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# INSIDE EDGE

## *A Message from Jo Rice, Chairman of The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust*



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So now we go into the depths of winter, with only the latest news from New Zealand to keep our minds on the cricket rather than elections, Brexit and Christmas advertisements, among other horrors. However, within the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust we are focusing on the fact that 2020 is Kent CCC's 150th anniversary year, and this gives us plenty of opportunities for celebration and commemoration. A book is being published, written by Howard Milton and Peter Francis, celebrating all the grounds in Kent that the county has played on since 1870, and from the early drafts I have seen it looks as though it will be a brilliantly produced, highly entertaining and historically important book, available, as they say, at all good bookstores, including the club shop.



We will also be putting on a display at the Spitfire Ground which will run throughout the season, celebrating cricket in Kent over a century and a half, and there will be other opportunities during the year for everyone to engage with Kent's cricketing history.

We are also looking for clubs within the county which are also celebrating 150 years since their formation: we have learnt of one, Hythe Green, which was also formed in 1870, but we would like to hear of more, so that we can celebrate their history as well as that of the county club. Please get in touch with us, at any of the email addresses given within this issue of Inside Edge, if you belong to, or know of a 150 year old cricket club.

And a Happy Christmas and a thoroughly enjoyable (and perhaps title-winning) 2020 to everybody.

*Jonathan Rice*



*Festive decorations—Canterbury Week 1907*

## *A Moment in Time, Saturday 21 July 1934*



A moment in time celebrating a moment in time. Among the grounds worthy of consideration as the oldest cricket ground still in use, the claim, of Sevenoaks Vine would stand high. The first definite record of cricket of the ground is 1740. although matches prior to that including the 1734 Kent-Sussex game were almost certainly played here. Indeed its history is perhaps even older. In 1750 a writer, then 75 years of age, claimed his grandfather was a famous local player suggesting a cricketing connection with the area back into the seventeenth century.

For the Sevenoaks Vine Club, 1734 is the date that matters, and in 1934 they celebrated 200 years with a Bi-Centenary Cricket Week, the highlight of was a cricket match on the Vine between the Gentlemen of Kent and the Gentlemen of Sussex. The match was played in the costumes of that period and, as far as possible, according to the rules and customs that then held sway. The crowd were encouraged to dress likewise.

## *Gone and Forgotten?*



Etchinghill (left) - everything looks fine, but the ground was sold off. Alkham Valley (right) - the rain reflects the end of another village club.

**John Websper**



## *Kent Cricket's New Curator*

**Caroline Ellis** follows David Robertson as the new Curator for Kent CCC. She writes:-

My Kent cricket passion began with family days out on my father's membership. That dates me back to the mid-sixties with heroes like Alan Knott, Derek Underwood and Colin Cowdrey - and a soft spot for Charlton's Stuart Leary. I also collected autographs - perhaps a little too enthusiastically, as I have the generous John Shepherd's three times. After working with the KCHT over the past couple of years, it is a great privilege to become the 'collector-in-chief'.

My professional background is in managing museums and I've been fortunate to work in both Kent and national museums and archives. I managed Bexley and Tunbridge Wells Museums and Southwark in London, plus the Museum of the Moving Image, the archives of the British Film Institute and the Women's Library and TUC Collections at London Met University. I hope that some of the different background and skills that I can bring to the post will complement those of the true cricket historians.

Part of my work will be the 'caring' - looking after the condition of the photographs, archives and memorabilia in the KCCC collections. But just as important will be the 'sharing' - getting the collections out there for everyone to enjoy, whether that's in displays, on-line - or through *Inside Edge*..

Our first 'sharing' project is in celebration of the club's 150th anniversary next year. 'Kent 150: Your 150' will be an interactive project asking Kent fans to nominate their favourite 150 memories, games, players, matches, events and objects from our collections. There will be a display of large-scale photos in the Lime Tree Café, complete with a 'memory box' to inspire ideas.

Keep an eye on the KCCC website in the New Year for our call-out for contributions

## *Cricket at Thurnham*

The village of Thurnham had a long and undistinguished cricketing pedigree. The first reference can be traced to 1773, some 24 years after neighbouring (to the south) Bearsted, and play was more or less continuous throughout the last decades of the eighteenth century, throughout the nineteenth century. And apart from a gap during the First and Second World Wars, into the latter half of the twentieth century. It can however claim significant connections through the legendary Alfred Mynn who is buried in the local churchyard and John Collard Cocker, who was born in the village and after one game for Kent in 1842, emigrated to Australia where he contributed to the early development of cricket in Adelaide.



