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# INSIDE EDGE

## *The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust*

### *A Message from Jo Rice, Chairman of the Trust & President of the Kent County Cricket Club 2018*



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In late March there was another meeting of the County Cricket Heritage Forum, at Lord's, where all the county heritage people get together for an afternoon of comparing notes and swapping ideas.

It became clear that even though some counties have far more advanced and well funded heritage projects than others (and Kent is by no means the worst off), there are some things we can all do without any significant cost. One of these ideas is the Sporting Memories project, where people suffering from dementia, loneliness, depression or who just want to talk about their past, are encouraged to recount their memories onto tape, so that they are kept as a record of how things used to be.



This is a project we want to get going in Kent, and are already working with the KCCC Community team to create a vibrant and interesting archive. One of the issues we will face is the lack of people to conduct the interviews, so this is an appeal for anybody who might be interested in becoming involved in this very exciting project to let us know. No skills required, just enthusiasm. The contact details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

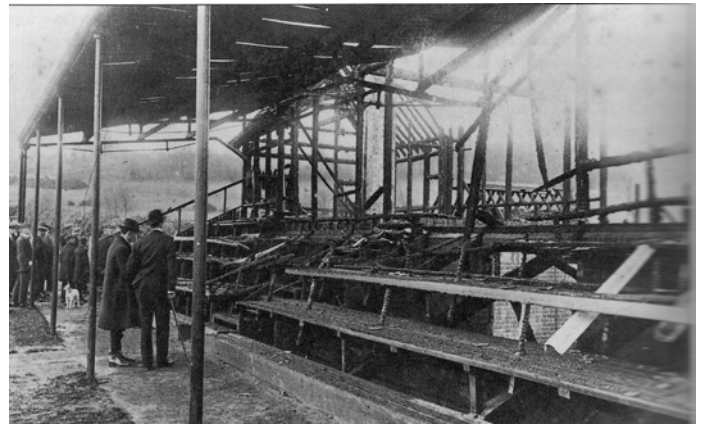
*Jonathan Rice*



*Cricket on Blackheath c 1900*



## *A Moment in Time Thursday July 17 1913*



A sepia coloured picture taken from a dedicated page in *The Tunbridge Wells Advertiser* shows the crowd scene before the start of play of the second match of the 1913 Tunbridge Wells Week. The opponents were Yorkshire.

But this was a Week decimated by the weather. Barely half the first match against Worcestershire was played, the second day washed out altogether. The Yorkshire match fared even worse. Those gathered that day saw the only cricket in the match there being no play thereafter. A great pity for a match viewed with great anticipation, it being between the top two teams in the Championship.

So much rain had fallen that conditions were very difficult.. Blythe (5-30) and Woolley (4-40) dismissed Yorkshire for 100, while only Seymour (75) stood above the Kent batsmen as Rhodes (5-42) "making the ball turn very quickly" (*Wisden*) dismissed Kent for 135. That was it.

The pity was all the effort the town put into the celebrations, as they did in those days. This was a tradition that followed Kent around their numerous grounds. As far as Tunbridge Wells latterly it was in the form of bunting, a tradition which lasted to within living memory. *The Tunbridge Wells Advertiser* showed how individual shops got into the act in 1913, as right.



In retrospect, this was one of the more famous Cricket Weeks, not for action on the field, but for the burning down (above right) just three months before of the pavilion and its rebuild (see above left) in time for this celebration. The story of this and all the theories as to who was responsible is an article in itself. But over the years the prime suspects have been militant suffragettes who at the time were using arson as a weapon of protest.

## *Then and Now*



Sibton Park Cricket Club c.1955 and 2017

John Websper

## *Gentleman and Player: a review*

**Gentleman and Player: the story of Colin Cowdrey, cricket's most elegant and charming batsman;** by Andrew Murtagh. Pitch Publishing. 351 pages. £18.99.



Do we need another biography of Colin Cowdrey, one of the outstanding cricketers of past generations and now sadly becoming a forgotten figure? The answer is, yes we do! And it is thanks to his children that we have one. It will not have been an easy decision for Christopher, Jeremy, Carol and Graham to take, but allowing writer and author Andrew Murtagh access to Colin's extensive collection of unpublished letters, notes and other material has opened the door to a valuable archive for researchers and historians to explore.

