

Spring 2019

Volume 4

Issue 3 (no. 15)

INSIDE EDGE

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



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As I write this, the crocuses and daffodils are beginning to come out, and signs of spring are all around. The new cricket season is almost here. The Kent players have been hard at work over the winter preparing for the challenges ahead, and we in the Heritage Trust have been very busy too.

Over the winter, we have made great strides in the cataloguing of the collection, with all the scorecards and other paper items now all numbered and fully protected against damage. It is not necessarily the most exciting part of managing a collection, but it is essential, and with at least half a dozen of us at work at a time, it has been remarkably enjoyable. Still much more to be done, of course, and volunteers are always welcome.

We are also beginning our planning for the club's 150th anniversary in 2020. The club was officially formed at a joint meeting of the members of the Tonbridge-based Kent County Club and the Canterbury-based Beverley Kent Club, held at the Bull Hotel in Rochester on 6th December 1870.

There were thus no matches played by the newly-formed Kent County Cricket Club until 1871. 2020 will be our 150th season, and we are planning to celebrate the year with a major exhibition and at least one new publication.

You will also, I hope, see new posters and photographs around the ground when the 2019 season begins: these are a joint project of the Club and the Trust – the Club has the ideas and the Trust supplies the money! They should make a big difference to the look of the grounds, both inside and out.

Enjoy the new cricket season!



Jonathan Rice

Here comes Summer!



A memory of a cricket pastime that was once popular on our sands and beaches in Kent.

This postcard of Cliftonville was posted back in 1910.

A Moment in Time, Saturday 27 July 1935



An action photograph of Frank Woolley from his book *King of Games*. The caption reads "Out of The Oval! A six "hooked" onto the tram-lines in Harleyford Road, during my 229 for Kent at the Oval, July 27 1935. My fore-foot is swinging round, helping the stroke."

This was one of the more remarkable matches played by Kent at the Surrey Headquarters. Their record there given the superiority of Surrey over the years is not great. In 1935 they had not beaten Surrey at The Oval since 1912, and overall, only ten times, having played them virtually every season since what was actually the first match on the ground in 1846.

Kent had won the toss and batted in what was Andy Sandham's benefit match.. The innings went along at a fury, Ashdown and Fagg opening with a partnership of 136 in two hours. So the day was quite well passed before Woolley even appeared. With Arthur Fagg (111) he added 133 in 70 minutes, Woolley scoring 87 of them. Then he added 106 with Todd, whose contribution was 38. Woolley reached his hundred in 80 minutes and his double century in 166 minutes. When dismissed on that score of 229 he had batted for 190 minutes, hitting thirty 4s and the six pictured. The innings is still the highest innings by a Kent batsman against Surrey. At the close, aided by 71 from Valentine, Kent had scored a little matter of 579 for 8, a Kent record to 2009.

Kent declared over the weekend and Surrey batted and followed on on the Monday (nine wickets shared by Freeman and Marriott). Hardly batting slowly on the third day, with a second innings of 368 (Sandham 93), it left Kent requiring just 80, which was duly achieved without losing a wicket. Kent have not beaten Surrey by ten wickets since.

The Surrey wicket-keeper in the photograph is E W J Brooks. Frank Woolley was exactly 48 and two months old.

Not only Then and Now but also Lost and Gone



John Websper's fascinating series of grounds across the county as they were and as they are now has thrown up a number which are actually not here now. The suggestion has arisen whether we should build up a register of such grounds which we can publish from time to time in these pages. John himself is working on this. But others would be welcome. The parameter is those lost since 1990, noting what they are now. Above is a notable example which may not be known to some Kent supporters. This was the Garrison 2 Ground in Gillingham where Kent played 29 first-class and three Sunday League games between 1937 and 1972. Not a trace survives. The picture left shows where the pavilion stood while on the right looks across the wicket where a very straight footpath is to be found virtually across where the wicket was. The football pitches are also situated where the old United Services (Garrison 3) Ground was. All is part of the recently created Great Lines Heritage Park. This is the Field of Fire section. Thanks to Peter Francis who took the photographs on our first reconnoitre for the KCHT Kent County Grounds book planned for 2020.

A Masterful Labour of Love:

Derek Carlaw's Who's Who finally sees the light of day

Derek Carlaw— *A to Z of Kent Cricketers 1806 to 1914*. In pdf format and available without charge on the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians website at acscricket.com.

I have had the pleasure of reviewing cricket books since I retired from school teaching in 2006. But this is the first time I have been requested to review an electronic book and it has been a pleasure to be asked to do so. I am a life member of Kent County Cricket Club who first watched the County 1955. Now in retirement I have had more time to delve into the history of my beloved County and the *A to Z of Kent County Cricketers from 1806-1914* is the most useful aid I have seen to date for all those who wish to have the biographies of the 524 players therein who have appeared since Kent's first important match in 1806.

