

Summer 2019

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INSIDE EDGE

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



Well, at the end of the most exciting white ball match I have ever seen (on television – I couldn't get a ticket to see it live), England won the ICC World Cup by virtue of having hit more boundaries than the Kiwis. I'm sure that whoever made up that rule had no thought that it would actually have to be used, and I am equally sure that the rule will not be revived for use at the next World Cup.



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There was only one capped Kent player playing that day – Matt Henry, who bowled superbly all tournament for New Zealand. Since the first World Cup in 1975, when the England squad had four Kent players (Denness, Knott, Underwood and Woolmer), Kent have provided very few players to England World Cup squads, possibly because we haven't been very good at limited overs cricket since the 1970s. We have eleven limited overs trophies of one sort or another, but only three of them have come since the 1970s – Sunday League winners in 1995, Pro40 Division 1 winners in 2001 and the T20 trophy in 2007. But as this is published, we will be in the middle of the Vitality Blast, so perhaps it is a good time to look more closely at our white ball history. And with any luck, to add to it in 2019.

This summer we have already won the Women's County Championship title, and the Second XI trophy, so why not aim for the hat-trick?

Jonathan Rice

Anyone for Cricket?



The Avenue, Recreation Ground, Sittingbourne

c 1914

From the Crabble to East Greenwich: the search for cricket grounds

For years now, I have been badgering Howard Milton to update his 1992 Bible, *The Cricket Grounds in Kent*. Up until now he has resisted. I am not sure whether it was the thought of the work involved, the hassle of finding a publisher mad enough to print such a tome, or the difficulty of finding some mug to do the leg work!

The original book published under the auspices of the Association of Cricket Statisticians was laid out in a style dictated by that august body, as it formed the ninth book in their series. It started with the earliest known ground for first class cricket and worked its way forward to the latest.

This has proved somewhat confusing, as alphabetical order would seem to have been simpler, but then that is statisticians for you!

After the successful completion and erection of the plaque on behalf of the Supporters Club to commemorate the grounds that Kent used in the County Championship, which both Howard and I worked on, and with the '150' celebrations on the horizon, I broached the subject again.

After all, I said, there cannot be much work involved, most of the words are already written, a publisher cannot be too difficult to find, and if you want a Project Manager, Chauffeur (Howard's driving skills are legendary as my front garden drive pillar will testify) and photographer, I am your man. After all there are only 18 grounds! Well that was optimistic.



Hythe Cricket Club

As this will be the definitive book on Kent County Cricket Club grounds, at least whilst we are still able to mount the steps to the upper deck of the Woolley stand, it soon became apparent that we should expand our brief beyond the 150 years.

Kent Cricket of course had many forms in its early years, and so we felt it appropriate to venture back to the accepted date of first class cricket in the County, 1806. So another 17 grounds to be included, and some of these much more challenging, as their exact location is lost in the mists of time.

Some bright spark quipped, that if you are going to do a proper job the grounds that the second XI played on would be of considerable interest to a lot of Kent followers.

Never ones to shy away from a challenge, and wishing to be inclusive of all Kent, with the 'Together, We are Kent' ethos being very much to the fore, we thought why not! Only another 22 grounds to be included.

Clearly a volume of the detailed history of all 57 grounds would match War and Peace for size and stamina of the reader. We agreed to limit the bulk of the book to the 18 main grounds and appendices with brief details and photographs for each of the remainder.

And so the journey began. Howard had accumulated over the years a vast collection of old interesting post cards and photographs that served us well for the early years. What has happened to many of the grounds in the meantime is at times a tragedy, and in others heartening to see that cricket is flourishing against all the odds and the soothsayers of doom.

A lot of grounds have been lost to sport completely. We have visited several housing estates and industrial sites trying to pinpoint the location of a long forgotten cricket square, and even ended up in an enormous IKEA super store. Some of the grounds no longer feature cricket. Disappointingly several are now football or rugby only.

Along the way we have met a lot of friendly cricket loving people, very supportive of our cause, with interesting tales to tell. Perhaps they could be the focus of another article or maybe there just might be a book in there somewhere.