The author, who has four previous cricketing biographies under his belt, had a modest first-class career with Hampshire before taking up an appointment as an English teacher at Malvern School, where he was described by his headmaster as a "wordsmith"

Colin's early years in India were followed by a totally different life at Tonbridge School where his burgeoning cricket talent was immediately noted. Following a first game in the Colts he was immediately called up for the first XI to play against the Free Foresters, at 13 years of age. His first season found him top of the batting averages and third in the bowling. It led to *Wisden* referring to his "remarkable form". The reader will be fascinated by the recollections of David Kemp, a fellow member of the Tonbridge XI, and a life-long friend, interviewed by the Author extensively and who gives a deep insight not just into Cowdrey's days at Tonbridge, but in many other aspects of his life.



The story covers issues that have been aired many times: the D'Oliveira Affair, the stormy West Indies tour of 1967/68, the disappointment at never winning the captaincy of an Ashes tour and the ill-fated tour of Pakistan that replaced the cancelled South African tour.

In many ways this is a very moving account of someone who quite simply was a lovely man. The final chapter, "The Long Goodbye", covers his role as President of

*Kent's three cricketers who scored 100 100s—  
Colin Cowdrey, Frank Woolley & Les Ames*

MCC, President of Kent in the year of the Millennium and Chairman of the ICC. The part he played in bringing post-Apartheid South Africa back into the international family of world cricket is remarkable. Among the excellent collection of photographs is the personal fax from Nelson Mandela on ANC notepaper informing the ICC of its support for the application of the United South African Cricket Board's to membership of the ICC and participation in the 2002 World Cup. It was that which persuaded Colin to give immediate support to South Africa's return to international cricket.

It was a masterstroke on the Author's part to get the agreement of Sir John Major to use for the foreword the tribute the latter gave to Lord Cowdrey at the remarkable Commemoration of his life, a memorable occasion that my wife and I were privileged to attend.

This is a must read for all lovers of Kent cricket, if only for the chapter headed "Man of Kent". But there is much more to this book..

**David Robertson**



## Who's Who at KCHT

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

**President :** Hon. Christopher Cowdrey

**Trustees :**

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](mailto:jnhrice@googlemail.com)  
Ben Green - [Ben.Green.Kent@ecb.co.uk](mailto:Ben.Green.Kent@ecb.co.uk)  
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## 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

## Presidents of the Kent County Cricket Club 1919-1939

While working last year on the *List of Officers and General Committee Members of the Kent County Cricket Club 1870-2017*, the unfortunate fact came to life that the dates for virtually all the Kent Presidents for 1919 to 1939 on the honours board in the Chiesman Pavilion were wrong. What had happened was that the compiler of that list had taken the dates of the presidencies as being the same as given for that year in the Kent "Blue Book". Unfortunately for those volumes for those years, while it was the date of the "Blue Book" matched the year the scores, accounts etc were being reported on, the list of officers were for the year the volume was published. Thus the 1938 "Blue Book" had the scores, accounts etc for 1938, but the officers were for 1939. The Club is aware of the fact. This is the revised list:-

1919	Lord George Hamilton	1930	Maj. C G Field-Marsham
1920	1st Baron Forster	1931	3rd Baron Northbourne
1921	2nd Baron Northbourne	1932	1st Baron Plender
1922	K McAlpine	1933	Mr. Justice Luxmoore (later Sir Arthur Luxmoore)
1923	W H Patterson	1934	F Marchant
1924	S Christopherson	1935	A C Leney
1925	Viscount Lewisham (later 7th Earl of Dartmouth)	1936	A C Norman
1926	Col Sir Henry Streatfeild	1937	G L Mackeson
1927	C Hardy	1938	J R Mason
1928	4th Baron de Lisle and Dudley	1939-1945	Maj (later Lt Col ) H S Hatfeild
1929	Lt. Col J J Astor (later 1st Baron Astor of Hever)		

## Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Committee Vacancies

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust has vacancies for two members on the Committee. If you have an interest in Kent's unique cricket history in any area, county or club, and would like to put that interest into forwarding the work of the Trust, please contact David Robertson at the address above. Work could include constructive work such as helping to sort out the county's archive, or assisting in putting together displays on the ground, or just being able to make good suggestions for moving us on.