Each player's entry includes a summary – in many cases an in-depth summary of their playing career, educational details, employment, family links, war service and even the value of their wills. Of the 524 players, 397 played five games or less of which 158 were "one match wonders". If we assume that someone who plays for a county side must be a good cricketer then performances at school, university, club or Second Eleven are not neglected.

The work done by Derek also deals with careers outside cricket – academics, bankers, brewers, clergy, doctors, lawyers, politicians, school teachers and soldiers. (A huge plus to someone such as this writer who is researching Kent's clergymen cricketers.) Some were notable for their connections with other things in life such as relations with authors, actors and in one case criminals. Yes you will find that a certain W G Grace also played for Kent.

Initially instigated by a research grant from the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians (ACS), it was launched twelve years ago. Part 1 covers 1806-1914. Part 2 is due to appear soon, and will cover 1919-1939. Part 3 is planned to cover 1946-1999 and at a later stage Part 4 will deal with the period from 2000 onwards. Derek has committed himself to the first three parts and will be looking for others to pick up the baton for Part 4.

The compiler has been very sensitive with issues of personal details, being prepared to pay due respect to those families who ask for certain information to be omitted. Due to the General Data Protection Regulations personal details will be omitted from the some of the entries in Parts 3 and 4.

The original intention had been to produce the A to Z in book form (as in the case of the three Somerset books which have been written by Stephen Hill and Barry Phillips) but with almost 900 players having played for Kent this would have been prohibitively costly. Had the work on the Kent A-Z dealt only with players who played for the County between 1890 (the acknowledged start of the County Championship) then the compiler would have omitted a number of Kent's famous cricketers like Fuller Pilch and Alfred Mynn.

Producing an online publication means that each entry can be as long (or as short) as is necessary and entries can be updated, expanded or amended. Each entry is complete in itself.

My major criticisms are not attributable to the compiler but concern the ACS. There are no statistics, no photographs and no index. The ACS believe that the statistics could be obtained by looking at Cricket Archive. (However there is a fee to be paid for such a service). A search engine would be useful and maybe that is something for the future.

Kent County Cricketers A-Z is a splendid publication and is free of charge on the ACS website. Derek has done a great service to future cricket historians and deserves every possible adulation.

Derek Barnard

Who's Who at KCHT

President : Hon. Christopher Cowdrey

Trustees :

David Robertson - Kent Cricket - Honorary Curator
Howard Milton - Kent Cricket - Honorary Statistician
Jonathan Rice - Kent Cricket— Past President
Tony Kilbee - Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Treasurer

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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.

Building an Archive Inventory

The first task that I was asked to undertake on my appointment as the Club's honorary curator almost 20 years ago was to compile an inventory of the collection built up over many years, and which traces the history of Kent cricket and its development. It is a very important, valuable and interesting collection.

Sophisticated computer technology was far away from today's advanced state so the first record was a paper copy produced in December 1999 and updated in 2002, 2006, and 2010. It included all items on display, *Wisden's* and other books of value in the committee room library, as well as bats, balls and a variety of artefacts and memorabilia. The task took six months to complete and involved searches of files, desk drawers, cupboards and various other miscellaneous storage points. It was exciting work. Following its first publication a similar exercise was carried out on the collection of photographs which was published in 2000 and updated in 2008 and 2010.

With improvements in technology and the use of spreadsheet (and the valuable advice and support of members of staff) who are much more computer savvy than me, it has now been possible to develop and work on a programme to include every item of artefacts, memorabilia and paper archive in the club's possession.

It is proving a pretty gigantic task – we have for example in excess of 1,000 scorecards all of which have been recorded and numbered (the earliest of which dates back to 1897) a similar number of photographs – yet to be numbered but already on the system - and many pieces of paper including letters going back to the mid-C19th and hand-written team lists from the same period.

It will of course need regular updating by way of additions to the collection which happen on a continuous basis but (in theory at least!) it should be possible to identify a single item in seconds from the thousands that make up the collection.

David Robertson

Kent Cricketers honoured with a Blue Plaque

Philip Paine has recently published Volume 24 of his annual booklet *Innings Complete*. Sadly Philip tells me that this will be the final edition. Over the years he has scoured the country seeking out a wide range of cricket memorials, the graves of long forgotten players and street signs. This 24th edition has a strong Kentish connection including the details of four Kent and England cricketers who have been honoured with Blue Plaques.



Three of these mark the houses where they once lived are thanks to the Southborough Society. They are Arthur Fagg, Ken Hutchings and Frank Woolley.

The last of this famous quartet to be recognised, thanks to the Tonbridge and Malling District Council is Colin Blythe.

