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INSIDE EDGE

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



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I am writing this introduction while listening to the radio commentary of Kent v Sussex at Canterbury in the Bob Willis Trophy. Jordan Cox is closing in on his double century and Jack Leaning is not far behind, and their partnership is now over 300. The summer of 2020 has been a strange and frustrating one, but now that cricket has started, even without anybody to watch it (apart from those lucky few in the retirement flats on the Old Dover Road), we can be excited about our Kent players yet again. Cricket has started at all levels: I've taken my first (and probably only) wicket of the season in a village match, and I've watched age group cricket, as well as revelling in our women's team's ten wicket victory against Essex. And the Test matches, even largely without Joe Denly and Zak Crawley, have been enthralling so far.



2020 will go down in history as one of the strangest seasons of all time, and in Heritage terms we are putting together a record of this bizarre year so that generations to come can begin to understand how we got through the summer. One way I have got through the summer is by dipping into Howard Milton's wonderful book, *Kent County Cricket Grounds*, with many superb photos by Peter Francis. Some of the proceeds of the sales are coming to the Heritage Trust, so I hope that all members of the Trust have already bought their own copies and are now saving up to buy copies for all the cricket lovers they know. It is well worth the money.

And as I finish this introduction, Jordan Cox reaches his double century. The future is looking bright again.

Jonathan Rice



Summertime in 1925. Mrs Jack (Ada) Hobbs batting on Margate Beach

A Moment in Time, Sunday 4 June 1967

DENNIS	1 4 2 5 2 1 1 2 1 2 2 1 1 4 2 //	BOWLED	GIBBS	2 9							
LUCKHURST	4 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 4	CR	RUN OUT	3 6							
LEARY	1 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 1 4 //	CR	SMITH	1 9							
COWDREY	1 //	CR	EVANS	1							
SHEPHERD	1 //	CR	HARRIS	CLOSE	0						
DIXON	1 1 4 3 1 //	BOWLED	BAILEY	1 0							
KNOTT	1 2 3 //	CR	CLOSE	SOBERS	6						
EALHAM	1 2 3 1 2 //	BOWLED	SOBERS	9							
UNDERWOOD	4 1 //	BOWLED	SOBERS	5							
SAYER	1 1 4 //	CR	ST EVANS	2							
GRAHAM		BOWLED	SOBERS	2							
		NOT	OUT	0							
				LB INB 3							
1st Wkt.	60	2nd Wkt.	81	3rd Wkt.	95	4th Wkt.	86	5th Wkt.	96		
6th Wkt.	96	7th Wkt.	106	8th Wkt.	115	9th Wkt.	119	10th Wkt.	120	TOTAL	1200
BOYCE	5 2 1 1 1 //	"	KNOTT	SAYER	9						
SMITH	4 //	"	LUCKHURST	DIXON	4						
YOUNG	1 1 4 1 1 4 //	"	RUN	OUT	1 3						
HARRIS	1 4 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 //	CR	SHEPHERD	GRAHAM	2 0						
SOBERS	1 1 4 1 4 4 1 3 1 4 1 4 1	BOWLED	UNDERWOOD	UNDERWOOD	3 3						
CLOSE	1 1 1 1 1 4 2 4 1 4 2 1 2 1 4	NOT	OUT	3 1							
MURRAY	1 1 2 //	CR	SHEPHERD	GRAHAM	4						
BAILEY											
GIBBS											
TRUENMAN											
EVANS											
					</						

A reminder from the early days of limited-over cricket. A rather scrappy, stained scorecard, clearly filled in on the day of the Kent-International Cavaliers match played at Canterbury in June 1967.

The International Cavaliers flourished from 1965 to 1968, continuing to 1970. The aim was to bring famous cricketers to spectators away from the major national grounds. They were televised on Sunday afternoons. At the heart of the project were Denis Compton and Godfrey Evans. The latter generally played.

Looking back the sides were incredibly strong. Kent put out a full strength side no doubt helped by the fact they had no Championship match starting on the Saturday. But look at the names in the Cavaliers side:- Geoff Boycott, Cammie Smith (West Indies), Younis Ahmed, Mike Harris (Middlesex), Garry Sobers, Brian Close, John Murray, Trevor Bailey, Lance Gibbs, Fred Trueman and Godfrey Evans.

