought all the way.

But the Indians won the match by 15 runs by putting all their fielders on the boundary to save the fours. It was a very good match and United, last year's winners, fought all the way.



Ossie Clarke

UNITED ARE A FORCE

Luton United served notice that they are a force to be feared. They clouted 100-6 off the bowling of Saracens, with Manning hitting 42, then sent the pride of Saracens batting tumbling to 35 all out. Abraham did most damage with four wickets for three runs after Clarke made the first breakthrough.

Luton United Cricket Club 1977

COLLEGE WIN THE BATTLE OF THE GIANTS

In the battle of the giants of the Luton and district Midweek League Luton Sixth form College shouldered their way to joint top of the league by dishing out Luton United's first defeat of the season.

In the match that had everything from flowing batting strokes to a hat-trick for Keith King, United batted to the last ball before going down by nine runs.

The result could be crucial to both sides, it leaves them locked together at the top, but the College have a game in hand. And the fight for the League Championship and the Luton News Cup is already looking like a two horse race, with reigning champions War down Wanderers among the also rans.

Sundown Park and Luton Indians are doing the same in Division One, while Vauxhall and Luton Tech College are setting the pace in division Two. Luton Old Boys seems to be running away with the Division Three honours.

Paul Harris grabbed the batting honours in the battle for Premier Division supremacy. Fresh from his century for Bedfordshire at the week-end, he lashed the Luton United bowlers for 69. He and King put on 73 for the first wicket, and when King went Goodwin kept up the good work as the College made 119-3 in their 20 overs.

United's attempt to go for the runs took an early knock when Harris and ward struck in quick succession to reduce United to 14-3. But Terry Gooding began to pull things round and hit a brilliant 60. He and Horace Manning got the run rate on target again, only for King to strike with a devastating piece of pace bowling. He took five wickets including a hat-trick, and Gooding's superb knock was not quite good enough to save his side as the last wicket fell in the last over.

With Form College and Luton United are still going strongly at the top of the table. United kept level on points with the College when their batsmen tore the Electricity attack to pieces in an effort to complete their game before the rain came on Tuesday night.

Leading their cavalier innings was Ossie Clarke with 37 and they went on to 146 in 20 overs with Gerard Michael not out 71 and Terry Godding not out 34.

When Electrics batted, United used six bowlers in an attempt to finish the game quickly, but they met with some resistance from Seamark who was not out with 27 as Electrics finished with 68-7 in reply.

LUTON MIDWEEK LEAGUE

CRICKET HONOURS

BATTING

Paul Harris, Bedfordshire, against Bedford	136
Colin Montague, Electrolux, against Hampstead Postels	95
Subhash, Luton Indians, League, against Saracens B ...	*81
Chris Wright, College, League, against Pre-Star	*72
Paul Harris, VI Form Coll, League, against United	69
Chris Shields, Electrolux, against Nomads	61
Dave Barnard, Nomads, against Electrolux	*61
Terry Gooding, United, League, against VI Form Coll ...	60
L Best, Vaux Specs, League, against Index	*58
Arun Patel, Indians, League, against Saracens B	58
John Howells, Luton Tn II, against Leighton Buzzard II ..	57
Roger Adams, Luton Town, against Leighton Buzzard ..	53
John Mills, Vauxhall, against Oxford XIII Club	51
D Forder, Index, League, against Vaux Specs	51

* Denotes not out

BOWLING

Bill Large, Luton Nalgo, against Odhams	8-14
John Hill, Kent's, against Chevette	7-30
Joe Maloy, Luton Town, against Hertford	7-37
Graham West, Vauxhall, against Birmingham Municipal ..	7-40
Ron Glencross, Saracens, against Heronswood	7-48
Harshad, Kingsway, League, against Utd Counties ...	*6-6
Sabhir, Luton Overseas, against Moorlands	6-9
Barry Milner, Strollers, against Flitwick II	6-20
Jack Aymes, Electrolux, against Hampstead Postals ...	6-32
John Young, Electrolux, against Nomads	6-38
Ian Cowley, Sundon Park, against Moorlands	6-45
Rashid, Luton Five Star, against Canning Town	5-17
Con Alder, Nomads, against Harpenden Strollers	5-20
Keith King, League, VI Form Coll against United	*5-25
John Hill, Luton II, against Leighton Buzzard II	5-29
Brian Gobby, Harlington, against Stevenage WI	5-31
Ossie Clarke, Luton United, against International	5-31
T. Prescott, Chevette, against Five Star	5-32

Luton United Cricket Club 1977

OLIVER SHIELD DEFEAT IS AVENGED

Luton United completed the double over Luton Indians, and also avenged their Oliver Shield defeat.

The Indians batsmen were unable to get on top of United's bowling, except for Nanu Patel and Keval Gill, and they were all out for 104.

The Indians struck back by running out Trevor Prescott with only four runs on the board, but Utel Burgess and Gerald Michael put on 65 for the second wicket before Burgess was caught behind.

Michael went on to make a sparkling 54 including nine fours, and although Nanu removed three more batsmen it was too late to prevent United winning.

In their game at the week-end, United were frustrated for the second time this season by the timed tactics of Kent Army Barracks.

The soldiers were ultra defensive, crawling to 174-8 declared in three hours. United had agreed to start the match early so that a result might be possible, but the Barracks side might just as well dug slit trenches when they took guard.

Their declaration asked United to chase 175 runs in 105 minutes. The Luton side had a go and after losing three quick wickets, Michael and Ossie Clarke started to take the bowling apart.

Clarke cracked 5 and Michael 37 and United believe they would have won easily if they had been given more time.

Details

Luton Indians 104 (Keval 29, Clarke 2-12, Manning 2-19, Burgess 2-20, Michael 2-43) United 105-5 (Michael 54)

Kent Army Barracks 174-8, (Clarke 3-63, Burgess 2-34) United 130-6 (Clarke 56 not out Michael 37)

VILLAGERS SKITTLED

FINE BOWLING by Eddie Abrahams and Ossie Clarke carried Luton United to victory between the Saturday showers at Shillington. Horace Manning kept their batting hopes going after Shillington had threatened to dismiss United for a low score.

He made 34 as United achieved a respectable 102 on a very wet pitch.

The target was soon well out of Shillington's reach as Abraham and Clarke cut through the batting.

Even when they were spared the torment of Abraham's skills, Utel Burgess stepped in to continue the massacre and the villagers were dismissed for 36.

Details

Luton United 102 (Manning 34, Gooding 21); Shillington 36 (Clarke 5-11, Abraham 3-6, Burgess 2-6), United won by 66 runs.



Silburn Stevenson

POWER IN DEPTH WINS TWO

BOWLING strength in depth carried Luton United to victory over Luton Indians on Saturday, and on Sunday the batting proved too strong for Stevenage Post Office.

Victory over the Indians was revenge for United, who had lost twice to the same opposition last season. The Indian batting was never able to cope with the bowling of Prescott, Ossie Clarke and Utel Burgess.

Keval Gill led a late recovery with 20 after earlier

batsmen had failed and the score was on 44-7. Dipak Parsooth and Lalit Patel were the only other batsmen to make any impression as the Indians stumbled to 78 all out.

Parsooth and Arun Patel gave United's batting problems in the reply and re-

duced United to 30-4 at one stage, but Horace Manning and Clarke combined to pull the innings round, and United got home by four wickets.

Clarke was in sparkling form against Stevenage PO, clouting an undefeated 57 and joining Burgess in a sixth-wicket stand worth 52.

Stevenage were set a target of 154 but presented no problems for United's bowlers, and only one man scraped into double figures.

DETAILS

Luton Indians 78 (Keval 20, Parsooth 19, Clarke 3-28, Prescott 2-9, Burgess 2-22); Luton United 79-6 (Manning 21 not, Clarke 21 not, Arun Patel 3-39, Parsooth 2-23), United won by 4 wickets.

Luton United 153-6 dec (Clarke 57 not, Burgess 27); Stevenage Post Office 40 (Abrahams 3-7, Prescott 3-19, Stephenson 2-4), United won by 113 runs.



Luton United Cricket Club 1977

WITH THE SEASON nearly half completed, Luton United and the Sixth Form College are locked together at the top of the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League.

United kept up the pressure on Tuesday night when a hat-trick by Noel Abbey and an undefeated 50 by Terry Gooding helped to dispose of bottom club Kent's.

But the College kept pace with a cracking performance which ended any lingering hopes Saracens might have had of regaining the championship and the Luton News Cup.

The scene is set for the crunch in a fortnight's time, when United and Sixth Form meet in what could be the championship decider.

They have turned the Premier Division into a two-horse race, and both sides produced thoroughbred performances this week.

But lowly Kents gave United a shock or two before caving in. They batted first and openers John Hill and Brian Punter put on 48 before Hill was bowled by Utel Burgess.

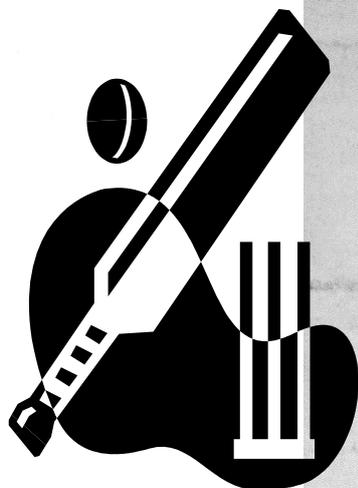
Then came a collapse as Burgess and Abbey got cracking and in just over six overs they rattled through the rest of the Kent batting. Hill's 19 and Punter's defiant 41 were the only double-figure totals.

Burgess finished with five wickets and Abbey four, including a hat-trick, in only 2.4 overs.

United lost opener Gerard Michael without a run on the board, and Ossie Clarke went for 10 with the score on 25, but Gooding hammered the Kent bowling to lead his side to victory in 14.3 overs.

LUTON M
CRICKET

UTD AND
COLLEGE
STIL DEAD
LOCKED



Dramatic Recovery

Noel Abbey

After getting a very good start from Gerard Michael, Luton united lot wickets rapidly as they tumbled to Laporte in 90 minutes, but in a remarkable game they recovered to win by five runs.

Michael's 22 was only matched by a fine 22 by Ossie Clarke low down the order, and it looked grim for United as Laporte was only set to score 109 for victory.

But some fine attacking bowling from United thwarted them.

Luton United Cricket Club 1977

BOWLERS WIN IT

Luton united struggled hard for runs against Hitchin West Indians with only two of their batsmen, George Hunter with 25 and Terry Gooding with 22, getting into double figures as they were dismissed for 114.

With such a small total it was left to the United bowlers to save the day, and they tackled their job with a relish with Utel Burgess taking 5-19 and Ossie Clarke 4-18 to dismiss the visitors for a meagre 94

Joe Maloy, Luton Town against Coventry and NW ...	6-29
Martin Ward, Luton Town against Wembley	5-48
John Hill, Luton Town II against Wembley II	6-42
John Hill, Luton Strollers against Berkhamsted	7-15
Dipak Parsooth, Luton College OSA against Bharat ...	8-82
G. Suresh, Luton Indians against Pulloxhill	7-39
Steve Everett, Luton Saracens against Vauxhall II	7-24
Utel Burgess, Luton United against Hitchin WI	5-19

UNITED HELD TWICE

A DAZZLING 71 by Terry Gooding was the highlight of Luton United's weekend. But both their fixtures fizzled out when the opposition refused to go for the runs to try to get results.

Aylesbury West Indians were in a good position when they held United to 121-6 declared on a bumpy pitch. United feared the worst, but the home side chose to play out time for the draw.

Gooding's big innings was against Hitchin West Indians. But Gerald Michael was the only batsman to give him much support, although his 38 compensated for failures elsewhere down the batting list.

Only one of the home side's batsmen showed any willingness to play shots, and with the rest prodding carefully the game died peacefully.

DETAILS

Luton United 121-6 dec (John 31, Clouden 22 not); Aylesbury WI 70-7 (G Michael 3-6, Prescott 2-19). Match drawn.
Luton United 163 (Gooding 71, Michael 38); Hitchin WI 110-5 (Michael 3-28, Clarke 2-18). Match

All-rounder sparkles as United romp home

A BRILLIANT all-round performance by Trevor Prescott enabled Luton United to thrash Greenleys by 153 runs. He rattled up a rapid half-century as a batsman, then ripped the heart out of Greenleys' early batting with five wickets.

But United caught a cold in their other weekend game when their bowl-

ing was taken apart by Three W, of High Wycombe.

The demolition of Greenleys started when Prescott and George Hunter came together. Ossie Clarke had hit 37 to put United in a strong position at 94-4 when he was out. Hunter and Prescott put on 64 for the fifth wicket, with Prescott the dominant force.

He carried his bat for 53 as United declared at 187-6, then led the United bowlers' assault on Greenleys.

He prised out both openers and Greenleys had no idea of how to combat his skills. Their first five men fell to Prescott in an amazing six-over spell in which he bowled three maidens and conceded only four runs.

Horace Manning and Stephenson followed up well, and Greenleys were sent packing, all out for 34 in 16 overs.

It was a different story against Three W. George Michael made 37 and Prescott 23, but the rest of United's batting failed to reach its potential and they were restricted to 128-8 declared. It would have been a lot worse but for a seventh-wicket stand of 41 by Michael and Prescott after United had struggled to 70-6.

Then the bowlers were made to struggle as the High Wycombe side cruised to victory with five wickets in hand.

DETAILS

Luton United 187-6 dec (Prescott 53 not, Clarke 37, Hunter 21); Greenleys 34 (Prescott 5-4, Manning 3-4, Stephenson 2-3). United won by 153 runs.

Luton United 128-8 dec (Michael 37, Prescott 23); Three W, High Wycombe 129-5 (Prescott 2-28, Abrahams 2-46). United lost by 5 wickets.

George Hunter



WEEK END FRIENDLIES

BIG GUNS UNLOADED

The big guns of mighty Luton United's batting were unloaded by some great bowling by Chevette's Steve Harewood and Mick Prescott as United struggled at 61-6.

But Chevette could not make the final breakthrough and Elliston Abraham and Utel Burgess pulled their side round with a stand of 47.

Abraham completed the recovery with a bowling spell that left Chevette Shell-shocked.

He blasted out six men in nine overs, and with Ossie Clarke accounting for three from the other end the Chevette innings disintegrated. Seven men collected ducks as Chevette were crushed, 34 all out.

Luton United Cricket Club 1977

UNITED LASH OUT IN TITLE BATTLE

THE CAVALIER cricket of Luton United this week sent them roaring back into contention for the Luton Midweek League championship with a storming victory over a strong Wardown Wanderers side.

United's bowlers took a pasting as Mike Morgan, fresh from his success for Bedfordshire in the Minor Counties, thrashed 57 and put on 69 for the first wicket, with Mark Horsler contributing 14.

Peter Taylor kept the run-rate flowing and United were set a target of 121 to beat in 20 overs.

They did it with five overs and six wickets to spare, with Ossie Clarke and Gerald Michael hammering 55 in the first 11 overs for the opening stand.

Even Trevor Stiff, one of the best bowlers in local club cricket, was carted unmercifully—his one wicket cost him 41 runs in four overs.

United's win leaves them in with a chance of grabbing the title if the Sixth Form College slip up on the home straight.

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION				DIVISION TWO					
	P	W	T	Pts		P	W	T	Pts
Sixth Form College ...	7	7	0	28	Vauxhall ...	9	9	0	36
Luton United ...	8	6	0	24	Technical College ...	9	6	0	24
Wardown Wanderers ...	7	4	0	16	Harlington School ...	9	6	0	24
Saracens A ...	5	2	0	8	Kingsway Tavern ...	9	5	0	18
Electricity ...	4	0	0	0	United Counties ...	8	2	0	8
Kent Instruments ...	7	0	0	0	Pre-Star ...	5	1	0	4
					Geo Wimpey ...	7	0		



CRICKET HONOURS

BATting	
Paul Harris, Luton Town, against South Hampstead ...	102
Janu Patel, Luton Indians, against Luton Kokni ...	94
Mike Morgan, Luton Town II, against S. Hampstead II ...	90*
Ferry Roe, Luton Town II, against Hatfield Estate ...	72
Tip Beaumont, Vauxhall, against Luton Barracks ...	57
Ossie Clarke, Luton United, against Kent Indians ...	56*
Gerald Michael, Luton United, against Luton Indians ...	54
Ray Roberts, Vauxhall, against N. London Poly ...	50

CRICKET HONOURS

STAR PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK

David Cole, Luton Town Strollers, scored 106 out of a total of 231 for three declared in a friendly against Dunstable's third string.

BATting

David Cole, Town Strollers against Dunstable III ...	106
Ossie Clarke, Luton United against Three W's ...	80
John Bowerman, Town II against Dunstable II ...	69
Ken Bernthal, Vauxhall against Stort ...	61
Ian Thomson, Westoning against 3M Sports ...	55
David Cole, Sixth Form Col. against Wardown (league) ...	54*
Roger Adams, Luton Town against Dunstable ...	50*
Alan Clarke, Westoning against 3M Sports ...	50

College def rivals

THE BIG top of the table clash in the Premier Division of the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League saw Sixth Form College extend their command at the top of the table to six points with a victory over their main rivals Luton United.

The win left College with their 100 per cent record still intact after six matches, and with Keith King hitting an unbeaten 35 to match Trevor Gooding's performance for United they secured victory with overs to spare.

Luton United scored 88 with Gooding their top scorer with 35 and Manning hitting 17. When College replied Keith King found good support forthcoming from opener Paul Harris with 15, John Howells with 14 and John Bowerman who was undefeated with 10.

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE

Luton United Cricket Club 1977



SOLDIERS DIG IN AND DRAW

Soldiers from Kent's Army Barracks knew the drill when they had the first taste of the powers of Luton United. Bats and pads snapped to attention as they held out for a draw.

United had Ossie Clarke and Gerald Michael to thank for the backbone of their innings. Both hit half centuries as United recovered from 19-3 to 184-8 declared.

With Elliston Abraham, Michael, Burgess and Clarke taking wickets, the Army side closed up the game after losing half the side for 71 and did a slow march to a draw.

UNITED NOTCH DOUBLE

IT WAS a happy weekend on tour for Luton United who scored victories away to Leighton Foresters and Coventry West Indians.

Against the Foresters Luton United won by two wickets. Features of the match were a big stand in each innings between Leighton's Evans and Browne who put on 75 towards their total of 117 and United's Clarke and Stephenson who put on 168 with Clarke making 60.

Clarke also topped the United bowling with 3-13 with Manning taking 2-13 and Stephenson 2-20. With his 60, Clarke powered United towards victory which was achieved with two wickets to spare.

Apart from their opener, Gerald Michael who hit 38, and Trevor Gooding with a useful 25, nobody in the United batting order had much answer to the bowling of Spooner at Coventry. He took 7-58 as United mustered a low total of 130.

In their turn, the United bowlers also performed exceptionally well against a very strong batting line-up and dismissed the home side for 89 runs with Prescott taking 4-15 and Clarke 3-27.

Details:

Leighton Foresters 117 (Clarke 3-13), Luton United 118-8 (Clarke 60). United won by two wickets.

Luton United 130 (Michael 38, Gooding 25, Stephenson 21 not), Coventry West Indians 89 (Prescott 4-15, Clarke 3-27). Luton United won by 41 runs.

