

INSIDE EDGE

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



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While things have not been going too well on the field, for our men's first team at least, there have been a number of positive moves behind the scenes, as far as the Heritage Trust is concerned.

First of all, I'd like to welcome to our committee John Piddock, who has taken over the role of Hon Secretary. We are very grateful to him for stepping into the breach and bringing his expertise to our discussions. I should also like to take the opportunity of thanking his predecessor, Colin Jarman, who did a great deal to bring our communications systems into the 21st century, and who has had to stand down because of work and other commitments.



Most encouraging for us has been the clearly stated enthusiasm for the work of the Heritage team by the Kent CCC board. The memorabilia and archive that the Trust manages and looks after is owned in its entirety by the club, and we obviously need the club's support to help us do a good job. The issues of storage and security have not been solved yet, but there is progress on the creation of a new building which will act as a hub and education centre for Kent's complete collection, and we hope to be able to announce specifics in the not too distant future.

We also are making progress on publishing our first booklets on matters of Kent cricket interest, and again, we hope to bring you specific news of our first publications soon. And of course in the meantime we have had several new donations to the collections from a variety of sources, all of which are hugely appreciated.

So wherever the men's squad end up at the end of the summer, don't be depressed because the winter months will bring a great deal of activity on the Heritage front, and plenty to be proud and happy about come next season.

Jonathan Rice

A Moment in Time, Friday 15 July 1938

Essex v. Kent		Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, July 13th, 14th & 15th		Luncheon	Price 2d.		Played at	1938
		Hours of Play: 1st Day, 11.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.; 2nd Day, 11.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.; 3rd Day, 11.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.		Interval	1.30 to 2.10		Castle Park Colchester	
ESSEX		First Innings		Second Innings		KENT		First Innings
1 D. R. Wilcox	c Harding b Todd	5 b Watt	1	1 Fagg	lbw b Taylor	244	not out	202
2 Eastman	lbw b Todd	44 c Wright b Todd	0	2 Sunnucks	c Wade b Smith (R)	3	run out	82
3 Taylor	b Lewis	37 not out	7	*3 W. H. V. Levett	c Wilcox b Daer	0		
4 O'Connor	c Lewis b Wright	63 not out	0	4 Todd	b Smith (R)	39		
5 Avery	b Wright	1		5 Spencer	c Taylor b Vigar	14		
†6 T. N. Pearce	not out	137		†6 F. G. H. Chalk	c Lavers b Eastman	61		
7 A. B. Lavers	lbw b Wright	1		7 Foy	c and b Taylor	25		
*8 Wade	b Wright	4		8 Harding	st Wade b Vigar	9		
9 Vigar	lbw b Wright	0		9 Wright	c Wade b Taylor	2		
10 Smith (R)	c Fagg b Wright	37		10 Watt	not out	24	not out	24
11 Daer (H)	lbw b Wright	4		11 Lewis	c Vigar b Taylor	5		
Extras	byes 5 leg byes 6 nbs 6	17		Extras	leg byes	3	byes 2 leg byes 2 nbs 1	5
Total ... 350		Total ... 8		Total ... 429		Total for 1 wkt dec. ... 313		
FALL OF WICKETS—First Innings.		Second Innings.		FALL OF WICKETS—First Innings.		Second Innings.		
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
44 57 127 128 194 198 207 207 338 350	0 8			15 28 161 195 332 386 397 399 401 429	283			
BOWLING ANALYSIS—First Innings.		Second Innings.		BOWLING ANALYSIS—First Innings.		Second Innings.		
Ovs Mds Rns Wks Wds Nbs	Ovs Mds Rns Wks Wds Nbs	Ovs Mds Rns Wks Wds Nbs	Ovs Mds Rns Wks Wds Nbs	Ovs Mds Rns Wks Wds Nbs	Ovs Mds Rns Wks Wds Nbs	Ovs Mds Rns Wks Wds Nbs	Ovs Mds Rns Wks Wds Nbs	
Todd 19 6 46 2 ... 1	2 ... 6 1 ...	Smith (R) 22 4 96 2 ...	10 3 51 1 ...	Daer (H) 10 3 51 1 ...	10 3 51 1 ...	10 3 46 ...	3 46 ...	
Watt 22 3 63 ...	1.3 ... 2 1 ...	Eastman 40 15 68 1 ...	9 1 30 0 ...	A. B. Lavers 19 3 91 2 ...	13 7 2 52 ...	17 2 52 ...	46 ...	
Harding 31.3 7 107 7 ...	3 ...	Vigar 9 1 30 0 ...	10 0 43 0 ...	O'Connor 2 0 6 0 ...	5 ... 23 ...	5 ... 23 ...	75 ...	
Wright 26 7 83 1 ...	1 ...	T. N. Pearce 10 0 43 0 ...	10 1 41 4 ...	Taylor 10.1 1 41 4 ...	4 ... 20 ...	4 ... 20 ...	46 ...	
Lewis	D. R. Wilcox	20 ...	
†Captain *Wicket-keeper		Umpires: Newman, Parker		Scorers: Hearne, Fletcher		Kent Won the Toss		