The AGM, when the Committee for 2018-2019 will be elected, is after play in the Chiesman Pavilion on Friday 11 May 2018.

## *Lost County Cricket Grounds of Kent:*

### *Dandelion (Dent de Lion) Paddock, Margate (1790-1796)*

Although the Kent county cricket record of matches played begins in 1806 when sides were becoming more representative of the county as a whole, there were significant matches recorded as being played at venues across the county before then. In the second half of the eighteenth century a major figure in organising such games was Sir Horatio Mann, 2nd Bart (1744-1814) who, in his time, leased or owned several estates in Kent where he was a patron of cricket. Three are of importance in the context of these articles—Linton Park, Bourne Park, Bishopsbourne (of which more in a future article) and here at Dandelion Paddock outside Margate..

These were the days when cricket was played for big money in betting and Sir Horatio, whose two great passions were cricket and whist, played for big stakes. Tens of thousands of pounds could be won or lost, and this losses helped dictate his movement around Kent.

In 1440 John Dent de Lion (Daundelyon or Dandelion) fortified his manor west of Margate against the then current Flemish threat. His “castle” he then used for his illicit smuggling business. Subsequently the estate passed by marriage to the Petit family. In the eighteenth century it was acquired by Henry Fox, Lord Holland, whose son, Charles James Fox in turn sold it to John Powell. His nephew John Robert Powell later gained possession and restored the building as a country house.

Sir Horatio Mann came here around 1785 after leaving Bourne Park, possibly after falling into financial difficulties. Thereafter he alternated between here in Dandelion and residences in Bath before dying here in 1814. There is a mention of a Dandelion Cricket Club in 1785 but with Mann firmly in residence there are a sequence of matches in 1790s among the many “public entertainments” happening on the estate. The following games are regarded as important:-