CRICKET HONOURS

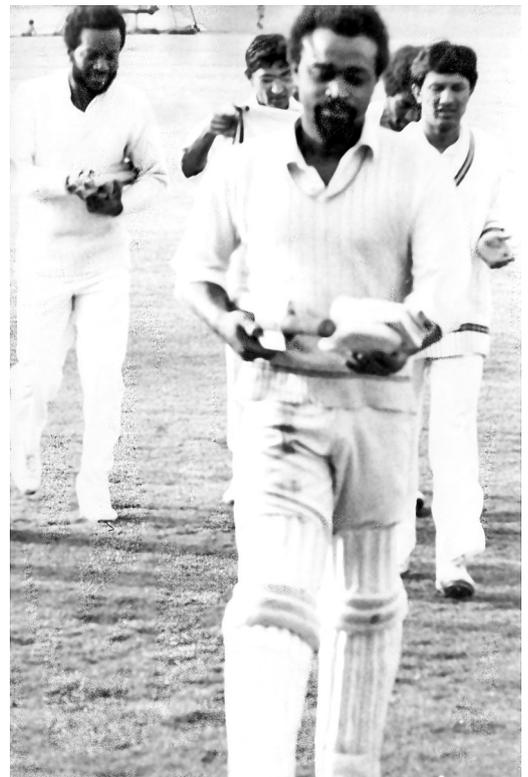
BATTING

Arun Patel, Luton Indians, against Wolverhampton Indians	129*
Afzal Parkar, Luton Kokni, against SKF	106
Graham Wynn, Flitwick, against Henlow	78
Roy Standring, Luton Nomads, against West Green	73
Mick Mitchell, Vauxhall II, against W. Garden II	72*
Bashir Dalvi, Luton Kokni, against SKF	67
Mal Reid, Saracens, against St Michaels	66
Mohammed Parker, Vauxhall SFC, against 61 Club	66
Steve Turnbull, Flitwick II, against Hatfield Hyde II	64
Roy Standring, Luton Nomads, against Silsoe	55
Subhash Jani, Luton Indians, against Wolverhampton Indians	54
Trevor Prescott, Luton United, against Greenleys	53*
Geoff Clayton, Flitwick II, against Hatfield Hyde II	52
Pip Beaumont, Vauxhall, against Stort	52
Subhash Jani, Luton Indians, against St Albans W Indians	51
Graham West, Vauxhall, against Stort	50*
Terry Gooding, Luton United, League, against Kent's	50
Rob Everett, Saracens, against Tring III	50

BOWLING

Mick Light, Pre-Star, League, against Tech College	6-6
Samad Parkar, Luton Kokni, against SKF	6-15
Meherban, Luton Overseas, against Luton Pakistanis	6-23
Nanu Patel, Luton Indians, against St Albans W Indians	6-40
Joe Maloy, Luton Town, against Dunstable Town	6-47
Trevor Prescott, Luton United, against Greenleys	5-4
Utel Burgess, Luton United, League, against Kent's	5-9
Dipak Parssooth, Luton Indians, League, against Lux	5-12
Con Alder, Luton Nomads, against Silsoe	5-24
Noel Abbey, Luton United, League, against Kents	*4-9

* Including hat-trick.



Luton United Cricket Club 1977

LAST BALL THRASH EARNS CUP FINAL PLACE

WITH A DRAMATIC win or bust swing at the last ball, Luton United earned themselves a place in the Luton Midweek League's biggest game of the season tonight—the final of the League's Pre-Star Cup.

George Hunter's do-or-die thrash earned the three runs United needed to end Luton Sixth Form College's challenge in Tuesday's semi-final.

On Luton Town's ground at Wardown tonight United, one of the most powerful teams in the Premier Division, will take on Division One promotion contenders Sundon Park.

The game starts at 6.30, admission is free, and as with all cricket cup finals a result is 99.9 per cent certain unless the weather intervenes.

Tuesday's sickening defeat for the College ends their dream of the big league and cup double.

Paul Harris and Keith King gave them a good start with 40 for the first wicket, but then Gerald Michael struck. He dismissed both without addition, then collected two more wickets.

He had to buy them and good knocks by John Bowerman and John Howells gave the Sixth Form 102-5 in their 20 overs.

United replied with a quick burst from Ossie Clarke and Gerald Michael, but when they were out the runrate faltered. Horace Manning was the only other man to get on top of the bowling.

When Hunter faced the last ball of the match the result was anybody's guess. One run or none would give victory for the College, two would make it a tie, and three would give the win to United.

And Hunter, one of the nicest blokes in the local game, survived all the tension and pressures to bring off a famous victory.



George Hunter

CRICKET HONOURS

BATTING

Roy Fothergill, Nalگو, against H. Hempstead III ...	*112
Balbir Singh, Kingsway, League, against U. Counties	83
Malcolm Drewitt, Luton Town, against Huntingdon	*81
Dave Barnard, Luton Nomads, against Colne Valley	78
Colin Montague, Electroflux, against Essex Taverners	68
Roy Fothergill, Nalگو, against Wymondley	66
Stuart Smith, Nalگو, against H. Hempstead III	63
Terry Roe, Luton Town II, against Huntingdon II	63
Ossie Clark, George II, against Kingsway Tavern	63
Brian Taylor, Luton Town II, against St Albans II	63
Ninian LeBlanc, College OSA, against Berkhamsted III	59
Ossie Clarke, United, against Kent Army Barracks	57
Phil Ainsworth, Pre-Star, League, against Saracens B	56
Dave Moules, Flitwick, against Highwood	56
Pat Burns, Wanderers, League, against Electrics	52
Nigel Washington, Flitwick, against Redbourn	52
Stuart Farrar, Sundon Park, against Old Blechley	51
Gerald Michael, United, against Kent Army Barracks	51
Brian Punter, Kents, League, against Saracens A	*50

*Denotes not out

BOWLING

Elliston Abraham, Luton United, against Chevette	6-16
Don Mills, Lux, against Stony Stratford	5-12
Rod Young, Flitwick, against Redbourn	5-15
Samad Parkar, Luton Kokni, against Bedford WI	5-28
John Bowerman, 6th Form Coll, League, against United	5-28
John Butler, Flitwick II, against Redbourn II	5-29
Phil Ainsworth, Pre-Star, League, against Wimpey	5-33
Ron Glencross, Luton Saracens, against Wing	5-35
Alan Stacey, Luton II, against St Albans II	5-56
Fred Buss, Harlington, against Markyate	5-56
Bernie Cains, Luton Town, against Huntingdon	5-72

Bowlers on top in cup final



● ONE OF THE SHOCKS FOR UNITED: Gerald Michael hooks Stuart Farrar powerfully—but he holed out to deep square leg.

NORMALLY feared for their awesome batting power in limited-over cricket, Luton United had to be rescued by their bowlers to win the Luton Midweek Cricket League's Pre-Star Cup.

Sundon Park, a division below them, dished out a string of shocks, and in the end came close to producing the upset of the season.

They battled back to equality after being all but down and out for the count, and although in the end they lost on points they were never again in danger of being knocked out.

But they contributed to their downfall in one respect: they had to bat second, and had bowled their 20 overs so slowly—it took them over 80 minutes—that the fog end of their own innings had to struggle in near darkness.

But when they did get cracking, Sundon Park's bowlers were marvellous, with Ian Cowley and Stuart Farrar both beating the bat regularly.

For once United's batting never really got on top of the opposition. They were ready to open up when the score after ten overs was 52-3.

Then Peter Winstanley was brought into the attack, and his first memorable over all but wrecked United. He bowled three wides, saw one

SUNDON PARK GIVE UNITED A FRIGHT

batsman step back into the stumps as he clouted the ball to the boundary, then had another caught off a skler, and United were 56-5.

Winstanley went on to take five wickets, to be a contender for the man-of-the-match prize, with United batsmen helping hugely with some atrocious strokes.

Chasing 93 to win, Sundon Park were reeling after the first over, with Farrar and Doyle both out to the zippy swing and pace of Elliston Abraham.

By the half-way stage, odds of 25-1 were being offered on Sundon Park, because they were becalmed at 28-4, with all four victims removed by Abraham. But then John Woods and

Tom Simkins took a hand. They turned the game round with some big hitting and good running, and put on 50 for the fifth wicket before Ossie Clarke bowled Woods. That left the Park 79-5, needing 14 off the last two overs.

But Simkins was bowled by Burgess for 24, and in the fading light the rest of the innings quietly subsided, leaving United narrow winners of a game they were expected to win by a mile.

Abrahams won the man-of-the-match award for his important 4-17, with Woods runner-up for his fighting 36.

DETAILS

Luton United 92 (Winstanley 5-10) Sundon Park 84-8 (Woods 26, Simkins 24, Abraham 4-17, Clarke 3-9) United won by 8 runs.

Luton United Cricket Club 1977 Performances



Luton United Batting Performances For 1977

Name	Innings	Runs	Avg	M/W	Innings	Avg
O Clarke	15	451	30	223	9	28
G Michael	18	361	20	180	9	20
T Gooding	19	274	15	279	7	21
H Manning	17	212	13	137	7	14
G Hunter	12	170	13	12	1	12
T Prescott	14	169	12	24	6	9
A Antrobus	13	109	8	18	3	6
N Abbey	16	108	6	35	6	6
S Stevenson	5	88	17	8	2	4
J Lynch	8	84	10	12	5	2
E Abraham	10	60	6	34	7	5



Luton United Bowling Performances For 1977

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Bowled	Caught	LBW
O Clarke	236.5	56	563	71	46	13	12
E Abraham	173	39	432	42	39	16	4
T Prescott	130.3	27	399	37	17	16	3
U Burgess	104.2	18	330	36	19	5	11
H Manning	49	8	176	13	7	6	0
G Michael	49	8	184	19	3	15	1
J Lynch	41	10	119	7	2	4	1
S Stevenson	17.1	3	61	11	5	5	1
N Abbey	13	0	72	4	2	2	0
R Larmond	8	1	35	1	0	0	1

Luton United Cricket Club 1977

THE RUNS POUR OUT

Ossie Clarke crashed a thunderous 63 not out as George 11, a thinly disguised Luton United team, trashed Kingsway Tavern, known elsewhere as Luton Indians, in the Ross seven-a-side competition for pub sides.

For Kingsway, openers Arun and Nanu Patel put on 51 for the first wicket, and their total of 999-5 in 12 overs looked reasonable.

But Clarke replied with a blistering knock as the George raced to victory in 10.4 overs

A Luton United team, playing under the name of the George 11, is to take the field at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, on Sunday week in the quarter finals of the Ross seven-a-side pub competition.

But they cut it fine, before scraping through against the Tudor Gate of Wellingborough. Free-stone looked like being their match winner batting freely for 49, allegedly with a little help from his side's umpire.

The George only made 96, with Ossie Clarke top scoring and Tudor Gate batsmen replied with some brisk hitting which put them ahead of the required rate.

But then Clarke bowled him and led his side to equality then victory. When he stepped up to bowl the last over Tudor Gate needed five to win and Clarke and his fielders restricted them to two.

Joke that could lead to Oval

AFTER ENTERING the competition just as a joke, Luton United are within reach of winning the title of the best seven-a-side cricket team in Britain.

They were one of 2,234 teams which started this year's Ross Pub Sevens tournament. Playing under the innsign of the George II, they are now in the last 32.

Said United secretary George Hunter: "It might have been a joke when we started, but it's now reached the stage where you have to take every game seriously."

The semi-finals and final will be played at the Oval, and the winning team, bolstered by the inclusion of John Edrich and three other top county players, will be given a week's luxury holiday in Corfu next year,

with games against Greek representative teams.

Indestructible skipper Ossie Clarke led the George II into the last 32 with a 25-run victory over the Red Bull of Cambridge.

Put in to bat, the George lost the wicket of George Michael with only one run on the board, but Clarke and Trevor Gooding hoisted the total to 48-2.

Clarke went on to make 47 before being stumped, out of the final total of 77.

The Red Bull had gambled by packing their side with strong bowling, and as batsmen they had no idea how to despatch the George II bowlers.

Clarke took two wickets and the Red Bull were all out trying to chase the runs

NATIONAL PUB 7 A SIDE

UNITED GO TO TRENT BRIDGE



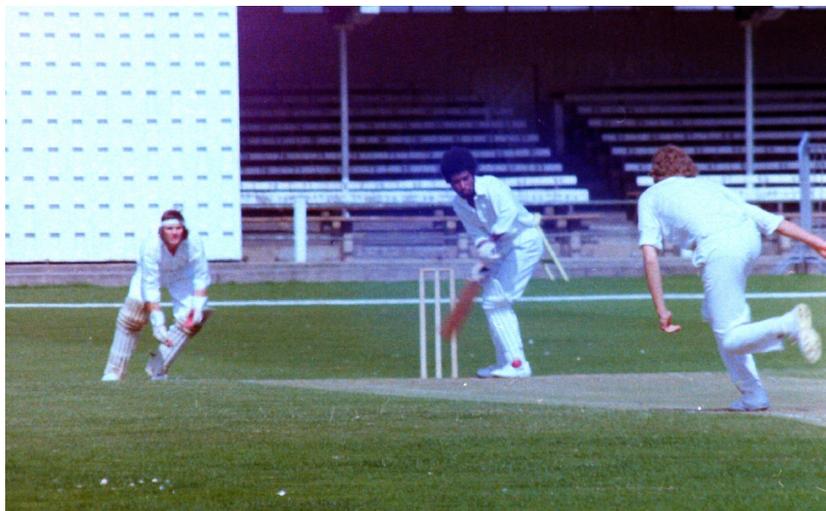
Back Row: E Abraham, H Manning, S Stevenson, O Clarke, T Prescott
Front Row: J Michael, T Gooding and U Burgess

Luton United Cricket Club at Trent Bridge - 1977

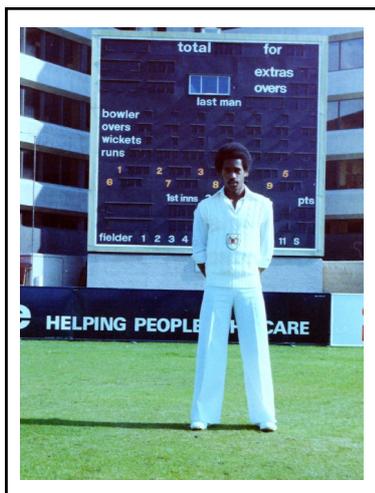
TRENT BRIDGE MEMORIES



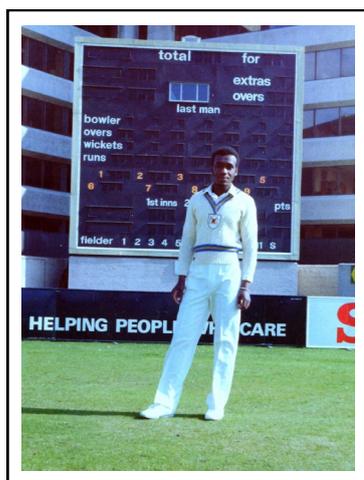
Terry Gooding during his 34



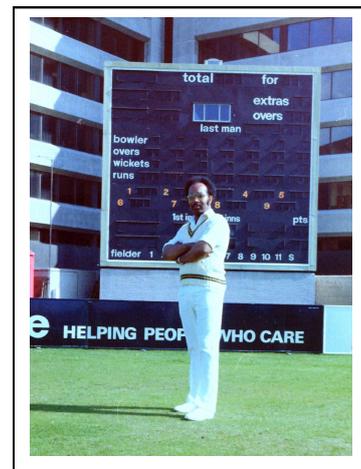
Gerald Michael faces his first ball



Terry Gooding



Trevor Prescott



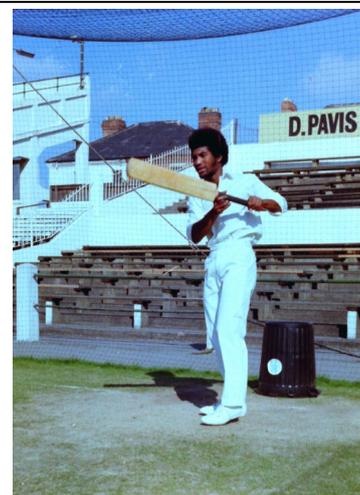
Ossie Clarke



Silburn Stevenson in the Trent Bridge

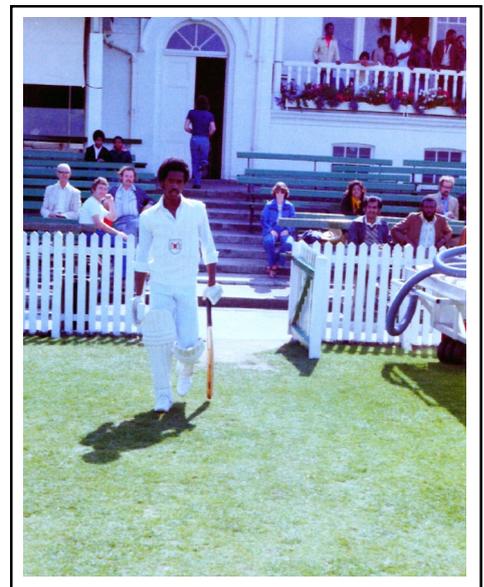


Terry Gooding



Gerald Michael in the Trent Bridge nets

Luton United Cricket Club at Trent Bridge - 1977

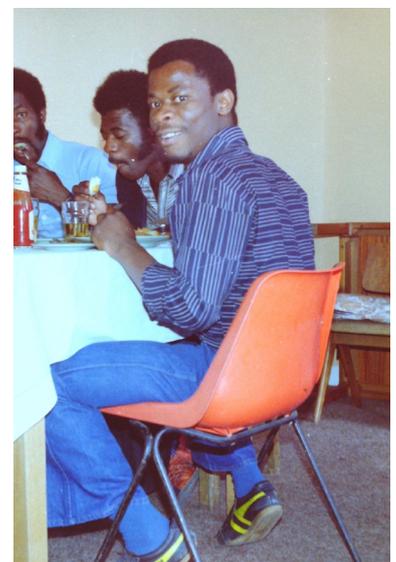


Supporter in the nets

Ossie and Gerald walk out to bat



Ossie, Terry and Horace on bench
George Hunter opposite



Luton United Cricket Club 1978

UNITED HAMMER COLLEGE

In what might have been the crunch match of the season Luton United this week staked their claim to the Luton Midweek Cricket League championship with a crushing victory over current holders Luton Sixth Form College.

Ossie Clarke and Trevor Prescott murdered the College bowling, smacking fours and sixes to all parts of the field to set-up a victory which put United equal top of the Premier division, and left the champs reeling at the bottom still seeking their first points of the season. Opener Clarke hammered 67 not out and Prescott's contribution to the carnage was an unbeaten 47 as United slammed 136-2 in their 20 overs.

The College could never match the run rate and lost nine wickets as they slithered to defeat.

UNITED SHOW THE POWER

Against lowly Kent's Instruments Luton United were able to demonstrate some of their batting power as they raced to an eight wicket success.

Noel Abbey and Trevor Prescott attacked the Kent bowlers furiously and were undefeated with 29 and 37 not out after United had lost two wickets.

Earlier Kent's had struggled against some accurate bowling by Isaac Michael and Ossie Clarke and it required a hard hitting 28 by O'Shea and some poor fielding by United to help them to their 67-5.

MID-WEEK LEAGUE CRICKET

JOINT TOP

Refusing to give up the chase for the championship of the Luton and district Mid -Week League, Luton United forced themselves joint top of the Premier division this week.

With Luton Indians Inactive United took full advantage by beating Sixth Form college for the second time this season.

But the Indians have a game in hand and still have to play the return with United, having won the first clash against them.

Complications are setting in for the Indians, as success jams up their fixture list. They have four league games to play and are still involved in the Pre Star Cup as well as the Oliver Shield.

United concentrated on putting the pressure on and reigning champions Sixth Form College were out gunned after Ossie Clarke and Eli Abraham had restricted the college to 73-9 in 18 overs.

Hendrickson played just as important a role, he took two wickets, but his five overs only cost nine runs.

United lost wickets in an attempt to score quickly and the College scented victory when the score slumped to 32-4 when Clarke was out. But United had batting in depth to win comfortably.

UNITED DOUBLE WEEK END WIN

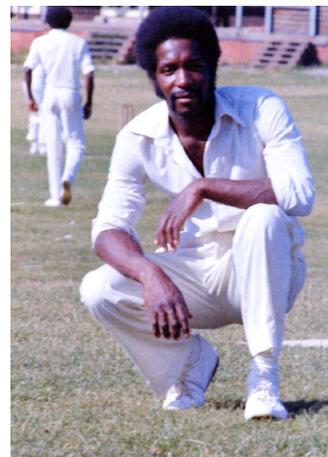
Luton United unleashed their batting power at the weekend to chalk up two victories over Luton Indians and Bedford West Indians.

They were particularly strong in beating Luton Indians by 142 runs. They lost three quick wickets before snapping into gear and smashing the Indians bowling all over the field.

A stand of 145 between Steve Clouden and Ossie Clarke, who was 112 not out, enable them to declare at 215-5. It all too much for the Indians who collapsed to 73 with Abraham leading United's bowling success with 4 -11 and John and Michael taking two wickets apiece.

A fine all-round performance by Trevor Prescott completed the weekend success with a three wicket win over Bedford West Indians.

United made hard work of chasing the 94 needed for victory until Prescott saw them home with an unbeaten half century.



Eli

Holders of the Luton Midweek League Pre-Star Cup, Luton United, came close to falling at the first hurdle in defence of their crown this week. New boys Totternhoe from division four, all but toppled them with some accurate bowling and smart catching.

