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INSIDE EDGE

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



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Strange days indeed. The situation seems to change with every day, if not every hour, and by the time you read these words, we may be even more shut down than we are now at the beginning of April. Kent CCC has announced it is furloughing many of its non-playing staff (though what 'furloughing' actually means, I am not sure) and there can be no professional cricket until the end of May at the earliest. Wimbledon has been cancelled, and the various international cricket matches scheduled for this summer are in grave doubt. Will we get any cricket at all this year? Certainly, the County Championship looks doomed to be forgotten for a season. And how will this affect the finances of every county? Answer – very badly. Not just because there will be no cricket, but because all the non-cricketing ways of earning money, with lunches, dinners, conferences, physiotherapy etc. are also gone. We can but hope all counties come through the Year of Covid.



2020 is of course the 150th year since the foundation of Kent CCC, but our celebrations are of necessity put on hold. We had one glorious day at Canterbury Cathedral when our Thanksgiving Service attracted a full house, but so many other celebrations have had to be postponed or cancelled. Nevertheless, we do hope that our interactive display, "Kent 150: Your 150" will go ahead and allow as many people as possible to share their memories of cricket in Kent over the summer months.

Keep safe and keep well.

Jonathan Rice



A postcard from Bangers, purveyors of potted shrimps, circa 1904, asserting the proposition that there was an original prehistoric Lord's Cricket Ground at Pegwell Bay!

Mrs Cowdrey's Marmalade

This time of year, I am told, is a good time for marmalade-making. My mother-in-law used to make wonderful marmalade, and so, it turns out, did Mrs Colin Cowdrey.

How do I know this? Well, the marmalade-brewing wife of a strong supporter of the Heritage Trust recently checked some empty jars in her cupboard, and came across one still bearing a label from 1990 which shows that it was originally made for Kent's Appeal Year, and on the edge of the label it bears the name of the creator of the original pot – Mrs M C Cowdrey.



We have verification from her son Jeremy, who remembers with great relish his mother's marmalade. So the pot, its provenance having been proved, goes into the Kent CCC collection of memorabilia, proving that we are not only interested in championship trophies but in any kind of Kent cricket-related item. It is just as important that we remember and celebrate our heritage through empty jam jars as through the ball that took a hat-trick or the bat that scored a thousand runs.

These little objects, of little or no intrinsic value, nevertheless are valuable additions to our collection and the way it tells the story of Kent's cricketing heritage. As long as there is a link to Kent cricket they may be of interest.

So, please, all you Kent cricket lovers, take a look and see what you might have in your attics, your cupboards or your sheds that might help us tell the story of Kent cricket, which includes pots of marmalade as much as trophies and medals. We would love to see them, especially in this, our 150th anniversary year.

Jo Rice

A Home Away From Home



Away from the county of Kent, the county side played on many club out grounds, but none so often as at the Central Cricket Ground, Hastings. It was an encounter almost fixed in the holiday month of August. Between 1865 and 1988, Kent played there 49 times, winning 15, losing 13, drawing 20 with one tied. The above postcard from the 1930s shows a extremely well attended match which, the chances are, involved Kent. The sad fate of the ground is well known. In 1988 planning permission was given for a shopping centre and Sussex played their last match. After many years delay this came to pass in 1997 with the Priory Meadow (an alternative name for the ground) Shopping Centre. A 10-foot sculpture entitled "The Spirit of Cricket" commemorates the previous occupant. Derek Underwood, in particular, will have happy memories of the ground.

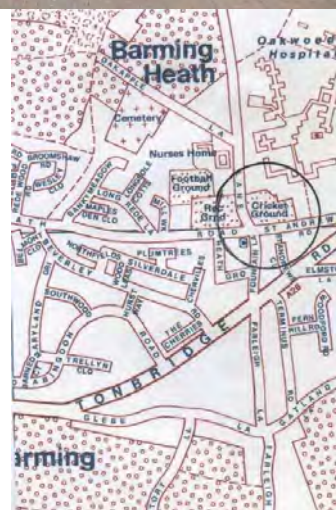
Gone and Forgotten



Ian Lambert has been very assiduously tracking down lost cricket grounds in the Maidstone area and there will be further examples in issues to come. Here we start with the staff cricket ground of Oakwood Hospital, formerly Barming Asylum, the site known to the editor, whose brother lives along the road. Above left is a postcard from circa 1914.