The 'Grounds' book, with a fair wind, should be out for the start of the celebrations of the '150' at the beginning of the 2020 season. Book your copy now.

Peter Francis

Stories of a Famous Cricket Picture

I hesitate to promote my own book, but *Stories of Cricket's Finest Painting – Kent v Lancashire 1906* (published by Pitch Publishing on 10 July at the astonishingly reasonable price of £18.99) does have the merit of being about a subject that should be dear to all Kent cricket lovers' hearts. The painting itself, now at Lord's with an excellent copy in the Chiesman Pavilion, portrays the Championship winning side of 1906 at their peak in their game against Lancashire during Canterbury Week of that gloriously hot summer, a game which they won by an innings and 195 runs. Colin Blythe, perhaps the greatest left arm spinner who ever lived, is bowling to Johnny Tyldesley of Lancashire, and the entire Kent eleven are shown eagerly anticipating the delivery. In the background, the marquees are full of the cream of Kent society, and the flags are fluttering in the gentle breeze that makes for the perfect Kentish summer's day. It is a very familiar image, reproduced countless times for hundreds of different reasons, but it still has impact.

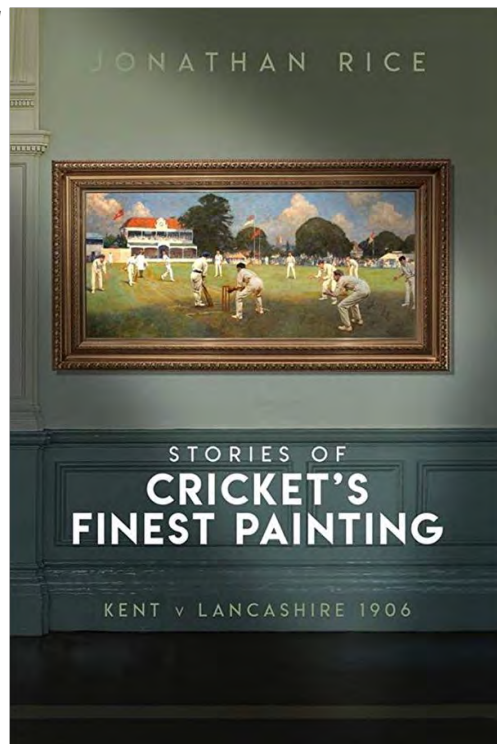
The story behind the picture is fascinating. Lord Harris, not a man even his closest associates would have described as an art lover, had built an unlikely friendship with the artist Albert Chevallier Tayler who had done a portrait of Lord Harris, batting in bow tie and boater as befitted his aristocratic status. Whether it was Tayler or Harris who had the idea first we shall never know, but Harris put forward the idea of a painting of the whole team to commemorate Kent's first ever County Championship title at a dinner in Maidstone soon after the season was over. At the very next KCCC committee meeting, which Harris chaired, the proposal was made and duly accepted that the club would commission a portrait of "The Kent Eleven in the Field", to be painted by Albert Chevallier Tayler. The idea was to keep the original as the property of the club and to recoup the cost of the painting by selling lithographs and prints of the painting to the general public.

Several practical issues had to be resolved first. Firstly, which match would be immortalised? It had to be at Canterbury, and ideally during the Week, so that meant only the games against Lancashire and Sussex, both won by an innings, were possible. Lancashire was the preferred option, because not only had Lancashire beaten Kent early in the season, so the St. Lawrence victory marked an ample revenge, but also there was already a famous print of a Kent v Sussex match in the 1840s, which no doubt Lord Harris knew well. But permission from Lancashire to use this game did not come through until the spring of 1907, by which time the painting was already getting beyond the planning stage. Secondly, there was the problem of how to compensate the Kent professionals, like Frank Woolley and Alec Hearn, who were not playing in the game and who would therefore not be in the painting, even though many of them had played throughout the season until the amateurs came into the side during the summer holidays. The answer was to ask Tayler to paint their portraits on a separate banner, which he did. This banner can still be seen in the Chiesman Pavilion, the only original Chevallier Tayler painting still in the club's possession.