In 1967, following fund-raising and hard physical work by the members, a new pavilion was provided to replace the old basic facility. Sadly in the autumn of the following year, freak winds wrecked the buildings and parts were deposited on the M20 more than 500 yards away. The practicalities of replacing the building proved too daunting and reluctantly the club decided that it could not continue and left its home in the grounds of Thurnham Court about a mile from the Pilgrims Way. The last ball had been bowled at Thurnham Cricket Club. The ground remains as today (left)

**Ian Lambert**

## Who's Who at KCHT

**President** : Hon. Christopher Cowdrey

**Trustees** :

Simon Storey - Kent Cricket— CEO

Caroline Ellis—[cjecje@btinternet.com](mailto:cjecje@btinternet.com)—Curator

Howard Milton - Kent Cricket - Honorary Statistician

Jonathan Rice - Kent Cricket— Past President

Tony Kilbee - Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Treasurer

**KCHT Committee**

Chairman - Jonathan Rice - [jnhrice@googlemail.com](mailto:jnhrice@googlemail.com)

Secretary - David Robertson -

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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.

## Kent Grounds Book Progress

Progress on the production of the Kent Grounds book continues on schedule. The contents are now in the hands of the publisher for the individual pages to be designed. There are well over 300 photographs of varying quality, so it is fingers crossed whether all will be accepted. We now have a formal title *Kent County Cricket Grounds: 150 Years of Cricket in the Garden of England*.

The book is officially supported by the Kent County Cricket Club as part of their 150th anniversary programme. Support has also been forthcoming from the Kent County Cricket Supporters Club and the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust.



*Garrison 1 Ground, Chatham*

We have been honoured with forewords from all three Presidents of these organisations—Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, John Shepherd and Christopher Cowdrey.

The aim remains for publication to be at the Kent AGM in March/April or the start of the first-class season. It is estimated to be over 200 pages and will cost £20/25, with a reduced rate for members of our supporting clubs.

## Appeal for Volunteers

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust is always looking for assistance in the various projects they are working on. Caroline Ellis, the new Curator, is leading on a number of 150th anniversary projects which will require support—the exhibition in the Lime Tree Café will require some invigilators, and there is still a mammoth collection of old unwanted books in store which need sorting and probably offering up at another one of our sales.

If you have any interest in Kent cricket heritage and think you can be of assistance, please contact any of the names above,

## *A Major New Acquisition to the Kent Cricket Archive*

One of the most exciting parts of my role as the Club's honorary curator has been the surprises that have come from time to time through offers of items that owners feel might be of interest and value to the Club's collection.

So it was just three weeks before my retirement at the end of September that I had an email from a lady living in Herefordshire who introduced herself as the Grand-daughter of W H Patterson, joint club captain with Frank Marchant from 1890-1893.

Known to his intimates as "Harry Pat", he was regarded for almost twenty years as one of the country's best batsmen. Following his days as a player he served on the Kent committee, was President in 1922, then Vice-President and Trustee up to the time of his death.

His Grand-daughter is Mrs Tibb Richardson. She offered to the Club two volumes of beautifully hand written accounts covering Kent's matches from 1746 up to 1880.

The Author of this work is Cecil James Gladdish Hulkes of Little Hermitage, near Rochester. The title page of the first volume reads, "*A History of Kent County Cricket from the Earliest Times of which any record remains to the Present Day*". The second volume carries the title "*The Omnium Gatherum of Cricket Lore being miscellaneous items of information relating to the game, and more especially those relating to the cricket of the county of Kent.*"

There is no indication as to when these works were produced. The final matches recorded were in 1880 and the style of writing suggests it could have been around that time. A report of the Sussex v Kent match of 1825 refers to it as "*...a match which still (1885) is productive of great interest....*" which brings me to the view that it was probably written in 1885.