1790 Aug 13 Sir H Mann v Sir H D'Aeth

Sept 13 Mr Hammond v Earl of Winchelsea

1793 Sept 7-10 Sir H Mann v R Leigh

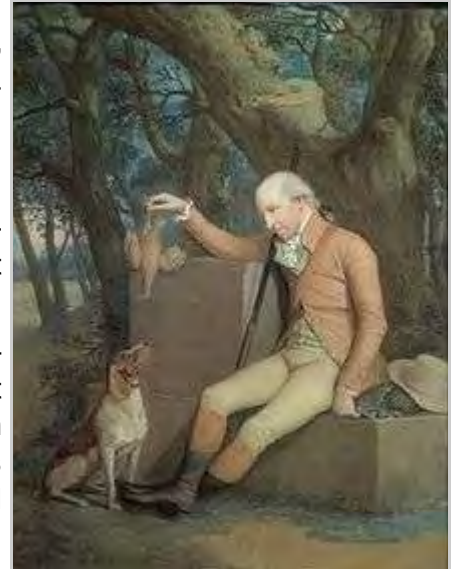
Sept 10-12 Sir H Mann v Earl of Darnley

Sept 14-16 Sir H Mann v R Leigh

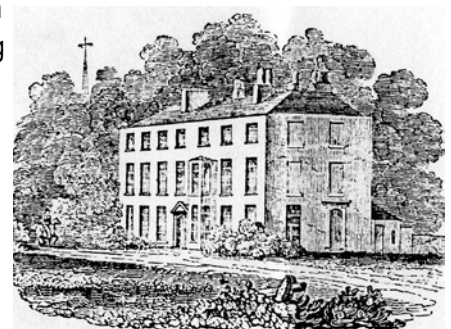
1796 Aug 22-23 England v Surrey

Aug 24 England v Surrey

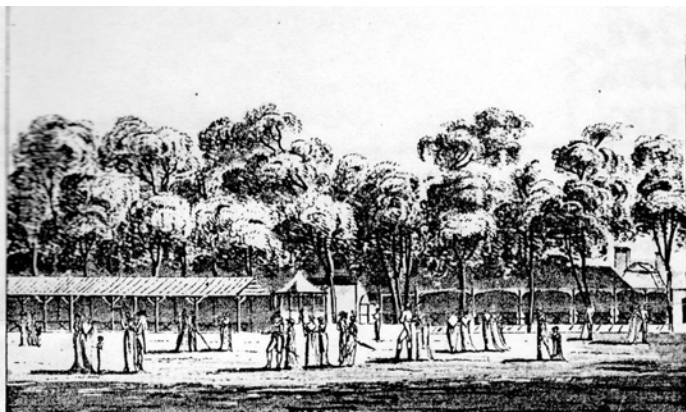
Sept 7-10 J Small



*Sir Horatio Mann and his hound by Hugh Douglas*



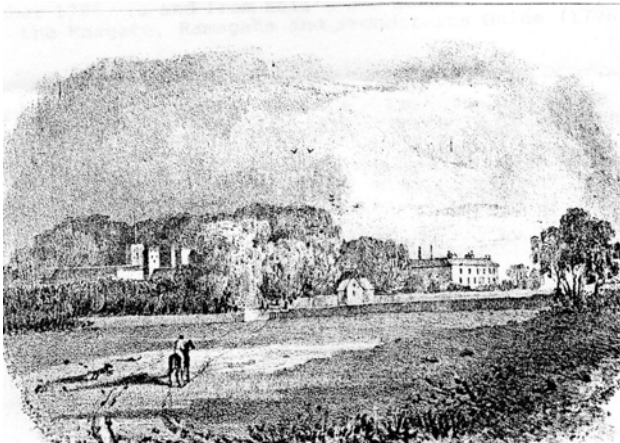
*Dandelion House*



*The Tea Gardens*

The centre of sporting activities would seem to have been the bowling green. *Hall's New Margate Guide* of the period noted it “planted round with evergreens and flowering shrubs” with “a terrace above the green with alcoves for the ladies”. Every Wednesday in the season there was a public breakfast, with a band and dancing on the green—it was “one of the most pleasing scenes in the neighbourhood”. An advertisement for a cricket match in 1790 proclaimed “good accommodation on the ground”.





*The "Race Ground"*

These social activities survived into the first half of the new century. Surviving prints show the Tea Gardens in 1806 and the "Race Ground" in 1825.

As far as cricket is concerned, it does not seem to feature after its flourishing in the 1790s. Sir Horatio was MP for Sandwich from 1774 to 1807 and commitments as a result may have curtailed his playing career, although he was by then in his fifties.

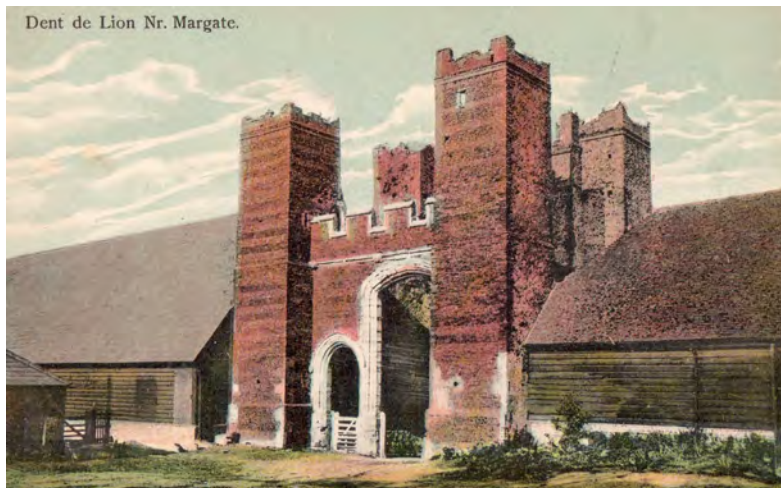
Sometime later in the nineteenth century the house and most of the buildings were pulled down and the grounds reverted to being a farm. It is still arable land (see photo below right). Material from the original house has been used in the farmyard..