The book also delves into the history of Canterbury Week and the Old Stagers, the stories of all the players in the painting and what has happened to the painting since it was unveiled in 1907. I also make a few comments about the changes in cricket since 1906, and I think I am giving away no secrets when I say that I do not come down in favour of the Hundred.

If anybody buys the book and sees me strolling round the ground at Canterbury or Beckenham, I will happily sign the book for you, although I should warn you that it is the rare unsigned copies that will have the best second hand value.

Jonathan Rice



Who's Who at KCHT

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Simon Storey - Kent Cricket— CEO
David Robertson - Kent Cricket - Honorary Curator
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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.

Early Women's Cricket Matches at Bexley

Thanks to John Daniels who found the following in his researches on early women's cricket in the Bexley and published it in the *Bexley Girls Cricket Newsletter*. According to the *Bexleyheath and Bexley Observer* dated 15 July 1904, it looks like two matches were played in the same week and this first report is for a match dated Monday 11 July and the report in the next column is dated Wednesday 13 July. We have had next to nothing to date in this publication on women's cricket. Can you provide something?

BEXLEY LADIES AT ORICKET.		
It is not an unheard of occurrence for ladies to indulge in the national summer game, in fact, it appears to find much favour with the fair sex. A characteristic of Bexley ladies is their indulgence of pastimes of a healthy character, which is confirmed by the successful tennis and hockey clubs in the parish. On Monday a team of ladies captained by Miss Potter tried conclusions with Miss Miller-Hallett's Goddington XI, at Orpington, but they met with rather a severe defeat, one of the homesters making 161. The scores were as follows:—		
MISS POTTER'S XI.		
Miss K. Hudson, b Huribatt	...	9
Miss Johnson, b B. Gibson	...	0
Miss T. Mabey, b B. Gibson	...	2
Miss Potter, b B. Gibson	...	1
Miss E. Biggs, b Huribatt	...	1
Miss D. Mabey, run out...	...	9
Miss Tutt, b M. Gibson	...	4
Miss W. Friwell, c B. Gibson, b Anderson	...	3
Miss H. Biggs, b M. Gibson	...	0
Miss Warden, not out	...	0
Miss A. Easton, b Anderson	...	0
Extras	...	10
		30
Second innings.—Miss K. Hudson, b E. Miller-Hallett, 27; Miss Johnson, b E. Miller-Hallett, 0; Miss T. Mabey, b E. Miller-Hallett, 2; Miss Potter, not out, 22; Miss E. Biggs, b E. Miller-Hallett, 0; Miss D. Mabey, not out, 10; Extras, 11; total (for four wickets) 78.		
MISS MILLER-HALLETT'S XI.		
Miss W. Smithers, c and b Potter	...	4
Miss M. Gibson, b Potter	...	4
Miss M. Huribatt, b Johnson	...	161
Miss E. Smithers, c Hudson, b Potter	...	29
Miss B. Gibson, b Johnson	...	1
Miss E. Miller-Hallett, b Johnson	...	5
Miss H. Willett, ht wkt, b H. Biggs	...	41
Miss W. Miller-Hallett, b Potter	...	4
Miss W. Brough, b Potter	...	3
Miss C. Nixon, not out	...	11
Miss E. M. Anderson, b Hudson	...	4
Extras	...	10
		277

