

INSIDE EDGE

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust A Message from the Chairman, Jo Rice



Since the last edition of Inside Edge, new display cabinets, new donations to the collection, a first AGM and a formally elected committee all indicate the heartening progress your Trust has made over the past few months. However, the most significant event was the very sad death of one of our founding members, Martin Moseling (left), in June. To describe Martin merely as a founding member of the



Trust would be to do him an injustice. Thanks to his persistence, his powers of persuasion and his deep knowledge and love of Kent Cricket and its heritage, the Kent Cricket committee agreed that the best way to protect our collection and our heritage was to form a separate charitable trust, and Martin was a driving force of the Trust up until just a few weeks before his tragically early death. The displays at Canterbury Week 2014, the design and layout (and some of the contents) of Inside Edge and the sourcing of our display cabinets were all Martin's work: he will leave a huge



gap in the life of the Trust. We are now looking for the best way to commemorate Martin's contribution to Kent's cricketing heritage, maybe by some sort of annual award, and we would welcome any suggestions.

Jonathan Rice

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A Grandson's Collection



Alex Legge writes:-

I am the Grandson of G.B. Legge, who captained the Kent County eleven for three seasons from 1928 to 1930. He toured Australasia with the M.C.C. in 1929-30 and South Africa in 1927-28. His score of 196 v. New Zealand at Auckland (the actual ball shown) was until Rob Key's 221 v West Indies at Lord's in 2004 the highest score by Kent batsman in a test match for England. He was killed on active service while serving with the Fleet Air Arm in November 1940.

I am fortunate to have a number of cricket related items belonging to him including letters, diaries, photos and albums and his great grandson Oscar was a recent recipient of a Kent Cricket cap to celebrate his contribution to the club. However, a significant amount was lost in a fire or has been scattered amongst family. I am now trying to rebuild a collection of memorabilia pertaining to his short life for future generations. If you do have anything which references him that you would be willing to sell or simply share with me, I would be very interested to hear from you. I can be found at legge_alex@hotmail.com or 07961 101104 (m).

[Ed: it is hoped for our next edition to include a short biography of G B Legge.]

Then and Now



Hicks Forstal situated between Herne Bay and Canterbury founded in 1952 by Geoffrey Hadlow founded in 2001. The first picture was taken in July 1990. The "square" is still kept mown to provide a grass area for the grand children (of the founder) to play on. The second picture shows remains of the pavilion among the brambles, taken June 2015 .

John Websper

An Appeal for Help

To further promote The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust to as many interested parties as we can, we need fairly urgently help in a number of areas. Not the least we are looking for someone to set up a website and perhaps combine with some promotion and marketing activities. Someone with flair in designing publications would also be of considerable help. None of this would necessarily involve any great responsibility.

Also, if you enjoyed this publication, please feel free to let your family and friends view it, and do encourage them to join us. There should be a letter from our Chairman and a direct debit membership form with this newsletter which will facilitate this. If you have any queries please feel free to contact any Committee member on page 4.

The Australians at Canterbury

A special display of items from the club's collection relating to the long history of games between Kent and the Australians was mounted in the pavilion, during the game in late June, which coincided with the fortieth anniversary of Kent's last victory against the tourists, when in a memorable fourth innings, Colin Cowdrey scored an undefeated 151. Items related to that match were on display along with mementoes of previous encounters..

A further special display of items in the Club's collection relating to women's cricket is planned for the women's Ashes Test during Canterbury Week. This will be augmented by items from other sources that are being loaned to us. We were delighted to receive recently two further generous donations towards the provision of additional cabinets. These will be used to display an interesting collection of items relating to women's cricket in the UK and overseas. This display will be situated at ground floor level in the Cowdrey stand.

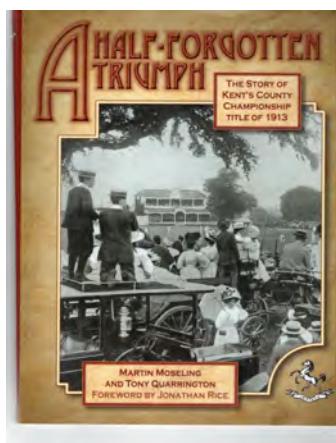
MCC is marking the Centenary of the death of Dr. W.G. Grace with a programme of events for the weekend of the anniversary on 23rd and 24th October. On the Friday there is to be a Commemorative Service at the graveside, Beckenham Cemetery, Elmers End. This will be followed by viewing of the W.G. Grace Exhibition at St. Georges Church, Beckenham where a Service of Thanksgiving will take place later in the evening. It was at Canterbury in 1876 that Grace made his highest score, 344. On display at the exhibition will be the scorebook, in the ownership of Kent County Cricket Club, recording that innings run by run. **David Robertson**



Kent v Australia 1909—second day afternoon, resuming after a rain break

Ex Libris—A Favourite Kent Cricket Book remembered

A Half-forgotten Triumph: by Martin Moseling & Tony Quarrington (2013)



The book was one of the most enjoyable books that I have read in all the years that I had the pleasure of being a Kent Supporter. It records the deeds of the county in the last truly full season before the First World War. The importance of the Tonbridge Nursery in producing many high class professionals is stressed. Players such as Colin Blythe, Frank Woolley, James Seymour, Wally Hardinge, Jack Hubble, "Punter" Humphreys and Bill Fairservice.