Irresponsible strokes by some United batsmen were punished by the villagers, and at 13-3 United looked like stumbling to a disastrous score. But a sensible 37 by Eli Abraham stopped the rot, and he and his fellow bowlers completed the rescue act by restricting Totternhoe to 75-5 in reply to United's 99-9.

Best win of the week was War down Wanderers merciless thrashing of Harlington School B. In-form Mike Morgan thrashed 71, and put on 99 for the second wicket with Peter Webley as the Wanderers raced to 154-5.

Harlington was then bowled out for 56.

Powerful Luton Indians knocked United counties severely off schedule. The Busmen were bowled out for 24 with Satish claiming eight wickets for only 12 runs.

Luton United Cricket Club 1978

TITLE RIVALS SET FOR THE CRUNCH

TWO TEAMS LOCKED at the top of the Premier Division of the Luton Midweek Cricket League this week set the scene for a confrontation on Tuesday which is vital for both. Luton United will meet Luton Indians at Lancaster Avenue, with both sides defending 100 per cent records.

United this week dished out the first defeat of the season to the powerful Wardown Wanderers, to make it three wins out of three, and the Indians equalled that record by hammering bottom club Kent Instruments.

The Indians' runaway victory was led by Nanu Patel, who thrashed the Kent bowling for 60, including five sixes, before being bowled attempting another big hit off the last ball of the innings. He and Dipak Parsooth added 102 in 12 overs.

Kent's faced the hopeless task of hitting eight an over to win and never looked like making it.

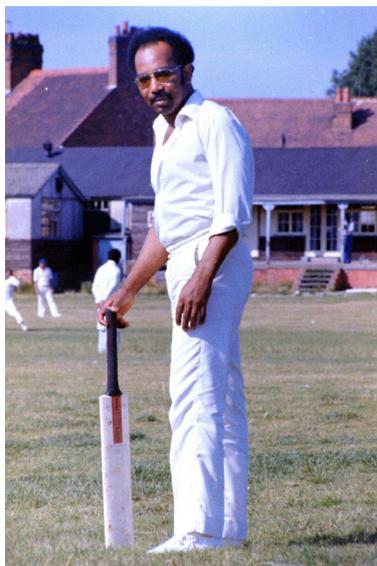
United won a tactics battle against Wanderers. The Wardown side put United in first, always a risky idea, then spread the field wide to cut down United's big-hitting efforts to reach the boundary.

United responded by scoring most of their runs in singles and twos, and with good knocks by Ossie Clarke, Trevor Prescott and Isaac Michael scamppered their way to 136-4 in 18 overs.

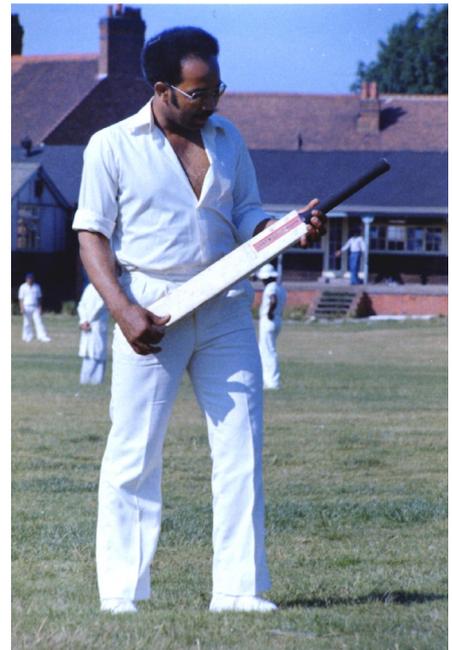
Mike Morgan and Terry Roe kept Wanderers in the game with 32 off the first three overs, but Clarke and Michael took over as change bowlers and stemmed the flood.

After the first wicket fell at 51 the Wanderers' batting lost its momentum, and Prescott rubbed it in by grabbing four wickets in two overs as Wanderers were forced to

LEAGUE CRICKET



The Magnificent Ossie Clarke



Elliston Abraham
Greatest fast blower in Luton



PRE-STAR CUP FINAL

United retain trophy

LUTON UNITED defeated their deadly rivals, Wardown Wanderers, by eight wickets to retain their hold on the Pre-Star Cup in the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League's showpiece final at Vauxhall's Brache Estate.

The difference between two well-matched sides, both renowned for their batting potential, was in the shape of man of the match Ossie Clarke of Luton United who topped both the batting and bowling figures for the cup-winners.

He took 3-23 in his allotted five overs as Wardown were contained to 126-8, and then was easily the match top scorer with a brilliant 72 as United kept a grip on the trophy by knocking off the runs required in 19.1 overs with eight of their wickets gone.

Wanderers had won the toss and decided to bat, and as expected their batsmen settled in to give United a sizeable total to chase.

Mike Morgan and Brian Taylor, who opened the innings for them, started off very briskly

with Taylor being the most aggressive of the pair and hitting fours and sixes at regular intervals. Between them they put on 61 before Taylor was bowled by Hendrickson for 30. In the very next over Terry Roe survived a very confident appeal, and then went on to help himself to 22 very good runs.

The Wanderers looked like building a formidable total at this stage, but once Morgan was run out after registering their top score of 44, their innings crumbled, enabling United to thank their lucky stars that they managed to restrict them to 126.

Abraham, who opened the bowling with Clarke, had been equally successful, finishing his spell with 3-37, while the other wicket fell to Hendrickson.

United started well enough, but they conceded wickets at regular intervals as they strove successfully to keep up with the scoring

rate required for victory. Ossie Clarke took over to make 72 brilliant runs, hitting nine fours and a six in the process. It was a match-winning effort because when he went United required only five to win, with Abraham finishing the match in spectacular style by driving a brilliantly hit four.

Cox was the most successful of the Wanderers' bowlers, taking 2-21, with Stiff, Stacey and Morgan claiming a wicket apiece.

SCOREBOARD

Wardown Wanderers 126-8 (Morgan 44, Taylor 30, Roe 22, Burns 6, Haylett 0, Stacey 2, Saunders 0, Cox 2 not out, Hayes 0, Biggs 7 not out, Abraham 5-0-37-3; Clarke 5-0-23-3; Michael 5-0-28-0; Hendrickson 5-0-23-1), Luton United 127-8 (Abbey 7, Michael 10, Clarke 72, Prescott 5, Michael 5, Bushell 0, Clouden 15, Abraham 5 not out, John 0, Hunter 1 not out, Stiff 5-0-42-1; Cox 5-0-21-2; Hayes 3-0-24-0; Stacey 4-1-12-1; Morgan 2-0-14-1). Luton United won by two wickets.



● BRIAN TAYLOR gave the Wanderers' innings a lively start.

Luton United Cricket Club 1978

BLACK LASH

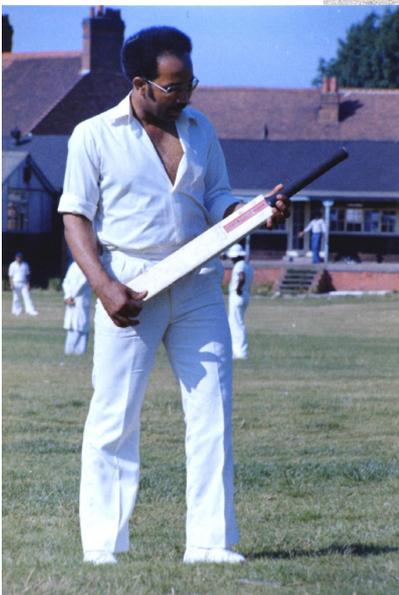
The hapless Luton International felt the backlash after Luton United had crumbled to defeat in their first game of the week-end.

Undisciplined batting and poor fielding wrecked United's chances against Stoke Hammond. Trevor Prescott made 59, but his colleagues could do little right on the uneven wicket and they were all out for 116.

Stoke Hammond knocked off the runs with ease.

That defeat stung them into action against International the following day. Clarke ripped the heart out of the International innings taking 6-24.

Noel Abbey and Trevor Prescott carried their bats for 44 and 48 respectively as United cursed to the winning target of 114.



TAIL-ENDERS SAVE THE DAY

TWO VITAL acts turned the tide Luton United's way against Linslade. The tail-enders saved their innings from disaster, and then the irrepressible Ossie Clarke struck with six wickets in a sustained spell of match-winning bowling.

It redressed his own personal balance as well — he was one of four United batsmen to be dismissed without scoring. Opener Noel Abbey was the only early

batsman to play up to form. But while he was making 39 a succession of partners threw away wickets with rash strokes — a total of eight men gave catches to earn the walk back to the sidelines.

United were in trouble at 71-7 before Prescott, 41 not out, and Mahy, 28, shared an eighth-wicket stand of 51.

United celebrated the escape from disaster by pinning down Linslade's batsmen to such good effect that they also had four ducks.

They couldn't cope with Clarke, who bowled from one end throughout the innings. His six wickets cost only 18 runs, with five of his 15 overs maidens. Tony Allie, with 3-11, was the other bowler on target as United won by 82 runs.

Details

Luton United 144 (Prescott 41 not, Abbey 39, Mahy 28); Linslade 62 (Clarke 6-18, Allie 3-11). United won by 82 runs.



Noel Abbey

Half-century turns the tide

A FIGHTING half-century by Trevor Prescott rescued Luton United when they were in danger of being demolished by the powerful Hitchin West Indians.

United had been made to work hard in the field as Hitchin WI scored 173-5 declared, and they were up against it when their reply stumbled to 42-4. But Ossie Clarke dug in and Prescott, batting at number six, hauled United out of trouble with an undefeated 51 as they held on for a draw with two wickets to spare.

They had things much easier against

Kokni Sports. Prescott made 23 and Noel Abbey 27 as United made 150 and Kokni were forced to play a rearguard action. Their batting could not keep out United's attack, and with Clarke taking four wickets Kokni were dismissed for 54.

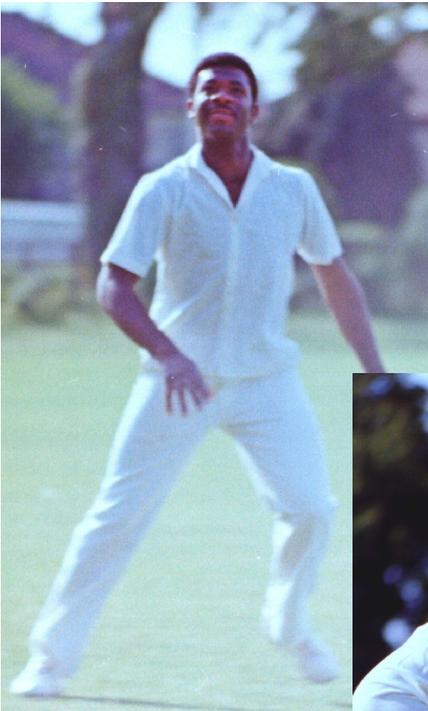
Details

Hitchin WI 173-5 (Clarke 3-56); Luton United 118-8 (Prescott 51 not, Clarke 19). Match drawn. Luton United 150 (Abbey 27, Prescott 23, Samad 3-35, Bashir 2-18); Kokni Sports 54 (Clarke 4-11, Hendrickson 3-12). United won by 96 runs.

Ossie Clarke so often the dominant force of Luton United's success in the 70s.

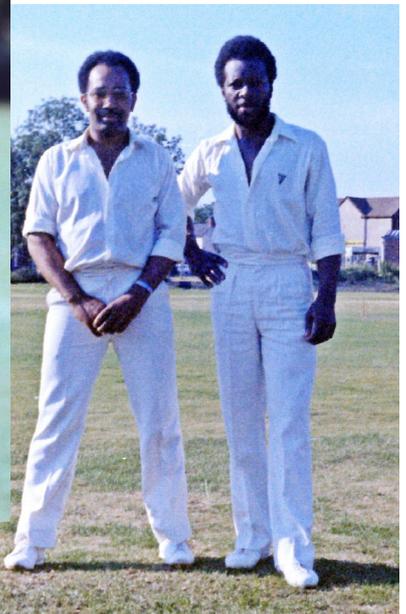
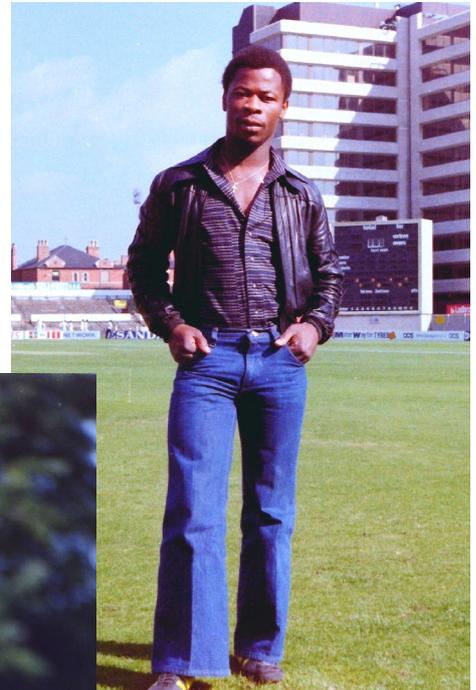
Luton United Cricket Club

Photo Gallery



**George Hunter above,
Trini, right and Eli bottom**

**Die hard supporter
Franklyn Hunter, right**



Above; Ossie and Andrew



Silburn, left

Leaving Luton United To Join Chevette

I left United at the end of the 1978 season to join Chevette. I was getting disillusioned with level of casualness that had crept in at the club. Members weren't attending meetings or when they came they arrived late and left early without anything getting resolved. Some players had plenty to say on the field of play but never talked about their gripes when the opportunity came at meetings.

Meeting up and leaving for away matches was not taken seriously by some players. If it was agreed to meet at say 12.30 PM we would still be waiting at 1.15 PM for certain players to turn up, when the match was due to start at 2.00 PM. Needless to say we would sometimes arrive late and one or two men light because the people we waited for didn't bother to turn up.

Even when playing at home we had issues. Most players strolled in fifteen minutes before start of play. What sort of preparation is that. I was always at the ground from 1.15 PM, and was left wandering who was going to turn up or if we had a full team.

Trevor Prescott was always early, in fact he was usually at the ground before me. He was also frustrated by what was going on. He left United a year after I left.

I lived for cricket. I couldn't wait for the week end to come. I made sure that everything that I had to do at home was done, it kept the wife sweet. When we played away she didn't see me until after 10 PM.

So when you prepare yourself for the week end and some players arrive late or can't be bothered to turn up for the game, it killed my spirit. But once the match started I was ok until the next game.

I am not too sure how I got to join Chevette. I don't know if I was asked to join or if I approached the club. But joining Chevette was like going for a job.

When I went to their meeting, a vote was cast to decide if I was to be accepted as a member. They were a close bunch, like Free Masons. I passed the interview and got in.

The main men at Chevette at that time were, Frisco, Mr. Service, Leslie and Vaughan Munroe. Chevette, had an enthusiastic group of players, they were keen and I looked forward to playing with them.

One of the things that impressed me about Chevette was that everyone had a club jumper with a badge. This showed a statement of intent. They wanted to go places.

I remember when Frisco, turned up with my jumper after paying my Fifteen pounds. When he pulled it out of the Sainsbury plastic bag I was excited and disappointed at the same time. I am sure it was second hand but he assured me that it wasn't.



Luton United Cricket Club 1982

The New Generation



1982 saw the arrival of several new members at United. Terry Gooding who had taken a break from the game after leaving Chevette returned to captain the team, Linden Brown, a left hand fast bowler and hand hitting batsman, Frank Mingo, brother of Kenroy, Reg Patel, a solid opening batsman, Alford Jackson, all-rounder and Clubert Hendrickson better known as Gapper, a competitive all-rounder.

United dominated local cricket for four years, winning the Oliver Shield in 1976 the Pre-Star Cup in 1977, 1978 and 1981 and also reached the seven a side National Pub Competition at Trent Bridge under the leadership of Ossie Clarke.

How ever for what ever reason United could never win the Mid Week League. With Ossie's departure to America it was now left to someone else to take United to another level..

Luton United Cricket Club 1982

1982 Mid Week League Season

NEW BOYS ROCK THE CHAMPIONS

CHAMPIONS of the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League Luton Indians went down to a shock defeat when the 1982 season opened on Tuesday night.

In the night's highest-scoring match—228 runs were hit in 32 overs—newly promoted Sundon Park celebrated their return to the Premier Division in style. Their batsmen hammered the Luton News Cup holders, and then the bowlers and fielders just managed to head off a spirited attempt by the Indians to make 121 in 16 overs for victory.

Openers Ray Byrne and Clive Freeman did the early damage, with a half-century partnership which gave later men the opportunity to chase their arms in the chase for quick runs.

Tim Simkins and Bob Harvey hit 42 for the unbroken fourth wicket partnership, and the Indians were in trouble when they lost Arun Patel with only three on the board, caught and bowled by Stuart Farrar.

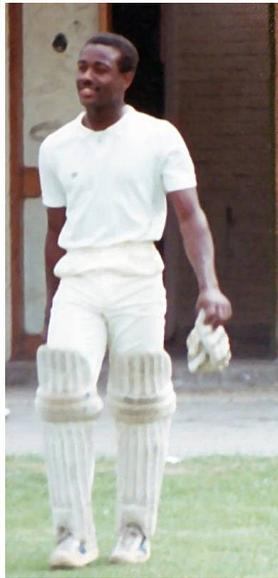
Mahendra Patel looked as stylish as ever, but the Indians push for victory foundered when change bowler Ian Cowley snapped up two wickets. Chris Bird, the other second-line vital job for Sundon Park, conceding only 11 runs in his four overs, which also yielded a valuable wicket.

FORMER champions Luton United overcame a rocky spell to dispose of Luton FC. The footballers enjoyed a 50-run stand for the second wicket between Jeff Davie and Roger Smith, but United held them to 72-2 in 16 overs.

Opener Venol John steered the reply to victory, with an unbeaten 33, although he had the shock of losing three partners for the addition of only five runs at one stage, with David Lidell claiming all three.

CHEVETTE'S Ken Davis became the first man to hit a half-century in the League this season when his innings helped to give his side victory over Tottenham. He and Trevor Prescott were in superb form, with strokes

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE



Venol John

HONOURS LIST

BEST BATTING

- Zafar Shah, Luton Pakistanis, against Electrolux *101
- Gordon Allingham, Hexton, against Stewarthy *100
- Arun Patel, College OSA, against N Molton 87
- Mike Morgan, College OSA, against Kilmington 78
- Terry Gooding, Luton United, against Stevenage *73
- Bob Whan, Luton Nalگو, against Shillington 71
- Kanti Patel, College OSA, against Wheathampstead ... *70
- Arun Patel, College OSA, against Whimble 70
- Mohd Rashid, Kash Cavaliers, against Watford Asians 66
- Mike Morgan, Beds, against Herts 65
- Hitu Naik, College OSA, against Lyme Regis 56
- Arun Patel, College OSA, against Buckfastleigh 56
- Bupkesh Patel, College OSA, against Whimble 50

BEST BOWLING

- George Hunter, Luton United, against Shillington 5-3
- Arun Patel, College OSA, against Buckfastleigh 5-19
- Stan Harvey, Luton Nalگو, against Wheathampstead ... 5-24
- Trevor Stiff, Luton Town II, against Stevenage II 5-34
- Julian Bhagundass, Vauxhall, against BA 5-38

*Denotes not out.

CHAMPIONSHIP BATTLE IS A TREBLE CHANCE

A THREE-WAY tussle for the Luton Midweek League championship developed this week, with Tottenham FC the surprise packet as they joined former champions Chevette and current title-holders Luton Indians at the top of the Premier Division.

TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	L	PP
Chevette	3	2	0	1
L. Indians	3	2	0	1
Tottenham FC	3	2	0	1
L. United	3	1	2	0
Sundon FC	3	1	2	0
St. FC Luton	3	0	3	0

DIVISION ONE	P	W	L	PP
Vauxhall SPC A	3	2	0	1
Luton UB	3	2	0	1
Electrolux	3	1	2	0
St. Nicholas	3	1	2	0
L. Nonas	3	1	2	0
Harvard	3	0	3	0

DIVISION TWO	P	W	L	PP
Kingsway Tav	3	2	0	1
Luton Bank	3	2	0	1
Phoenix	3	1	2	0
Bede Eagles	3	1	2	0
L. Pakistanis	3	0	3	0
Vauxhall Specs	3	0	3	0

DIVISION THREE	P	W	L	PP
Markyate	3	2	0	1
Kashmir Cavs	3	2	0	1
L. Internal	3	1	2	0
Harlington Schl	3	1	2	0
Sharnley	3	1	2	0
Laporte	3	0	3	0

DIVISION FOUR	P	W	L	PP
Finchley	3	2	0	1
St. Josephs	3	2	0	1
St. Pauls	3	1	2	0
Purton	3	1	2	0
Vauxhall SPC B	3	0	3	0
ARCC	3	0	3	0

The Indians announced their intention to hang on to the Luton News Cup with a devastating batting display to dispose of old rivals Luton United.