The psychiatric hospital was founded in 1833 as the Kent County Lunatic Asylum. Latterly renamed Oakwood Hospital, it was assimilated into the nearby Maidstone Hospital in 1982. The staff cricket club disappears from the club directory in *Cricket in Kent* at the same time. It closed in 1994 and was developed as a residential estate known as St. Andrew's Park. (above right)..

The word 'barmy' (meaning a mad or eccentric person) is believed by some authorities to come from Barming due to the Mental Hospital.



Notices

Kent County Cricket Grounds: 150 years of cricket across the Garden of England

Much mentioned in this publication, this volume is finally available. Detailed histories of all the eighteen grounds used for county cricket in Kent since 1870 are to be found therein with potted histories of those used before then together with second eleven venues. 239 pages and over 330 illustrations, many not seen before, not to mention the photographs of all the grounds as they are today, be they still thriving or under tons of concrete.

The Kent Cricket Heritage Trust has helped finance this project along with the county club and the Kent County Cricket Supporters Club. Copies are available online from the Kent Club Shop.. £20 + £6 p&p for members of the above, £25 + £6 for non-members.

Kent Cricket Heritage Trust AGM

The above set for May 22 2020 has in light of the present circumstances been postponed.

Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Subscriptions

A reminder to those who have not paid their subscription for 2020 that it is now due. A minimum of £10 is still the rate

Who's Who at KCHT

President : Hon. Christopher Cowdrey

Trustees :

Simon Storey - Kent Cricket— CEO

Caroline Ellis - Kent Cricket—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.

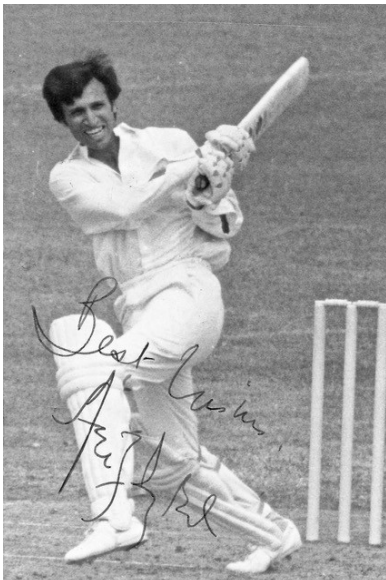
If you have something to say and/or contribute please contact Howard Milton at the e-mail address on this page or at 46 Elmfield Close, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0LP.

Kent 150: Your 150

2020 may be one of the most unusual of Kent Cricket's 150 years, but there is still opportunity to remember and celebrate the best of those seasons.

Kent 150: Your 150 is the KCHT interactive project sharing everyone's favourite players, games, grounds and memories. Its exhibition of photographs from the KCCC collections is due to be held in the Lime Tree Café at the Spitfire Ground St Lawrence, while a smaller display will be held at the County Ground at Beckenham. Visitors will be able to see the displays when the grounds re-open.

But this is an ongoing project, and we need supporters to tell us their favourite people and most memorable moments so we can compile our 'Your 150'. I remember, for instance, the applause when Asif Iqbal was awarded his cap in the middle, while David Robertson's father saw Frank Woolley hit the pavilion clock – twice!



Many of cricket's best moments come from the simple pleasures of a favourite seat or ground – or the predictable tannoy request for a car owner to cover their windscreen. Let us know what would be in your *Kent 150: Your 150*.

Please send your contributions to Your150.kent@ecb.co.uk and follow the Kent website <https://www.kentcricket.co.uk> for stories and updates.

Caroline Ellis, Kent Cricket Curator

Pictures: Asif Iqbal (left); Frank Woolley (above)

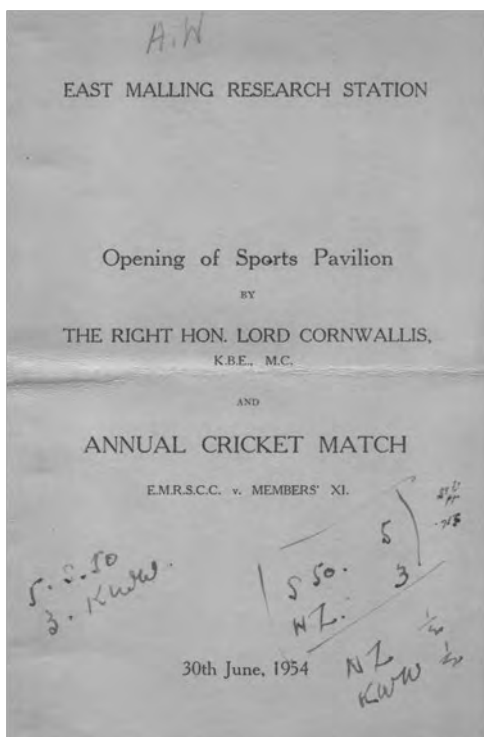


East Malling Research Station Cricket Club

The famous horticultural and agricultural research station was established on its present site in 1913 and the East Malling Research Station Cricket Club for the staff was soon playing at Clare Park, the ground of the East Malling village side. Early opposition included Addington Park at Croydon and the Members, who were mainly produce growers and suppliers in an Associate Membership Scheme which started in 1926.