I tried to obtain some information about Mr Hulkes but was unsuccessful. If any reader can help that would be greatly appreciated. It would be good to know something of his background

The first match, recorded in Frederick Lillywhite's "*Cricket Scores and Biographies*" was played at the Artillery Ground, Finsbury Square, London. It came about following a challenge by Lord John Sackville to the All England XII. In a two-innings closely fought game the highest single innings score was that of the All England XI with a total of 70 runs in their second innings. Despite that, Kent was victorious by one wicket. The Author claims it to be the first match of which any record remains and goes on to record that "**exactly**" 100 years later at Lord's in the presence of the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cumberland and the Duke of Richmond, and at which "*many other persons of distinction were present*", England beat Kent by an identical margin.

The Author acknowledges that there is then a gap in recorded matches until 1772 but refers to accounts of several matches having been played during the 26 years in between, "*although the scores are not preserved*". The Authority for this claim is *Bell's Life* of 23 November 1845 in which it is stated that "*....in 1762 or 1765 it is not certain which, 9 men of Dartford with 2 of London beat All England twice.*" It goes on, "*the first match was played on the Laleham Burnham Ground near Chertsey, Dartford winning by three wickets. The second was played on Dartford Brent.*" Included in the England side were Burchwood and Durling of Kent. The Dartford men are listed as Frame, a bowler, John Bell, Wicket-Keeper, Potter, Long-stop, Brandon, Thomas Bell, Goldstone, Killick, Stevens and Wakelin.

That season Kent played two matches and won both. The Author also records a single wicket match which Kent won by one wicket and a double wicket match won by two wickets. The first was played at the Royal Artillery Ground and the second at Bishopsbourne Paddock. Players representing Kent were John (or James) Boorman, Joseph Miller, John Wood, Simmons, Richard May, John Frame, Pattenden and Fuggles.

Further matches are recorded for the following three years including what the Author claims to be the first between Kent and Surrey in 1773. The scores are summarised, players listed and results recorded. The venues included Bishopsbourne Paddock, Sevenoaks Vine, the Artillery Ground and Broad-Halfpenny Down. In 1774 and 1775 there was no county opposition, all five matches being played against the Hambledon Club. The two in 1774 were two-innings games, both won by Kent with three "given" men whilst of the three in the following year two were double wicket and the other single wicket.

In 1794 we read that Kent "*reached a very low ebb...*" Of the three games they lost (out of four played) one was against the Oldfield Club, "*the only match they played without the assistance of other counties*". This was apparently an exceptional occurrence given that the usual custom was for counties to confine their fixtures to just two non-county clubs, Marylebone and Hambledon. There was apparently a similar situation involving Kent in 1872 when they opposed the newly formed Princes Club and lost, prompting "*Scores and Biographies*" to say, "*A once great Cricket County playing a new club – fallen indeed!*"

There is the temptation to continue detailing the fascinating content of this volume but I fear the Editor would not thank me for doing so! As it progresses so it highlights happenings of particular interest to those who follow especially, the history of Kent cricket and which are featured somewhat differently as they might appear in "*Scores and Biographies*". For example, The match against Hampshire in 1790 included the first appearance for Kent of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Darnley and his brother, the Hon. Edward Bligh. Two years later Cobham, the home of the Bligh family, hosted the Kent v Hampshire match. Our Author updates the information contained in the aforementioned publication. He also lists the year of the first appearance of each Kent player in this match which is subsequently recorded throughout the entire volume.

As the years progress there are more detailed summaries of each season. There are the hand-written summaries of matches, lists of participating players, where the matches were played and brief summaries of the seasons. The early 1800s record the introduction of "Gentlemen's" matches, accounts of encounters between Kent and England with many familiar names coming to light. As we move towards the middle of the C19th matches against England were increasing in number and those against other counties were being extended further northwards in the first half of the 1800's. In 1823 against the Marylebone Club a Kent batsman (J. Jordan) recorded the first century for the County, scoring 109 in what was then a high score of 341 with (?) Evans hitting an undefeated 99 [now as recorded 90—Ed].

The historic 1870 merits four pages with accounts of the nine games played, a list of all the players who participated in those games and an account of the proceedings that resulted in the formation of Kent County Cricket Club. It also records the death of Fuller Pilch.

Some of the text is taken from *Scores and Biographies* but quite a lot, especially comments on players and accounts of games, is original.

The two volumes are a valuable addition to the Club's collection.

