The Newsletter of the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust

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A Message from Jo Rice,



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It is cold. It is actually snowing very slightly as I write this, which of course means that the new season is only days away. By the time you read this, we will have played Northamptonshire and most of the squad will be sidelined for the Yorkshire game with frostbite. "Oh to be in England, now that April's there", as one of our more foolhardy poets once wrote.

However, we cricket lovers cannot be discouraged. A new season, new hopes, new excitements, new achievements. At the Heritage Trust, we look forward as much as we look back. Inevitably our collections are made up of items that celebrate the past, but 'past' does not have to mean 'ancient'. We celebrate Jordan Cox and Jack Leaning's record partnership last summer just as much as any hundred by Frank Woolley, or hat-trick by Doug Wright – they are all part of what makes cricket in Kent so special. This year we are go-

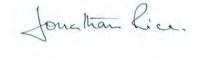


ing to have another go at commemorating the club's 150th anniversary, but we will be hoping to add to its history as much as celebrate it. There are exciting talks going on with the Lime Tree café, to find more space to display our past, and all we need now is for the government's roadmap out of Covid to let us know when we can all come back to our grounds to watch some live cricket.

Fingers crossed!

I hope that you enjoy this edition of Inside Edge, and the cricket that will be going on as you read it, and that we can have a chance to meet up at Canterbury or Beckenham before the season is too old.

Spectator Comfort



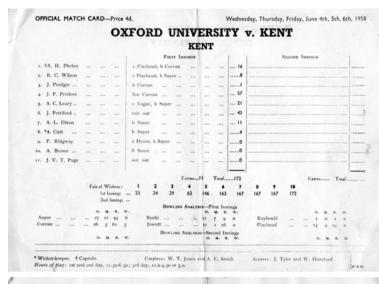


Although it maybe quickly drifting into a past remembrance, rest assured our bums have not forgotten the seating accommodation of Kent cricket watching long ago. It clearly had a history back to our grandparents' time and beyond.

Here were see a group taking sustenance during a tea interval in Canterbury Week 1913. And, what's that we see? Those planks of wood that faithfully supported Kent cricket through the years.

This drawing is taken from the August 16 1913 edition of *The Sphere: An Illustrated Newspaper for the Home* later known as *The Sphere: The Empire's Illustrated Weekly.* It was a newspaper, published by London Illustrated Newspapers weekly from 27 January 1900 until it closed on 27 June 1964.. It was a rival to the better known *Illustrated London News*.

A Moment in Time, Wednesday 4 June 1958



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As for as two in a match, history has repeated itself, although this time, both were for Kent. 1996 and Dean Headley took a hattrick in successive matches and not long after a third against Hampshire at Canterbury. That was in the first innings. In the second Hampshire chasing 299 to win reached 143 for just one wicket down. They then lost nine wickets for seven runs, with Martin McCague getting in on the act with yet another hat-trick..

David Sayer

Fred Ridgway

An unusual scorecard (forgive the quality) with one side of the card to each team; but more than that, Its incomplete state after the first day is nevertheless enough to reflect an unusual piece of cricket history.

When Arthur Phebey, captain at the Parks in the absence of Cowdrey, won the toss and batted on a damp pitch, it seemed the correct decision. But at three down for 29 and four for 62, he must have had doubts. However, Pretlove and Pettiford painfully pulled the game round during the afternoon, adding 84 runs. Off the first ball after tea Pretlove was leg-before-wicket and six wickets then fell for just 26 runs, in the midst of which David Sayer, of Kent but then an Oxford undergraduate, did the hat-trick with Catt (bowled), Ridgway (caught) and Brown (bowled).

Oxford began well enough and reached 23 before Ridgway, a victim in one hat-trick, then took one of his own dismissing A C Smith, Eager and Corran (all bowled).

So two hat-tricks in the same session of play. Probably well known to most, Sayer took a hat-trick for his home county in 1964 against Glamorgan on his home ground of the Mote, the only player to do so for and against Kent.

Kent won the University match by 164 runs.



Aylesford Paper Mills Grounds

Aylesford Paper Mills originally had a single large sporting complex for its employees, with a comprehensive range of facilities covering cricket, football, hockey, tennis, bowls, squash and a nine hole golf course. The construction of the M20 divided the complex into two, with the main APM representative teams occupying part of the Cobdown ground at Ditton, which included hosting Kent Second XI cricket and post war Kent League football, as well as other activities with a further dedicated area for

cricket and hockey known as Cobdown 2.

The other site, known as Larklands, generally catered for the various factories within the Reeds Group .The sport played was at various levels of competition, with factory clubs playing regular fixtures against external opposition, inter-departmental matches and friendlies. Reed Medway Sacks Ltd were active on the sporting front with keenly fought internal matches, involving 20 over cricket and 5-a-side football. They ran a Sunday Cricket XI and a team in the Maidstone & District Football League. Other Companies included Reed Corrugated Cases, Holoplast, Kimberley Clarke, L & P Plastics and Engineering & Development.