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

One of Kent's most famous scorecards; Arthur Fagg's double hundreds in both innings of the same match. A world record which stood for many more years than was always expected.

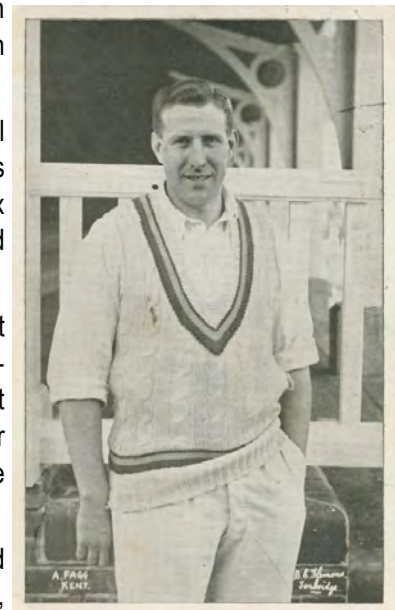
The context of the match was that both sides were fielding weaker than normal elevens. The match coincided with the Gentlemen—Players contest at Lord's. As a mark of his upcoming retirement Woolley was captaining the Players. Essex were without half their regular attack pace bowlers Ken Farnes, Stan Nichols and John Stephenson together with leg-spinner Peter Smith.

Kent won the toss, and Fagg proceeded to score a hundred before lunch on that first day, scoring it out of just 125 before proceeding to 200 out of 305 with hundred partnerships with Todd and captain Chalk along the way. He was finally out for 244 with 31 fours. Essex replied with a respectable 350 (Doug Wright 7 for 107) before Fagg returned to the crease and making a second hundred before close on the second day..

He dominated the third morning hitting 98 putting on a Kent record opening stand of 283 with Sunnucks (just 82).that stood until 1991, With no discernible chance, Fagg's innings closed unbeaten on 202 (17 fours) when Chalk declared the innings closed when the milestone was reached. An unlikely 393 to win for Essex was not helped by losing both openers in 3.3 overs before lunch. Heavy rain during the interval and another downpour at 3 pm ended the match.

Down the years many have approached without success Fagg's famous feat. Zaheer Abbas score 200 and 150 on three occasions. Despite the spread of first-class cricket matches to many parts of the world familiar for big scoring, not to mention four day cricket in England and Wales, it was not until 2019 that the Sri Lankan cricketer Angelo Perera hit 201 off 203 balls in the first innings of the Nondescripts fixture against Sinhalese Sports Club before making 231 off 268 balls in the second,

Further on this feat in Jo Rice's article in the Kent County Cricket Supporters Club Magazine for Canterbury 2024..



Canterbury's Rural Fêtes

It is not always appreciated that besides cricket the St Lawrence ground pretty well throughout the 1860s and 1870s hosted what was widely acknowledged to be the world's biggest sporting meeting. The following brief survey of the Whitsun games, commonly known as Rural Fêtes, is based on a few rough notes collected some forty years ago from the sporting paper *Bell's Life in London*.

