

Spring 2017

Volume 3

Issue 1 (no. 9)

INSIDE EDGE

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



Inside this issue:

A Moment in Time 2

Then and Now 2

Kent gain Silverware 3

A Rare Find 3

Recent Book 4

Club Histories 4

"Old Wriggles" 5

We're all in this Together 7



Since the last edition of Inside Edge, there has been another meeting of the County Cricket Heritage Forum, the twice yearly gathering of those of us concerned with the heritage of cricket in our counties.

It was held at the Kia Oval, a large gathering of around 30 people, representing all but three of the first-class counties, and it gave us all the chance to exchange views on what we are up to, and to learn from other counties' efforts.

Some counties, like Surrey, Somerset and Glamorgan, already have their own museums and learning centres,

and in the week we held the meeting Gloucestershire were opening theirs, but some counties are strapped for cash and are finding it hard to store and display their heritage items successfully. We all depend on volunteers, and fundraising is an issue for us all, but sharing our experiences is very useful.

We come away from the meetings with new ideas and the realisation that our problems are not unique. I hope that we can put some of those ideas into practice over the coming months, so that by the time we attend the next meeting, at Bristol in October, we will have some real progress to report. In the meantime, you can rest assured that we will continue to work hard on Kent's cricket heritage – although we will spend a bit of time watching the county's promotion challenge as well. Heritage is not only about the past.

*See more on page 7

Jonathan Rice



Kent Team at Dover 1909—see the article on page 3

Back: Fielder, Seymour, Humphreys, Hardinge, Fairservice, Woolley, W Hearne (scorer)

Front: Blythe, Hutchings, Dillon, AP Day, Huish

A Moment in Time Sunday June 21 1913



An iconic photograph of WG Grace taken on the day he played for Eltham against Gravesend on the Bat and Ball Ground in the summer of 1913. The picture is clearly posed. The giveaway is the background. The pictures taken that day were just about the last taken of the great man in action. WG, then living in Mottingham, played regularly for the Eltham Club from 1911 to the outbreak of war in 1914. Usually he batted down the order, to an extent in many matches he did not bat at all. In this match he did bat. Eltham were dismissed for 195, WG caught and bowled for 18, Gravesend passing the total with just four wickets down.

WG would have had good memories of the Bat and Ball, going back to his memorable match in his *mens mirabilis* of May 1895. Then for Gloucestershire he scored 257 and 73 not out, being on the field for every ball of the game.

This match was a return game for a match played the previous season at Eltham which also resulted in another Gravesend win and in which WG. batted but failed to score. The photographer was busy that day. Below shows WG in full flow.



Then and Now



Addington Cricket Club ground taken in August 1992 (left) There have been several extensions and rebuilds, the most recent in the past ten years. The picture taken in 2016 shows now a well appointed ground .

John Websper

Kent gain Silverware

In the years when Kent has won the County Championship, it has been traditional for the players to be presented with a memento. This was especially the case in the pre-World War I successes when they were the recipients of silverware. A number of these items, including cigarette boxes, paper knives, candlesticks and cuff links, have been generously donated to the Club either by the players or their families. They form a large part of the Club's displays.

Two items of silverware were on offer at Tim Knight's auction of cricket and other sporting memorabilia in February. A magnificent trophy marking the world record last wicket stand between Frank Woolley and Arthur Fielder against Worcestershire at Stourbridge in early July, 1909. Beautifully engraved it was presented to Arthur Fielder ('Pip') by ('Col'). The keen bidding went beyond the Club's top bid.

An assumption is that 'Col' is Colin Blythe. However, extensive enquiries have failed to establish that Blythe was ever known as other than 'Charlie'. A challenge for one of our many enthusiasts to research?

The other item celebrating Kent as the 1909 Champion County was described as an 'unusual large commemorative ink stand'. presented to the Kent Captain, Edward ('Ted') Dillon, at the 'Champion County Banquet' held on 23rd October 1909. Dillon, who many regard as Kent's most outstanding captain, led the side to three Championship successes. We are delighted that our bid was successful. It will be on display at the start of the season.