On Wednesday a match was arranged between a team of ladies captained by Miss Potter, and a team of gentlemen, who were to bat and bowl left-handed, captained by Mr. Potter. It proved a very popular event, a large number of people being present. The ladies batted first and ran up the excellent total of 123. The display of some of the ladies was remarkably good, and put some of the gentlemen's efforts in the dark. The drives of the Misses Hudson, G. Mabey, Potter and Biggs were remarkably stylish. The gentlemen followed, and although at a disadvantage with broomsticks they ran up a total of 130. The ladies went in a second time, and made 61, whilst the gentlemen, in response, totalled 62 for three wickets, the game thus ending in a draw. Miss Potter was in excellent form with the ball in the first innings, taking eight wickets for 36 runs. After the match both teams were photographed by Mr. A. R. Pickett, of the Broadway, Bexleyheath. The scores were as follows:—		
LADIES.		
Miss K. Hudson, run out	...	30
Miss G. Mabey, c Stirling, b Turner	...	21
Miss E. Mabey, b A. Potter	...	2
Miss Potter, b A. Potter	...	13
Miss D. Friwell, c and b Tutt	...	0
Miss D. Mabey, c Stirling, b Tutt	...	4
Miss E. Biggs, c and b Stirling	...	23
Miss Tutt, c and b Stirling	...	5
Miss H. Biggs, c and b Stirling	...	3
Miss W. Friwell, not out	...	7
Miss M. Barrett, c Marshall, b Stirling	...	0
Extras	...	13
		123
Second innings.—Miss K. Hudson, c Marshall, b A. Potter 5; Miss G. Mabey, run out 14; Miss E. Mabey, run out 30; Miss Potter, hit wkt., b Stirling 8; Miss D. Friwell, c and b Stirling 5; Miss D. Mabey, st Platt, b Turner 9; Miss E. Biggs, c Marshall, b Turner 0; Miss H. Biggs, c Lucas, b Turner 2; Miss W. Friwell, c Stirling, b Turner 2; Miss M. Barrett, not out 3; extras, 5; total 61.		
GENTLEMEN.		
S Platt, lbw, b D Friwell	...	22
P H Walstell, b E Mabey	...	7
A R Potter, c Biggs, b Potter	...	18
M K Turner, c E Biggs, b Potter	...	0
E L H Tutt, b Potter	...	0
E M Stirling, b Potter	...	41
R R Potter, b Potter	...	6
R Marshall, b Potter	...	1
L T Ford, b Potter	...	2
W E Lucas, not out	...	27
H Ingram, c E Biggs, b Potter	...	0
Extras	...	6
		130
Second innings.—S Platt, lbw, b Hudson 31; P H Walstell, b Potter 6; A R Potter, not out 13; M K Turner, not out 1; E M Stirling, b Potter 7; extras, 4; total for 3 wks., 62.		

The Cloudesley Marsham Collection and 1906

We all love home compiled sports albums and it's probable that a cricket album has been the most popular of all for enthusiasts, particularly of past generations. From time to time the club has been given such albums often lovingly compiled over a period of years and sometimes with signed pictures of favourite players. Placed in the care of the Club for a good number of years, on permanent loan from the family of Cloudesley Marsham, is an album that is extra special. It records in great detail the season of 1906, the year of Kent's first Championship success.

The album's front cover is embossed with the Captain's name, "C H B Marsham", with simple decoration, all in gilt, as are the edges of the high quality card pages. The covers are black morocco. It is a beautifully produced album and its contents transport the reader back to Kent's first great season. Of its 54 pages of great interest, some 29 are taken up with contemporary newspaper reports of the Championship games and feature articles on the team's performances. But there is a lot more besides.

The first two pages make a up a collection of individual postcard size sepia photographs of the team members, some fourteen in total, most in batting or bowling pose and with a very youthful looking Frank Woolley, just nineteen years old at the time, in blazer, with hands stuck in the pockets of his flannels.



C H B Marsham

The features on Canterbury Week, are covered in graphic and colourful detail in more than 250 column inches of newsprint and there are wonderful line drawings depicting highlights of the cricket and the social side of the historic Week. The reports refer to the "ideal weather", the "...very favourable cricket outlook" and "a record bank holiday crowd" for the visit of Sussex. The "favourable cricket outlook" referred to Kent's record of nine outstanding victories and only two defeats from the fifteen Championship games they had played up to that time. The season finished with sixteen wins and only two defeats in the 22 Championship games played.