The inaugural fête on Whit Tuesday 1861 was a relatively modest affair with handicap races over 150 yards and 10 miles and thirty-a-side "running match" - the Canterbury and Isle of Thanet clubs against the Ashford and Willesborough clubs. This was a team sport, East Kent's equivalent of what elsewhere used to be styled prison bars or prisoners' base, which survived until the last century when its place in the sporting calendar was finally taken over by football. Those wishing to enter any of the events had to register their names at among other places, Fuller Pilch's Saracen's Head.

The second fête in 1862 boasted six running or walking contests, a number which had risen to seven by 1865, - or if one includes heats a total of 31 events. By 1866 there were 211 entries, three years later 358, four years after that 377 and in 1874 over 400. An amateur bicycle race was introduced in 1878. In 1864 the Kent and Sussex cricketer and noted distance runner, Charles Payne, won the mile, pole vault and 440 yard hurdles.

The second meeting attracted an estimated audience of 12,000 while despite torrential rain in 1868 there were 16,000, in 1870 at least 25,000, in 1871 20,000, in 1873 almost 25,000, in 1874 20,000, in 1876 30,000 and in 1878 at least 25,000. Described in 1874 a "the biggest attended pedestrian meeting of the year", three years later it was "said to dwarf other meetings" and in 1878 was hailed as "the greatest pedestrian fête in the world." Bands were engaged to add to the entertainment—three in 1862 and no less than five in 1869 and 1873.

The fêtes were civic occasions patronised by the Mayor of Canterbury as well as by leading members of the county club such as the baronets E C Dering and B W Bridges, while stewards included the William Baker who effectively ran the Canterbury Week and prominent members of the Band of Brothers. The prizes attracted many famous names in the world of pedestrianism, among them world champions such as Lang, Hazard, Pudney and Mills; professionals whose records are ignored by traditional athletics books which instead concentrate on those set by amateur or in many cases purportedly amateur athletes.

Separate from these annual fêtes the most famous runner of his era, the American Indian/Native American who ran under the sobriquet Deerfoot competed in a 12 mile handicap held on the county ground in September 1863.

John Goulstone



Cricket at Canterbury 1877

The “Mystery Man” in the Chiesman Pavilion Portrait

E H V Weigall

A portrait of a young cricketer holding a cricket ball in his right-hand hangs in the Chiesman Pavilion. The gentleman is Evelyn Henry Villiers Weigall who loved cricket and was a supporter of Kent County Cricket Club and became President of the Club in 1946.

The portrait (Fig 1) was painted by Henry Weigall, Evelyn's father. When Henry died the *Thanet Advertiser*, published on 10 January 1925, reported on the death of Henry and wrote about his family portraits:

“At Southwood House [Henry's home] there is a highly interesting gallery of easels on which are displayed a series of family portraits. Of these perhaps the most striking are those of his cricketing sons in their younger days.”

Evelyn's Father was a well-respected artist. From 1846, he regularly exhibited at the Royal Academy. Henry was commissioned to paint Lady Rose Fane, and whilst painting her portrait the two fell in love and were married in Westminster Abbey on 15 August 1866. Evelyn was born to Henry and Rose in 1876 in Marylebone.

The 1891 Census shows the family were living in Ramsgate and Evelyn, now 14 years old was a student. He attended Aberdeen House School and played in the 2nd XI cricket team. Later he went to Conyngham House and became head of school. Evelyn attended Wellington College and University College, Oxford where he was awarded a BA in 1898. He was known as “Bucky” to many of his friends.



Figure 1 - EHV Weigall

In December 1908 Evelyn married Catherine Beatrice Makings. He was appointed as a District Auditor with the Local Government Board and the couple lived in Tunbridge Wells for many years before moving to Five Oaks, Brooke Street, Tonbridge.

