

ST HELEN'S BALCONIERS / ORIELWYR SAN HELEN



President/Llywydd
Alan Jones MBE



October 2019

Dear friends of Glamorgan Cricket and the Balconiers

50th Anniversary of Glamorgan's unbeaten 1969 County Championship: Balconiers' Celebration Lunch

This year sees us celebrate the 50th anniversary of Glamorgan's second County Championship title. This achievement was all the more notable because they finished the season undefeated – a rare achievement and the first time this had happened since 1930. To mark the anniversary, the Balconiers are hosting a celebration lunch at The Towers Hotel, Swansea Bay, on Friday 8th November 2019 (12 noon for 12.30).

It could be argued that the 1969 achievements were not entirely unexpected. Glamorgan had enjoyed a highly successful 1968 season, finishing in third place behind Champions Yorkshire and runners-up Kent and prompting Skipper Tony Lewis to predict that 'another successful season should not be beyond the talents of this side'. However, the season did not get off to a very auspicious start as Glamorgan hung on by their fingernails against Yorkshire at St Helen's in May, Don Shepherd and Malcolm Nash producing a last-wicket backs-to-the-wall defence to ensure a vital draw. At the end of May, after four draws, the Welsh side propped up the table and looked anything but title contenders. Indeed, as late as mid-July, Gloucestershire were 52 points clear in the table.

But a very talented and well-balanced Glamorgan side continued to play competitive cricket throughout the season, picking up important wins and, crucially, defeating Gloucestershire twice. Their final three home fixtures saw three thrilling and vitally important victories. The electrifying final-over wins against Middlesex and Essex at St Helen's will long be remembered as one of the most wonderful weeks in the Club's history.

Incredibly, in a season of 24 three-day Championship matches, only 13 players were used, all playing important and match-changing roles at different times. Four batsmen duly completed 1000 runs in all first-class matches, namely Alan Jones, Majid Jahangir, Tony Lewis and Bryan Davis – Alan and Majid each accumulating over 1500 runs apiece. Batting in depth was another important feature of the side, with significant (and often quick) runs scored by the lower order. The bowling, fielding and wicket-keeping were other key features of the successful season. Seven bowlers averaged less than 25 runs per wicket, with Don Shepherd and Malcolm Nash taking 81 and 80 wickets respectively in all first-class matches, and Eifion Jones topping the list of county keepers. Majid Jahangir and Don Shepherd were deservedly adjudged among Wisden's 'Five Cricketers of the Year'. As Don himself later observed, 'it was a very good team, make no mistake about that'.

We write to warmly invite you to join us at The Towers Hotel on 8th November to celebrate the Championship anniversary. The event will be hosted by Dr Andrew Hignell with a short video of how the season unfolded, compiled by Paul Sussex. A RSVP Card is enclosed with this invitation letter, please return the card in the envelope provided to reach us by Thursday 31st October 2019..

We hope you are able to join us for what promises to be a memorable and very enjoyable occasion.

Yours sincerely

John Williams on behalf of St Helen's Balconiers Committee.

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50th Anniversary of becoming County Champions in 1969

Courtesy of Glamorgan Archives

The Committee and Members of the St Helen's Balconiers take pleasure in inviting all friends of Glamorgan Cricket to a celebration lunch to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of becoming County Champions in 1969.

Please accept our cheque for £25 per person

Name of Attendees:

Lunch will be held at the:

The Towers Hotel , Jersey Marine, Swansea Bay SA10 6JL

Friday 8th November 2019 12 noon for 12.30pm

RSVP: No later than Thursday 31st October 2019

Email: john.balconiers@hotmail.com



Tony Lewis leading the team off the field at St. Helen's after they won the game by one run v Essex 1969