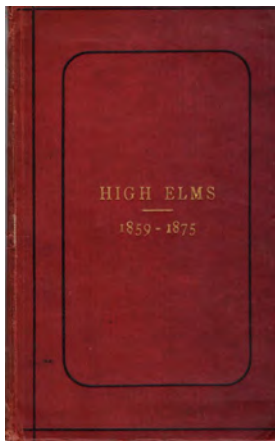
Kent is one of the foremost of counties with a distinguished cricket history. This is reflected in the large amount of artefacts and memorabilia that has been produced over the years. There are many keen collectors of Kent memorabilia with whom we have to compete. If any reader knows of items they or someone else are thinking of selling, the Club would greatly appreciate the opportunity to offer a realistic price for them.



David with inkstand beneath Dillon's picture

David Robertson

A Rare Find



Recently acquired is this extremely rare gem, *Sports at High Elms 1859-1875*, a book do rare that while it is listed in *The Bibliography of Cricket*, it is as an item known to exist but not seen. Presumably at least at the time it was not even to be found at Lord's.

The High Elms estate is on the North Downs in Farnborough in West Kent. and in the early nineteenth century it was acquired by the Lubbock family. In 1840 the astronomer and banker Sir John Lubbock inherited it on the death of his father. He built a grand new mansion in the Italian style. He became a friend of Charles Darwin who lived nearby at Down House. The Lubbocks were a notable sporting family, in particular his three sons Alfred, Edgar and Nevile were notable cricketers, although their combined total of appearances for Kent were limited. The family remained in possession of the estate until 1938. The mansion burnt down in 1967. It is now a country park and a golf course.

The book, as the title suggests, is a catalogue of sports results played on the estate during the dates given. Cricket is obviously included but painting a rare picture of the activities of aristocracy of the time we also find in the book's eighty-six pages the likes of paper chases, horse racing and driving, fives,

running, high jumping and hurdling..

A fascinating piece of piece of social history.

Howard Milton

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
Howard Milton - howardmilton@btinternet.com
Tony Kilbee - skilbee@gmail.com
Derek Barnard - cricketologist@btinternet.com
John Websper - jhwebsper@freenetname.co.uk
Derek Miles - miles@twisdon.fsnet.co.uk
Don Austen - Don.Austen@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

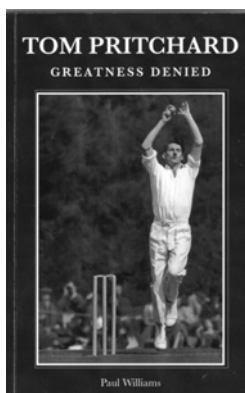
Kent Cricket Heritage Trust
Registered Charity Number 1154556
The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence
Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent
CT1 3NZ

Inside Edge Contact

Feedback on this newsletter is always welcome as are suggestions for future contributions. The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust's committed interest is to all aspects of Kent cricket history, not just to the county club.

If you have something to say and/or contribute please contact Howard Milton at the e-mail address on this page or at 46 Elmfield Close, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0LP

Recent Book



On 10 March 2017 Kent was able to declare that for the first time an ex-Kent cricketer had reached 100 years of age. New Zealand born Tom Pritchard came to England after the war, a war he spent in North Africa and Italy, where cricket was part of the activity. He played for Warwickshire on 196 occasions in a career which lasted till 1956, when he played four games for Kent.

Tom Pritchard, Greatness Denied is the biography of the oldest living New Zealand cricketer. Written with Tom then in his 96th year by Paul Williams, it captures the excellence and durability of the bowler ranked the fourth top bowler in terms of wickets taken in first-class cricket by a New Zealander. Tom is a remarkable man with a fantastic story and the fact that his story was told at the age of 96 years says much about his modesty. He remains the most talented New Zealand player to have been denied his opportunity for greatness having never been selected for the New Zealand Test team. Pritchard said he was simply "fortunate with a good life, helped by a good family and career".

Derek Barnard

Copies of the book will be available from Derek Barnard at Kent home games during the 2017 season or from the e-mail address at the top of this page.

Club Histories

Copies of *Inside Edge* have been distributed to a number of cricket clubs in Kent. It is with the hope that they will be circulated therein in so that the message of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust to promote our great cricket heritage across the county will be furthered.

Moreover, we are particularly anxious to read in these pages more about the history of Kent's many cricket clubs. If your Club has published a history recently or you would like its history to be produced in the limited pages of this newsletter. We would love to hear from you.

The contact addresses are above.

“Old Wiggles”

A Forgotten Kent Worthy: William South Norton (1831-1916)

Now pretty much forgotten, few in the history of Kent cricket did more to establish the County as a genuinely representative, viable, county cricket club than William South Norton. Popularly, if not altogether respectfully, known as ‘Old Wiggles’ due to an odd corkscrew motion of his bowling arm prior to delivery, he played his first game for the County in 1849, shortly before his eighteenth birthday. Although never officially appointed captain, between 1856 and 1870 he led the side far more often than anyone else, the first amateur to do so with anything approaching regularity.