There is one splendid survivor of what was; the Grade II-star Listed gatehouse dated to the early 15th century survives in almost complete form in the midst of the more modern farm build-

ings. Tall, rectangular, roughly east-west aligned, it is pierced by a tall carriage entrance, flanked to the west by a similar archway for pedestrians. Over the main arch is a representation of the coat of arms of the Dent de Lion family, a demi lion with label out of his mouth, on which is written DAUNDELYONN.

If you are curious to see this unexpected remnant in its incongruous setting, take the A28 westwards out of Margate and turn left at the sign marked Garlinge, where it is actually located, and just follow the road, bending right as it does en route. The postcode for the farm is CT9 5LA.

**Howard Milton**



*Postcard postmarked 1911*



*February 2018*



*photos by John Websper*

## *Kent's Unique "One Match Wonder": Charles Robert Worthington (1877-1950)*

Despite the presence of players such as Johnny Tyldesley, 'Monkey' Hornby, Johnny Briggs, Jack Mason, 'Nuttie' Martin and Alec Hearne, Lancashire v Kent at Old Trafford in 1898 was not a game to remember. On the first day, 30 May, Whit Monday, 6000 spectators turned up but they saw only 25 minutes play, leaving the home side 14-0 (Hornby 7\*, Albert Ward 7\*). The second day was only marginally better. In an hour and a quarter Lancashire took the score to 38-3 (all clean bowled by Hearne) when the rain returned and finished play for the rest of the day and, as it turned out, for the rest of the match. Perhaps the most notable feature was that in an hour and 40 minutes Kent bowled 46 (5 ball) overs but even that was not so very remarkable by the standards of the time.

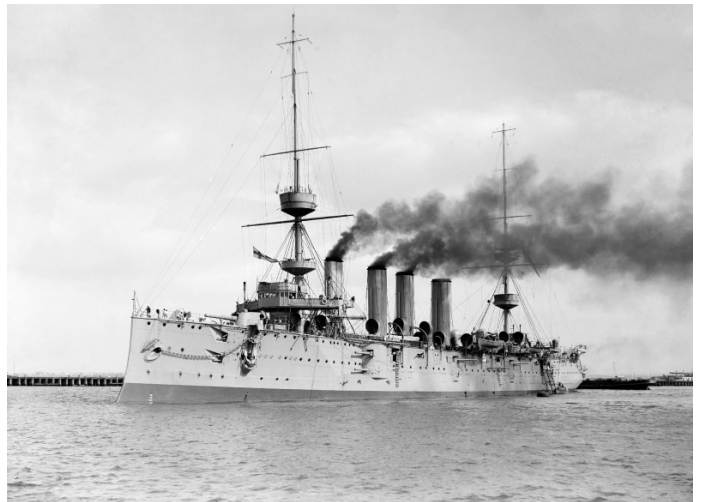
Non-event though it was, in later years one man at least will have recalled it. The match was Charles Robert Worthington's debut and he is unique among Kent cricketers in that he did not bowl, hold a catch – or of course bat – although presumably he touched the ball. Kent never called on him again.

Born in Surbiton on 28 February 1877, Worthington was the fourth child of Richard Worthington who had settled back in England after a long career in the Bombay Civil Service. A right-handed batsman and right-arm, medium-pace bowler, young Charles was in the Eleven at Tonbridge in 1895 when *Lillywhite* praised his "fine free style" and rated him a "useful change bowler". In the match against Dulwich College, he was bowled for 56 by Hugh de Selincourt, author of *The Cricket Match* and *The Game of the Season*.

Going up to Caius College Cambridge, he scored 66 in the 1896 Freshman's match but progressed no further. Kent however had noticed him and in August he took 4-17 for Kent Second Eleven against Middlesex Seconds at Tonbridge. Next year he again did well in the Trials but got no further than the "Next Sixteen" and it took another half-century in the 1898 Trials to earn a chance for the University. He marked his debut for Cambridge with 42 against C.I. Thornton's Eleven at Fenner's but in another half-dozen matches his only innings of significance was 37 v MCC at Fenner's when he put on 81 for the first-wicket with Kent's "Pinky" Bur-nup (52). Even so, he only narrowly missed a Blue. He played in the MCC match at Lord's immediately before the University Match but lost his place to the Old Blue Harold Marriott who thus played his fourth Varsity match.