The two clubs had to meet in a play-off to settle the championship last year, but on Tuesday night, United were always second best, despite getting into treble figures against one of the best attacks in the league.

No batsman could produce the bold quick-scoring knocks that have been the hallmark of United.

Naresh and Kanu Patel contained the runs, and United were shattered as the Indians turned on a dazzling batting performance.

Chasing 107 to win in 20 overs Mahendra and Arun Patel hammered 72 for the opening partnership, with Arun playing the supporting

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE

Sundon Crushed

Luton United rarely relaxed their grip on the game against Sundon

Park. Their opening attack with Eli Abraham in penetrating form kept the runs down. He took three wickets for only seven runs in his five over and with Venol John returning figures of 4-18 in 4.1 overs. Sundon Park were bowled out in 18.1 overs for 64 runs. Clubert Hendrickson and Eli Abraham saw United home 11 overs to spare.

CRICKET HONOURS

BEST BATTING

- Colin Wright, Vauxhall II, against Edmonton II 87
- Tim Chaplain, International, against Pulloxhill 81
- Anil Jain, Luton Town, against Hitchin *77
- Andy White, Lloyds, against L. Pakistanis (ML) 68
- Dave Light, Vauxhall, against Hampstead 68
- Paul Hull, Markyate, against Sundon Park 61
- Dave Mortimer, Markyate, against Sundon Park *61
- Dave Butterworth, Flitwick, against Laporte (ML) 58
- Mike Morgan, Luton Town, against Finchley 53
- Terry Gooding, Luton United, against Chevette 50

* denotes not out. ML denotes Midweek League.

BEST BOWLING

- Phil Sweetman, Markyate, against Sundon Park 5-13
- All Jackson, Luton United, against Chevette 5-29
- G. Jarwar, L. International, against Kashmir Cavaliers 5-38
- Steve Waterhouse, Vauxhall, against Hampstead 5-50
- Bernie Cains, Luton Town, against Finchley 5-64
- Julian Bhagundass, Vauxhall II, against Edmonton II 5-67

Luton United Cricket Club 1982

TITLE-CHASERS FACE CRUCIAL TEST

LONG-TIME RIVALS for the crown as top limited-over cricket club in the area, Luton Indians and Luton United set themselves up for a crucial confrontation next week with solid performances in the Luton and District Midweek League on Tuesday night.

They meet at Lancaster Avenue next Tuesday, with the Indians ready to put one hand on the Luton News Cup if they can beat United.

A United victory, however, would see the two clubs locked level on points at the head of the Premier Division, and set up the possibility of another championship play-off decider between them.

Neither showed any mercy this week to teams fighting to stave off relegation.

Indians, the champions, batted solidly all down the order to take 110 runs off Sundon Park in 18 overs, and when Sundon replied only Bob Harvey showed much defiance. They were never up with the required run-rate as Arun and Naresh Patel picked up wickets.

Luton 61 Club were United's victims. Their bowlers were hammered,

with Venol John making a brilliant 46 and Terry Gooding an unbeaten 70. Set to chase 142 to win in 18 overs, the footballers were unable to get halfway there.

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE

United take a step towards league double

THE BATTLE between the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League giants, Luton Indians and Luton United in the final of the Pre-Star Cup knock-out tournament more than lived up to expectations.

The match was a real thriller with United defeating their arch-rivals by three runs in a nail-biting finish.

After losing a wicket in the second over before they had a run on the board, United's batsmen found themselves pinned down by some sharp fielding and very tight bowling.

But gradually they managed to get on top of the bowling with Elii Abraham leading the attack well supported by Terry Gooding and Alf Jackson.

These three provided the back-bone of the Indians' 20 overs total before they lost two wickets through silly run-outs in the scramble for runs in the closing overs.

The Indians got away to a good start in reply with Arun Patel and Mehendra Patel stroking the ball around and taking quick singles and accepting the chance of two runs whenever it arose.

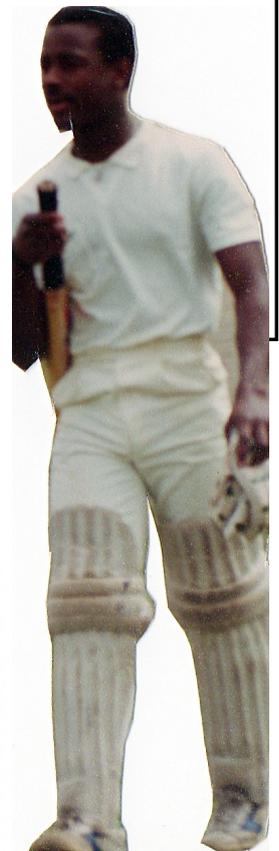
But the course of the game was changed when United's Linton Brown took a brilliant catch to dismiss Arun Patel and ran out his opening partner in the following over.

With these two gone the Indians struggled to keep in touch with the run-rate as the United bowlers kept it tight being well supported in the field.

Jackson completed a fine all-round contribution to United's victory by taking two wickets and Venol John also had two successes and bowled very tight.

Luton United 102 (Abraham 38, Gooding 18, Naresh Patel 3-21); Luton Indians 99 (Arun Patel 25, Mahendra Patel 20, John 2-18, Jackson 2-25). Luton United won by three runs.

THE LEAGUE'S other big final, for the Vauxhall Plate between Lloyds Bank and Luton International, which was rained off last week, has been re-arranged for Laporte Sports Ground tonight, starting at 6.30 pm.



Venol John played a crucial part in the M/L

HOLDERS GO THROUGH

Holdings of the Luton League's Pre Star Cup Luton United, hammered 61 FC in the semi final.

Luton Indians and Totternhoe FC will meet in the other semi-final, with the final due to be played at Lancaster Avenue, next Thursday evening.

Opener Geoff Davie was the only 61 FC player to show any defiance against United's deadly bowling attack.

In the first ten overs Abraham and Clubert Hendrickson reduced the 61 innings to a shambles, at 18-7. Davie resisted bravely with 22, but the rest failed, with seven batsmen out for ducks.

United's victory rump was interrupted when Nick White struck with three wickets before Terry Gooding steered the side to victory.

...and get a crack at a treble

A GOOD knock by Noel Abbey and a captain's innings by Terry Gooding got Luton United off on the right foot in their Oliver Shield semi-final against Redbourn and set them up with a chance of doing the local cricket treble.

One of the Redbourn bowlers came in for particularly harsh treatment from them when he had 60 runs knocked off his six overs.

Redbourn had a go to get the runs and

were well in with a chance with 71 scored off their first 12 overs.

But Elii Abraham returned for a second spell with the ball for United and his final three overs cost only six runs with Redbourn falling behind the run-rate.

Gooding came on the scene at a point where the Redbourn batsmen had to go for the runs, and he too frustrated them with only 19 scored off his six overs which also brought a bonus of two wickets.

DETAILS

Luton United 137-2, 20 overs (Abbey 58 not, Gooding 50); Redbourn 101 (Gooding 2-19, Abraham 2-22). United won by 36 runs.

Luton United Cricket Club 1982

FINAL VICTORY WOULD BE DECIDER

VICTORY in their postponed match against Chevette will give Luton Indians the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League title for the second year running.

A shock defeat in their postponed game against Tottenham seems to have cost their main rivals Luton United the chance of forcing a play-off.

But United slipped back into gear to finish their season on the right note with a win over Sundon Park. If Chevette score a surprise win over Indians, United will have to meet Indians in a play-off to decide the winners of the Luton News Cup.

The villagers caused a surprise when they scored a 22 runs win over United with Martin Cutler scoring a half century and Martin Bovelle and Colin Tibbett bowling accurately to tumble the championship-chasers out.

But United's batsmen found their touch again in the final game against Sundon Park after they recovered from the shock of losing three wickets in their first two overs for only four runs.

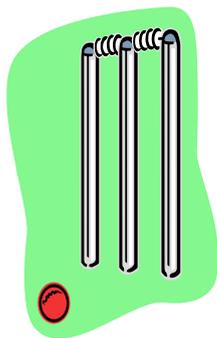
Terry Gooding and Elli Abraham stopped the rot with Abraham taking command of the game to pass his half-century and bat through for a sparkling innings.

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE

In reply Sundon Park made a slow start, but a fine knock by Clive Freeman, who was aided by some poor fielding in which United put down seven catches, enabled them to keep up with the run-rate for a period before United's bowlers regained command.



Eli Abraham a brilliant 76 against Sundon Park



UNITED GIVEN A NEW CHANCE OF TAKING THE PRIZE

LUTON INDIANS won their final match against Chevette which should have clinched the Luton and District Mid-Week League Championship for them on Tuesday.

But their big rivals Luton United find themselves still in with a chance of forcing the Indians to a play off for the cup as they did last season.

United was given fresh hope when the League's executive council declared the match against Tottenham FC and Luton United, won by Tottenham recently-void after the discovery that demon bowler Martin Bovell was ineligible to play for the footballers.

He was already a registered player for Luton International in Division Three, and no player is allowed to turnout for more than one side in any one season.

The game is to be replayed and victory for United would put them level on points with Luton Indians.

HONOURS LIST

BEST BATTING

Hyden Andrew, Luton International, against Chalgrave	129
Dave Light, Vauxhall, against Luton Town (HC)	*104
Don Rolt, Luton Town II, against Nth Mymms II (HC)	*98
Elli Abraham, Luton United, against Sundon Pk (ML)	*76
Jeff Biggs, Luton Town II, against Vauxhall II (HC) ...	*74
Brian Taylor, Town Strollers, against Northwood	65
Stuart Smith, Luton Nalگو, against Wing	62
Neil Bigmore, Stopsley, against Luton Nalگو	61
Ghulam Sawar, Kashmir Cavaliers, against S. G. Brown	60
Mushtaq Dalvi, Kokni Sports, against Halyard (ML) ...	*56
Mike Morgan, Luton Town, against Nth Mymms (HC)	55
Arun Patel, Luton Town, against Vauxhall (HC)	52
Chris Janes, Town Strollers, against Northwood	*51
Peter Taylor, Luton Town, against Vauxhall (HC)	50

Luton United Cricket Club 1982

UNITED FOILED CHAMPS

THE EXCITING prospect of another play-off between Luton and District Midweek League arch-rivals, Luton Indians and Luton United for the Premier Division title was set-up on Tuesday.

Reigning champions Indians would have been well on the way towards retaining the Luton News Cup for another year had they won the crunch game against former champs United.

But their big rivals were not going to let them slip away with it and threw the issue back in the melting pot with a fine six wickets victory.

After making 103 in 18 overs the Indians took a hammering from the United opening pair, Venol John and Clubert Hendrickson who put on 41 for the first wicket in an attacking six-over spell.

United then suffered a slight set-back before Terry Gooding and Kenroy Mingo took charge to bring the match to a tremendous climax with five runs needed off the last over.

Gooding was bowled off the first ball, but Mingo hammered ten runs off two deliveries in a spectacular finish to keep United's hopes of regaining the title very high.

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE



UNITED MISS OUT ON MID-WEEK CUP ONCE AGAIN.....



The Luton and District Mid-Week League season stretched into August with the Premier division championship to be decided by sudden death play off between Luton Indians and Luton United.

But it was a second year of disappointment

for United as the Indians romped to victory.

United have already beaten the Indians in the Pre Star Cup but lost the play off for the championship, and that remains the only major local cricket honour to elude them.



Luton United Cricket Club 1982

Week-End Highlights

HE WAS ROBBED!

WITH six wickets already taken in 3.3 overs, Luton United skipper Terry Gooding was on a hat-trick when the last man was due to walk out to face him in United's game against Aylesbury West Indians.

But the opposition skipper denied Gooding his chance by declaring.

United showed their respect for the opposition by reversing the normal batting order, and then lost five wickets for 35 before Venol John and Gooding stepped up the run-rate to make it a draw.

DETAILS

High Wycombe WI 130-9 dec (Gooding 6-12, Hendrickson 2-48); Luton United 97-8 (John 35 not). Match drawn.



Opener leads high scoring

POWERFUL BATTING by opener Terry Gooding, who amassed 126 runs over the weekend, provided the backbone of two high-scoring performances by Luton United.

The United batsmen clicked into their best form in a victory over Kokni Sports, led by Gooding. Backing came from Noel Abbey who hit a quick unbeaten 42 in a stand of 71 with Alf Jackson.

The target of 203 proved too much for Kokni, who were destroyed early on by the speed of Norman Robinson.

Kokni tried to make a game of it by attacking the bowling, and the aggressive Nasahmed was unlucky not to get more than 38.

In a drawn game against Kashmir Cavaliers United again got off to a sound start with Gooding top scoring with 61, but they lost wickets in a chase for runs at the end of the innings.

Gulham Sarwar did the most damage, claiming six wickets for the Cavaliers.

After losing their first wicket, Kashmir decided to play out for a draw. United finally broke through their middle order, but then rain rescued the Cavaliers from further disaster.

DETAILS

Luton United 208-6 dec (Gooding 65, Abbey 42, Jackson 29, Dalvi 3-66); Kokni Sports 135 (Nasahmed 38, Daud Parkar 28, Robinson 3-5). United won by 48 runs.
Luton United 188 (Gooding 61, Mingo 41, John 27, Sarwar 6-57); Kashmir Cavaliers 79-5 (Sarwar 33, Hunter 3-7). Match drawn.

VILLAGERS CATCH THE BACKLASH

CRUSHED by St Albans West Indians on Saturday, Luton United took it out on Shillington on Sunday when the demoralised villagers were bowled out for 12 in 8.3 overs.

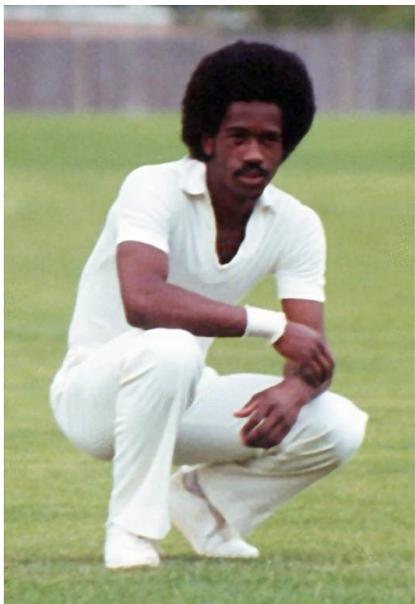
Venol John and Frank Mingo put on 43 for the opening partnership against St Albans WI, but Terry Gooding and Alf Jackson were the only other batsmen to offer resistance.

The visitors knocked off the 120 to win for the loss of only one wicket, the back-lash. Luckless Shillington caught, and then Venol John and Terry Gooding batted. Gooding and Noel Abbey added 94 for the second.

Front-line bowlers were rested when Shillington replied and George Hunter and Linden Brown ended the match in quick time. Eight batsmen were out for a duck plus two extras.

Details

Luton United 116 (Jackson 26, Gooding 22, John 20); St Albans West Indians 12-1 (Hunter 5-3, Brown 4-7).
Luton United 302-4 dec (Gooding 71, Abbey 61, John 60); Shillington 22 (Hunter 5-3, Brown 4-7).
United won by 25 runs.



Luton United Cricket Club 1982

Week-End Highlights

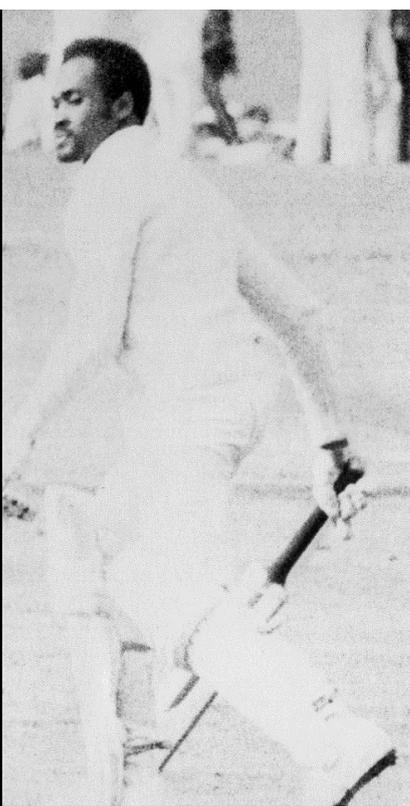


Tourists crushed

A CLUB record first wicket stand of 151 between Terry Gooding and Noel Abbey was the match - winner for Luton United against a touring Welsh club Dinas Powis.

Gooding went on to score a century, and with two wickets down in their first three overs the Welsh side were never able to compete with the huge demands made on them.

DETAILS
Luton United 223-4 dec (Gooding 113, Abbey 65); Dinas Powis 157 (Gooding 4-59, Hendrickson 3-34). Luton United won by 66 runs.



Abbey and Gooding in Record Partnership At Lancaster Avenue

HONOURS LIST

BEST BATTING

Terry Gooding, Luton United v. Dinas Powis	113
Zaffar Shar, L. Pakistanis v. Dunstable Vauxhall	105
Paul Hull, Markyate v. Caddington	100
Gary Burgess, Luton Coll OAS v. Southgate Adelaide	76
Alan Price, Luton Town II v. Headington II	72
Noel Abbey, Luton United v. Dinas Powis	65
Barry Amin, Luton St Mary's v. Aspley Guise	60
Don Rolt, Luton Town II v. Hemel Hempstead	60
Geoff Biggs, Luton Town II v. Hemel II	59
Chris Janes, Luton Town II v. Dunstable II	56
Peter Taylor, Luton v. Headington	54
Hitu Naik, Luton College v. Newport Pagnell	53
M. Patel, Luton College v. Southgate Adelaide	50
	—

* Denotes not out.

CRICKET HONOURS

BEST BATTING

Mike Morgan, Luton Town, against Pinner	102
Hyden Andrew, L. International, against L. United ...	96
Hyden Andrew, L. International, against L. Laporte (ML)	87
John Mills, Vauxhall, against Stort	85
Terry Gooding, L. United, against 61 Club (ML)	*70
Don Rolt, Luton Town II, against Dunstable II	*66
Venol John, L. United, against L. International	65
Simon Andrews, Flitwick, against Lloyds (ML)	*63
Andy White, Lloyds, against Beds Eagles (ML)	*60
Mohd Akhtar, Kashmir Cavaliers, against Starlight ...	58
Dave Muskett, Lloyds, against Flitwick (ML)	*53
Dave Light, Luton OB, against Nomads (ML)	*55
Hyden Andrew, L. International, against B. Eagles (ML)	*55
Bill Large, Nalco, against Kodak	*53
Tim Chaplain, L. International, against B. Eagles (ML)	*52
Venol John, Luton United, against Kokni (ML)	52

BEST BOWLING

* denotes not out. ML denotes Midweek League.

Terry Gooding, L. United, against H. Wycombe WI ...	6-18
Kevin Taylor, Luton Strollers, against Dunstable III ...	6-18
Mohd Mahroof, Kashmir Cavaliers, against W. Asians	6-23
Hyden Andrew, L. International, against RAF Henlow	5-14
Phil Sweetman, Markyates, against Harlington (ML) ...	5-15
Mohd Mahroof, Kashmir Cavaliers, against Starlight ...	5-35

Pre Star Cup Final-16.07.1982

The two giants of local cricket had beaten each other once in the Mid-Week League and were both at full strength when they contested in the final of the Pre-Star Cup at Lancaster Avenue.

It was a scorching evening, a fast outfield and perfect for cricket.



I decided to bat first after winning the toss. I am not sure why I did because I usually like to field first purely because fielding was our weak point and we didn't always defend a good score due to our misgivings in the field.

I replaced our regular openers of Venol and Gapper with Kenroy Mingo and Noel Abbey. The thinking behind this was to have someone with a more controlled aggression to complement the attacking style of Mingo. I didn't want to lose wickets early.

Dipak, bowling fast medium, first over was a maiden. The pitch was bouncy and fast Noel played and missed at four deliveries, he looked nervous.

Neresh was much quicker than Depak and had Mingo caught behind flashing at a ball out side his off stump for a duck. The Indians went wild in celebration of their first scalp, as a dejected Mingo walked slowly back to the pavilion. United were struggling for runs against some usual tight bowling by the Indians.