As Honorary Secretary of Kent County Cricket Club, he served from its formation in Maidstone in 1859 until the amalgamation with the Beverley Club in 1870. Always strapped for cash and short of playing talent, in one of the most difficult periods in the Club's history, he still managed to initiate and maintain for the first time a regular, albeit limited, programme of inter-county fixtures - 75 between 1859 and 1870.

The monumental History of Kent CCC, published in 1907 we owe largely to South Norton. In the preface, Lord Harris credits him with the original idea and he wrote the first four chapters. Historians have much to thank him for. In *Scores & Biographies Volume IV* Haygarth acknowledges his help on Kent cricket and cricketers. He could yet have one more service to perform. His contribution to the *History* was edited from a much longer manuscript; if the original ever surfaces it could well contain new insights into cricket and cricketers of the time.

A solicitor by profession like his father and brother Bradbury, William South Norton was born in what was then known as Town Malling on 8 June 1831. Father Silas Norton was one of those who supported Thomas Selby – also his business partner - in the formation of the short-lived Kent CCC at Town Malling in 1835/1836 and was a member of the consortium formed to lure Fuller Pilch to Kent. Two other sons. Bradbury (1858-1866) and Selby (1863) played for the County.

Coached when young by Fuller Pilch and ‘Topper’ Hillyer, South Norton was a steady batsman with a strong defence scoring mainly by cuts, leg-hits and deflections, not very exciting it seems, but useful as an opener or cementing the middle order. When scoring 120* against Sussex at Gravesend in 1866, his only first-class century, the score was 100-5 when he arrived at the wicket, 352 when the last wicket fell. Bowling steady medium-pace, round-arm, he seems to have used himself purely as a change-bowler in matches against professional opposition but for Gentlemen of Kent and in club cricket, he had his days.

On his first-class debut against Yorkshire at the Hyde Park Ground, Sheffield in 1849, he took the field alongside giants of the ‘Grand Old Kent Eleven’, including Alfred Mynn, Felix, both Pilchs, Ned Hinkly, Tom Adams and Francis Clifford. Taking over as captain seven years later, against MCC at Gravesend, cannot have been easy. Although he had already captained Gentlemen of Kent, he was still the youngest in the team and Adams, Hinkly and Clifford were still there as was the hugely experienced Ned Willsher. Nevertheless, although he comes across as a touch unworldly and not a natural leader, he continued to lead the side on and off for two decades and his record as skipper in inter-county matches – won 15 – drawn 6 – lost 23 - is quite respectable given the limited talent at his disposal. He also managed to beat England five times, admittedly with odds varying from fourteen to sixteen in his favour, twice at Lord's and three times at Canterbury.

He was originally appointed Joint Honorary Secretary of Kent CCC with Lord North in 1859 and became Honorary Secretary when North resigned after a year. He remained in the position until the amalgamation when William De Chair Baker, Honorary Secretary of the Beverley, was chosen to perform the same office for the enlarged club.



There was 'history' between South Norton and Baker, dating back to 1862. The second match of Canterbury Week that year was Gentlemen of Kent (captain WS Norton) v Gentlemen of MCC. When the visitors were a man short, Baker, as Manager of the Week, without consulting anybody, agreed that EM Grace, although not a member of MCC, should be allowed to play. It might seem a trivial issue today but it was then and Norton and his team were incensed, as were MCC members. With London only a couple of hours away, there would have been no difficulty in finding someone properly qualified. Strongly backed by his team, South Norton prepared to call off the match but, faced with Baker's argument that the Beverley Club would lose money and threats to resign, he agreed to take the field, albeit under protest. That EM Grace carried his bat for 192* and took fifteen wickets can have done little to cool tempers. Norton had the consolation of taking 7-109 in MCC's only innings but never played at Canterbury again. As he put it 'I was ashamed, or averse, to play there'.