The authors produced a match-by-match account of the season which I felt might be boring but they illustrated each chapter with excellent photographs of the players and the grounds. In fact the book is worth having just for the photographs alone, many of which have never seen the light of day before.

Finally the book is a tribute to what can be done by two enthusiastic supporters who lived 150 miles apart and only met on three occasions. The book is a lasting tribute to Martin Moseling who was taken from us so cruelly in June of this year. **Derek Barnard**

[Ed.—the book published by SportsBooks is still in print at £20 (hardback) and £15 (softback)]

Who's Who at KCHT

President : Hon. Christopher Cowdrey
Trustees : Jamie Clifford - Kent Cricket CEO
David Robertson - Kent Cricket Honorary Curator
Howard Milton - Kent Cricket Honorary Statistician
Jonathan Rice - Kent Cricket Main Committee Member
Tony Kilbee - Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Treasurer

KCHT Committee

Chairman - Jonathan Rice - jnhrice@googlemail.com
Jamie Clifford - jamie.clifford.kent@ecb.co.uk
David Robertson - david.robertson81@btinternet.com
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Derek Miles - miles@twisdon.fsnet.co.uk

Kent Cricket Heritage Trust
Registered Charity Number 1154556
The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence
Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3NZ

Donations

KCHT is very grateful to the following for donations to the work of the Trust:-

Michael Blythe & Sheila Wadsworth
(Great-nephew & great-niece of Colin Blythe)
Clive Emson
Kent County Cricket Supporters' Club
Pat Miles
Howard Milton
Sir Tim Rice

New Display Cabinets

Before the start of the AGM in May there was a most pleasant ceremony marking the acquisition of four new display cabinets situated in the Chiesman Pavilion. These have been purchased through the generosity of three individual donors and the Kent Cricket Supporters' Club. The individual donors, Clive Emson, Howard Milton and Sir Tim Rice, were all present for the ceremony together with the Supporters' Club President, Brian Rudd. The unveiling of a commemorative plaque was performed by Lady Rose Kingsdown, President of Kent County Cricket Club.

The new cabinets will be situated at the entrance to the Colin Cowdrey stand and will be in place by the time of Canterbury Week. To mark the Women's Ashes match which is part of the Week, the first displays will include items relating to women's cricket. **David Robertson**



Left to right:- Howard Milton, Brian Rudd, Lady Kingsdown, Clive Emson and Sir Tim Rice

If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of further cabinets which release more of the Club's treasures from storage, and have your generosity likewise recognised (if you wish), please contact David Robertson at the e-mail address above.

James Aylward (1741-1827): the first Kent import

Kent have a long and for the most part honourable tradition of importing players but by the standards of the day even Steve Waugh was hardly more eminent than James Aylward when Sir Horace Mann lured him from Hambledon in the late summer of 1779. Two years earlier Aylward had scored 167 for Hambledon v England at Sevenoaks. According to *Scores & Biographies* he took strike at 5pm on Wednesday June 18th and was dismissed at 3pm on Friday 20th. The hours of play are of course unknown, but according to recent estimates he may have batted for as long as twelve hours. In any event, as a feat of concentration it was totally without precedent. There had been at least two previous centuries but this remained the highest score in an important match until 1820 and much the longest innings. At the time the third stump, introduced to favour the bowlers, had just been introduced and, ironically, this was one of the first matches in which it was used.

Although cricketing ability was obviously the main attraction, Aylward went to Bourne Park, Bishopsbourne as Sir Horace Mann's bailiff. There was of course no formal Kent club at the time and for the most part Aylward was playing for 'Kent' sides raised by his patron/employer. John Nyren in his classic *The Young Cricketer's Tutor* implies that Aylward was not a success as a bailiff. Possibly, but Nyren may not have been entirely impartial. He also asserts that Aylward never performed 'to any advantage to his new associates' which was manifestly untrue. Although never repeating his 1777 *tour de force*, of the 1184 runs Aylward scored for 'Kent' between 1779 and 1793, 604 were against Hambledon – or Hampshire which amounted to the same thing. His three highest innings for Kent were against Hambledon – 75 on Stoke Down in 1782, 65 on Windmill Down in 1787 and 53 at the same venue in 1786. He also hit 73 for England v Hambledon at Stoke Down in 1781.