Evelyn and his five brothers, maintained a great interest in cricket. When his brother, Gerald, married in 1897, the *St James's Gazette* reported on the marriage with the headline “*Marriage of a Well-Known Cricketer.*” Gerald played for Kent and his photograph can be seen in the Pavilion amongst the other capped Kent players. The *Thanet Advertiser* published on 1 August 1896 reported on a match when Evelyn displayed his cricketing skills playing for the Mr Weigall's XI (Fig 2). On 7 June 1901 the *Dover Express* reported on a match when Evelyn played as a member of the St George's Team (Fig 3).

In March 1946, at the Waldorf Hotel in London, Evelyn was elected President of the Kent County Cricket Club. Sadly, just a few months later the Club would mourn his death.

CHATHAM HOUSE v. MR. WEIGALL'S XI.	
At Chatham House, on Monday, the collegians concluded the season with the above match. Mr. Weigall placed a strong team in the field, and won by 111 runs after adopting the closure. For the winners, E. H. Weigall took out his bat for a finely-fit 79, his figures including 13 fours. Score :	
MR. WEIGALL'S XI.	
L. Weigall, b H. Backus	22
W. Weigall, b H. Backus	0
C. Bryan, b H. Harris	41
L. G. Trevor, b Wallinger	3
A. F. Luxmoore, c G. Smith, b Wallinger ..	8
E. H. Weigall, c G. Smith, b Smith	79
N. Roffey, not out	28
S. Roffey, not out	2
W. Ford	
F. Weigall	did not bat
C. Luxmoore	14
Extras	14
	197
CHATHAM HOUSE.	
1st innings.	2nd innings.
Wallinger, run out	8
Bayly, c E. H. Weigall, b Trevor	0 not out
G. Smith, c S. Roffey, b E. H. Weigall	21 b Bryan
W. V. Fuller, b E. H. Weigall	0
H. Backus, c Bryan, b E. H. Weigall	0
J. Warden, c Luxmoore, b Trevor	20
G. Cobden, b Trevor	13 b Bryan
H. Harris, not out	9
Rev. E. Langley, b L. Weigall	0
E. Edenborough, b E. H. Weigall	4
E. J. Pringle, b L. Weigall	1
Extras	10
	86
	56

Figure 2—Chatham House v Mr Weigall's XI in 1896

ST. GEORGE'S v. ST. MARY'S.	
Played at Ramsgate on Saturday. St. George's had a very strong team out, though but for the fact that St. Mary's dropped several catches they would not have made more than St. Mary's.	
ST. GEORGE'S 1ST XI.	ST. MARY'S (DOVER).
Etlinger b Jones	12 Rayner b Weigall ...
Claxton b Field	20 Jones c Claxton b
Edwards b Golder ...	40 Etlinger
Grunmunt c Golder b	Sims b Weigall
Jones	0 Ellis b Weigall
E. H. V. Weigall b Field	20 Golder b Etlinger ...
Simmers b Golder	10 Evans c Carpenter b
J. W. Weigall c Jones b	Etlinger
Field	33 Field b Etlinger
Carpenter c and b Golder	3 Steer b Etlinger
Chapman b Golder ...	6 Banks b Weigall ...
Boyland b Hodgson ...	7 Hodgson b Weigall ..
Smithyman not out ...	2 Hopson not out
Extras	10 Extras
Total	163 Total
	85

Figure 3 - St George's v St Mary's in 1901

The *Sevenoaks Chronicle and Westerham Courier*, published on 6 September 1946, reported the death of Evelyn recognising his love of sport, especially cricket and his presidency of Kent County Cricket Club:

"He will probably be best remembered throughout Kent for his great interest in all forms of sport, especially cricket. Before the ground was taken over by the Corporation, he was chairman of the Nevill Ground Committee at Tunbridge Wells, and was also connected for many years with the Leicestershire county cricket committee. He leaves a widow, three sons, and two daughters."