Against Addington Park on 20 June 1925

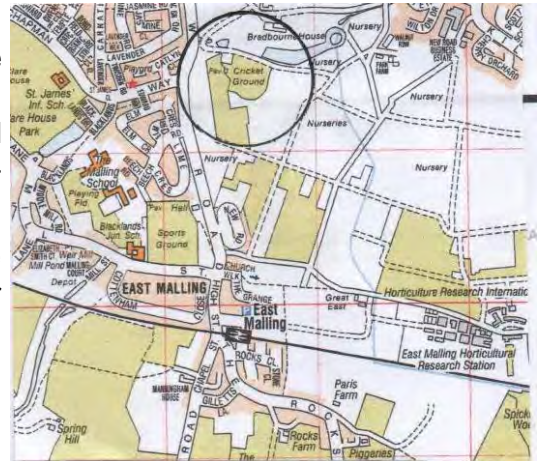


In 1938 the adjacent Bradbourne House and 200 acre estate, was purchased and this enabled a cricket pitch to be established in the grounds. The first match was played in 1949 and in 1954 a pavilion was opened with a match (see left) against the Members, which was now being played on an annual basis. The Members XI was: R D Wickham (Brenchley); Capt F Day (Marden) wicket-keeper; R A Farmor (East Farleigh), A Tipples (Staplehurst); C J Marsham, (Plaxtol); N Newitt (Sittingbourne), J A Worley Harrietsham); D Merricks (Icklesham); H Veall (Tonbridge); A J Wooldridge (West Peckham); C M Ramus (Iden).

Included in the home side was Allan Edward Henry Rutter, known as Claude, who played three first-class matches, two for Cambridge University and one for the Free Foresters. He also played Minor County cricket for Wiltshire and Norfolk. He was on the staff as a Scientific Liaison Officer for three years and later took holy orders. During that period the Cricket Club's opposition included Ansteys, Maidstone Trades, Corinthians and Tilling Stevens.

Rutter made his debut for Wiltshire against Kent 2nd XI in 1948 and in the first innings was stumped by Derek Ufton off the bowling of Claude Lewis for seven. A repeat looked likely in the second innings when he was out of his ground with the wicket broken. As he made his way to the pavilion, he was given not out as Ufton had removed the bails without the ball in his gloves. He returned to the wicket, ensuring that he remained behind the popping crease, with the umpire asking if he had enjoyed his walk. He was bowled for fourteen.

The Station's annual report for 1963 recorded that the cricket club, that otherwise had a difficult season, managed (thanks to Australia) to defeat the Members. The Australian influence was one Brian Richardson, who in January 1966 scored a century for Tasmania against the MCC Tourists and in the same match Colin Cowdrey had scores of 63 and 108.



Vacant Pavilion taken in 2019

There is some doubt as to the exact year when the Club ceased to play. The last reference to its existence in *Cricket in Kent* is 1985. In the meantime the research station itself was taken over by the NIAB (National Institute of Agricultural Botany) in 2016 and is now known as NIAB EMR.

Ian Lambert

Continuing the Work of Cecil James Gladdish Hulkes

The second volume, briefly referred to in the last Newsletter, 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."*

In a handwritten introduction, the Author explains that he has used *"no particular method of arrangement chronological or otherwise"* but in his words he has *"jumbled up"* somewhat different subjects as its intended use is as a notebook relating to the game that *"attracted my attention"*.

So his first entry comprises an eight page printed article by Lord Harris, published in the *"National Review"* for September 1883. It has been cut from the publication and pasted down into the book. The Noble Lord's introductory paragraphs deal at some length with the early contests which attracted much betting especially in Australia which he personally witnessed when he was there in 1878.