Abbey trying to push the score along was snapped up at mid-wicket by Nanu. When star batsman Venol went two runs later, We looked in big trouble.

Nineteen for three off seven overs. Our supporters lost their voices. They must have been thinking here we go again another defeat by our rivals,

Eli Abraham walked to the crease with intent. He slammed three fours off Dipak's final over and we both added 31 in good time. Suresh replaced Neresh in the twelfth over he looked nervous. He pitched a ball on my leg stump which I would normal whip away but I missed it and was bowled for 18.

At 50 for 4 the dangerous Kanu came on for Dipak. His introduction usually tie us down and our supporters didn't look hopeful.

Eli was in a vicious, no nonsense mood, Kanu's five over spell cost him 28 runs. Gapper was also revving up but ran out of gas well taken at mid-wicket by Mehendra Patel.

82-6 in the seventeenth over, the stylish Alford Jackson joined Eli and made a quick 12 before Kanu out smart him with a slower ball and was stumped.

With United trying desperately to get past the hundred mark two batsmen were run out. Reg Patel was the man involved and he perished also. But not before smashing a superbly timed six over mid-wicket to take us past the hundred.

We finished our innings on 102-9 a good score in my opinion because not many teams got to 100 in this competition.

United Innings			
N Abbey	Caught	Nuresh	09
K Mingo	Caught	Nuresh	00
T Gooding	Bowled	Suresh	18
V John	Bowled	Nuresh	01
E Abraham	Caught	Suresh	38
C Hendrickson	Caught	Kanu	08
A Jackson	Stumped	Kanu	12
R Patel	Run out		07
F Mingo	Not out		06
L Brown	Run out		03
S Stevenson	Did Not Bat		
			102

Pre Star Cup Final-16.07.1982

Luton United Vs Luton Indians

Requiring only 103 to win the Indian supporters felt confident of victory when their openers Arun and Mehendra walked out to bat. Arun and Mendi knocked up 30 in quick time to put us on the back foot.

Things was to get worst. Arun brilliantly square cut Gapper and I began the chase in an attempt to save the boundary. A sudden sharp pain shot up my right leg and I collapsed in agony. Silburn diagnosed a torn hamstring. I could hardly walk but I played on.

Arun and Mendi took advantage of my disability and ran a single every time the ball came to me. Perhaps I should have gone off but this was too important a game to watch from the boundary.

With the score on 41 and everyone wondering where the first wicket was coming from, Arun smashed a half volley from Eli to the left of Linden, at short cover, it looked four all the way but Linden dived to his left to pull off an amazing catch. It was such a relief to get rid of such a dangerous player.

Five runs later Linden, was at it again. He dropped a viciously struck on drive by Mehendra, but with Dipak calling for a run he gathered the ball to smartly run out Mehendra. 56 for 2 and we had hope again.

Alford replaced Eli and conceded four wides in his first two overs. Not what we really wanted. At the other end Venol was bowling well. He knocked out Dipack's middle stump with a Yorker. The Indian supporters went quiet but at 67-3 with six overs in which to get 36 runs they still felt confident of winning the match. It was a tense time, the Indians batted deep, six an over should be a stroll.

The stylish Nanu was bowled by Alford for a duck but Lalit and Kanu launched a counter attack and added 23. Kanu decided to chance his luck against my handicap and was duly run out for 12. Hitu did the same and once again I won the contest.

Ninety Three for Six after 18 overs only ten required off 12 balls. The crowd was restless, no one knew which way this was going to end. I juggled the field trying to get our best fielders in good run saving positions. We always buckle under pressure. It was now up to Venol and Alford to bowl nice and straight.

Alford raced in to start his final over. The first ball was down the leg side, the second was pitched on the off stump and Lalit smashed it for four. Silence! We couldn't believe it, but Lalit could bat he was no rabbit.

Dejected, Alf walked slowly back to his mark. He ran in again, the ball was a good length, Lalit tried to smash it again and was bowled. Good response son.

The final over was to be bowled by Venol. The Indians needed five to win and we had to take three wickets. It was a tense moment, advice was being dished out from all quarters. The crowd was agitated.

Venol's first delivery was down the leg side and Mingo collected cleanly. The Indian supporters screamed for a wide but umpire Charlie was having none of it.

The second delivery went through to Mingo, again no run. The batsmen scampered a run off the third ball.

Satish played at the fourth and missed. The fifth ball bowled him. Brilliant screamed the excited Silburn. Our supporters were ecstatic.

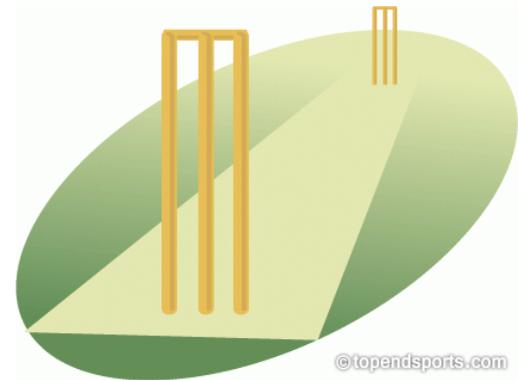
The Indians had a look of submission on their faces, but it wasn't over, we weren't there yet.

I placed everyone on the boundary for the last delivery. They had to hit a four to win or run three for a tie. Please don't bowl a no-ball Venol I said to myself. Satish had no choice, he had to put Venol, over the rope.

Venol's delivery was a good length slower ball, Satish swung wildly and got a top edge which sent the ball flying to third-man where Noel Abbey took the catch.

Our celebration was wild, Venol was hugged and head slapped, so to was Noel.

It was a good team performance. The crowd applauded both teams off the field, they had witnessed an outstanding match. There were many game changing moments in the match. Eli who gave substance to our innings with an aggressive 38, Linden, who provided the first wicket with an incredible catch to get rid of Arun, Silburn's, aggressive fielding and throwing accounted for two run outs and Venol's cool head during the final over. Who else would bowl a slower ball at such a critical time?



Luton Indians Innings			
Arun	Caught - brown	Abraham	25
Mehendra	Run out - brown		20
Dipak	Bowled	John	08
Kanu	Run out - Gooding		12
Nanu	Bowled	Jackson	00
Lalit	Bowled	Jackson	13
Hitu	Run out - Gooding		01
Satish	Bowled	John	03
Neresh	Run out - Stevenson		00
Bhupesh	Not out		00
Suresh	Caught - abbey	John	01
			99

Luton United Cricket Club 1982

Week-End Highlights

DISMAL RUN CONTINUES

A poor start to the season continued for Luton United in week end cricket when Kashmir Cavaliers and Aylesbury West Indians added to their run of defeat.

They were given a reasonable start to their innings by opener Venol John and Alf Jackson against Kashmir but some good bowling by Nakeem Jabar and Sabir Hussain put Kashmir in command and restricted the United total.

Cavaliers batted steadily in reply and coasted to victory. With wickets to spare.

In the other game against Aylesbury, United had the home side on the rack at 47-5 only to let them off the hook and find themselves needing to chase 153 for victory.

UNITED TAKEN APART

Luton United's bowling was taken apart by Luton International whose batsmen hammered all comers in a tremendous 40 overs thrash.

They were never in danger of defeat as a succession of United bowlers laboured without success to remove the International opening pair of Hayden Andrews and Dudley Belone who passed the 150 mark before being parted.

Both made half centuries with Andrews getting in sight of his ton before he was out.

Facing a forbidding total of 240,

Luton United got away to a good start in reply but their middle order collapsed and they fell behind the required run rate in the face to some acute bowling.

This was led by Lloyd Patterson who claimed four victims in an accurate 11 overs spell as United fell 113 runs short of the target.

BEST BOWLING

Iftikhar Ahmed, AK, against Parrot	7-20
Lindon Brown, Luton United, against Old Challoners	6- 7
Lloyd Patterson, Luton International, against Milton Bryant	6-34
Mohammed Marhoof, Kashmir Cavaliers, against SG Brown	5-18
Ray Coles, Luton Town II, against Nth Mymms II (HC)	5-21
G. Thomasson, Stopsley, against Luton Nalgo	5-25
Dave Warren, Luton Nalgo, against Stopsley	5-25
Samad Parkar, Kokni Spts ,against Kashmir Cavaliers	5-27
Chris Shields, Electrolux, against Luton OB (ML)	5-27
Kevin Taylor, Town Strollers, against Northwood	5-33



Linden Brown

It was a happier day for the United bowlers who skittle their opponents out for 65 with Linden Brown who took 6-7 proving almost unplayable.

SURVIVAL BATTLE

A stubborn fight for survival earned Chevette a last minute draw against Luton United after their bowing had taken a hammering and their batsmen had reeled against Terry Gooding.

United got on top from the start, with openers Noel Abbey and Venol John putting on 69 in quick time.

Chevette came back with three wickets before Kenroy Mingo pilled on more agony, aided by Clubert Hendrickson.

Early disaster made it an uphill struggle for Chevette after their first three men were out for 19.

Godfrey Davis and Trevor Prescott stopped the rot and dug in to start the long haul for survival.

Gooding threatened to win the game on his own with seven wickets in 19 overs, but Chevette held out with their last pair together at the close.

DETAILS

United, 180-8 dec (Mingo 45, John 39, Abbey 25, Hendrickson 25, Browne 4-44); chevette 116-9 (G.Davis 33, Prescott 22, D.Davis 21 not, Gooding 7-40, Stevenson 2 -10

BATTING

Geoff Green, Saracens A, League, against Ward Wdrs	101*
Brian Taylor, Luton Town II against Huntingdon II ...	98
Malcolm Drewitt, Luton Town II against Huntingdon II	95
Mike Mergan, Luton Town against St Albans	80
Terry Gooding, Luton United against Aylesbury WI ...	73
Len Best, Vauxhall II, against Henlow II	64
Gerry Blackburn, Electrolux against Dunstable Vauxhall	57*
Roy Fothergill, Luton Nalgo against Saracens	55
Terry Roe, Luton Town II against St Albans II	52
Alan Stacey, Luton Town II against St Albans II	51*
Paul Abraham, Luton Town against Huntingdon	51

* Not out

Luton United Cricket Club 1982

Week-End Highlights

LUTON INTERNATIONAL DOES IT AGAIN

Coping a lot better than their rivals on a wet wicket, Luton International steam rolled through the lower half of Luton United's batting at a cost of only seven runs to complete a fine victory.

United was unable to master the swing bowling of Raphael Barnard and Tim Chaplain. The only United batsman to stand up to the onslaught was Clubert Hendrickson 43.

For International, Hayden Andrew played a fine knock for his half century.

Alf Jackson 3-11 and Stevenson 3-12 combined to bowled United to victory over Laporte after Hendrickson and Mingo had helped to establish a good target of 142

MIXED WEEK-END FOR UNITED

With their bowlers taken apart by the hard hitting three was batting Luton United were never able to get to grips with the target of 202. Robinson 4-35, Gooding 3-25)

But the boot was on the other foot in their victory over Old Challenors when Kenroy Mingo 42 and Noel Abbey 41 boosted the score with a stand of 82 for the second wicket.

It was a happier day for the United bowlers who skittled their opponents out for 65 with Linden Brown who took 6-7 proving almost unplayable.

NEARLY A DOUBLE

After scoring an easy win in a 30 overs match against Kokni Sports, Luton United went close to a double success when they just failed to bowl out St.Albans West Indians in their other match at the week-end.

Lesroy Davis and Terry Gooding both got into the forties to provide the backbone of the United batting against Kokni.

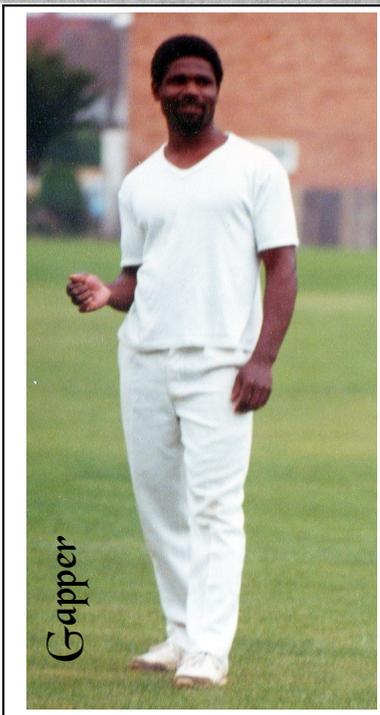
Against some penetrating bowling by Davis, Kokni couldn't get to grips with the total of 152.

RECOVERING from a dreadful start, Luton United's batsmen got within two runs of victory with five overs left in a tremendous finish against Luton Tech.

Then, Norman Robinson, who had grafted well with Les Davis to revive United's fortunes, attempted to finish the match in style.

He made an almighty swing at a ball from Utel Burgess and was given out lbw leaving the College, for whom Dipak Parsooth took six wickets, winners by a single run.

They had looked set to skate to victory when they claimed the first five United wickets for 32 runs, but Kenroy Mingo found form and cracked a savage half-century to stem the accurate bowling of Parsooth and Burgess.



But, apart from a useful contribution by Clubert Hendrickson, the United batsmen had little to offer until Davis and Robinson teamed up for the final seven overs.

DETAILS

Luton Technical College 131-8 dec (Naik 35 not, Patel 22. Robinson 2-6); Luton United 130 (Mingo 58, Hendrickson 24, Parsooth 6-52, Burgess 3-35). Luton Technical college won by one run.

BATSMEN RUN RIOT

On a rain affected wicket which should have helped bowlers, Batsmen of Luton united and International ran riot in a match which produced over 300 runs in 60 overs.

International opener Hayden Andrew led the way as his side recovered from a slow start with a brilliant innings which was full of good shots. until he was run out just four runs short of his century.

An intelligent knock by Shameed enabled International to add 77 runs for the third wicket, but United also had batting strength to call on to turn the game into a cracker.

Venol John, very much the form man for United at present put on 67 with Reg Patel for the first wicket.

John's innings was the match winner and when he had gone Terry Gooding and Kenroy Mingo kept up the rate of five an over to claim victory with ten balls to spare.

SKIPPER HITS OUT

A half century by skipper Terry Gooding and a fine Unbeaten knock by Kenroy Mingo carried Luton United to victory over local rivals Chevette.

They finished off the job in style after Chevette had been skittle by Alf Jackson.

DETAILS

Chevette 105 (Davis 19, Jackson 5 -29) United 109-5 (Gooding 50, Mingo 25 not, Harewood, 2-27, Broom, 2-40)

Luton United Cricket Club

FOCUS ON - Venol John -RISING STAR of 1982

Venol, produced some of his best performances for United during the 1982 season. He started the season impressively and kept up the pace right up to the last quarter of the season when his performances started to drop off.

Venol was also an excellent footballer so he could have been winding down in preparation for the new football season.

He could have easily score the 1000 runs that was set as his target but his concentration levels fell apart so often once he got past fifty runs.

His highest score of 80 not out against Nalگو in an eighteen over Oliver Shield match was outstanding. A classy 65 against Luton International and 53 versus Tottenhoe were equally good.

Apart from his batting ability, Venol was an incredible fielder in any position but almost always fielded at cover point, where he took some outstanding catches.

Like all outstanding sportsmen with natural ability Venol didn't work very hard to improve his game. Had he done so he may have been on a par with the great Ossie Clarke.

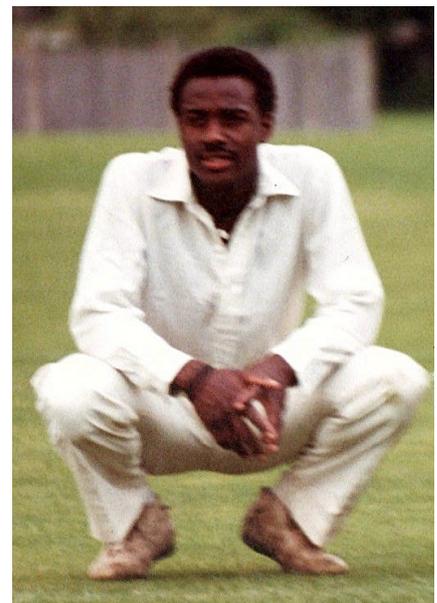
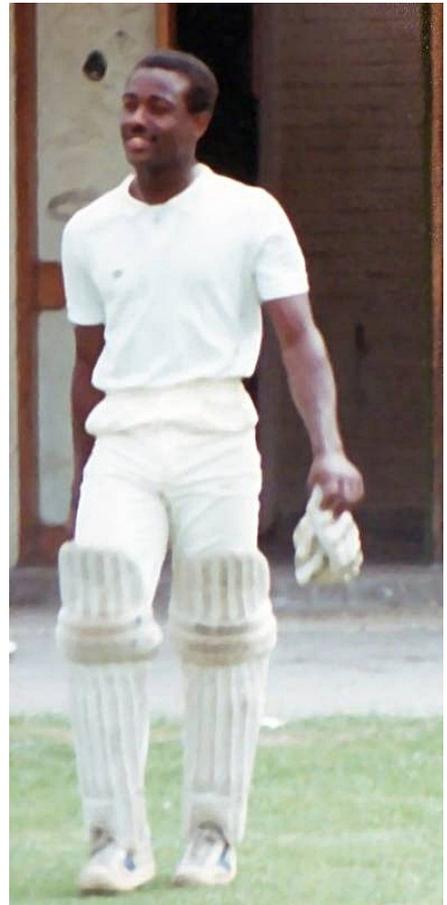
In the 1982 cricket season Venol played 42 times and batted 41 innings. He scored a massive 951 runs at an average of 26. He made four scores of 50 or more



He bowled 81 overs and took 16 wickets at a cost of 347 runs.

He also took 18 catches and dropped 6.

1982 was an outstanding year for Venol and with the arrival of young players at United everyone was looking forward to exciting times from the new generation during the upcoming 1983 cricket season.



Afro Caribbean Cricket in Luton

1982 Batting and Bowling Performances

NAME	INNINGS	RUNS	HIGHEST SCORE	AVG
T Gooding	42	1116	113	30
V John	41	951	80	26
K Mingo	37	573	58	19
N Abbey	29	449	65	19
C Hendrickson	34	396	43	13
A Jackson	32	373	39	13
E Abraham	16	277	76	20
I Burke	15	102	16	10
F Mingo	19	167	41	11
L Davis	15	93	43	9
N Robinson	13	89	27	8
G Hunter	15	75	32	7
L Brown	13	39	12	3
S Stevenson	6	24	11	6

NAME	OVERS	MAIDENS	WICKETS	RUNS
C Hendrickson	256	40	59	782
A Jackson	187	14	35	655
T Gooding	154	18	50	573
N Robinson	98	21	19	271
V John	90	4	13	348
E Abraham	96	10	25	286
L Brown	83	13	19	294
S Stevenson	52	2	12	248
L Davis	48	9	10	162
G Hunter	31	5	19	97
F Mingo	18	0	2	95
I Burke	13	0	3	95
N Abbey	10	0	2	27
R Patel	6	0	1	20

Luton United Cricket Club 1983

CHAMPIONS of the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League three years ago, Chevette hammered Sundon Park this week to go clear at the top of the Premier Division.

With the 1983 season scarcely under way, and still much affected by the weather, they have the division's only 100 per cent record.

But Luton News Cup holders Luton Indians set their sights on the title again on Tuesday night with a victory in a titanic encounter with old rivals Luton United.

Bowlers throughout the division will shudder to hear that Arun Patel is on the war path again — he took a match-winning half-century off the powerful United attack to set up a win clinched by the Indians' bowlers in the last over.

Chevette had no mercy on a Sundon Park side which is struggling after losing some of its best players. Not one batsman could reach double figures against hostile Chevette bowling, and the Park's attack never had a hope of holding Chevette's reply.

In the clash between the Indians and Luton United, fortunes swung both ways before the match was decided.

Arun Patel's fluency and timing kept the innings moving well, despite the loss of four partners who made only ten between them. Elli Abraham grabbed three wickets, but the mini-collapse was ended when Lalit Patel joined Arun, and his 27 turned the tide.

Chasing six an over to win, United were on schedule as Terry Gooding made a brilliant 24 in six overs. Venol John and Reg Patel also kept the score moving, but the rest of the batting crumbled against accurate bowling by Kanu Patel and Satish Patel, who took three wickets each. United needed 11 to win off the final over, but the last pair could manage only six.

Noel Abbey below



MID -WEEK LEAGUE CRICKET

LEADERS KEEP UP EARLY FORM

PACE-SETTERS Chevette kept on course for the title at the top of the Premier Division of the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League with a comfortable victory over Kokni Sports.