The three residents of Southborough all lived in close proximity but plainly at differing times. Fagg and Hutchings both resided on the London Road. Fagg at a house named Maradon and Hutchings at number 71 while Woolley lived close by at 34 Yew Tree Road. Blythe's plaque is however at 29 Goldsmith Road, Tonbridge.

Readers will recall that two of the four, Blythe and Hutchings were killed in World War 1. The former being buried at Oxford Road Cemetery, Belgium while Hutchings whose body was never recovered is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial which overlooks the battlefields of the Somme.

Woolley lived to the grand old age of 91 while Fagg passed away when he was just 62.

Other Kentish connections include two more cricketers who perished in WWI. David Jennings who died in August 1918 of shell shock is commemorated on a new War Memorial at Marlborough with Eric Penn. Although he did not play for Kent (22 first class games for Cambridge University), Penn's family had connections with the county and his name is on the memorial at St Mary's Church, Nonington. At the time of his death in 1915 he was serving



as a Captain with the Grenadier

Guards. Other finds in this fascinating volume include a Memorial tablet to Lord Harris in the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral and in St. John's Church, Mersham a family memorial to the 4th Lord Brabourne who played just a single game for Kent in 1884 as Cecil Knatchbull-Hugessen. Plaques explaining the history of two former Kent grounds are also included. The first unveiled by Chris Cowdrey is on the site of the Angel Centre in Tonbridge while there are two explanatory boards on the site of the oldest cricket ground in the county, Town Malling, whose origins may date back to the earliest years of the 18th century.

Hopefully the various volumes of this series will give encouragement to all cricket lovers who are enthralled by the game's history to look a little closer when visiting the towns and villages of our county. My thanks to Philip Paine for his permission to use the information contained in this article.



John Websper



The Woolley plaque on the branch of Starbucks in the High Street, Tonbridge

Encounters with Chevallier Tayler across the World

I thought that readers might like to know of two interesting encounters I have experienced with prints of the famous 1906 picture. In the Millennium year my wife and I were in the small town of Cambridge, New Zealand, staying in a delightful boutique hotel situated on the banks of the Waikato river. In the dining room prominently displayed, was a print of the famous painting which the hotel owner had acquired through a local second-hand bookshop.

More recently we stayed for a weekend at a small hotel in the Nottinghamshire town of Newark. It was a nostalgic occasion as some 50 years ago and in my bachelor days it was my home which I shared with my two small godsons and their parents and where I first met my wife. In the centre of a display of Vanity Fair cricketers was another print of the painting. I am thrilled that the picture is displayed in a house that was once my home.

I wonder if other readers have had a similar experience?

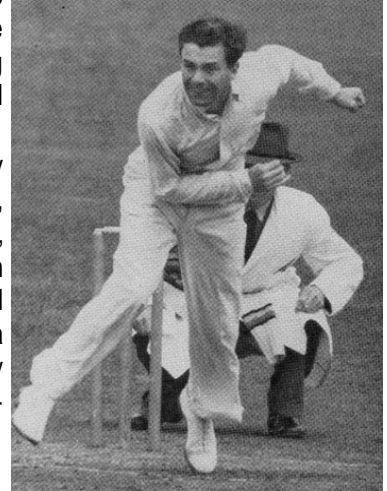
David Robertson



Further Reminiscences of 1946

For my 16 year-old self 1946 was a year of personal 'firsts' – first Test match, first visit to The Oval, first Championship match, first sight of a Kent team and of Denis Compton – but I missed an historic first. I was at Lord's on May 1st for a one-day pipe-opener between MCC and Middlesex but I arrived after lunch so missed amateurs and professionals taking the field for the first time through the same gate. There was another first. On the scorecard everybody (including 'Gubby' Allen no less) had his initials **after** his name. Next season cards reverted to amateur initials before, pros after; but they continued using the same gate.

I did not see Kent until Surrey at The Oval on July 13th. I had however already watched Kent cricketers that season - Tony Mallett, A J B Marsham, Alec Pearce, Jack Davies and Bryan Valentine for MCC, Wright for England, David Lacy-Scott, for Cambridge University. The latter is now Kent's oldest living cricketer and I wish I could remember but he was out for 0 before I arrived and, although he opened the bowling for Cambridge, he only delivered a few overs. Marsham played a handful of games for Kent and might well have gone on to emulate his father by becoming captain, if the committee had managed to find a suitably indulgent employer.