The golf course was on both sides of the motorway with one of the holes in close proximity, with driving taking on a whole new meaning.

Ditton CC played at Cobdown for a few years after APM left but the site remains a sporting complex with pitches, given aparts has and function quite, but early an arrivest.

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gym, sports bar and function suite, but sadly, no cricket. The Larklands site is an industrial estate.

The formal address is now the Cobdown Sports and Social Club run by K Sports. Football dominates with numerous local sides, if not playing there, using it as a training facility. The K Sports football team, familiarly known, with nod to its past as "The Paperboys" play in the Step 5/6 League, Southern Counties East.

Ian Lambert

Canterbury Week 1913



Another drawing from The Sphere showing the Tree and the Nackington Road End, notably the Iron (now Ames) Stand

Kent Cricket Heritage Trust Blog

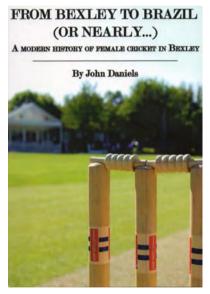
One part of the Heritage Trust that has not been widely shared is the KCHT blog, which can be found at https://kentcricketheritagetrust.wordpress.com. The blog has been running for just over four years, with a new article being posted every two or three weeks or so on average. It is very much worth a visit – the latest article by David Robertson on W G Grace's connections with Kent being a particularly interesting one. Over the years, there have been stories of men's cricket throughout the history of the game in Kent, several pieces about women's cricket and cricketers, as well as the occasional meander into club and village cricket in the county. We are always looking for new stories to become part of the blog, so if you have an idea or, even better, a complete article ready for posting, please email me at inhrice@googlemail.com, and I will be happy to add it to the blog. Anything to do with cricket in the county is what we are looking for. Full credit will be given!



Jo Rice

W G Grace goes out to bat, Gravesend, 1913

New Book on Female Cricket in Bexley



The author, John Daniels writes:-

From Bexley to Brazil (or nearly...)",is a 292 page book dedicated mainly to the last 20 years of female cricket in Bexley. It covers the female sections at Bexley Cricket Club and Sidcup Cricket Club, plus primary schools, secondary schools, colts, adults, indoor, outdoors, district and London Youth Games etc. However, there is also a chapter on an era that goes back to 1890. Proceeds will be donated back to supporting female cricket wherever it is played in the borough. The cost is £15 plus £2.75 postage to a UK address. Published in October 2020 the first edition is limited to 100 copies. Payment details by email from JOHNWILLIAMDANIELS@GMAIL.COM

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Tenterden Cricket Week



Tenterden Cricket Week 1901

Tenterden Cricket Week 2000

In the period immediately prior to 1887, the Tenterden Cricket Club played in one of the "Six Fields" that lie between the town and the Smallhythe Road. It was there that Tenterden Cricket Week was established in 1880. In 1887 an "eruption" brought an end to this Club and another was formed, namely Tenterden Park Cricket Club, which was based in the picturesque Morghew Park on the other side of the Smallhythe Road. This club was the forerunner of the present club, the word Park being dropped after the First World War.

In 1912 the *Kent Messenger* ran a report on a rather unusual cricket match that took place on August 14th during Tenterden Cricket Week. It provides insight into that era:

The Committee of the Tenterden Park Cricket Club in making their arrangements for the week arranged a match between the club and a Ladies' Eleven, which they felt would provide much amusement to their patrons. The result must have far exceeded their expectations; for although the ladies played the game most seriously, the match provided much amusement to the spectators... The captain of the ladies' team, Miss K. Body, was quite a student of cricket, and lacked nothing of the art of placing her team in the field. With a decided touch of "Fry-Gregory" methods, three improvements were made. A "quick-step slip", a "fine-point teaser" and a "long near-stop" were introduced, and the innovations proved a success, many runs being thus saved. The Ladies' bowling was extremely effective. After a thorough examination of the wicket, the ladies having won the toss decided to bat first, with Miss N Pritchard and the captain starting the innings. Both ladies forced the pace, their cutting being very forceful. The score had reached the big total of 65 before the first wicket fell, Miss Pritchard playing a ball directly into the hands of J.H.Atkinson.