The son of a farmer, Aylward played his first game for Hambledon in 1773. Nyren describes him as 'a stout, well-made man, standing about five feet nine inches, not very light about the limbs' adding typically, 'indeed he was rather clumsy'. Between 1773 and 1797 Aylward scored almost 4000 runs in important matches, far more than any of his contemporaries. Nyren thought him 'one of the safest hitters I have ever known in the club' but, again the reader can sense a reluctance to bestow too much praise, 'not a good fieldsman'.

Between 1784 and 1794 Aylward combined cricket with being the licensee of the *White Horse* at Bridge near Canterbury, where he advertised 'a good ordinary at one o'clock', 'a booth and good accommodation', catering both for local matches and for great matches in Bourne Paddock.

From 1794 to 1795 he appears to have travelled abroad with Sir Horace Mann and on return seems to have settled in London. In 1796 he scored 98 for the combined Montpelier & Kennington Clubs v the Thursday Club. In the following year his 82 was top score for London v MCC at Lord's and at Lord's later in the year scored seven and 23 for England v MCC. He also turned out again for the Montpelier Club, forerunner of Surrey CCC. His last match of any note appears to be when, by now sixty-one, he scored four and two for Twenty-Two of Middlesex v Twenty-Two of Surrey at Lord's in 1802.

Between 1780 and 1792 he fathered eight children, one of whom he named Horace James after his employer and benefactor. He is buried, with no tombstone, in St John's Wood Church.

In his book *James Aylward: The Untold Story*, published in 2001, Roy Clarke suggests that Aylward was the 'Old Cricketer' responsible for the section of Nyren's book entitled *A Few Memoranda Respecting the Progress of Cricket*. He makes a strong but not necessarily conclusive case. In view of Aylward's outstanding contribution on the field it is difficult not to hope it is true.

Derek Carlaw

T20 is not so new?

While 20/20 cricket is a relatively new innovation to the professional game at recreational level it has been played for many years albeit with numerous variations.

In what was the Thanet District of the Association of Kent Cricket Clubs (AKCC) there have been two long running versions. The District committee introduced a 15 x eight ball over knock-out competition in 1967 which at its height throughout the 1970's & 80's attracted in excess of twenty entrants each summer. The two leading clubs during this period Broadstairs & Sandwich have won the trophy on most occasions but from time to time one of the smaller clubs such as Ash or Birchington have triumphed. A Consolation Cup was soon introduced for teams who lost in the first round. Appendix One shows the draw for 1975 when there some 24 entrants. In recent years the number of clubs has declined and just seven teams from five clubs will contest the 2015 trophy.

A much more ambitious competition began in 1968 when the Thanet Works Cricket League was formed. This was open to Business Houses & Works teams. As the name implies this was played on a league basis which in the opening season saw sixteen teams split into two divisions playing each other twice. In addition there was a knock-out cup & a single wicket competition. The format was 20 x six ball overs. Matches commenced at 6pm and were scheduled to be played on Monday to Thursday evenings. The opening season began on 29th April and ended 21st August. Games were played on ten local authority pitches located in various public parks throughout the District. This meant that cricket enthusiasts could watch cricket on six days of the week only Friday being ruled out as pitches needed to be prepared for the week-end matches. Halcyon days indeed. As with the AKCC knock-out the Works League was at its peak in the 1970's & 1980's when there were four divisions plus two cup competitions. The decline began in the mid nineties when most utility companies, gas, electric, postal began to shed staff and close local outlets while at the same time many industrial companies either closed or quit the Thanet area. Despite gallant attempts the decline continued and currently (2015) there are just five teams remaining.

Pre dating both of the above is a local Business House competition which started in 1937, restarted in 1949 after WW2 it eventually finished in 1961. Little is known of the rules but in 1995 the magnificent trophy was rescued from a skip when the Hornby factory were having an annual spring clean. Restored it now holds pride of place in the Ramsgate Indoor Cricket school. **John Websper**





Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

Registered Charity Number 1154556

Please reply to

The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury CT1 3NZ

August 2015

Dear Trust Member,

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust is now well into its second year of operation, and has made a strong start in its ambitions to manage and display Kent cricket memorabilia, as well as to provide an archive for research into cricket in the county. We have put on several displays and purchased six new display cabinets, which show off the Kent collection to excellent effect. Our quarterly newsletter, which you will now be reading, has already covered some fascinating issues on the heritage of cricket in Kent.

To continue to grow and thrive, the Trust needs members. We already have over 100 people who have pledged a minimum donation of just £10 a year to the Trust, and we would very much like that number to grow significantly.

I am taking the liberty of attaching a membership application form, which I hope you will fill out and send back to us. Without the support of Kent cricket fans like you, the Trust will not be able to do all the exciting things we are planning for the future, so we very much hope you will decide to join us.

We look forward to welcoming you as a member of the Trust.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jonathan Rice'.

Jonathan Rice
Chairman
Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

Registered Charity Number 1154556

St Lawrence Cricket Ground, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3NZ

Tel : 01227 456886

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The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust, St Lawrence Cricket Ground, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3NZ



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