Doug Wright

In the Oval match Kent were minus Wright, Surrey without Alec Bedser, Laurie Fishlock and Bob Gregory. Lock, G made his debut for Surrey, Larkin (sic) J for Kent. Surrey finished 390-7 and 'reserve batsmen' Arthur McIntyre (127) and Geoff Whittaker (102), registered maiden hundreds, putting on of 201 for the fifth-wicket in 150 minutes. Norman Harding took four wickets including both centurions, Claude Lewis and Ray Dovey one each and Godfrey Evans took a catch. To my sorrow Les Ames did not bat; I would not see him do so until 1948 or progress beyond single figures until his 131 at The Oval in 1949. It still ranks in my top 20.



Godfrey Evans

My first visit to The Oval was also my first sight of the Indian tourists and memorable for a tenth-wicket partnership of 190 between numbers 10 and 11, Chandrasekhar Sarwate (102*) and Sarobindu Banerjee (87*). I was not there but on Monday the partnership ended at 249 and Banerjee got his hundred.

The first day of the Lord's Test was my introduction to Test Cricket. It was also the first for Alec Bedser who dominated proceedings with 7 - 49. Doug Wright had three catches missed and deserved more than his two wickets. It was the last time I saw Walter Hammond (33) bat. My day at The Oval Test, Evans' first, was ruined by rain with only 90 minutes play.

Thanks chiefly to Denis Compton, in my teens I watched Middlesex more than any other county – I did not see Kent on a home ground until 1948 – Surrey at Blackheath. Only those who watched Compton before his knee troubles flared up can have any conception of his genius. Eventually I would witness 18 of his centuries but when he came in against Surrey at Lord's in August all I had seen was two ducks including a golden duck in the Lord's Test. This time he hit a glorious 235 (21 fours) and added 296 in 225 minutes with Bill Edrich (147). When Alf Gover and Alec Bedser took the new ball he hit seven fours from eight successive deliveries.

My first county match was Surrey v Essex at The Oval. Surrey struggled for 162 (leg spinner Peter Smith 5-31) and Essex finished 235-0 ('Sonny' Avery 140*, Dickie Dodds 83*). On Monday Avery completed a double hundred and Dodds his first century. Essex included the amateur David Cock who was educated at Bishop's Stortford College where my father taught handicrafts. I used what was reputedly one of his old Gunn & Moore's.

I missed the first day of Surrey v Notts (Surrey 525-5, Tom Barling 233*). On the Sunday I watched Catford play Notts in aid of Walter Keeton's benefit. For Catford, Albert Penfold, who had trialed for Kent and played for the Seconds, scored a century and leg spinner D K Mackintosh took 8-89 (including Keeton and Reg Simpson). Catford's number four was Jim Laker who scored 42 and bowled a mere four overs.

Laker had played one match for Surrey, v Combined Services, and I vaguely knew the name but somehow he looked oddly familiar. Hardly surprising. For five years he lived two doors from my home and worked locally for Barclays Bank. After their Saturday exertions Notts called in three locals. The wicketkeeper was the Catford President, the veteran Andy Kempton, best known perhaps for his work with Surrey Colts.

I was at The Oval on Bank Holiday Monday. Notts batted brightly with half-centuries from Keeton, Bill Voce and Arthur Jepson but the day was significant in other respects. On the way home I left the 58 tram at Dulwich and met my parents in the garden of the *Grove Tavern* where, greatly daring, I had my first alcoholic drink on licensed premises (a half of shandy). A landmark indeed.

There was a touch of anti-climax to the end to my season on the last day of August. A strange-looking Middlesex, (Bill Edrich and Denis Compton were already on the boat for Australia and Laurie Gray was injured), played the tourists who amassed 469-5 (Vijay Hazare 193*, 'Vinoo' Mankad 109*), Leslie Compton bowled 20 overs of seam and Middlesex used ten bowlers, among them my hero from 1945, Martin Donnelly, playing his only match for the metropolitan county.

Derek Carlaw

Kent County Cricket Club 1870-2020

Mention was made in the last newsletter and again on page 2 of this of work on the histories of the 18 Kent grounds where Kent played in these years being combined into a commemorative book. The plan is that each will have in addition to its history, photographs of that venue down the years. On some grounds, obviously Canterbury, there is already a fair amount of historical and photographic material. But others to a variable amount less so. If you have anything that might be relevant to this project, I would love to hear from you.

A reminder again the grounds concerned are:-Foxgrove Road, Beckenham; Lloyds Bank/Kent County Ground, Beckenham; Midland Bank/HSBC Sports Ground, Beckenham; Blackheath; Private Banks Ground, Catford; Nore Command/Garrison 1 Ground, Chatham; Canterbury; Dartford; Dover; Mount Field, Faversham; Folkestone; Royal Engineers/Garrison 2 Ground, Gillingham; Gravesend; Maidstone; Angel Ground Tonbridge; Tunbridge Wells Common Higher Ground and the Nevill Ground, Tunbridge Wells. The address is on page 4.



Maidstone Week 1898