He also concentrates on the introduction of round arm bowling, citing the concerns of Mr G Knight of Godmersham that the game was developing into an unfair contest with bat dominating ball. Mr Knight had been frequently no-balled at Lord's until around 1830 he drew up a memorandum on the subject stating his intention the following year to propose an alteration to the rules.

Lord Harris did not think that *"straight arm bowling"* introduced by John Willes was *"a very radical change from that which preceded it; for the celebrated bowler David Harris, who played about the year 1740, is described as delivering the ball nearly as high as his arm-pit."* He goes on to express his concerns that the change would create a tendency for some bowlers to throw, which is *"becoming apparent, the great difficulty being to decide what is and what is not a throw"*. Those concerns came to a head in 1885 when he persuaded the County Committee not to play the return match against Lancashire after being in dispute with that County about the legitimacy of some of their bowlers in the Old Trafford game earlier in the season.

He also writes in support of the professionals, maintaining that they *"....are absolutely essential if cricket is to be maintained at its present high standard of excellence"*. His respect for the professional is exemplified by the statement that, *"A more deserving body of men it would be difficult to find"*. This comes after he tells of an encounter with an Australian gentleman who told him that *"he hoped to see the professional cricketer eradicated from the cricket field"*. This comment clearly shocked His Lordship but it was excused on the grounds that the Australian *"had but a slight acquaintance with the class, and on that ground, and that only, was his remark excusable."*

Lord Harris concludes his article with some observations on cricket in Australia, following the first visit of an English eleven to that country, expressing the belief that such reciprocal visits will increase in frequency and will *"do good for cricket"*. He advises his hosts that they should discourage any too anxious inclination among amateurs towards turning cricket into a lucrative profession. *"Do not"*, he writes, *"do anything to encourage the formation of a class of semi-professionals"*.

The Compiler prefaces a handwritten note to the untitled 36 page article which follows that by Lord Harris, as follows:

"The following article appeared in the Quarterly Review for October 1884 but as usual in that periodical the name of the author is not published".

An introduction appears in the form of references to five publications: *Frederick Lillywhite's Scores and Biographies*, London 1862. *The English Game of Cricket* by Charles Box 1877. *The Cricket Field* by Rev James Pycroft 1873. *Cricket Notes*, by William Bolland 1851. *Echoes from the Cricket Field* by Frederick Gale 1871.

This article begins with critical comment on the *"poverty of literature"* on cricket that was currently being published. It has produced *"much writing of an ephemeral nature"*. It was the Author's belief that the five works identified represent *"if not all at least by far the chief portion of the cricket lore which the student of the future will have to consult, if he wishes to ascertain the position and progress of cricket in the last quarter of the nineteenth century"*. And that after the first 21 editions of Wisden's Cricketers' Almanack had been published! However, he acknowledges the value of *Scores and Biographies*, especially the

the detailed recording of every match of importance played from 1746 and the brief biographical notes on each player who appeared on any of the *"Metropolitan grounds"*. He acknowledges the work of the Compiler, Arthur Haygarth, who *"travelled to all parts of England to collect information especially as to the birth and burial of noted cricketers"*. The Author acknowledges Mr. Box's volume as having more lasting interest than those of the other three which he describes as *"lesser works"* which may be of interest to cricketers of *"a certain era"* but *"have little or no claim to the attention of the general reader."* Having been so dismissive he then bemoans the inability of those writers to tell their readers *"for certain from whence cricket sprang or what is the derivation of the name"*.

On the question of derivation he then goes on to quote words from Bolland, Box and Pycroft all of whom define the derivation in differing ways. Mr Bolland *"derives it from cross-wicket and bases his derivation upon the idea that the essence of the game was the running of the batsmen from wicket to wicket"*, whilst Mr Box believed that the derivation came from the Saxon word *"cricce"*, a stick, (with which Pycroft agreed) but leans to the idea that *"cricket"* was the name of the stool originally bowled at.

The article then looks at the changes that took place between 1774 to 1817 in respect to revisions in the laws of the game and the changes in *"implements"*. It refers to the two-stump wicket, its measurements in width and height. However, the Author appears to be somewhat mystified as to the date when the third stump was introduced although reference is made to a game of the Hambledon Club in 1775 when a third stump was added after the ball had passed three times through the two stumps without the ball being dislodged and the batsman dismissed. Further references are made to changes to the dimensions of the stumps, the authority being Pycroft's *"The Cricket Field"*. And *"The Hampshire Chronicle"* of 1797 reported that Lord Winchilsea had introduced a fourth stump, so shortening the game by *"easier bowling out"*. The weight of the ball had apparently not changed between 1774 and the writing of the article, although there had been several changes to the bat both in shape (originally curved) and in its size.