As a boy Charles Worthington had lived briefly in the Channel Islands and, outside of cricket, he had a varied and much travelled life. On coming down from Cambridge with a BA, he began medical studies at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington but broke off to serve with the Volunteer Company of the Suffolk Regiment in the Second Boer War. This earned him the Queen's medal with four clasps as well as a dose of malaria. On returning to England he resumed his studies and in 1903, duly qualified, began work at St. Mary's.

Worthington seems to have been afflicted with itchy feet. At the end of 1903 he was working for the Colonial Office in Southern Nigeria and by the end of 1904 had enlisted as a Surgeon in the Royal Navy where he served for seven years aboard the 14,000 ton cruiser *HMS Powerful* whose captain and many crew members had distinguished themselves with, on land, the Naval Brigade in the Boer War.. During his service, in 1905, he married Winifred Mabel Phillips at Maesmynis, Breconshire. On leaving the Royal Navy, the family – there was now one daughter- emigrated to Canada to begin farming in British Columbia.



*HMS Powerful*



Taking into account his medical qualifications, not to mention his naval service, it is more than a little surprising that when in 1916 he enlisted in the Canadian Army he was posted as a private to the 102nd (Comox-Atlin) Battalion, Canadian Infantry. Arriving in France in August 1916, he served with the infantry on the Western Front for the rest of the year, for part of it as a stretcher bearer. In 1917, shortly after promotion to Sergeant, he was posted back to England and, belatedly some might think, was granted a commission in the Canadian Medical Service. After service in England, prolonged by injuries following a fall from a horse, he returned to France in August 1918 with the rank of Captain, serving with the 2nd Divisional Ambulance. As part of the elite Canadian Corps, the Division was heavily involved in the closing battles of the war leading to the defeat of the German Army and the Armistice. Subsequently it formed part of the Army of Occupation.

Returning to England in April 1919, Worthington left the Canadian Army in the following September and promptly re-enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps. At the end of 1919, with the rank of Temporary Captain, he was posted to Egypt where he served with No. 3 Stationary Hospital. In April 1920 he returned to England, retired from the Army and rejoined his family who were living in Gloucestershire. In September they returned to Canada and re-settled in British Columbia where, in Nanaimo, Charles Worthington died on 7 September, 1950.

Readers should note that, while Charles Worthington's record as a "Kent One Match Wonder" is unique in that he did not bat, bowl or take a catch, when he took the field at Old Trafford he already had eight first-class matches with 158 runs (avge.12.15), two wickets (avge.33.00) and four catches to his credit.

*Note: A more detailed account of Worthington's service in World War One will be found in Paul Lewis's For Kent and Country (Reveille Press, 2014)*

Derek Carlaw

LANCASHIRE v. KENT.				
Played at Manchester, May 30th, 31st, and June 1st, 1898.				
Drawn.				
LANCASHIRE.				
Mr. A. N. Hornby, b Hearne .....	12			
A. Ward, not out .....	15			
F. H. Sugg, b Hearne .....	0			
J. T. Tyldesley, b Hearne .....	7			
W. R. Cuttall, not out .....	0			
Mr. Ernest Rowley				
J. Hallows				
G. R. Baker				
J. Briggs				
C. Smith				
A. Mold				
} did not bat				
Byes.....	4			
	38			
KENT.				
Mr. W. Patterson .....				
Mr. F. Marchant .....				
Mr. G. J. V. Weigall .....				
Mr. C. N. Worthington .....				
Mr. L. J. Le Fleming .....				
Mr. J. R. Mason .....				
Martin, F.....				
Wright, W.....				
Hearne, A. ....				
Easby, J. W. ....				
Huish, F. H. ....				
BOWLING ANALYSIS.				
Lancashire.				
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Wright ..	16	9	20	0
Martin .....	11	8	3	0
Hearne .....	18	13	11	3
J. R. Mason .....	1	1	0	0

*Worthington's one match as recorded in the Kent  
"Blue Book"*