**David Robertson**

## *Kent Cricketers Decorated for Distinguished Service to the Nation*

	<i>Kent Career</i>	<i>Decoration(s)</i>	
L E G. Ames	1926-1951	CBE	cricket
G F Anson	1947	MC	WWII military
(Sir) L H Bayley	1846-1847	KB	Indian service
T H P Beeching	1920-1921	MBE	WWII military
(Brig -Gen ) E M Blair	1893-1900	CMG	military
R N.R Blaker	1898-1908	MC	WWI military
(Sir) M Bonham-Carter	1902	KCVO, KCB	public service
S Boucher	1922	CBE	WWII naval
H M Braybrooke	1891-1899	MBE	WWI civilian
(Brig) G J Bryan	1920-1933	CBE	WWII military
J L Bryan	1919-1932	MC	WWI military
(Flt Lt ) F G H Chalk	1933-1939	DFC	WWII RAF
(Maj-Gen) E S Cole	1938	CB, CBE	military
Capt. W S Cornwallis (2nd Baron Cornwallis)	1919-1926	KCVO, KBE, MC	WWI military/public service
M C Cowdrey (Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge)	1950-1976	(Life Peer), Kt., CBE	cricket
A M Crawley	1927-1947	MBE	WWII military
E Crush	1946-1949	MC	WWII military
B S Cumberlege	1923-1924	OBE	WWI military
J G W Davies	1934-1951	OBE	military
M H Denness	1962-1976	OBE	sport
H P Dinwiddy	1933-1934	OBE	colonial service
(Lt-Col) A H du Boulay	1899	DSO	WWI military
A J Evans	1921-1928	MC, MC(bar)	WWI military
T G Evans	1939-1967	CBE	cricket
W Foord-Kelcey	1874-1883	OBE	military education
D P Freeman (Maj-Gen Rt Hon Sir)	1937	MBE	civil defence
L B Friend	1886-1887	KBE, CB, PC(Ireland)	military
Capt E J Fulcher	1919	MC	WWI military
4th Baron Harris	1870-1911	GCSI, GCIE, CB	public service
C E Hatfeild	1910-1914	MC	WWI military
(Col Sir) W C Hedley	1888	KBE, CB, CMG	military
(Rev. T R Hine-Haycock	1885-1886	MVO	Royal Household
(Brig) B Howlett	1922-1928	DSO, DSO(bar)	WWII military
C S Hurst	1908-1927	CB, OBE	public service



C P Johnstone	1919-1933	CBE	cricket in India
G O Jones	2001-2013	MBE	cricket
S E A Kimmins	1950-1951	VRD	Royal Navy VR
F H Knott	1910-1914	MC	WWI military
(Lt-Col) H M Lawrence	1899	DSO, DSO(bar), OBE	WWI military
(Lt-Col) W M Leggatt	1926	DSO	WWII military
C Lewis	1933-1953	BEM	cricket
(Sir) W O'B Lindsay	1931	Kt	colonial service
(Brig-Gen) R O'H Livesay	1895-1904	CMG, DSO, DSM(USA), Legion d'honneur	military
(Sir) N Lubbock	1860	KCMG	business
(Col ) F F Mackenzie	1880	CB	public service
C A B McVittie	1929	MBE	WWII military
F W B Marsham	1905	MC, DSO	WWI military
G Marsham	1876-1877	CBE	public service
F H Mellor	1877-1878	CBE	KC
H A Pawson	1946-1953	OBE	fly fishing
(Sir) W Pearce	1878	Kt	public service
(Lt-Col) F Penn, jnr	1904-1905	MC	WWI military
(Col ) H E Rawson	1873	CB	military
(Sir) J P Rodger	1870	KCMG, CMG	colonial service
E B Shine	1896-1899	CB	public service
T W Spencer	1935-1946	OBE	cricket
(Rt Hon. E Stanhope	1861	PC	Cabinet minister
Lt.-Col L H W Troughton	1907-1923	MC	WWI military
Hon J S R Tufton (2nd Earl of Hothfield)	1897-1898	DSO	WWI military
D L Underwood	1963-1987	MBE	cricket
B H Valentine	1927-1948	MC	WWII military
(Sir) W H Walton	1823	Kt	Royal Household
G E C Wood	1919-1927	MC	WWI military
(Sir) A J.K Young	1890	Kt	colonial service