The *East Kent Times* reported on the "Passing of Former Thanet Sportsman" commenting that "cricketers throughout the county will mourn the loss of a lovable personality." The article also stated that "In the days before the First World War few sportsmen were better known or respected than "Bucky" Weigall, expert at both football and cricket." He had attended many of the Kent home matches and had been present at the Canterbury Festival not long before he died. A Memorial Service for Evelyn was held at St Stephen's Church in Tonbridge. The *Tunbridge Free Press* published on 13 September 1946, reported on the large congregation that attended the service including friends, family, former work colleagues and MCC representatives. Major Leach Lewis, Manager of Kent County Cricket Club and Mr F A Sayers, the foreman of the cricket club, also attended.

Today, Evelyn's portrait hangs in the pavilion as a reminder of a man who loved cricket and was proud to be President of Kent County Cricket Club.

Rosemary Piddock

Editorial note: E H V Weigall only ever played one first class match, for his brother's XI v Cambridge University in 1908, scoring 0 and 14 and taking 0 for 48. Also the portrait was apparently given to Kent CCC on the condition that it would always hang in the pavilion.

The Cricket Ball Manufacturers of Kent

At the start of the 2024 season, the ECB decided to experiment with two types of cricket ball, Kookaburra and Duke's, so that English cricketers could get used to the Kookaburra ball which is widely used around the world, as opposed to the Duke's ball, which is only used in England, Ireland and West Indies. The experiment proved inconclusive, merely reinforcing the fact that good players will be able to cope with all situations, while the less able will struggle. A lot of runs were scored and not many wickets taken, as both Duke's and Kookaburra balls got smashed regularly to the boundaries of all eighteen counties.

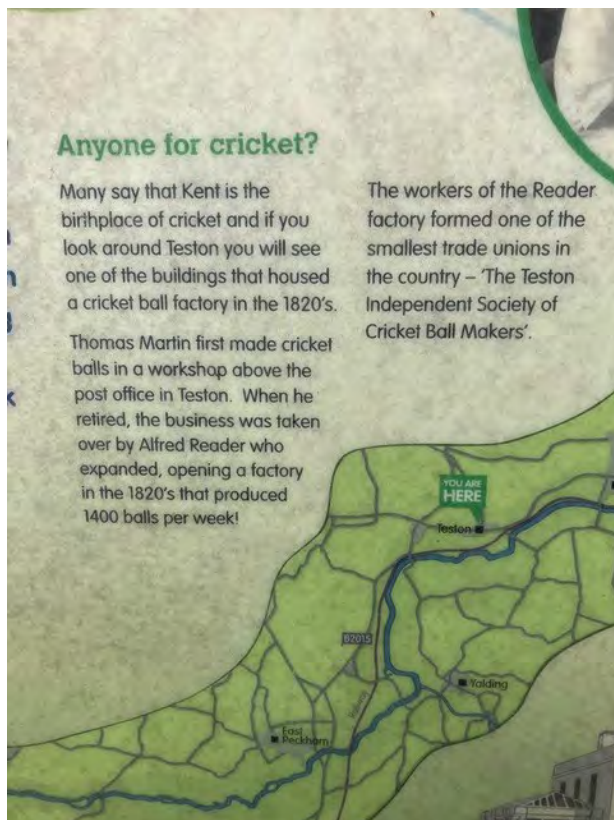
We should never forget the part that the county of Kent has played in the history of cricket ball manufacture. The first commercial enterprise to specialise in making cricket balls was established by a farmer, Timothy Duke, of Penshurst, who is credited with manufacturing the first 'modern' cricket ball as long ago as 1760. It seems very unlikely that Duke was able to make a living out of making cricket balls at that time, but it was no doubt a useful sideline to being a farmer. Even then, the game was very much connected with both the aristocracy and gambling, so there was plenty of money in the game, and no doubt the Duke family enjoyed good margins. Their cricket ball business flourished and in 1775 received a royal warrant as manufacturer of cricket balls to the then Prince of Wales, later King George IV, who loved to gamble, and who was often to be seen on the boundary at the great games of the day.