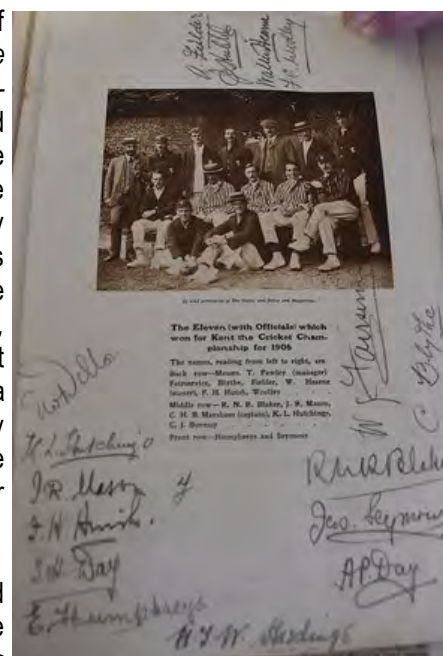
The news reports of the Sussex game are accompanied by illustrations of the Kent Skipper "hitting out" during his innings of 119, a pull shot by Blythe in his innings of 53 and Blaker taking a smart catch to dismiss Sussex batsman Leach. Burnup, Blaker and Marsham all scored hundreds in Kent's single innings of 568, more than enough to bring victory by an innings and 131 runs.

The game against Lancashire, marking the second half of The Week is equally well documented and illustrated with further action sketches of Kent's batsmen hitting out on the orders of their Captain. Possibly not a wise instruction as the last six wickets fell for just 39 runs after a fourth wicket stand of 213 between Kenneth Hutchings (176) and Jack Mason (87). Nevertheless Kent's total of 479 was more than enough to give them a second massive innings victory. The illustrations also include views of guests lunching in the marquees and attractive young ladies in their finery. There is a striking example of the amateur and professional divide of those times in the illustration of Lord Harris distributing the money collected on Tuesday and Thursday for the "Kentish Professionals". Possibly their only income in August for those who lost their places to the amateurs during that month.

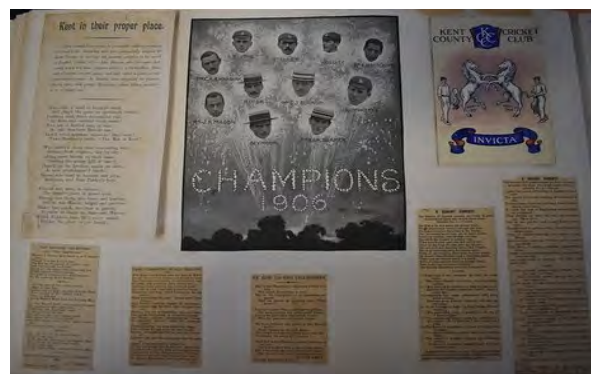
The first day of the Lancashire match was the traditional Ladies Day, described in one report as "being worthy of the best traditions of the famous Kentish Cricket Festival". Lancashire's captain, A.C. MacLaren, in what would appear to be a weekly column for a Lancashire newspaper, wrote, "Of all the county elevens against which we have played this season, Kent showed out and out the best cricket played at Canterbury last week. In every department of the game the display of the home side was faultless". A similar tribute in the newspaper cuttings of the match comes from Dr. Leslie Poidevin, an Australian and noted cricket writer, who played in that game for Lancashire. In his column for the *Athletic News* he stated, "At the present moment Kent are undoubtedly a very fine side; indeed, I do not think it very wide of the mark to say, one thinks of them, taken all round, that they are the best side in the country."

One of the great and popular characters to grace the cricket grounds of England at that time was a man who became known as "The Captain of the Crowd". Albert Craig, who adopted the pseudonym, "A.C., Cricket Rhymester" was Yorkshire born, became known as the Surrey Poet, yet claimed Kent as "My County". He toured the country composing his rhymes (as he preferred to call them) and selling them as his penny poems around the grounds of England. They are now extremely scarce, much sought after by collectors, and they command a high price. There are four of Craig's rhymes in the album: "Kent Too Good for Surrey", an account of the game at the Oval, which he "most respectfully dedicated to George Marsham, Esq.", "Seymour's Splendid Century", a tribute to his second innings 116 against Essex at Tunbridge Wells, "Old Records thoroughly smashed by Fielder", a tribute to the bowler's ten wickets in the Gentlemen v Player's match in July and "Kent in their Proper Place", remembering those players who laid the foundations of Kent's success in the previous years but did not play in their Championship season.