Miss Body soon joined her late partner in the tent, having amassed a magnificent 34. Mrs Pridham, after another couple of wickets had fallen cheaply, gave a free and easy display, treating the bowling with a great disdain. She made the highest score, her reception on returning to the pavilion being overwhelming. Although the other ladies did not add much to the total, their play was of the highest description, and their style and precision in placing the ball directly into the hands of the fielders, or preferring to allow the ball to knock their wickets down instead of troubling their opponents to run after the ball by making big scores, was quite superb. Before their last wicket fell the excellent total of 137 had been reached. On the mere men starting their innings the ladies' captain had prepared her plan of campaign. She decided on the rather soft wicket that only googlies, wobbles, ground huggers, tremblers and two-steps would be wicket snatchers, and quickly finding that the "floor" was not quite suitable for the two-steps, rang the changes on the other four with startling effect, the men being all dismissed for 128. Only J.H.Dixon and

T H O Collings made any show against the specialities. The fielding of the ladies was great, and if they had only their aprons with them not a single catch would have been dropped. Miss K Body made a brilliant stumper, in fact, her display at the wicket with the pads must have made some of the men envious.

The Cricket Weeks continued until 1913 but it was not until 1959 that they were resumed and since then they have been held each year.

In 1913 cricket in Tenterden was at a low ebb and the *Kentish Express* reported at the end of the season that the Tenterden Park Club had disbanded. However, matches were played in 1914. It is not known whether a cricket week had been arranged. The cricket week was always held in August. With war being declared in early August, this brought a swift end to a lot of cricket. The reporting of cricket in the press suddenly decreased dramatically because men were enlisting for the fighting. It is perhaps worth noting that cricket week matches were all-day matches with a lunch. During any one season the club did not play a lot of matches and had relatively few members. Tenterden and Rolvenden usually arranged their fixtures so they did not clash. In this way, Tenterden players helped out Rolvenden and Rolvenden players played at Tenterden.

No cricket was played at Tenterden during the war. The Club started up after the war with new faces. The cricket week had been quite a big social event in the town and the players of the day were obviously not prepared to organise one. Between the wars, cricket was played on Saturdays and Wednesdays (because of early closing in the town). Tenterden did not play on Sundays until after the Second World War and for a few years Sunday matches at Tenterden finished by 6.30 pm. (Sunday evening service at St Mildred's, Tenterden was at 6.30 pm!!)

In 1958 the Tenterden committee decided to investigate whether a Cricket Week was viable by running a half-week (Saturday to Wednesday). It required finding opposition for each day and having enough players available to raise a team for each match (which would be all day matches with lunch and tea). As a result, 1959 became the start of the present run of Cricket Weeks.

Jack Gillett

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Who's Who at KCHT

President: Hon Christopher Cowdrey

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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.

Read the KCHT blog at – kentcricketheritagetrust.wordpress.com

Notices

Subscriptions

A reminder from the Treasurer:: All members who do not pay by direct debit are reminded that subscriptions for 2021 are now due. Please forward your cheque in this respect to the Kent Cricket office at Canterbury (address above), Minimum £10.

Inside Edge Distribution

If any member who has paid their subscription is missing issues of the Newsletter (three in 2020), please let us know at the contact above. Issues are also available to fill any other past gaps.

KCHT AGM

Will hopefully be held when spectators to a practical degree are allowed back on the ground at Canterbury to allow a KCHT gathering to take place

Congratulations

To the notable Kent cricket historian and founder member of KCHT, Derek Carlaw, on being awarded the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians (ACS) Brooke-Lambert Award (formerly Cricket Statistician of Year). This is in recognition of his phenomenal work on the Who's Who of Kent Cricketers—biographies of every Kent cricketer since 1806 to (eventually) 1999, It can be viewed on the ACS website.

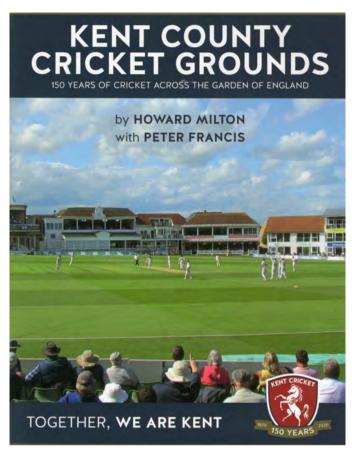
Thank you

To Ian Lambert for a succession of articles on lost grounds in the Maidstone area. Also to David Kelly for drawing this publication's attention to a number of relevant articles in Cranbrook and area local history publications. There are no doubt other similar publications out there in Kent with copy which would be of interest to KCHT members. Please let us know.

Kent Second XI Records Keeping

No one is known at present to be keeping Kent Second XI historical records (back to 1911 at least) since the previous unofficial occupant died. There is an ongoing project at the ACS publishing these scores which is about to reach 1919 from when Kent has a long run of scorebooks, which will need accessing. Please let the Inside Edge contact above know if you can take on this role.

LISTED IN THE CRICKETER MAGAZINE'S TOP CRICKET BOOKS OF 2020



The much acclaimed 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 Please make cheques payable to Peter Francis
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