Duke's continued to grow, and in 1920 was acquired by John Wisden and Co., and subsequently by Gray Nicholls. In 1987, under the name British Cricket Balls Ltd, it was bought by an Indian businessman, Dilip Jajodia. It remains the leading British based manufacturer of cricket balls, although it has long left Penshurst and is now rather more boringly based in Walthamstow.

For many years, Duke's had a very strong Kentish rival from a tiny village by the Medway. Teston, pronounced Tee-s(t)on, is a small village just south of Maidstone, famed mainly for its Grade 1 listed mediaeval bridge across the River Medway, which dates from the 14th or 15th century. In the 2011 census the population of Teston was just 637, but that has not prevented the village from fielding a cricket team, which has played at the big house, Barham Court, since the end of the 19th century. Over the years they have met with mixed success.

However, the village's main connection with cricket is not its on-field performances over the years, but Alfred Reader and Co., who for over two centuries have been involved in manufacturing cricket balls. As you travel along the A26 from Maidstone to Tonbridge, turn right just past Barham Court, onto the Malling Road. Within a couple of hundred yards you will pass a building with the words "Alfred Reader and Co. Estd. 1808 Cricket and Hockey Ball Factory" painted in large white letters on its outside. Clearly there is no factory there now, merely those words written on the side of what is now a private dwelling, fronting a small close with a dozen houses, called Readers Court. (As an aside, please feel free to be disgusted by the lack of an apostrophe in 'Readers'. That stems from grammatical incompetence on behalf of Maidstone Borough Council).





A few hundred yards away, between the village shop and the church, there is a tourist information sign that explains that a certain Thomas Martin made cricket balls in a factory above the village post office from the 1820s. So why do the big white letters say the factory was established in 1808? 1808 was a time when England was preoccupied with the possibility of invasion by Napoleon's army, and very little organised cricket was played. It seems to have been an even less auspicious time to start making cricket balls than when Duke's began half a century earlier, and when Duke's began, they had no local rivals. Indeed, Lord Harris's seminal History of Kent Cricket contains details of no matches played in the county that year. Why set up a factory making balls for a game very few people were playing? What's more, the first hockey club in England was not established until about 40 years later, and although there were games similar to what we now call hockey at that time, it seems very unlikely that anybody could make a living from making balls for such an obscure pastime. My guess is that Thomas Martin had previously worked for Duke's and felt he could do better.

Trade was clearly good enough for Thomas Martin and his family to keep out of the workhouse, and around 1820, he retired from an active role in the factory. He handed it over to Alfred Reader, who, it is said, employed a large percentage of the village population and soon increased production up to 1400 balls a week. By the time that cricket, and to a lesser extent hockey, were flourishing again in the mid-

1800s, Reader's cricket balls were very widely used, and no doubt business was good. There is some doubt about exactly when Mr Reader took over the business, as a newspaper interview with a later generation Alfred Reader in 1939 states that early owners of the business included Fuller Pilch, but certainly by the time organised county cricket was getting under way in the 1860s and 1870s, Reader's was the name on their cricket balls.

Throughout the Victorian era, Duke's and Reader's flourished as cricket grew rapidly to become the elite national game. Whether the conditions for the workers were particularly pleasant is another matter. The Teston workers formed a trade union in 1919, *The Teston Independent Society of Cricket Ball Makers*, which was only disbanded in 2006, and which for many years was the smallest trade union in Britain, with fewer than 50 members. In 1962, as cricket balls from Pakistan were undercutting Reader's prices, the workers threatened to go on strike for an increase in their 4/- (20p) an hour pay, and even Leslie Ames, then Secretary of Kent CCC, was brought into the discussion. He suggested that "the craftsmen are killing the goose that lays the golden egg" by asking for such high wages. From the mid-70s onwards, there are regular stories of commercial difficulties and industrial disputes in the local press. The writing was on the wall.