There is a lot in the article on the threat to the game's future through betting, which is described as a *"grave danger"* to its future. It recognises its dependence on money and describes the *"considerable stakes"* put up by patrons. It was not unusual for 500 or 1,000 guineas (£525/£1,050) a lot of money in the 18th/19th centuries. Although not regarded as large sums they were large enough to *"throw much discredit on cricket, and to force it into the risk of collapse."* Ringmen followed all the principle matches. The levels of betting were apparently wildly exaggerated and the writer refers to a *"celebrated match"* at Town Malling between All England and Kent where Lord Frederick Beauclerk and Lord Thanet were rumoured to have bet 1,000 guineas on the result. At the end of the game spectators who had gathered in front of the tent *"were surprised to see Lord Frederick pull out his purse and pay Mr. Aislabie thirty shillings (£1.50) as his lost wager to Lord Thanet."*

The aforementioned piece by Lord Harris in which he deals briefly with round arm bowling, is covered in much greater detail by the anonymous writer. He doubts when round-arm bowling was first introduced and gives much of the credit to Mr Willes and his sister's influence on his decision to bowl in this way that resulted in him being no-balled at Lord's and leaving the ground *"in disgust"*. At this time the law stated, *"The ball must be delivered underhand...."* Like all reforms it was violently opposed and the controversy raged for some six years during which time *".....the new style of bowling was more and more practiced"*. Considerable space is devoted to the issue and the development of the new technique.

The article goes on to offer thoughts on single-wicket matches, which proved popular in the first half of the 19th century and describes in some detail subsequent matches that involved more than two players on each side. There was apparently greater spectator attraction for up to four players a side than any other form apart from the traditional eleven a side games. It continues with references to the many wandering clubs that became established at this time and the value they added to the game's development, especially among amateur players. William Clarke's initiative in forming the All-England Eleven with the object of playing *"all over the land, to bring the knowledge of cricket to many who could not afford to go to the central ground"*, is applauded, as it did much to create interest in those areas of the country *"to which cricket had not penetrated"*.

The collapse of the All-England Eleven in the mid 1800s coincided with the early development of county cricket. Some eleven counties were at that stage to the fore and are commented on in some detail. Of Kent the writer states, *"After many vicissitudes and having passed through a period of remarkable depression, is raising its head again proudly under the guidance of Lord Harris, and, having had the somewhat exceptional advantage of defeating the Australian Eleven of this year, (Canterbury Week 1884) has the prospect of even better things for the future."*

David Robertson.

KENT COUNTY CRICKET GROUNDS

150 YEARS OF CRICKET ACROSS THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

by **HOWARD MILTON**
with **PETER FRANCIS**



TOGETHER, WE ARE KENT



Marking the 150th anniversary of the Kent County Cricket Club comes a history of all the grounds in Kent where county cricket has been played in that period..

This is a unique volume in the extensive bibliography of Kent cricket. The result of forty or more years of research, it not only includes the 18 post-1870 grounds but for completeness, mentions all those used before 1870 for first team matches and since 1911 for second eleven games. This is truly a comprehensive account (239 pages) of county cricket across the Garden of England supported by an extensive collection of illustrations (over 330), including those of how these grounds or their sites look today.

Along the way, there is be found many individuals whose names you were not expect to be found in such a volume as this. Julius Caesar, Elizabeth Taylor, the man whose fascination with shells led to the naming of a world famous company, the man who invented refrigerated sea cargo, Wat Tyler, Field-Marshal Montgomery, a Jack the Ripper suspect.....

Compiled by two individuals with a long standing commitment to Kent County Cricket – Howard Milton, the club Honorary Statistician and Peter Francis, Editor of Kent County Cricket Supporters magazine – the book is available from the Kent Cricket Club Shop online at www.kentcricketclubshop.co.uk. Kent County Cricket Club, Kent County Cricket Supporters Club and Kent Cricket Heritage Trust members can acquire it at a reduced price of £20 (£25 to non-members) plus postage and packing. Individuals without an online facility can pay by cheque via the form below.

Kent County Cricket Grounds: 150 years of cricket across the Garden of England.

To:- Peter Francis, 34 Park Avenue, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5HL

Please supply copy/copies at the members rate of £20 plus £6 p&p.

Please supply copy/copies at the non-members rate of £25 plus £6 p&p

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