Most seasons involved weekly matches against a first-class county. Their success was such that it promoted the creation of the Sunday League in 1969, the rules for which (notably 40 overs a side) were not a

million miles from those of the Cavalier games. One curiosity—the two wicket-keepers here were Alan Knott and Godfrey Evans. The former was initially a spin bowler and played as such for the International Cavaliers v Hampshire at Titchborne Park in Hampshire in 1965. In that match the county's batsman Danny Livingstone was out c Evans b Knott. A wicket the latter much treasures, as he has reiterated in a recent interview. Incidentally his bowling analysis was 4.2-0-42-3

Scholars at Play



A postcard from around 1908 entitled “King’s School Canterbury from Green Court,” it shows the school’s scholars practicing their skills in the cricket nets.

The present King's School sports ground, known as Birley's Field, dates from 1927.

Cecilia Robinson at the Vine

The KCCC Collections are always looking for material on the women's game, so were very pleased to receive this photo of Kent's Cecilia Robinson at the toss for Kent v Australia at the Vine in 1949. Earlier this year Mary Cecilia Robinson was awarded Kent Women Cap no. 7.

An opening right hand bat, she played for Kent between 1949 and 1967 at an average of over 50 and captained the county eight times. Cecilia was also the first Canterbury-born player for England (sorry Joe), appearing in 14 test matches between 1948/49 and 1963. Away from the square, she was a games mistress at Roedean.

The photograph was taken on 19 May 1951 and it was the first game of the Australia tour. Australia's captain Molly Dive won the toss and put Kent in. Kent were all out for 70, with Cecilia scoring 10 and Doris Coysh – our Kent Women cap no.6 – top-scoring with 20. In a brisk one-day game, Australia declared on 165 for 7, with Molly Dive herself top-scoring with 59. Kent then scored 53 for 5 by the end of the day, with Cecilia saving the game with an unbeaten 37.



The Vine at Sevenoaks hosted 13 Kent Women games between 1949 and 1973. Despite being one of the country's earliest cricket grounds, its status as common land has prevented its development. That open nature can be seen in the background of the photo, but there is a good crowd lining the boundary.

If you have any memories of the Kent women's game for **Kent 150: Your 150**, or memorabilia about it, KCHT would love to hear from you. Please contact us at Your150.kent@ecb.co.uk

Caroline Ellis with thanks to Carol Salmon for the photograph

New Old Crabble Photographs



It was ever thus. The Kent County Cricket Grounds book goes to press and along came a group of photographs from circa 1907-1910 taken and retained in a private album. They were probably taken during a Dover Cricket Week. This gives an opportunity to thank all those who have supported the book, sales of which have not been helped by the lack of live cricket. A particular thanks to those who have taken the trouble to pass on such favourable comments.

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

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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.

Gone and Forgotten



The Sharp's Sports Ground, on the London Road, Allington outside Maidstone (see map above).— another from Ian Lambert's fascinating collection of lost grounds in the Maidstone area.

Edward Sharp & Sons, which became the largest toffee manufacturer in the world, started as a shop in Maidstone in 1878 selling homemade sweets. Their familiar coloured wrappings per flavour (green for peppermint) were universally known.

On the ground, facilities included an indoor cricket school which was widely available to clubs in the area. Kent cricketers, notably Colin Page and Claude Lewis, were known to coach young players there. Kent batsman,. Tony Woollett, played for the club. Football was played by the firm on the outfield.

Post-war, the factory was known as the Kreemy Works, but was taken over by Trebor in the 1970s. A Trebor UK Cricket Club was in existence until 1983. The factory closed in 2000. Today it is a mixture of housing and open space known as Allington Millennium Green and run by a trust (see picture above).



And then there were Ten: Cricket Grounds In Hawkhurst Part 1

Several years ago, soon after I joined the local history group within the Hawkhurst U3A, we had a members' quiz at which I asked which were the nine locations within the village where cricket had been played. No-one identified anywhere close to the nine but, since then, I found another so, within the environs of Hawkhurst, with its population of around 5,000, and by repute the largest village in Kent, there are or were as many as ten cricket grounds!

The Moor

The most historic of the ten is The Moor, in the southern half of the present-day village, where Kent famously played two matches against Sussex in 1825 and 1826. The location is on the west side of the A229, between that and the parallel, for a short while, Talbot Road. It was adjacent to the brewery off Talbot Road and was sometimes referred to as the Brewery Ground. There are indications that cricket was first played there in 1788, in a match v East Peckham, though most likely before. Historians G B Buckley and John Goulstone record Hawkhurst matches in 1727 and in the early 1740s, so some usage of that location for cricket in the mid-8th century would have been very probable. In the 1780s, it



may have been sponsored by Mr Leaney, then being the owner of the Royal Oak at Highgate, a mile distant and in the central part of today's Hawkhurst.