There were echoes of the confrontation three years later. Kent CCC continued to struggle financially. The best amateurs were disinclined to play for Kent outside Cricket Week and 'county' families showed little interest. Possibly Lord Harris was right in suggesting South Norton lacked the necessary social standing. The Beverley Club too struggled, not least because, in the 1860s, Cricket Week rarely made a profit. Amalgamation was the obvious answer and in 1865 South Norton, supported by a unanimous committee, made a formal proposal. Baker's reply 'Any amalgamation would, I think, be injurious to our club.' sounded conclusive but something had to change. Another, this time successful, approach was made five years later. The enlarged club was formed in time for the 1871 season. South Norton, now out of office, remained on the General Committee until 1896 but his name rarely occurs in the minutes. He is not listed as a member of Kent after 1896.

Strained relations with the Manager notwithstanding, South Norton played some of his best cricket in Canterbury Week. In 1857 for Gentlemen of Kent and Sussex v Gentlemen of England he carried his bat for 64* in a total of 143 and took 2-0 in seven balls in the first innings and 4-44 in the second. In 1860, for Gentlemen of Kent v Gentlemen of MCC he followed an innings of 71 (in a total of 163) with bowling figures of 2-40 and 7-57.

He devoted a great deal of time to minor cricket. He toiled hard and long to restore the fortunes of the Town Malling Club which had almost ceased to exist following the demise of the locally based Kent County Club. He played in numerous Gentlemen of Kent matches not deemed first-class, as well as for Chatham, Gravesend, Hollingbourne, Sevenoaks Vine and Watlingbury. He was frequently a match winner with the ball – for Gentlemen of Kent against Gentlemen of Sussex he took 7-19 at Tunbridge Wells in 1861, 7-62 on the same ground in 1862, and 8-49 at Faversham in 1864.



*From A Week's Tramp in Dickens-Land:
by William R Hughes. 1893.*

William Hayman, one of the promoters/organisers of the Australian Aboriginal tour of 1868 was his brother-in-law and South Norton played four times against them as well as captaining them in a drawn game against Hastings. The team made Town Malling their base and Norton several times entertained them at his home, Cade House. South Norton was President of, and played once for, the New All England Eleven, an unsuccessful enterprise started by Tom Sherman and Fred Chadband which expired in 1862.

There can be little doubt South Norton neglected his profession for cricket. He virtually admits it in his reminiscences. The minutes for a Kent Managing Committee meeting in March 1899 record that Norton was living in Maidstone in a 'dreadful state of poverty' and a testimonial was suggested. The committee's decision expresses 'sympathy' but 'it would not be justified in contributing from club funds.' The Club possibly played a part in getting South Norton enrolled as a Charterhouse Pensioner but there is nothing on record. Committee minutes for 1 March 1916 record that South Norton is 'confined to bed and dying'. It was resolved that the club would 'make up the cost of burial at West Malling'; It seems very little for so much. He died at the Charterhouse on 19 March 1916.

Derek Carlaw

We're all in this Together: the County Cricket Heritage Forum

Every six months or so, at the beginning and end of each season, those people who spend their days helping with the heritage and history of cricket in their counties get together to chew the cud and discover what works and what doesn't in trying to preserve, catalogue and display our collections. We call it the County Cricket Heritage Forum. Fifteen of the counties, plus MCC, were involved in the most recent meeting, held at the Kia Oval at the beginning of March.

We are practically all volunteers, and most of us have a reasonable knowledge of the history and heritage of cricket in our counties, but far fewer of us are expert in keeping a collection in good condition and well presented. And at a time when the ECB seems hell bent on breaking completely with the traditions of county cricket, it is all the more important that the counties focus on making the past relevant to the present, and indeed to the future.

Some counties have already got themselves well set up, with museums, libraries and other permanent display centres. Somerset, Sussex and Glamorgan are among the pace-setters in this area. Some counties have been successful in gaining funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Many counties have set up, or are in the process of setting up, separate trusts to manage, and in some cases, own, the county's memorabilia. Some counties are just in the early stages of realising how much there is still to be done to protect and manage the collections properly, and just as importantly, to make their collections fully available to the general public.

The main issues on which we all seem to agree are, firstly, that we are not experts on collection management, and therefore it is very important to establish links with local museums, even if they are not sports related, or with universities which run courses in the many aspects of collection management. At Kent, we are conscious that this is an area where we could do much better. We have talked with both the University of Kent and Christ Church Canterbury University (which sponsors our all-conquering women's cricket squad), and to Belmont House, the ancestral home of Lord Harris, the grand panjandrum of Kent cricket in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but we need also to get in touch with the County Archives at Maidstone and probably several other institutions who could be of great help to us.