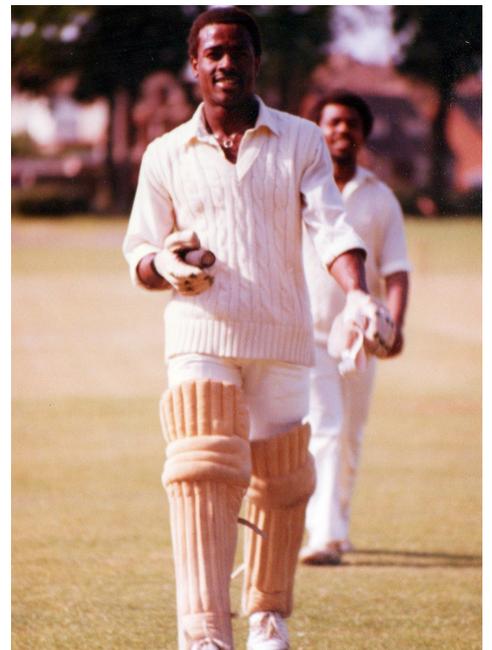
Ken Davis, coming in at number three after the loss of a quick wicket provided the innings with solidarity as he stood his ground against some accurate bowling by Kokni's Mainu Dalvi.

The Chevette total of 115 proved too much for Kokni who despite a good knock by Dalvi could muster only 84 in reply.

KEEPING hot on the heels of the leaders, but with a game more played, are Luton United who were given a fright by 61 FC before securing their fourth win in five matches in the Premier Division.

Some good bowling by United restricted the footballers to a modest total of 67-8 with only Geoff Davie and Brian Van Hoof making any impression with the bat and managing to get into double figures.

The task looked simple enough for United, but they were lulled into a false sense of security and the 61 FC bowlers shook them by capturing five wickets before Jerry Williams steadied the collapse and steered them home in 12 overs.



Venol

Champions suffered

WASTING no time in making up their opening fixture that was postponed the previous week, Chevette are setting the early pace in the Premier Division of the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League.

They got away to a flying start with a victory over Kokni Sports and followed up with an eight runs success over last season's champions Luton Indians.

Against Kokni, Chevette batsmen Errol Crawford, Julian Jackson, Godfrey Davis and Steve Harewood all reached double figures for a 16 over total that proved too much of a challenge for Kokni who lost their first three wickets cheaply with only Samad Parker offering any real opposition to the Chevette bowling attack.

The win over Luton Indians was a closer affair with Chevette owing a lot to their top batsmen, Craw-

CRICKET

ford, Jackson and Trevor Prescott who gave them a steady start before the champions' bowlers got the upper hand with Hira Nale claiming three victims in four overs.

Mahendra Patel scored a useful 27 for the Indians before he was run out and the same fate befell Arun Patel as they made early progress towards the target. But after

BOTH SIDES CLAIMED VICTORY in the Division Four match between Parrot and AKCC. The Parrot scorebook shows them being bowled out for 85 with AKCC replying with 84-9. The AKCC result sheet gives their 20-over total as 85-9, and says they were the winners. The League executive will make investigations, with no result being logged for the time being.

his departure the wickets fell steadily and they were still eight runs light at the end of 16 overs.

LUTON UNITED, who were beaten by Indians in a play-off for the title last season, made a confident start when they scored a comfortable win over Kokni.

Skipper Terry Gooding showed his side how to push the scoring along on a very slow wicket and provided them with a sound platform in an opening stand with Venol John that put on 48 runs.

Elli Abraham pushed the score along lower down the order and the 16 overs total was always too much for Kokni who failed to get to grips with the bowling of Cluvert Hendrickson who took four wickets in four overs.

Luton United Cricket Club 1983

warning sounded by cup-holders

CHASING a cup hat-trick, Luton United blasted an early warning to all their rivals on Tuesday night in their first 1983 defence of the Pre-Star Cup.

The Luton and District Midweek Cricket League's knock-out trophy has been won by United in the past two seasons, and they took the first step to retaining it this week when they hammered Kokni Sports.

Newly promoted to the Premier Division, Kokni were swept aside by a merciless all-round power show by United, who won by ten wickets.

Opener Mushtaq Dalvi did his best to keep Kokni in the game, but his innings of 20 was only a slight obstacle as United's bowlers scored a double success — they kept down the runs and took wickets.

Needing 44 to win in 16 overs, United cruised through with openers Venol John and Reg Patel unbeaten as they got the runs

LEAGUE CRICKET

SETTING THE PACE

CHASING local cricket's major limited-over prize, Chevette put the boot in against the hapless footballers of 61 FC Luton on Tuesday night to stay on top of the Luton and District Midweek League.

MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE

RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Sundon Park 80-7 (Freeman 43, Williams 2-22); Luton United 81-3 (Williams 39, John 20). **United won by 7 wickets.**

Chevette 119-7 (Davis 50, Antrobus 30, White 3-16, Van Hoof 2-29, King 2-35); 61 FC Luton 35-9 (Brownie 4-13, Davis 2-1, Harewood 2-3). **Chevette won by 84 runs.**

Kokni Sports 41 (Satish 2-0, Dinesh 2-2, Dipak 2-7); Luton Indians 44-1 (Dipak 23 not). **Indians won by 9 wickets.**

LATEST TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	T	L	P
Chevette	5	4	0	1	24
Luton United	4	3	0	1	18
Luton Indians	4	3	0	1	18
Kokni Sports	5	2	0	3	12
61 FC Luton	4	1	0	3	6
Sundon Park	4	0	0	4	0

CHEVETTE

But Luton United and Luton Indians are both still in the hunt for the Luton News Cup and with the season nearing half-way the Premier Division championship looks to be between those three clubs.

The Indians have been champions for four of the last five years, while Chevette took the prize for the only time in their history three years ago.

A half-century by Ken Davis helped Chevette overcome the footballers. Nick White bowled Errol Crawford before Chevette had scored, but Davis steered the innings back to a scoring rate of nearly six an over, with solid support in the middle order from Andrew Antrobus.

The 61 FC reply quickly became a shambles. Davis, Steve Harewood and Dalton Brownie removed the first five batsmen for only eight runs—61 FC were 4-2 at one stage—and Brian Van Hoof, with 15, was the only man to struggle into double figures as they were bowled out for 35 in 16 overs.

THE Indians wrapped up their victory over newly promoted Kokni Sports even quicker. They used six bowlers and skittled Kokni for 41 in 14.3 overs, and then had little trouble knocking off the runs in eight overs.

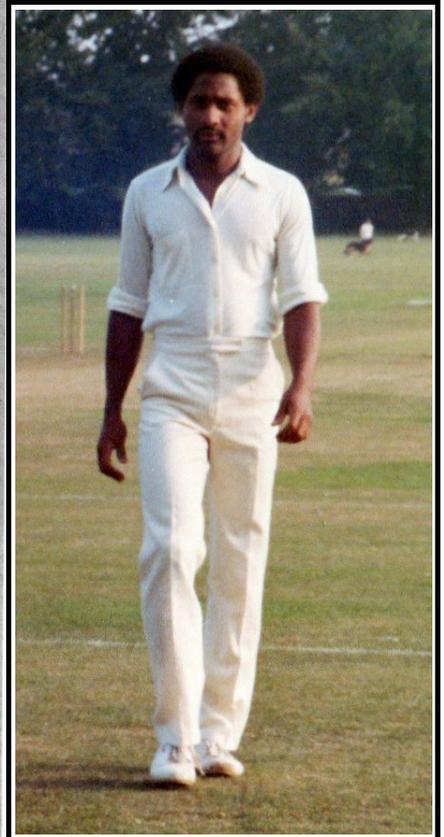
Sundon Park gave Luton United a harder task, thanks to a sheet anchor knock by Clive Freeman. His 43 averted disaster, but no-one stayed long enough to give the support needed for a big total.

Jerry Williams took two wickets, then topped the United batting as they responded to the challenge of hitting four an over to win. Williams made 39 and Venol John 20 as United cruised home with seven wickets and nearly five overs to spare.

Jerry Williams



Reg Patel



Luton United Cricket Club 1983

RIVALRY PEG BACK THE LEADERS

LEADERS Chevette lost their unbeaten record in the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League on Tuesday night. Luton United hammered them to throw the championship race wide open.

An amazing bowling performance by Kanu Patel, of Luton Indians set them up for their second victory of the season, and they and United are now very much in the hunt with Chevette for the Luton News Cup.

With wickets still drying out, bowlers had the upper hand in most of this week's matches, and not one side got into treble figures.

Trevor Prescott of Chevette hit 49 to boost their innings against United, but received scant support from his partners, and United paced their reply to cruise home with eight balls and seven wickets in hand.

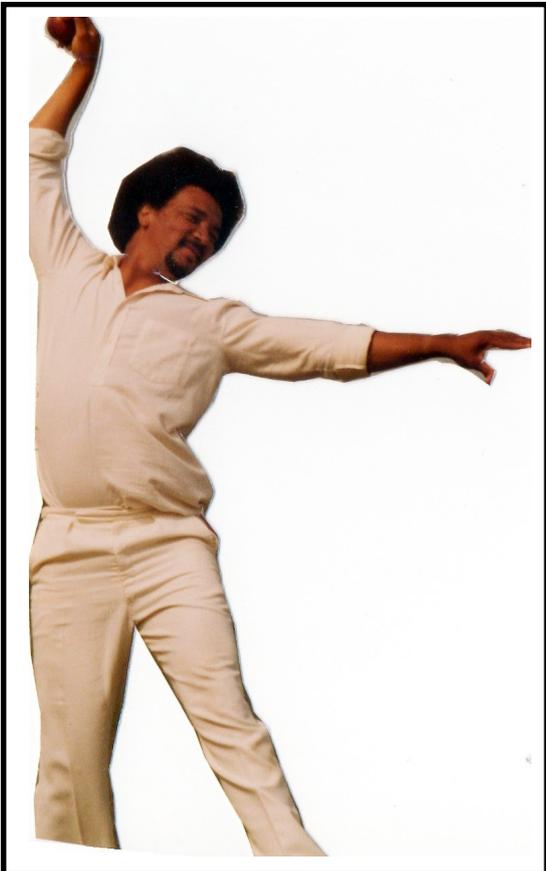
KANU Patel produced the week's best bowling. The Indians looked up against it when 61 FC openers John Ashton and Paul Hull put on 25 in the first four overs. But then Patel struck, clamping down so efficiently that he took six wickets in a four-over spell which cost him only seven runs.

The footballers collapsed to 61 all out, with five of Kanu's victims clean bowled. Arun Patel and Dipak Patel saw the Indians home in 13 overs.

LEAGUE CRICKET

Silburn Stevenson was mainly used as a sub in the Mid-Week League for devastating fielding. He was always quick to ball and had a rocket throw.

Batsmen never took liberties with him.



SUPER SUB

LEADING WICKET-TAKERS

Rob Owen, St Joseph's, against Ebony	7-32
Alan Davies, L. Nalgo, against De Havilland	6-9
Russell Tant, Luton II, against Barnet II	6-10
Stuart Farrar, Sundon Pk, against 61 FC (ML)	6-11
Stan Barlow, Markyate, against L. Pakistanis (ML)	6-15
Rehmet Ali, L. Pakistanis, against Bricket Wood	6-32
Ali Hearn, St Joseph's, against AKCC	5-6
Lance Layne, Ebony, against St Joseph's	5-8
Kirit Patel, Kingsway, against Luton OB (ML)	5-9
Malik Abbass, AKCC, against Parrot (ML)	5-11
Elli Abraham, L. United, against Kokni (ML)	5-18
Silbourne Stephenson, L. United, against Stevenage	5-30

Luton United Cricket Club 1983

Century tightens up title race

League cricket

AN AMAZING unbeaten century in 20 overs in the Premier Division helped to throw the Luton Midweek Cricket League championship wide open this week.

Terry Gooding was the ton-up smasher on Tuesday night to make Luton United one of three teams tied on points at the top of the table.

And United, still seeking the Luton News Cup for the first time in their history, are poised to move clear at the top tonight.

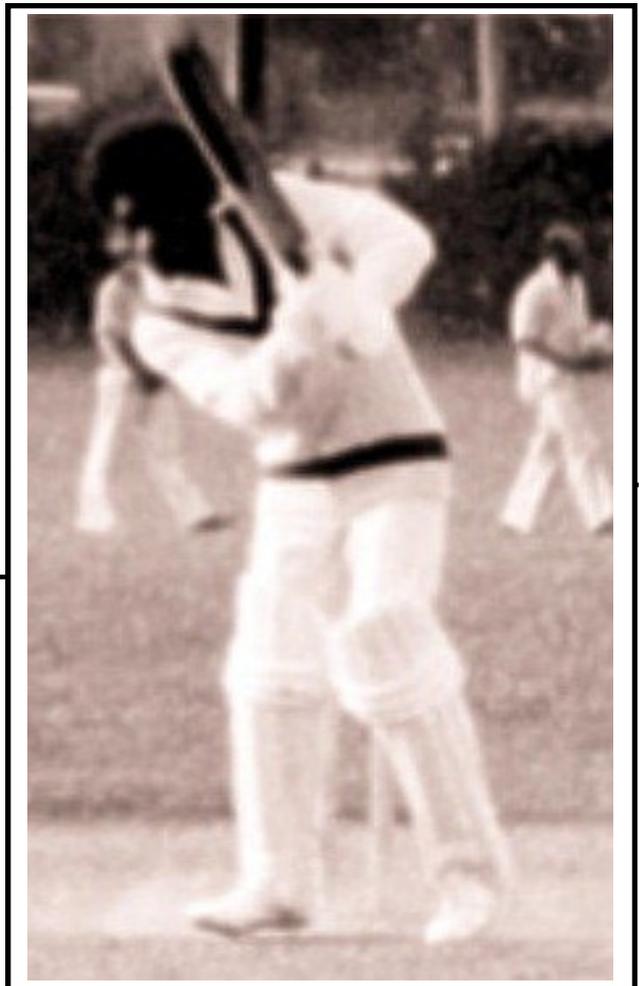
They meet strugglers 61 FC Luton in a match postponed earlier in the season, and if they win that will set the scene for the real crunch — against Luton Indians next week.

The Indians won a tight contest against previous clear leaders Chevette on Tuesday to maintain their push for their third consecutive league title.

But United opener Gooding was this week's star. Reg Patel farmed the bowling to him when he realised that a rare league century was on for Gooding, and with Patel making a half-century Kokni Sports were lashed for 163 in 20 overs.

Shell-shocked Kokni folded quietly as Elli Abraham's pace — he took five wickets — destroyed their reply, although they managed to hold out for 19 overs.

TABLES					
PREMIER DIVISION					
	P	W	T	L	P
Luton Indians	6	5	0	1	30
Luton United	6	5	0	1	30
Chevette	7	5	0	2	30
Kokni Sports	7	2	0	5	12
61 FC Luton	6	1	0	5	6
Sundon Park	6	1	0	5	6
DIVISION ONE					
	P	W	T	L	P
Kingsway Tavern	6	6	0	0	36
Lloyds Bank	6	4	0	2	24
Halyard	7	4	0	3	24
Luton Nomads	6	2	0	4	12
Luton Old Boys	6	2	0	4	12
Vauxhall SPC A	5	0	0	5	0
DIVISION TWO					
	P	W	T	L	P
Kashmir Cavaliers	6	5	0	1	30
Markyate	6	5	0	1	30
Luton International	6	4	0	2	24
Luton Pakistanis	6	2	0	4	12
Phoenix	7	2	0	5	12
Vauxhall Specs	7	1	0	6	6
DIVISION THREE					
	P	W	T	L	P
Stopsley	5	5	0	0	30
Starlight	6	4	0	2	24
Laporte	7	4	0	3	24
Flitwick	4	2	0	2	12
St Joseph's	5	1	0	4	6
Harlington School	5	0	0	5	0
DIVISION FOUR					
	P	W	T	L	P
Vauxhall SPC B	7	6	0	1	36
Luton Aryans	6	4	0	2	24
AKCC	7	3	0	4	18
Civil Service	5	2	0	3	12
Parrot	6	2	0	4	12
Speed the Plough	5	1	0	4	6



THE TOP RUN-SCORERS

Terry Gooding, L. United, against Kokni (ML)	101*
Terry Gooding, L. United, against Stevenage Dynamics ..	88*
Paul Hull, Markyate, against Stopsley	81*
Neil Bigmore, Stopsley, against Markyate	75
Dave Light, Vauxhall, against Kings Langley	74*
Venol John, L. United, against Hitchin WI	74*
Don Rolt, Luton Town II, against Barnet II	69*
Roy Fothergill, L. Nalگو, against Dunstable III	67*
Dave Blake, St Joseph's, against AKCC	63
Zaffar Khan, L. Pakistanis, against Bricket Wood ...	59
Pip Beaumont, Vauxhall, against Knebworth Pk	54
Ken Davis, Chevette, against Halyard (ML)	53*
Reg Patel, L. United, against Kokni (ML)	52*
Stuart Farrar, Sundon Pk, against 61 FC (ML)	52
Frankie Mingo, L. United, against Stevenage Dynamics	51

* denotes not out. ML denotes Midweek League.

MID -WEEK LEAGUE CRICKET MID -WEEK LEAGUE CRICKET

Luton United Cricket Club 1983

CHAMPS FALL TO THE CHALLENGERS

CONSISTENTLY one of the best limited-over sides in local cricket, Luton United are at long last within reach of winning the Luton Midweek League championship for the first time in their history.

They beat title-holders Luton Indians in a nail-biter on Tuesday night, and two victories in their last two league matches, against Chevette and relegation candidates Sundon Park will give United the Luton News Cup.

They had the perfect start against their old rivals this week.

Elli Abraham bowled Arun Patel with the first ball of the match. Two more wickets fell quickly to Jeff Williams, but Nanu Patel put the Indians back on target with a magnificent unbeaten half-century.

United also lost quick wickets in the chase for five an over to win, but Williams steadied them with 28 and Venol John became the match-winner with 29 not out.

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE



CHAMPS ENJOY QUICK VENGEANCE

KEEPING on course for their first championship victory in the Luton Midweek Cricket League Premier Division, Luton United duly defeated Chevette in the Premier Division.

They now have to beat relegation candidates Sundon Park in their final game to make certain of the Luton News Cup.

But chances of a league double were quashed for United when reigning champions Luton Indians gained revenge over them for a recent league defeat when they knocked them out of the Pre-Star Cup in the semi-finals.

The Indians beat their arch-rivals convincingly with four overs to spare. Having lost five wickets for 49 runs the United batsmen never looked like setting a good target and were bowled out for a meagre total in 18 overs.

Set to score at four and a half runs an over the Indians won easily with Arun Patel and Mahendra Patel putting them well on the way with 43 runs for the first wicket.

United's batsmen recovered against Chevette and got a flying start to their innings when Terry Gooding and Reg Patel put on 66 for the first wicket.

Chevette found themselves pegged back right from the second over when they lost Andrew Antrobus. Their batsmen never escaped the stranglehold the United bowlers had them in and they could not manage a shot to the boundary until the 14th over, and then it was their one big hit of the innings.

It was a family affair when Julian Jackson was out off the last ball of the match — bowled by brother Alfred and caught by his other brother Ossie.

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE

Chevette players leaves the field after United beating.



Luton United Cricket Club 1983

ELUSIVE CUP IS WON BY UNITED

THE elusive Luton News Cup is finally in the grasp of Luton United, the limited-over experts who have won every other trophy going at local level without being able to quite manage the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League title.

This time they made no mistake and secured the points they needed from their last game to become champions with an eight-wicket triumph over Sundon Park, who are doomed to relegation.

Bad fielding by United helped Sundon Park to a modest 96 with Tommy Simpkins out to prevent the United men celebrating prematurely by boosting the total with a good knock of 41.

But it became obvious that United had no intention of letting the championship slip away from them again, and when they replied they clinically set about their task, with Terry Gooding and Reg Patel putting them well on the way with a half-century partnership for the first wicket.

Gooding was then given good support by Noel Abbey who was at the wicket in company with Venol John when the runs which gave United their first championship were scored.