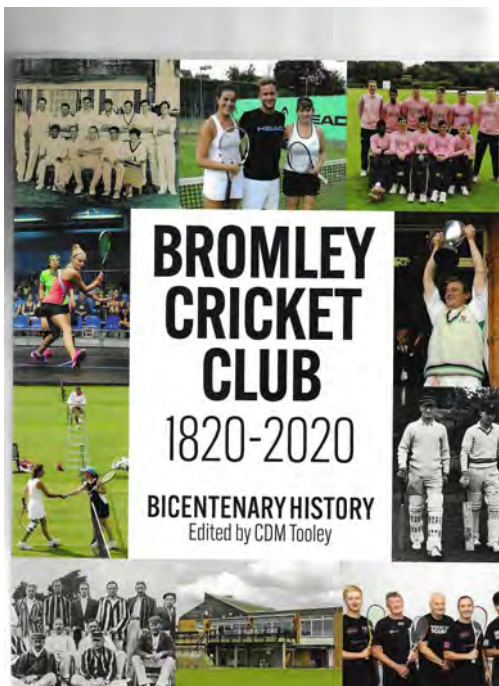
The Reader's factory building that still stands in Teston was built in 1927, and until the last couple of decades of the last century, regular advertisements were placed in the newspapers by Reader's looking to employ young people in their factory. However, in 2000, the factory was closed and Reader's became part of the Kookaburra empire in 2002.



So the two giants of cricket ball manufacture in Kent still exist, but not, sadly, in Kent.

Jo Rice

Recent Publication



Bromley Cricket Club 1820-2020: an old and new miscellany of writings. Compiled and Edited by Christopher Tooley, 240pp, £25,

A long tradition of marking notable anniversaries of cricket clubs has been to mark the event by the publication of their histories. For Kent alone anyone who collects them hold a wide variety of such productions in total giving a great viewpoint of the game of cricket in Kent down the years.

Sadly, they seemed to have dried up in recent years. The two barriers of cost of production and anyone willing and able to take on the task do not help. There may be more out there than we know as a third issue has been the lack of the publicity in the cricket press which use to be there,

One tendency has been to present these histories electronically on the club or other website, An excellent example of such is mentioned below. By whatever means, the Kent Cricket Heritage Trust would like to know, have or have access to any we have missed or not aware of.

Bromley Cricket Club is major example of presenting their history in printed form. Their previous history, published to mark its centenary in 1970, written by Geoffrey Eames, is one of the very best of the type, and it is fully justified for the latest issue to return to it in the story of two hundred years. A large A4, beautifully colourful, piece of work, it updates story of the Club nominally to 2020, but actually to 2023, given the delay in the ability to get it out,

Bromley Cricket Club has within its wings Tennis and Squash and these are given due attention. Lists of performances and officers are noted up to 2023.

One unfortunate aspect of the book is that something seems to have gone badly wrong with the pagination. The page numbering is the opposite of the normal even and odd setting. No problem in itself, but the detailed subjects and pages in the index bear no relation to their actual positioning. A great pity in what is otherwise such a splendid club history,

Folkestone Football and Cricket Grounds

Among the sometime centres for Kent county cricket who have not produced a detailed club history, Folkestone figured high on the list. Now a football fan, Duncan Saunders, has created a website to truly fill that gap. Primarily it is the football ground that seems to drive this, but, as anyone who knows the history involved, the link between the two is close. (The football ground now sits on what was previously the cricket ground which has moved along Cheriton Road, to what is now The Three Hills Sports Park). The histories are full of multiple illustrations and a detailed history and are a tribute to the work put into them.. The sites are:-