William Leaney, a blacksmith of Highgate, and perhaps a son of the above, was known as one of the leading wicket-keepers in the county, if not wider afield, around the turn of the century and issued a challenge in 1811 to "any man in England ... to keep wicket". In those early years of the 19th century, the Hawkhurst club attracted players from Benenden, Tenterden and Lamberhurst to their ranks, and was then described as "famous" by no less an authority than Goulstone, a similar epithet accorded by Howard Milton in the recent Kent Cricket Grounds books. It was then certainly the most important in that part of the county, a mantle which passed to nearby Benenden in the 1830s. Cranbrook had a short period of popularity in the 1850s or so, though the older-established West (Town) Malling had achieved greater local precedence between 1836 and 1841..

Photographs exist of a village team using The Moor ground around 1900, and there are reports also of the occasional ladies' match though nothing is known of what other clubs provided their opposition. The Moor as a cricket ground was undone by the increasingly busy A229 during the 1920s and '30s, and cricket ceased there completely during the mid-1930s.

Lillesden

Continuing this article by introducing grounds in the order of their first recorded use, a cricket match had been recorded at Lillesden in 1869, an estate then owned by Lt-Col Edward Loyd, a wealthy banker who became in time the High Sheriff of Kent. Loyd was from Manchester and bought the estate in 1853. He was President of Hawkhurst CC for a while certainly in the 1880s. He supported many charities in the village and did much for the church and local education.

Gardeners and other estate staff of Lillesden took part in this match, evidently part of an annual treat organized by Loyd. Lillesden is on the B2244, south-east away from The Moor in the direction of Sedlescombe and Hastings. By the 1930s, however, this had become a school but Hawkhurst Cricket Club actually used Lillesden for a while in that decade following their move away from The Moor. Only now, in very recent times, has this house and grounds been redeveloped and returned to private use.

Tongswood

The next location within Hawkhurst where cricket was seen was the ground now used for cricket and other sports by Saint Ronan's School, off Water Lane, on the east side of the village. A club called Tongswood CC, formed for estate workers, was certainly in existence in 1913, and this location is part of the old Tongswood estate, then owned by the Gunther family, whose wealth came from developing the Oxo Cube. But the estate was sold off over a period of time from the mid-1930s onwards, and it became a preparatory school, still very much in existence, in 1947. (A team with the Hawkhurst CC name did use this ground from time to time, most likely during school holidays, in the early 2000s.)



Mr C E Gunther with Tongswood Cricket Club 1913 (Historic Hawkhurst courtesy of John Dawes Publications)

Gills Green

The northerly part of Hawkhurst, as one heads out towards Cranbrook and Maidstone on the A229, is Gills Green and here the cricket club has been established since around 1919. The Santer family provided land for the club next to its saw mill (now Santer's Court, a residential development), and it has flourished since. The ground is still owned within that family who, over the years, have provided many members to its playing ranks. This writer has played many times on the Gills Green ground, with its far-reaching attractive views to the east. The Club continues successfully, playing weekend and evening friendly cricket, eschewing the league environment.

Four Throws

Hawkhurst CC moved from The Moor finally during the 1930s but, for a short while in the 1920s, used the football ground behind the old George & Dragon Hotel, just up the slope from the Four Throws crossroads, on the main easterly route, the A268, out of Hawkhurst. This appeared to have been no great success, but it did provide me with the tenth such location in Hawkhurst, as referred to in my opening paragraph, thanks to an amazingly detailed history of football in the village published in 1990.

Marlborough House School

On the western side of Hawkhurst, off the A268, is Marlborough House School, another prep school, this one attended by David Gower for five years from 1965. He notes in his autobiography that his first organized cricket was for the School and it is known that his first century, in 1970, was the first for Marlborough House on the school wicket, against Boarzell, a now closed school in nearby Hurst Green just over the Sussex border. Marlborough House, like many schools, have several grounds on site but, for the purpose of this article, I treat it just as 'one'! When it was first used, however, is unclear but it is likely to have been several years post-WWII, the school having evacuated to Devon during hostilities. *[to be continued]*