LUTON MIDWEEK CRICKET LEAGUE



THE TOP RUN-MAKERS

Jeff Biggs, Luton II, against Cambridge Granta II	112*
Mushtaq Dalvi, Kokni, against St Joseph's	99*
John Wilmot, Sundon Park, against L. Buzzard	88*
Don Rolt, Luton Tn II, against Welwyn GC II	82
Terry Gooding, Luton Tn II, against Beds Police	81
Bob Blake, Vauxhall, against Calthorpe	78*
Arun Patel, Luton Tn II, against Welwyn GC II	78*
Mohd Rashid, Kash Cavaliers, against L. Internats	70*
Chris Turner, St Joseph's, against Potton	66*
Steve Uddin, L. Pakistanis, against Kokni	57
Shamas Wright, Vauxhall II, against Barton	56
Howard Chandler, Nalgo, against Bletchley II	54
Ken Davis, Luton Town, against Aylesbury III	53
Terry Gooding, Luton United, against Cambridge Granta	52
Mushtaq Dalvi, Kokni, against Chevette	51
	50

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	T	L	F
Luton United	10	9	0	1	54
Luton Indians	10	8	0	2	48
Chevette	10	7	0	3	42
Kokni Sports	10	3	0	7	18
61 FC Luton	10	2	0	8	12
Sundon Park	10	1	0	9	6

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	T	L	F
Kingsway Tavern	10	9	0	1	54
Lloyds Bank	10	7	0	3	42
Halyard	10	4	0	6	24
Luton Nomads	10	4	0	6	24
Luton OB	10	4	0	6	24
Vauxhall SPC A	10	2	0	8	12

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	T	L	F
Markyate	10	9	0	1	54
Kashmir Cavaliers	10	8	0	2	48
Luton International	10	6	0	4	36
Luton Pakistanis	10	4	0	6	24
Phoenix	10	2	0	8	12
Vauxhall Specs	10	1	0	9	6

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	T	L	F
Stopsley	10	9	0	1	54
Starlight	10	7	0	3	42
Laporte	10	5	0	5	30
Flitwick	10	4	0	6	24
St Joseph's	10	3	0	7	18
Harlington School	10	2	0	8	12

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	T	L	F
Luton Aryans	10	8	0	2	48
Vauxhall SPC B	10	7	0	3	42
AKCC	10	5	0	5	30
Parrot	10	4	0	6	24
Civil Service	9	3	0	6	18
Speed The Plough	9	2	0	7	12

Luton United Cricket Club 1983



SKIPPER'S DOUBLE: Terry Gooding with his batsman of the year award and the Luton News Cup which Luton United won under his captaincy.

TON HELPS BATSMAN TO THE TOP PRIZE

A UNIQUE achievement turned cricketer Terry Gooding into a double winner when the prizes were awarded for the Luton Midweek Cricket League's top teams and personalities.

His team, Luton United, achieved a longstanding ambition when they were feted as league champions, to take the Luton News Cup for the first time in their history.

And Gooding collected another award for his individual contribution to his team's success—he was the

only batsman in the league to hit a century last season, and that helped to make him the League's batsman of the year.

Tons are invariably very scarce in a league where 20 overs is the maximum, and almost unheard of in the higher levels. Gooding's prize-winner was 101 not out in 20 overs against Kokni Sports in a Premier Division match in June. Reg Patel, his fellow-opener, helped to farm the bowling to Gooding when they realised the magic 100 was a possibility.

They carted Kokni's bowlers for 163 without being parted in 20 overs to chalk up one of their best league wins for years.

United's first-ever league title ended a long spell of domination by Luton Indians, who had won the Luton News Cup four times in the previous five seasons.



Luton United Cricket Club 1983

Week-End Highlights

After struggling against spin bowling Luton United hit back with the fiery pace of Alford Jackson destroying Chiltern Wanderers.

Venol John, who made 31, was the only United batsman to look comfortable but their worries in making 110 were soon forgotten as Jackson cut loose.

No opponent manage double figures as he blasted out eight victims for just 13 runs in 12.3 overs, with five bowled and three caught off edges.

United other weekend outing brought victory over Luton Internationals who scored reasonably quickly but also lost wickets.

United's reply was in trouble when their opening partnership of 23 slumped to 23-2 and the 23-3 but Kenroy Mingo and Cleo Burrows produced a match winning 81 run stand, with Mingo making an unbeaten half century.

Details

United 110 (John 31) Chiltern Wanderers 40 (Jackson 8-13)

Internationals 143 (Belone 33, Griffyh 21, Gooding 3-18, Hendrickson 3-32) United 146-5 (Mingo 57 not out, Burrows 32, Abbey 23)

Laporte bowlers Paul Rampley and John Faulkner took three wickets apiece to keep the target within reach but with their first four wickets gone for 29 they always struggled against Clubert Hendrickson who had four victims and Williams who completed a first class day with the bat and ball by taking three wickets.

Details

United 103 (Williams 39) Laporte 73



FACING Eggington with only two recognised batsmen in their line-up, Luton United amazed even themselves when they notched their biggest weekend total of the season.

Openers Terry Gooding and Cleo Burrows put on a century stand for the first wicket and Gooding powered on to add another 60 in company with Alf Jackson.

The responsibility of keeping the runs flowing weighed lightly on Gooding's shoulders and he stuck to the task by hitting his second ton of the season to put United in an unbeatable position.

Chasing a near impossible task the villagers were not daunted and started off in chase of the runs by attacking the bowling, but lost early wickets as a result.

They found themselves in deep trouble at 64-8, but United then struggled to get the final two wickets for victory. They had a glimpse of hope when Gooding had the number nine batsman stumped, but with one over remaining, Eggington hung on grimly for a brave draw.

DETAILS

Luton United 268-6 dec (Gooding 102, Burrows 31, Mingo 24, Brown 24 not, Jackson 23, Hendrickson 20). Eggington 133-9 (Brown 3-24). Match drawn.

Alford Jackson

BOWLERS ON TOP

Only Jerry Williams of Luton United managed to get on top of the bowling on a rain affected wicket against Laporte. He went in first wicket down to provide the mainstay of the innings.

MERCILESS VISITORS

REIGNING champions Birmingham West Indians were merciless when they came to Sundon Park to take on a combined Luton WI team in the Clive Lloyd knockout competition.

Luton's first foray into the 1983 tournament was brief and inglorious. The visitors put them in to bat first, then unleashed a devastating fast-

Only Hyden Andrew of Luton International offered any real resistance, and he ran out of partners. Nimble and unflinching, he top-scored with 32 not out, but the rest flopped. Venol John, of Luton United, was the second highest scorer, with 12.

Skittled for 74, Luton Combined then saw their attack taken apart as the visiting overseas hammered 30 in

the first six overs before Steve Harewood took a wicket. Andrew snapped up a catch off Clubert Hendrickson's bowling, but that was the only encouragement the home side had as the winning hit was made—a straight six.

DETAILS

Luton Combined WI 74 (Andrew 32); Birmingham WI 77-2. Luton Combined lost by 8 wickets.

Luton United Cricket Club 1983

Week-End Highlights

CHASING a modest total in a 30-over game against Exchange, Luton United's top batsmen applied themselves to the task and won with time and wickets to spare.

Tight bowling and good fielding had restricted Exchange's innings, but the runs flowed smoothly for United.

Openers Clubert Hendrickson and Terry Gooding put on 66 and after Gooding was out Ken Mingo kept the scoreboard moving as United won in the 23rd over.

DETAILS

Exchange 113-8 (Jackson 2-11, Hendrickson 2-26); Luton United 114-2 (Hendrickson 41, Gooding 36, K. Mingo 24 not). United won by 8 wickets.



Mingo

LEG-SPINNER Terry Gooding was hammered for 28 runs in his first seven overs as Kokni chased 109 to win against Luton United.

But he had the last word after Alf Jackson made the breakthrough from the other end — he grabbed five consecutive wickets for only two runs to give United victory.

Against St Albans WI United's batting was unable to score fast enough after Jackson and George Hunter had prevented the home side's innings running riot.

DETAILS

Luton United 107 (Mingo 25, Hunter 25, A. Parkar 5-33); Kokni Sports 55 (Gooding 5-30, Jackson 3-6). United won by 52 runs.

St Albans WI 124 (Jackson 4-15, Hunter 3-28); Luton United 115-5 (Jackson 28). Match drawn.

THE TOP RUN-SCORERS

David Barnard, Luton Nomads, against Studham	107
Don Rolt, Luton Tn II, against Stevenage II	98
Kanti Patel, College OSA, against Ebony	*93
Gordon Allingham, Hexton, against Sharnbrook	89
Tahir Bashir, Kashmir Cavaliers, against Northbank ...	85
Pip Beaumont, Vauxhall, against Bushey	77
Kenroy Mingo, Luton Utd, against Hazells	*74
Robin Roopchand, Speed The Plough, against Starlight	72
Venol John, Luton Utd, against St Albans WI	68
John Humphreys, Hexton, against Stewartby	65
Mike Buckley, Luton Nomads, against Studham	*60
John Wood, Sundon Pk, against Aylesbury III	58
Ron Cannadine, Luton College, against Bucks Nalgo ...	*57
Peter Taylor, Luton Tn, against Stevenage	54
Ghulam Sarwar, Kashmir Cavaliers, against Northbank	53
Dipak Parsooth, Luton College, against Bucks Nalgo ...	52
Sami Rathor, Kashmir Cavaliers, against AKCC	*51
Paul Harris, Luton Tn, against Stevenage	51
Bashir Dalvi, Kokni Sports, against St Albans WI	51



Clubert Hendrickson in action

Luton United Cricket Club 1983

Week-End Highlights

POLICE COPPED IT

Beds Police copped it from Luton United's powerful batting who hammered 233 in 40 overs, Terry Gooding made 81, and shared half century partnerships with Venol John and Alf Jackson.

Clubert Hendrickson's 29 was spectacular he five fours and a six.

The Police (84) reply floundered against accurate bowling by off spinner Sil Stephenson, who took four wickets and saw two catches put down.

UNITED RESCUED BY JOHN

After losing early wickets, United were rescued against St Albans W.I by Venol John who scored a match winning 50.

St Albans lost 4 wickets for 36 in chase for runs, with Linden Brown grabbing three of them. The middle order revival threatened United until Clubert Hendrickson took a hat-trick in his first over.

Utd,190 (John 68, Jackson 30) St Albans 111, (Hendrickson 3-3, Brown 3-21)

JOHN IN GREAT FORM

United batsmen took full advantage of a very good wicket to slam the runs needed for victory over Hertford in double quick time.

They needed 21 overs to reach their target of 180.

United bowlers had struggled to get rid of the Hertford batsmen and had to settle with trying to contain them. But after loosing an early wicket, United batsmen cut loose in their reply.

Alford Jackson made a brisk 64 which included nine fours and two sixes and Venol John hit 11 fours in his unbeaten 63.

Kenroy Mingo also chipped in with a useful contribution.



TAIL-ENDERS SAVE IT

After bowling out Stevenage W.I for 112, Luton United reversed their normal batting order and very nearly caught a cold. Their worst performance of the season saw them slump to 84-9 but then last pair Linden Brown and Sil Stephenson got their heads down with a 34 run partnership to pull off an unlikely win.

ON a very damp wicket bowlers generally held command when Luton College took on Luton United, but United had the power in their middle order batsmen to set them up for a victory that was clinched in the final over.

With five wickets down for 39, United would have been happy to reach a total of 80. But Ossie Jackson came to their rescue with a fine knock and useful contributions also came from Alf Jackson and Frank Mingo.

The College found themselves in a similar position when their reply crashed to 39-5, with George Hunter taking the first four wickets.

But Dipak Parsooth, who had kept United contained with his clever deliveries, then set about putting the College in with a chance of victory. They needed only 26 runs off the final five overs.

At this point Parsooth was dismissed by Venol John and with the last pair at the wicket the College tried to hold on for a draw only to fail when John had Ken Willis caught behind in the final over.

DETAILS

Luton United 122 (Jackson 38, Gooding 20, Burgess 4-24, Parsooth 4-48). Luton College 108 (Parsooth 42, Hunter 4-37, Gooding 2-42).

THE TOP RUN-MAKERS

Terry Gooding, Luton United, against Eggington	102
Kelvin Jenkins, Mother Red Cap, against St Joseph's	93
Gordon Allingham, Hexton, against Fairfields	66
Zaffar Khan, Luton Pakistanis, against Pulloxhill	63
Andy White, Hexton, against Fairfields	62
Mark Knight, St Joseph's, against Mother Red Cap ...	60
Arun Patel, L. Indians, against Chevette (ML)	*54
Gary McDermott, Stopsley, against St Neots	*52
J. Satuinder, Starlight, against Luton Pakistanis	52
Roy Fothergill, Luton Nalgo, against Gaddesden Row	*51
Mohd Rashid, Kashmir Cavaliers, against Barton	51
Neil Upton, Luton Nalgo, against Gaddesden Row ...	*51
Samad Parkar, Kokni Sports, against Markyate	51

Luton United Cricket Club 1983

Week-End Highlights

Artificial pitch suits run-chasers

RELISHING playing on a matting wicket, Luton United mounted a big score to win by 162 runs against Stevenage Dynamics. Only Venol John failed to get his eye in as Terry Gooding and Frankie Mingo led the run-chase, both scoring half-centuries.

With over 200 runs on the board the United bowlers were never under any pressure and with Silbourne Stephenson claiming five victims they ran up a comfortable victory.

Signs that the batting was on the up were apparent the previous day in a drawn game against Hitchin West Indians. Gooding and John got the innings off to a good start and Clubert Hendrickson stepped up the scoring with a quick 22 before vice-captain John completed a stylish half-century.

As the only quickie available, Hendrickson had to work overtime with the ball and it showed when he was clouted for 25 runs in his last two overs. United then had to rely on their spinners who did a good containing job.

With eight wickets down Hitchin took no more chances and dug in for a draw, with their batsmen even refusing to have a go at full tosses.

DETAILS

Luton United 163-7 dec (John 74 not, Gooding 21, Hendrickson 22); Hitchin West Indians 123-8 (Hunter 235, Gooding 25, Hendrickson 246). Match drawn.
Luton United 261-6 dec (Gooding 88 not, Mingo 51, Hunter 38); Stevenage Dynamics 99 (Stephenson 5-30). Luton United won by 162 runs.

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS



A lack of application

LACK OF application by their batsmen was largely responsible for Luton United crashing to two defeats at the hands of Luton International and High Wycombe Young West Indians.

An unbeaten half century by Hyden Andrews provided the backbone of International's innings, and only Andrew Jackson of the United batsmen managed to come up to scratch.

Bowlers had to share the blame for United's defeat at High Wycombe. With four wickets in the bag for 24 runs they let the home side off the hook as they went on to score 173 in 40 overs. Andrew Jackson finished with three wickets to his credit.

But once again a batting collapse followed with only two United batsmen getting into double figures as they stumbled to defeat.

Luton International 158 (Andrews 64 not, Jackson 4-30, Hunter 3-41); Luton United 103 (Jackson 43, Barnard 3-7). Luton International won by 55 runs.

Young West Indians 173-9 in 40 overs (Jackson 3-11). Luton United 67 (Gooding 16, Mingo 11). Young West Indians won by 106 runs.



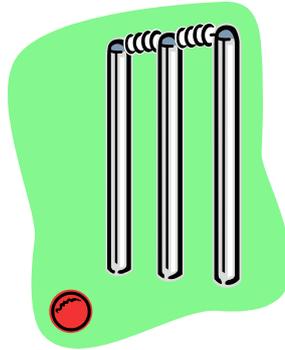
Luton United Cricket Club 1983

Week-End Highlights

CHAMPS CHASING AN EXTRA TITLE

THE LUTON Town FC seven-a-side cricket championships, being organised by the Luton Midweek League, reach the quarter-finals this week.

League champions Luton United, holders of the short-game title as well, are among the sides through to the last eight.

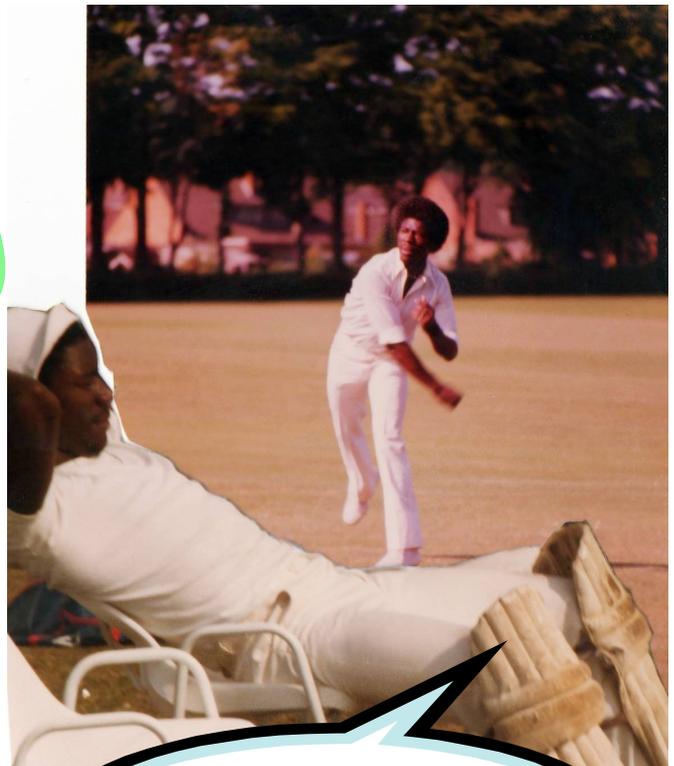


George Hunter

ALBERT HUNTER

Poor Albert Hunter, after suffering three consecutive ducks he is wondering where his next run is going to come from.

Albert, played for United briefly, he was a good athlete had a strong throwing arm and safe hands unlike is nephew George Hunter (left) Albert scored a total of 54 runs from nine innings during the 1983 season. He was not out twice and had a top score of 38.



Wonder what I am doing wrong?
I see the ball, I play straight and I still get out. !!!!

Curtain-raiser for soccer

CRICKET PROVIDES the start of the entertainment when Luton Town have their first league soccer match of the season on Saturday at Kenilworth Road.

Luton United, 1983 champions of the Luton and District Midweek Cricket League, will be within one

game of a notable double when they play in the semi-final of the Town FC seven-a-side cricket tournament.

Kashmir Cavaliers provide the opposition in a quick-fire game, 12 overs per side maximum, to be played on a matting wicket as part of the football pre-match entertainment.

On Tuesday, before the Division One game against Norwich City, Kingsway meet Stopsley in the second semi-final, and the final is to be played on September 17, when Wolves are the football visitors.

Bernard World of Sport are sponsoring the tournament.

Luton United Cricket Club 1983

Week-End Highlights



LUTON UNITED'S policy of including a spin-bowler in their attack for every match paid dividends when George Hunter claimed three victims and helped restrict Aylesbury West Indians to give United victory in a 40-overs match.

Aylesbury's batsmen showed a willingness to chase the target, but United's tight bowling shackled their ambitions, and in the end the target of 64 for victory off 10 overs proved a little too much.

Noe Abbey hit his highest tally of the season to boost United's score and Kenroy Mingo and Ossie Jackson chipped in with a couple of powerful knocks.



In the chase of a modest 133, Hitchin West Indians took a negative attitude against Luton United and after losing early wickets the game deteriorated into a boring draw.

Good accurate bowling by Steve Stevenson, Hunter and Clubert Hendrickson had restricted Hitchin. The top United batsmen had failed to make decent scores and only new boy Cleo Burrows and Terry Gooding stayed long enough for a worthwhile partnership.

DETAILS

Luton United 171 off 40 overs (Abbey 43, Mingo 49, Jackson 21). Aylesbury West Indians 153-8 (Hunter 3-29). Luton United won by 18 runs.

Luton United 133-8 dec (Burrows 28, Gooding 26). Hitchin WI 76-9 (Stevenson 3-12, Jackson 3-22). Match drawn.

New Boy Cleo Burrows

BEST BATTING

Charlie Elliott, Town II, against Southgate II	82
Trevor Prescott, Chevette, against L. Pakistanis	82
Shamas Uddin, Luton Pakistanis, against Owls	72
Terry Gooding, Luton United, against Kokni Sports ...	65
Roy Fothergill, Luton Nalgo, against Wymondley	*62
Phil Sweetman, Markyate, against Sundon Park	*62
Shabir Ahmed, Luton Pakistanis, against Owls	61
Terry Gooding, Luton Utd, against Kashmir Cavaliers	61
Clive Freeman, Sundon Park, against Markyate	59
Zaffar Khan, Luton Pakistanis, against Owls	*55
Errol Crawford, Chevette, against Luton Pakistanis ...	54
Roger Adams, Luton Town, against Letchworth	51
Jeff Biggs, Town II, against Letchworth II	51
Bashir Dalvi, Kokni Sports, against Luton Indians ...	51

* denotes not out

ALF JACKSON, who bowled his heart out for Luton United to take five wickets and restrict High Wycombe West Indians to a reasonable target in a 35 overs match was badly let down by his batsmen.