Football; cheritonroad.co.uk

Cricket: cheritonroad.co.uk/cricket-ground

Cricket on the Goodwin Sands 1783-1839

1783 Extract from a letter from Canterbury dated October 25: "On Friday the 17th, the grand annual cricket match was played by the gentlemen of Broadstairs, upon Goodwin Sands, the day appointed for this purpose for many years having devoted to conviviality. The weather conspired to render their festivity the more joyous. At seven in the morning, the company embarked in two boats decorated with streamers etc.. And in consequence of its being suggested at their last meeting that a couple of French horns would contribute to the entertainment of the day, two gentlemen in the neighbourhood, a taylor and a draper, and a farmer, undertook to perfect themselves in that instrument, which they so far succeeded in, as to give the highest pleasure to those on board, as well as a numerous company of spectators on shore; the calm upon the water, causing great harmony, by the sound reverberating from the edjacent [sic] cliffs. About one in the afternoon, they returned to the Rose Inn, where an elegant dinner was provided, and being finished with sharp stomachs, unanimously did honour to the board. The glass afterwards circulated briskly round, accompanied with many loyal toasts, and the whole concluded with mutual satisfaction." (*Parker's General Advertiser and Morning Intelligencer*,. October 30).

1802 "It is exactly twenty-two years since a celebrated [one] match was played there [Goodwin Sands]: and at one of the days of meeting, the late Duchess of Devonshire, and a host of female fashion were present." (*Kentish Gazette* September 7 1824). The Duchess was then Mrs Elizabeth Foster who as a widow married the 5th Duke of Devonshire in 1809 and died in Rome on March 30 1824. She sailed for France in October 1802 during the short-lived Peace of Amiens.

1813 "On Friday 13 August 1813, a single match of cricket was played upon the Goodwin Sands, between Mr Thomas Figar of Ramsgate and four gentlemen of that town, and Mr George Witherden of Bethersden and four gentlemen from the Isle of Thanet, after which the health of His Majesty the King George the Third was drank with three times three," (*Kentish Gazette* August 17).

1824 "At the Kent Cricket Club it was proposed to play a match on the Goodwin Sands this month." (*Kentish Gazette* September 7). "The first [sic] match played here was in 1824, when all the details of it were arranged by Captain Kennet Martin, who, as harbour-master at Ramsgate, was thoroughly acquainted the Sands, and was able to bring the occasion to successful issue," (C G Harper: *The Kentish Coast*, 1914,)

1839 "Another match, played in 1839 by a party from Deal, had not concluded when a wind freshened and they found it an ill thing to be on the Goodwins with only a small boat that, useful enough on a calm seas, was of no use at all on half a gale. No oarsmen are strong enough to pull away from the Sands under these circumstances, and there those adventurous cricketers had to remain, facing death, or the alternative of their danger being recognised by their friends ashore. Fortunately for them, one of the hovelling luggers of Deal was dispatched in time." (ibid)

John Goulstone

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Kent Cricket

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Heritage Officer - Ian Phipps -- ian.phipps23@gmail.com

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Howard Milton - howardmilton@btinternet.com
George Cocks - mikegeorgecocks@aol.com
Peter Francis - p.mfrancis@hotmail.co.uk

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General & Membership Matters & Website— John Piddock
Subscriptions & Financial Matters—Keith Austin
Historical Enquiries— Jonathan Rice or Ian Phipps
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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.

KCHT Website

KCHT.co.uk

Read the KCHT blog at –

kentcricketheritagetrust.wordpress.com

Dartford College of Further Education

Further to the article on the Dartford College of Further Education in the last issue, the local press is reporting that plans have been approved to replace several dilapidated college buildings and convert the mansion (Kingsfield House) into new homes,.

The historic house is not listed and is in danger of demolition, There is an urgent need for investment in the maintenance and conservation of the building in order to preserve its long-term reservation. As previously recorded, it was once famously owned by the Swedish PE instructor Martina Bergman Osterberg. The now derelict 19th century building is described as “architecturally attractive” but in a “dilapidated condition”.

The campus is now part of North Kent College and was previously occupied by the University of Greenwich and has undergone considerable adaption in order to provide accommodation that is fit purpose. Sport England had objected to the planning application due to the loss of playing fields. But it was pointed out to say the cricket pitch, which was in question, had not been in use for more 14 years due to the college no longer playing the sport and has since been replaced by a new sports block

The planning application was approved unanimously by Dartford Council's Development Control Board. No objections were raised.