Date	Opponents	Ground	Time	Results
May 2	HURST GREEN ...	Away	2.30	
" 9	GOUDHURST ...	Away	2.30	
" 16	BIDDERDEN ...	Home	2.30	
" 23	KILDOWN ...	Home	2.30	
W.M. 25	DOWGATE C.C. ...	Home	12.30	
May 30	TONBRIDGE ONWARD ...	Home	2.30	
June 6	TONGSWOOD ...	Home	2.30	
" 13	GOUDHURST ...	Home	2.30	
" 20	EAST PECKHAM ...	Away	2.30	
" 27	Kent & Sussex Clubs Hospital Match	11.30 a.m.	North, Twp, Wals	
July 4	TONGSWOOD ...	Away	2.30	
" 11	NEWENDEAN ...	Away	2.30	
" 18	KILDOWN ...	Away	2.30	
" 25	BIDDERDEN ...	Home	2.30	
August 1	TUN. WELLS Y.M.C.A. ...	Home	2.30	
B.H. 3	TONBRIDGE ONWARD ...	Away	11.30	
" 15	HURST GREEN ...	Home	2.30	
" 22	ETCHINGHAM ...	Home	2.30	
" 29	BIDDERDEN ...	Away	2.30	
Sept. 5	ETCHINGHAM ...	Away	2.30	
" 12	BIDDERDEN ...	Home	2.30	

Date	Opponents	Ground	Time	Results
May 2	JUNCTION C.C. ...	Away	2.30	
" 9	BIDDERDEN 2nd XI ...	Home	2.30	
" 16	"	Home	2.30	
" 23	"	Home	2.30	
W.M. 25	"	Home	11.30	
May 30	FAIRLIGHT ...	Away	2.30	
June 6	FLIMWELL ...	Away	2.30	
" 13	Cranbrook ...	Away	2.30	
" 20	"	Away	2.30	
" 27	HAWKHURST 2nd XI ...	Home	2.30	
July 4	BIDDERDEN ...	Home	2.30	
" 11	FAIRLIGHT ...	Home	2.30	
" 18	BIDDERDEN 2nd XI ...	Away	2.30	
" 25	BIDDERDEN 2nd XI ...	Home	2.30	
August 1	HAWKHURST 2nd XI ...	Away	2.30	
B.H. 3	"	Away	2.30	
" 10	SANDHURST ...	Away	2.30	
" 17	"	Home	2.30	
" 24	FLIMWELL ...	Home	2.30	
" 31	BIDDERDEN 2nd XI ...	Away	2.30	
Sept. 7	"	Home	2.30	
" 14	JUNCTION C.C. ...	Home	2.30	

Gills Green fixtures 1931

David Kelly

Kent Local Cricket Club and/or Ground Histories: *A List*

This following lists all the Kent local cricket club and/or ground histories and their dates of publication known to and held by the editor. Excluded are histories included in a greater publication including magazines and periodicals. Histories relating to the Kent County Cricket Club will hopefully be the subject of a later list.

The ARABS: 1993

BAND OF BROTHERS: 1958

BEARSTED: 1907; 1998; 2008 (with Thurnham – all sports)

BECKENHAM: 1966; 1993 (Cricket Week); 2016

BEVERLEY: 1959

BEXLEY: 1955; 1990; 1992

BICKLEY PARK: 1967; 1992; 2018

BIDBOROUGH: 1993

BLACKHEATH: 1958, 1999, 1999 (all Rugby but histories of the ground included), 2013 (Indian & West Indies Tourist matches 1932 & 1933)

BOURNE PARK: 1994 (1772 match); 1997 (1773 match); 2018 (privately produced)

BROMLEY: 1970; 1993 (with Hayes – Norman Family)

BROMLEY TOWN AND OLD BROMLEIANS: 1985

CATFORD CYPHERS: 1990

CHELSEFIELD PARK: 2008

CHRIST CHURCH INSTITUTE, BECKENHAM: 1987

COBHAM: 1899; 1995

COLFE'S SCHOOL: 1986

COUTTS': 1960

CRYSTAL PALACE: 2004

CYPHERS: 1998

DARTFORD: 1978

DOVER: 2015 (Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens series)

The DRAGONS: 2004 (Tours in Kent)

DYMCHURCH: 1989

FARNINGHAM: 1957; 2011 (Shoreham match 1940)

FAVERSHAM: 1992

FOLKESTONE: 1981; 2013 (includes Sandgate)