Throughout the album there are snapshot scenes of spectators, men and women attractive in formal dress, individual and team photos and a montage of cigarette card style players' pictures beneath the caption, "Champions 1906".



There is also a page featuring a match played on Bearsted Green between the village XI and Mr. P.F. Warner's XI. The former suffered a heavy defeat by an innings and 63 runs. There is a detailed newspaper report which includes the scores. It records that C.H.B. Marsham's 35 first innings runs for Bearsted was by far the highest contribution by any of the home batsmen. It elicited a short letter from an 11 year old Hereford Cathedral schoolboy, who congratulated Kent's captain on his innings and goes on, "I want you to keep up good scores through the coming cricket season". This small collection also includes a photograph of the participants with supporters and a rare small booklet, *Cricket on Bearsted Green 1850 to 1907*.



Immediately the Champions were known, congratulatory telegrams, 115 in all, were winging their way from all parts of the country to various Kent destinations including Canterbury and the Captain's home at Harrietsham but mostly to Bournemouth where the team was confirming its historic season with an emphatic innings and 37 runs victory over Hampshire. Complementing the telegrams are more than 120 letters displayed, all but one of them hand written, many from around the county, some from other parts of the country. Two are from South Africa: a typed one which followed a previous day telegram from the Cape Town branch of the Association of Men of Kent and Kentish Men and a second from the Port Elizabeth branch of the same organisation.

Appropriate celebrations were of course held to mark this very special season. These are well documented in newspaper reports. There are columns of newsprint describing a Grand Banquet at the Corn Exchange, Maidstone, with the Captain's invitation card and printed seating plan, and a similar quantity of reportage following a similar celebration at London's Hotel Cecil. There is an impressive programme for the occasion which includes the results of all matches, players' averages and the "Ode" by Major Philip Trevor referred to above. The front cover carries the Captain's initials and is signed in pencil by 64 distinguished guests including the past and present players, all of whom have signed on the page which carries a photograph of the team.

The album is usually displayed in the Chiesman Pavilion in a specially made cabinet.

David Robertson

A First Sight of Bradman

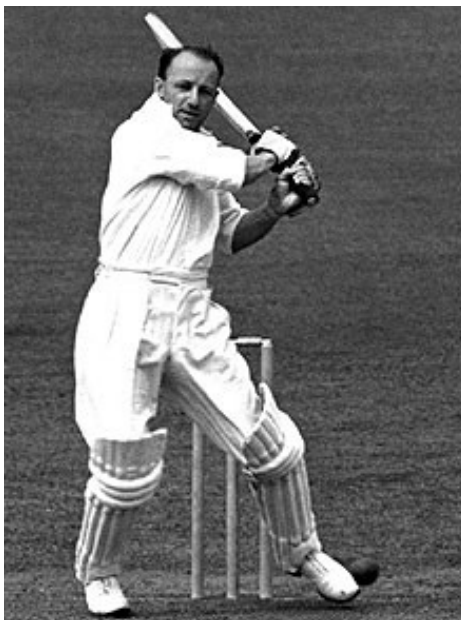
The 58 tram from Forest Hill provided an almost door to door service to The Oval and when I disembarked on May 8 1948 it was a landmark in my cricketing life. Surrey were playing the Australians - my first sight of the Baggy Green - and of Bradman. I should at this point perhaps confess that my Kentish allegiance became rather blurred that year. I saw Kent only once, against Surrey at Blackheath whereas I would devote 11 days of my precious leisure time to watching the Australians – Surrey at The Oval, MCC at Lord's, England at Lord's, Surrey at The Oval (again), Middlesex at Lord's, England at The Oval and South of England at Hastings.

In my own defence, that day at Blackheath was not a memorable experience. Kent, captained by Jack Davies, were bowled out for 106, David Clark (29) top scorer, and Surrey finished the day 200-2 (Stan Squires 88*). Of the Australian matches, all but the Festival game at Hastings would end in an Australian victory, three by an innings, two by ten wickets, one by 409 runs. I would see three centuries from Bradman, two from Lindsay Hassett, one each from Syd Barnes, Keith Miller and Neil Harvey. There were also ten half-centuries, including substantial innings from Arthur Morris and Sam Loxton plus 'five-fers' from Ray Lindwall, Colin McCool and Ernie Toshack (twice).