They disgraced themselves by being shot out for 76 runs after losing two quick wickets with only ten runs on the board.

Venol John and Terry Gooding got United back on course for a spell with a 50 partnership, but when John gave his wicket away going for a big hit and Gooding followed quickly after taking his runs for the season past 1,000, there was a complete collapse with six wickets falling for only 18 runs.

The slump brought United to their first defeat in 25 games.

Luton United were back to their winning ways on Monday when they scored a comfortable win over Welsh touring side Denys Powys.

They got their game together after losing four quick wickets with only 41 on the board, with Godfrey Davis and Jackson getting their heads down with Jackson hitting five fours in his 22.

After a promising start Denys Powys crumbled to the bowling power of Clubert Hendrickson and Terry Gooding who took five wickets apiece.

DETAILS

High Wycombe West Indians 134-9 in 35 overs (Jackson 5-27, John 2-26). Luton United 75 (John 29, Gooding 24). High Wycombe won by 58 runs.

Luton United 116 (Jackson 22, Davis 21). Denys Powys 66 (Hendrickson 5-19, Gooding 5-32). Luton United won by 50 runs.

Luton United Cricket Club 1983

Week-End Highlights

GAPPER TURN ON THE STYLE WITH A SAVAGE HALF CENTURY

AFTER two early wickets had been lost, number three batsman Ken Mingo took command for Luton United in their meeting with local rivals Luton Pakistanis.

He scored quickly only to fall just short of his fifty. But Clubert Hendrickson then stepped in to hit a savage 65 to register his first half-century of the season. He was given some good support by Alf Jackson.

Pakistanis had no answer to the bowling of Liden Brown who took six of their wickets in 14 overs. They were down to 83-9 at one stage, but a last wicket stand of 54 between Zaffer Shah and Imtiaz Hussain made the total a good deal more respectable.

Superb bowling by Rehmet Ali and Shamas Uddin, supported by some good fielding on a batting strip restricted Offley to a modest score in Luton Pakistanis' other weekend match.

Uddin then took full advantage of the situation to score 55 well earned runs, including eight fours, as Pakistanis got home by seven wickets.

DETAILS

Offley 105 (Crockford 39, Ali 3-9, Uddin 3-21). Luton Pakistanis 017-3 (Uddin 55, Majeed 22). Luton Pakistanis won by 7 wkts.

Luton United 187 (Hendrickson 65 not, Mingo 42, Jackson 24, Gooding 20). Ali 5-65, Wajayat 3-43). Luton Pakistanis 137 (Hussain 26, Shah 25 not, Brown 6-25). Luton United won by 50 runs.

Clubert Hendrickson, L. United, against L. Pakistanis *65



Review of 1983 Mid-Week League

Cup Winners at Last

There was more disappointment at the end of the 1982 season for United. Once again we failed to win the Mid Week league Cup.

As captain I often relived the season and try to analyse where we went wrong. We performed well throughout the season and earned the right for a play off against the Indians. For once I went against my better judgement and let a player influence my decision.

My decision to let Gapper open the batting with Venol backfired. He convinced me that he could give us a good start. I swapped my position with his and batted at number 7.

By the time I got to the wicket the game was gone and we missed out once again.

We begun the 1983 MWL against newly promoted Kokni. I watched them play Chevette the previous week and came to the conclusion that they were no threat to us.

We batted first in a game reduced to 16 overs. Venol and myself opened the batting and we made a good start adding 48 in nine overs before Venol threw his wicket away, he does that a lot.

Noel lasted two balls for his duck and we all waited in anticipation to see what new boy Jerry Williams, who joined from St.Albans could do.

I remember telling Eli, that we had a new player."Is he any good?" was his reply."He is better that you" I said. Oops.

I didn't stay long at the wicket with Jerry, I was run out for 32. Jerry liked to attack the bowling and he hit a lot of balls in the air to mid on and mid off.

We made 86-5 at the end of our 16 overs. In reply Kokni could only manage 42-9. Gapper was outstanding. He took 4-15 in his four overs. Alford and Jerry both had figures of 2-10.

News were filtering through that the Indians had lost to Chevette. The Indians were our next opponents. They were a discipline bunch, and hard to beat.

Collectively, they were better than us.

Individually we were superior. I was confident that we would beat them this time.



Satesh, won the toss and batted first to take advantage of the light. Our first two overs only conceded two runs, but Arun, took ten runs off Jerry in the third over and made up for the previous two.

Worrying times indeed. Should I rest Jerry after only one over? After all he was our strike bowler. The margin for error against these guys was small, I couldn't take the chance.

I called on Eli, my most experience bowler to try and stem the runs but he did more than that. He got rid of Mehendra, and two other wickets to reduce the Indians to 32-5 but Arun was still there. Lalit made a brisk 27, and Arun finished on 54 not out in their total of 95.

It was a total we should be able to chase. Venol and myself added 39 in the first five overs. I went for 24. Reg followed soon after for good 21, then the collapse started.

Eli hit a massive six in the tennis court. He tried to repeat it but Dipak took the catch.

Needless to say, we lost.

CHEVETTE Vs UNITED

Chevette were the early leaders. They had demolished Kokni, and also beaten the Indians convincingly.

Jerry was unavailable for this game so Albert Hunter, came in for his first league game. Albert was a good fielder and we wanted to enhance this part of our game.

Ken Davis was missing for Chevette, a big loss which boosted us.

Chevette batted first after winning the toss but found the accurate bowling of Eli and Alford a real handful. The first six overs only conceded fourteen runs.

Gapper replaced Eli and took two wickets in his first over.

A brilliant catch by Venol got rid of ex United, player Andrew Antrobus and I took a dolly to dismiss Errol Crawford. 16-2 became 25-4 as Chevette went from one disaster to another. They didn't help them selves by have three run outs.

The highly rated and also ex United player Trevor Prescott, was still there and he led the attack without much support. He smashed a brilliant 49. If ever an innings deserved a fifty this one did.

Chasing 88 for victory, United made very hard work of the task. We were 63 -5 after sixteen overs still needing 25 more for victory.

Only one run came from the seventeenth over, but Kenroy Mingo and ex Chevette Ossie Jackson saw us home.

KOKNI

I was unavailable for two games so Venol, led the team in my absence. We won both games.

I returned for the re-match against Kokni. Jerry was expected to open the batting for this game but he was delayed so I opened with Reg Patel instead.

Eli was promoted to number four in order to find some form but he didn't get the chance to bat. Infact no one else did because Reg and I created League history.

We put on 163 in our twenty overs without being parted. (Reg 52 and myself 103) Reg at one point wanted throw his wicket away to give someone else a bat, but I was having none of it. So he stayed around to help me reach the golden century.

We brushed Kokni aside with Eli taking 5-18 to send us top of the league.

Apart from the one defeat against The Indians we were doing well.

We felt that this next match would decide our destiny. Beat them and we will have one hand on the cup.

Review of 1983 Mid-Week League

Cup Winners at Last

The Chairman, Lloyd Terri long and myself talked about it at work and discussed ideas.

"I would love to have Eli and Jerry open the bowling" I told him.

"None of them like to bowl up the hill" said Lloyd.

"Yeah I know, I can ask Eli to give it try for one over.

The batting worries me", I told him.

"We always freeze in crunch games"

"Venol can be too attacking for an opener" I went on." If we lose him early it will be a big blow, But losing someone like Gapper wouldn't be a disaster"

We talked about many other aspect of the game. It was a good way to past the time but it helped me to feed off someone else.

"Gerry is a bit Iffy as well" replied the Chairman."He hit too many balls in the air for my liking"

"You telling me!"I said, nodding my head.

About ten to six on the evening of the match, I received a call. It was Noel Abbey.

"Hello"

"It's me, Pete"

"Oh hello Pete, what's up?"

"Me nah think me should play today, you know!"

"What do you mean you shouldn't play? We already pick the side"

"Well me nah scoring runs right now and me doh want to let anyone down"

I tried to convince Noel that he should play, but he was convinced that he would only be a passenger. Now that is what I call a team player.

UNITED Vs THE INDIANS

Satesh, won the toss and batted. I got the lads together as we took to the field.

"Do the simple things lads. No one hand pick-ups near the boundary" turning my gaze in Alford's direction. "Bowlers, bowl to the field and at the stumps"

Eli had agreed to bowl up the slope so he took the new ball. What followed was sensational.

Arun went to the keeper's end to face the first ball as per usual. Eli marked out his run up while I made final adjustments to the field.

"One please Charlie "shouted Arun.

"That is one son" replied Charlie.

Arun looked around to check the field, then settled to receive the first delivery .

Eli ran in and delivered the perfect delivery, sending Arun's off stump crashing to the ground. Everyone ran to Eli to begin the head slapping and back patting. It was a great feeling to get rid the Indians deliverer.

Jerry opened the bowling from the other end and by his third ball the Indians were 6-2. Mehenra's stumps were flattened by a brute of a ball. It was fast and full.

Dipak, didn't last long, Jerry also took care of him. One time United legend Utel Burgess, was making his debut for the Indians. We knew his potential and wanted to shift him quickly.

Alford, did just that, and sent him packing for one. 47-6 after Thirteen overs. Am I dreaming?

Nanu was still there and doing his best to pull things round. He did so by making a superb 57 out of their final total 92.

We were pleased with that score but I remember too well what happened in the first game when had to chase 96.

Learning from our disasters in the previous match I decided to secure the middle order, and change the batting line up.

Gapper was to open with me. Reg number three, Jerry, four, Eli, five then Kenroy and Venol.

I was out in the second over, to a good catch by Arun at cover off the bowling of Dipak. Gapper followed shortly LBW to Hitu, to leave us in deep pooh.

Seven for two, what a start! No panic yet, but when Reg and Eli went for very little I was begiing to have doubts. Eighteen for four after six overs, not good.

I went to square leg as the assist umpire. The league umpire does both ends we just stand at square leg to help with short runs and run outs.

There were too many cross examinations going on from our supporters on the side line. I had to get away.

I could never understand why batsmen who have been in and got out usually shout instructions to those at the wicket on how to bat .

Jerry and Venol were slowly putting a partnership together and things were back in our favour.

In the ninth over Jerry played a ball to third man and started off for what looked like a comfortable two but the second run looked too tight for comfort. As the throw came in Jerry was having to scamper. I was in a good position at square leg when the bails went off.

" I gave not out. Some of the Indian players weren't happy with the decision.

Jerry was finally dismissed in the over number Twelve for a crucial 28.

Arun standing next to me at square leg remarked on how close the match was becoming.

"Bloody hell, I'm shaking like a leaf" he remarked.

"You should win it now" I replied

"Nah, it's yours" he said, nervously.

Kenroy joined Venol and they took the score from 47-5 to 72. At which point Kenroy was bowled by Kanu for 15.

One thing I always tell my batsmen in a league match is that I expect everyone who goes to the crease to score a minimum of ten runs. Anything else is a bonus.

Venol was playing a brilliant innings. It was mixed with aggression and controlled placement of the ball. I whispered to him between overs. Keep it going V. Don't get out, you're our last hope"

Ossie Jackson didn't last long, he was out in the same over as Kenroy.

At 82-8 the much improved Alford Jackson joined Venol with fifteen required from eighteen balls.

Satesh first ball of his final over was of a good length. Venol was on it in flash and smashed it to the mid wicket boundary.

Satesh stood with arms kimboed, and steered at Venol.

Review of 1983 Mid-Week League

Cup Winners at Last

The second ball was flicked behind square leg for two. Another good length ball and Venol once again dispatched it to the boundary. Satesh, could not believe what he was seeing and kicked the turf in submission.

The united players and supporters invaded the pitch when the final run was hit and carried our new star all the way to the pavilion. The match that we had to win was won. The next road block was Chevette. Chevette was never much problem when we played them in previous games. They had some good players but their approach weren't the best.

They were also having some problems with their captaincy position and this can only be good for us. Get rid of Trevor Prescott and Ken Davis and they should struggle.

The pre-match build up to the Chevette match was full of harmless humorous fun. "You wait till I get hold of you Gooding" Andrew would boost. "If you come and bowl them donkey drops of yours to me I'll show you who is boss."

Steve Harewood (Ampy) and I had another conversation. "So you looking forward to the game tomorrow Ampy?"

"Yeah Man! And me have all unworked out!"

"So you reckon you know how to take care of me do you?" I asked him.

"You is no problem guy" he yelled, flinging his arms in the air.

"What about Mingo?" I replied

"Mingo? Don't make me laugh guy. He in my pocket already." and he started to laugh.

CHEVETTE Vs UNITED

I asked the lads what they thought I should do if I won the toss. Some said that we should bat. Others mumbled one or two things without being definite. Reg's reasoning for batting was to avoid fielding in the hot sun.

My initial thought was to field first. Chevette's fielding when put under pressure is erratic and I wanted to take advantage of this.

Julian Jackson won the toss for Chevette, and after some deliberation with his team he asked us to bat first.

Reg and I opened the batting and we talked about seeing out the first five overs without losing a wicket. Dalton Browne's first over conceded three runs. There was anticipation as Steve Harewood warmed up to bowl the second over to me.

My scalp was what wanted, and I wasn't going to let them have it easily. I was wishing for a short ball so I can smash it to square leg just to ease my nerve. But it was a lovely half volley which I gratefully dispatched for four.

Dalton was worrying me a little he was getting bounce that made me rush my shots. I just couldn't get him away. He was the one bowler that we feared most.

We were 47-0 after nine overs. Chevette was getting frustrated, we were sneaking ones when there shouldn't have been any and turning ones into twos.

Reg lost concentration and was out for 25 with the score on 66. Jerry was due to come at number three, but was late arriving. Noel Abbey took his place and surprised us all by taking the bowling apart. He took ten runs off Tim Broom's first over. Tim never bowled again in the match.

I was caught by Andrew Antrobus off the bowling of Ken Davis for 45 with the score on 92. Mine was the last wicket to fall.

Kenroy Mingo joined Noel and they set about taking the bowling apart. So much for Steve having him in his pocket. Trevor Prescott took the brunt of the licks. Caveman Mingo hit him for two sixes and a four in one over.

When Chevette was finally put out of their misery United had a massive 146-3 on the board.

Of the Chevette bowlers only Dalton

got off lightly, 0-21, Ken 1-36, Trevor 1-30. I was proud of out performance.

Julian and Andrew opened up for Chevette. Chasing such a mammoth total I expected them to attack the bowling so I wasn't prepared to take any chances. I protected the boundary they couldn't win it in singles.

Six runs came from Eli's first over, fair enough, considering they needed to score at seven an over.

I opened the bowling with Eli, which caused a few questioning glances. I was hoping to slow down the scoring rate or better still pick up two cheap wickets.

Andrew swung wildly at my first delivery, had he connected who knows where the ball might have ended up. He played the same shot from my next ball and this time he did connect but only got a top edge.

Noel Abbey was at short mid-wicket and the only man near the air bound ball.

"Yours Pete"

As if released from a trance he circled to just hang on to the catch. Ken and Julian tried their best to push the score along but Eli was bowling well. He finished his spell on 1-17.

After Eleven overs Chevette could only muster 39 runs. The shouting started from the pavilion.

"Come on lads hit the ball"

Alford was jumping for joy after clean bowling Ken, then in crawled Trevor Prescott. He was in the mind set that the game was lost and he wasn't going to exert himself.

Gapper and Alford, gave very little away but when the opportunity came to take two runs Trevor jogged one. He did however manage to hit Chevette's first and only boundary in the sixteenth over.

All eyes were on Julian to see if he would beat Errol Crawford's record of batting through the twenty overs for less than 24 runs.

Review of 1983 Mid-Week League

Cup Winners at Last

He was out for 24 on the last ball, caught Ossie Jackson (his brother) bowled Alford Jackson, his other brother. Chevette effort of 79-3 although good for us, was very poor. Our bowlers was once again outstanding on the day.

The final match against Sundon Park couldn't come soon enough. Jerry replaced Cleo to give us a full bowling attack. We played our strongest team, we knew what was at stake.

THE FINAL MATCH

The Sun was hot, the pitch was hard and dry. We fielded first and made an early break through. Their number three batsman, Simpkins, came in and hit two scorching fours off Gapper. Come Gapper!" I shouted, not hiding my anger.

Simpkins was a danger man, he proved this in the first match. I rested Eli after his third over just in case things got out of hand later in the innings. I wasn't sure what to do with Gapper, Should I take him out of the attack or bowl him through? I kept him on and he duly snapped up Freeman, caught and bowl.

Stuart Farrar joined play at 32-2 and didn't mess about. Him and his partner went after the bowling. Gapper took the brunt of the hiding. One full toss was dispatched for four, a long hop got the same treatment. Another full toss, another four. I was relieved when he finished his spell of 2-32

Alford replaced Gapper but the onslaught continued. Simpkins sent his first two deliveries to the boundary. He attempted to hit another four off the third but this time Caveman grabbed up the edge. With the danger man gone for 41, I was breathing much better. After all 63-3 after seven overs was some going. Look like they were out to spoil things.

We regained some control with two suicidal run outs, but a chap called Pressnell gave us the run around with some very unorthodox batting. He hit Eli for three fours in his second spell, but was finally bowled by Eli in the final over.

Sundown Park finished their innings on 96-6 far too many for comfort. As I padded up to open the batting with Reg, my nerves was getting the better of me. United had never won the League Cup, we were so close now. I thought of people like Silburn, Lloyd the Chairman, George Hunter who have all seen United miss out so often before, We must come good this time.

As was usual, I reminded Reg about the first five overs as we walked out to bat. "No early loss of a wicket," We had a cracking start scoring twenty two off the first two overs. In the third over I hit Browning for fourteen and we raced to 51 after seven overs.

All the tension was now gone. I was eventually out LBW for 41, Reg also made 20 and Venol and Noel saw us home in the seventeenth over. "Champions" shouted Mingo "Bloody Great" beamed Silburn. Celebrations followed later at my place.

Why Did It Take So Long?

The great debate has always been why did Luton United take so long to win the League title? Considering the players that they had, they should have dominated this competition.

They had top cricketers like Ossie Clarke, Gerald, Michael, Noel Abbey, Trevor Prescott and Utel Burgess. Although Gerald, Trevor and myself left in the late seventies those who replaced us were even better.

There was Bushell, arrogant but talented, Steve Clouden, a league century maker, the outstanding Evans Clarke and Isaac Michael.

Apart one year when Chevette gate crashed the party Luton Indians dominated the League Cup. In my opinion, United as a club were far too obliging for their own good.

The Indians were always at full strength when they played United or Chevette. They regularly asked for games to be postponed when ever they were going to be under strength and we always obliged. United would play with what ever team they had.

Take nothing away from the Indians, they were a professional outfit on the field, but man for man United were much better.

We were also an ageing team in the late seventies therefore the energy that was required in the field wasn't there. so we could not defend reasonable scores consistently enough.

The Indians were sharper in the field and had more control when they bowled. They deserved their success. United never won the League Cup again after 1983.



Afro Caribbean Cricket in Luton

1983 Batting and Bowling Performances

NAME	INNINGS	RUNS	HIGHEST SCORE	AVG
T Gooding	34	1041	103	35
V John	31	600	74	25
K Mingo	33	471	74	22
A Jackson	26	449	64	21
C Hendrickson	24	319	65	15
J Williams	10	210	40	26
R Patel	12	209	52	21
N Abbey	16	183	43	14
O Jackson	21	179	38	10
C Burrows	12	172	32	17
F Mingo	9	152	48	17
I Burke	14	133	25	11
G Hunter	17	101	25	10
L Davis	11	74	17	7
L Brown	12	74	24	14
A Hunter	9	54	38	8
E Abraham	7	46	19	6
N Robinson	4	39	18	13
D Boris	9	36	13	4

NAME	OVERS	MAIDENS	WICKETS	RUNS	AVG
A Jackson	203	42	56	513	9
C Hendrickson	218	37	53	646	12
T Gooding	108	14	29	330	11
G Hunter	116	13	29	423	14
L Brown	102	20	21	256	12
S Stevenson	61	6	18	194	10
V John	79	11	17	282	16
J Williams	58	6	16	185	11
E Abraham	62	5	11	192	17
N Robinson	29	10	3	80	26
L Davis	46	9	3	171	57