FRINDSBURY: 2010

GORE COURT: 1989

GRAVESEND: 1972; 1999

HADLOW: 1997

HARBLEDOWN: 1993

HARVEL: 1972

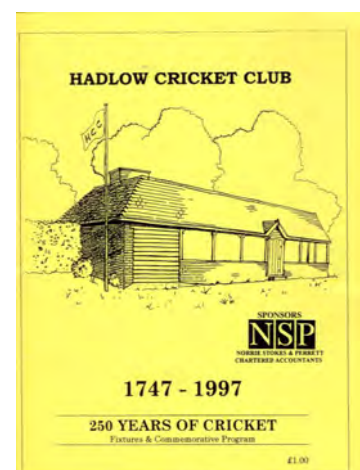
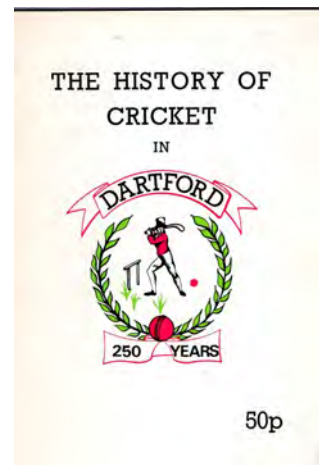
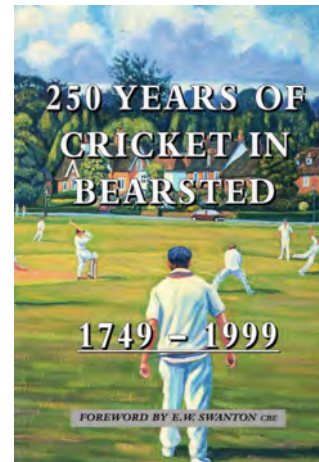
HAYES: 1978; 1993 (with Bromley – Norman Family)

HIGH ELMS: 1876 (all sports)

HYTHE: 2016 (Cricket Week)

IGHTHAM: 2002

INCOGNITI: 2011



KENNINGTON: 2004

The KING'S SCHOOL, CANTERBURY: 1969 (memoirs of a groundsman)

LEIGH: 1996; 1999

LINDEN PARK: 1976

LINTON PARK: 1982 (typescript); 1987; 1987

LLOYDS BANK: 1975

LLOYD'S REGISTER: 1976

LOCKSBOTTOM: 1997

MEOPHAM: 1976; 1985 (The Cricketers' Inn)

MIDLAND BANK: 1970; 1970 (supplement); 1995

MILSTEAD: 2007

The MOTE: 1957; 1990; 2007; 2018 (included in a general history of Mote Park)

NELSON: 1997

OLD BROMLEIANS: 1985 (with Bromley Town)

OLD GRAVESENDIANS: 1987

OLD STAGERS: 2015 (theatricals)

PETTS WOOD: 1976 (all sports)

RAINHAM: 2006

RODMERSHAM: 1986

ROYAL ARTILLERY: 2015

ROYAL ENGINEERS: 1925; 2017

SANDGATE: 2013 (included in Folkestone history)

SANDWICH TOWN: 1993

SEVENOAKS VINE: 1909; 1959; 1984; 1984; 2009

SHOREHAM: 2011 (Farningham match 1940)

SIDCUP: 1977; 1988

SOUTHBOROUGH: 1975; 1994

STONE: 1988

STURRY: 1963

SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL: 2009

TESTON: 1995

THURNHAM: 2008 (with Bearsted - all sports)

TONBRIDGE SCHOOL: 1991 (substantial cricket in school history); 2005

TONBRIDGE YMCA: 1994

TOWNLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL: 2019

TUNBRIDGE WELLS: 1992; 1998; 2007

ULCOMBE: 2004; 2007; 2013 (all on the Fermor Family)

WEST KENT: 1897

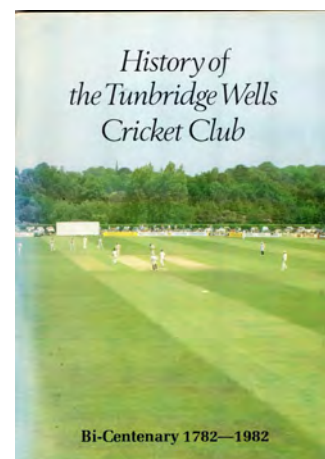
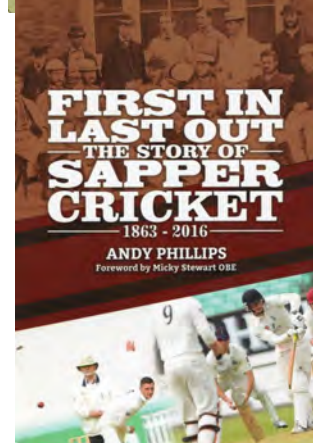
WEST KENT WANDERERS: 1955

WEST MALLING: 2005 (tercentenary brochure); 2010 (Pickwick Papers connection)

WILLESBOROUGH: 2003

YELLOWHAMMERS: 1964; 1990

I ZINGARI: 1895; 1982; 2006



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 would 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.

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