At another level, at Hastings I saw Bill Brown, who bowled only 169 balls in his entire first-class career, claim the wickets of George Mann, Bryan Valentine, Tony Mallett and Reg Perks for 16 runs in 25 balls.



J G W Davies



Sir Donald Bradman

Bradman dominated proceedings and played in every one of 'my' matches. While I watched, his scores were 146 v Surrey, 98 v MCC, 128 v Surrey, 0 v England, and 143 at Hastings. In the latter innings, an uncharacteristically light-hearted affair, the great man hit 17 fours and a six, the only time I can recall having seen him lift the ball. His technique was fascinating and I could go on but it was his, in my experience unique, ability to place his shots wide of the fielder which is the abiding memory.

The 98 against MCC was the last of Bradman's seven nineties. They did things differently in those days. Norman Yardley led an MCC team consisting of seven who played for England that year together with two on the fringe, Jack Robertson and Billy Griffith, plus the great New Zealander Martin Donnelly, working in Birmingham but not a candidate for the England side, and Captain John Deighton MC of the Northumberland Fusiliers. Playing only his fifth first-class match, his one wicket, Bradman's, cost 88 runs. A professional soldier, he would later play a handful of games for Lancashire and retire a full Colonel.

Much has been written about the, for England, disastrous Oval Test. I sat on the very wet grass at the Vauxhall End with a distinctly restricted view and I did not get a clear sight of Bradman's duck. Mainly I recall an overwhelming feeling of disappointment mixed with irritation at the rejoicing around me.

My main memory perhaps is of Lindwall's 6-20. Has anybody before or since matched his gift of switching from lively fast medium to blistering pace without the slightest change in his action? On a different level, I remember the applause, without a perceptible trace of irony, when England's total, with nine wickets down, reached 50.

The subject of Bradman attracted cranks like wasps to a picnic. I encountered one know-all who insisted on telling me that Bradman was a 'lucky batsman'. Another, he could almost have been his twin, informed me that Bradman 'could not play a ball on the leg stump'. Thoughts of 309 in a day, 107 centuries (at that stage) and a Test average in the nineties crossed my mind but teenagers did not disagree openly with their elders quite so readily in those days. The press too produced quite a lot of nonsense. When young Malcolm Hilton picked up Bradman's wicket twice at Old Trafford, one paper, not only demanded the 19 year-old be drafted straight into the England side, but told its readers 'Bradman hates spin'.

In matches I saw, Bradman treated some bowlers with respect –Alec Bedser, Jack Young, Jack Parker and Reg Perks, Jim Laker once or twice and, for a while, the Australian wrist spinner John McMahon. Others much less so – violent assaults on Trevor Bailey, Stuart Surridge, and Tony Mallett come to mind.

I never witnessed a century against Bradman's men but, just to keep the record straight, while I was there the following passed 50 –Denis Compton (twice), Bill Edrich, Laurie Fishlock, Erroll Holmes and J.F Parker (twice in a match).

Derek Carlaw

Gone, but not Forgotten

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust in furtherance of the "Together, We are Kent" message, remains committed to reflecting cricketing issues across the whole county. The book on Kent grounds which two KCHT Committee members, as seen elsewhere in this newsletter, are heavily involved in, is a prime example.

In the same territory, this publication wishes to maintain a record of grounds that have been lost to cricket in recent years — i.e. since 2000 or thereabouts. This list, one fears, will be long. Even in the limited experience of the grounds covered in the publication above, there were some sad examples.

So, if you know of any such grounds, or, most particularly, have a list, we would love to hear from you. What is required is the name/location of the ground and what is there now, be it a derelict field, or a housing estate etc.

Given a positive response, these will be published as an ongoing list in future issues of this publication.

Please send any contributions to the contact address on page 4.

Howard Milton



Former Sturry CC Ground