The second area of concern is a rather more sensitive one – who should own the collection? Some counties – Sussex for example – have handed over their collection to a Heritage Trust, which now owns as well as manages it. The advantage of separating the ownership of the collection from the county club is that if the county runs into financial difficulties, then the club would not be able to sell off its heritage to help pay its debts, and this would keep the collection safe. Yorkshire are already trying to sell their collection and hoping that a newly formed Yorkshire Cricket Foundation will be able to find the money to buy it. Effectively, though, what any lender or donor to the Foundation would be doing with his or her money is bailing out Yorkshire CCC, who could then perhaps spend the money on something quite different, such as more players or better conference facilities – which would not be the point of the donation. But if our collections are bought by private collectors, the risk is that much of the history of our great game will be lost to the general public, which would be a great shame.

Among the disadvantages of a separate Trust owning the county collection is the fact that the Trust would then have to shoulder the full responsibility for storage, insurance etc., which most trusts at this stage cannot afford. In general, I believe that a charitable trust rather than the county club should own the county's cricket heritage, not only to ensure the financial security of the collection, but also because what we are building is not just the history of the professional game, but of all cricket at all levels within our counties. At Kent I expect it will be a long road to follow before we reach the moment when the Trust is seen as the obvious and logical owner of the collection, but in the meantime we manage it. Most of the collection is owned by the county club, but some has been donated to the Trust rather than the county, and some is on long-term loan, so the ownership remains with the people who loaned the item. This too is fraught with problems, as Derbyshire have recently found out. One person who loaned an item to the club in 1976 now wants it back, but such were the records of Derbyshire at the time (and I expect of every other club apart from MCC) that they have no record of this item and no idea where it might now be. The problem remains unsolved. MCC advise us all to avoid long term loans like the plague.

Perhaps the answer at present is the one that Gloucestershire have come up with. The GCCC Heritage Trust does not own the items it manages, but has an agreement with the county club that nothing can be sold from the collection without the agreement of the Trust. This still begs the question of what would happen if the club went into administration – the creditors would have first call on anything that could raise money to pay off the debts – but taking the slightly risky assumption that county clubs are generally unlikely to go to the wall, then this is a reasonable compromise. On the other hand, given the way the ECB appears to be risking everybody's financial security with what looks more and more like an ill-considered venture into a Big Bash/IPL style T20 competition, nobody should be complacent.

The County Cricket Heritage Forum serves a very useful purpose in reassuring us all that the problems we face are not unique: everybody has their backs to the same wall at some time or other. What it also does is allow counties to swap items of memorabilia. Yorkshire very kindly gave us a photograph taken at Headingley of the Kent team walking out onto the field. It was captioned "Kent at Headingley v Yorkshire 1930s?" We think the match was played in 1934, and that the team, which drew this game after gaining first innings lead, was, from left to right, thanks to Derek Carlaw: C Lewis, W H V Levett, A E Watt, A P Freeman, L J Todd, A P F Chapman, F E Woolley, A E Fagg, I D K Fleming, W H Ashdown, D V P Wright. If you can prove us wrong, please let us know.

Jo Rice





Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

Registered Charity Number 1154556

Please reply to

The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury CT1 3NZ

April 2017

Dear Trust Member,

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust is now in its fourth 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 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 pass on 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 in this. Indeed become an active member. We are always looking for specialist skills to further our cause. Website creation and management is a current concern.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

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

Jonathan Rice
Chairman

Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

Registered Charity Number 1154556

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

Tel : 01227 456886

Annual Donation £

Gift Aid Declaration - Past, Present & Future donations

Please treat as Gift Aid all qualifying gifts of money made

today	<input type="checkbox"/>
In the past 4 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
In the future	<input type="checkbox"/>

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6th April to 5th April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC's) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that all other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the Charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

Donors Details

Title First Name or Initials Surname

Home Address

Postcode

Signature Date

Tel : email

Please notify the Charity if you :

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief available to you, you must include all Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue & Customs to adjust your tax code

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debits

Please fill in the whole form and send it to :

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



Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society Branch

Service User Number

To Manager
Bank
Or Building Society
Address

3. Branch sort code

4. Bank or Building Society Account Number

5. Reference
(Office Use Only)

6. Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/ Building Society.

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debits for some types of account.

Signature(s) :

Date :

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society
- If the amounts to be paid of the payment dates change, The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust will notify you 30 days in advance of your account being debited
- If an error is made by The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time in writing to your Bank or Building Society

